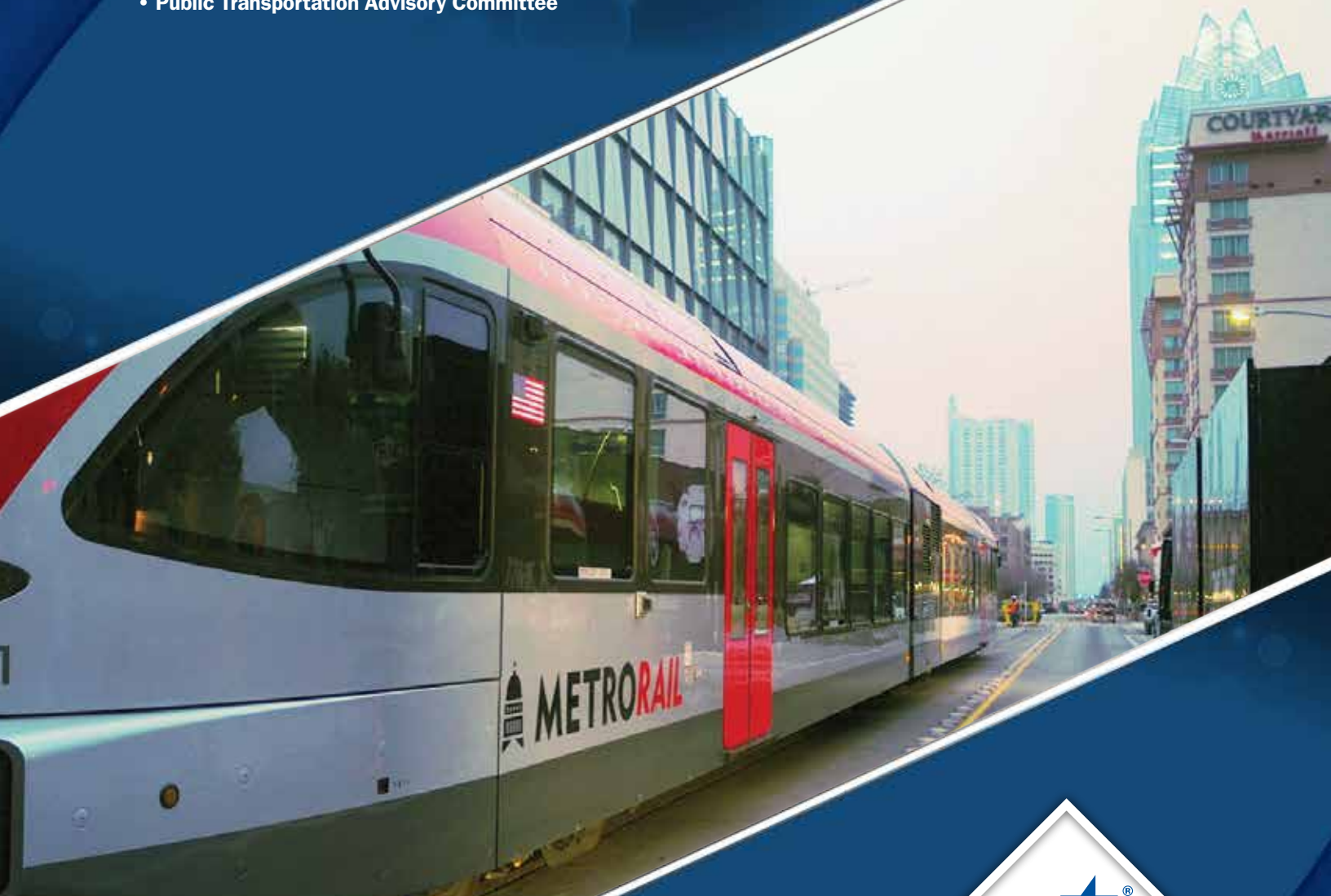


PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- Primary TxDOT Activities
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PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

OVERVIEW

Federal and state law require the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to support and promote public transportation by working with local governments, nonprofit entities and the Federal Transit Administration (or “FTA”). Funding for public transportation in Texas consists of state highway funds, federal funds and local support. Local support may include a dedicated sales tax, in the case of transportation authorities, or a local decision to use non-dedicated revenue sources.

Federal funds are authorized for a variety of transit programs under various Sections of Title 49, United States Code, including the Urbanized Area Formula Grants program (Section 5307), the Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Formula program (Section 5310), the Rural Formula program (Section 5311), the Bus and Bus Facilities Formula Grant program (Section 5339) and the Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning program (Section 5304).

TxDOT administers all federal apportionments to the state for rural areas with a population of less than 50,000. Urbanized areas with populations that exceed 50,000 receive federal funding from the Urbanized Area Formula Grants program and Bus Facilities Formula Grant program directly from the Federal Transit Administration, through coordination with TxDOT. TxDOT administers other federal programs for the benefit of urban areas between 50,000 and 200,000 in population. TxDOT also administers the state public transportation grant program for Rural Transit Districts and Urban Transit Districts.



PRIMARY TxDOT ACTIVITIES

TxDOT’s primary public transportation activities include:

- Contributing to statewide public transportation planning efforts.
- Establishing procedures for the development and processing of grant program applications.
- Assisting local entities in securing federal funding for the purpose of establishing, maintaining or expanding public transportation systems.
- Administering the state’s public transportation funds, federal funds and other funds appropriated by the Texas Legislature for public transportation purposes.
- Administering the State Safety Oversight Program for Texas, overseeing rail fixed guideway transit public transportation systems.
- Providing technical assistance to local jurisdictions.
- Representing the state in public transportation matters with federal officials, other state agencies, transit organizations and local communities.
- Monitoring and sponsoring research and development activities to enhance public transportation development.
- Encouraging the coordination of public transportation services to eliminate waste, to generate efficiencies that will permit increased levels of service and to further the state’s efforts to reduce air pollution.
- Providing drug and alcohol safety oversight to transit providers who receive state and federal grant funds.
- Coordinating state-sponsored training courses for transit industry employee.

REGIONAL PLANNING

As required by federal and state law, TxDOT coordinates the development of a locally developed public transit-human services transportation plan in the twenty-four state planning regions. These plans identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults and people with low incomes. TxDOT’s regional planning also provides strategies for meeting those local needs and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation, including maximizing the benefits of the state’s investment in public transportation through the coordination of services. Plans include the review of current public transportation planning and programming practices within metropolitan, suburban and rural areas with a focus on enhancing service delivery, customer satisfaction, efficiency and effectiveness.

STATE TRANSIT GRANTS ADMINISTERED BY TxDOT

State public transportation grant funds are allocated to rural transit districts and urban transit districts based on a formula determined by the Texas Transportation Commission and may be used for any approved public transportation projects. Under state law, state funds cannot be distributed to the seven Metropolitan Transit Authorities and one Coordinated County Transportation Authority, which are located in the larger metropolitan areas of the state. Metropolitan Transit Authorities and Coordinated County Transportation Authorities have the ability to levy taxes to help fund their programs and operations and receive federal funds directly from the Federal Transit Authority.

Public Transportation Programs: FY 2017 Statistics

Program (U.S. Code Section)	Agencies	Total Revenue Vehicles	Unlinked Passenger Trips
Urbanized Area (5307, includes state grants)	30	931	24,670,220
Nonurbanized Area (5311, includes state grants)	36	1,793	5,380,742
Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities (5310)	57	146	304,759
TOTAL:	123	2,870	30,355,721



FEDERAL TRANSIT GRANTS ADMINISTERED BY TxDOT

Formula Grants for Rural Areas Program (Section 5311)

This program provides capital, planning, operating and administrative grants to support public transportation in rural areas with populations of less than 50,000 where residents often rely on public transit to reach their destinations. Furthermore, this program helps people in rural areas with access to healthcare, religious services, shopping, education, employment and recreation. Currently, there are 37 transit districts providing public transportation in rural areas and small cities that are considered non-urbanized.

Formula Grants for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (Section 5310)

This program provides funding for programs that serve the special needs of transit-dependent senior citizen and disabled populations beyond traditional public transportation services and Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (or “ADA”) complementary paratransit services.

Bus and Bus Facilities Program

(Section 5339)

This capital program provides funding to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities. Under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (or “MAP-21”), this program replaces portions of other capital programs as well as many of the program’s competitive calls for projects and discretionary earmarks. This program was continued in the current federal highway authorization bill, known as the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (or “FAST Act”). TxDOT administers this program for rural transit districts.

Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning Programs

(Section 5304)

This program provides funding and sets the procedural requirements to ensure that multimodal transportation planning in state is cooperative, continuous and comprehensive, resulting in long-range plans and short-range programs of transportation investment priorities.

Metropolitan Planning Program

(Section 5303)

This program provides funding and sets the procedural requirements to ensure that multimodal transportation planning in metropolitan areas is cooperative, continuous and comprehensive, resulting in long-range plans and short-range programs of transportation investment priorities. To help streamline administration of the metropolitan planning programs, TxDOT has requested that the Federal Transit Administration combine the metropolitan planning program funds with a similar program administered by the Federal Highway Administration and have Federal Highway Administration administer this program at the federal level. Regardless of funding source, the metropolitan planning process includes public transportation, highway, bicycle, pedestrian and other modes in considering transportation needs for metropolitan areas.

Transit Scholarship Program

(Sections 5311 and 5304)

The Transit Scholarship Program provides transit scholarships designed to give agencies the opportunity to send employees to transit-related training or transit “rodeos” and obtain reimbursement for training and travel related expenses. Transit rodeos are important because they provide competitive venues where transit drivers and mechanics demonstrate their skills and best practices, share their knowledge, and compete for a chance to advance to state and national competition.



OTHER FEDERAL TRANSIT GRANT PROGRAMS

Urbanized Area Formula Grant Program (Section 5307)

This program provides grant funding to Urbanized Areas for public transportation capital, planning, administration expenses and operating expenses in certain circumstances. This program provides the federal government's core investment in the enhancement and revitalization of public transportation systems in the nation's urbanized areas and helps to improve mobility and reduce congestion. Although TxDOT does not administer this program, TxDOT does authorize allocation of funds to eligible small urbanized areas (50,000-199,999 in population).

Bus and Bus Facilities Program (Section 5339)

This capital program provides funding to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities. Under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, this program replaces portions of other capital programs as well as many of the program's competitive calls for projects and discretionary earmarks. This program was continued in the current federal highway authorization bill, known as the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act. TxDOT authorizes urban transit districts serving areas with populations from 50,000 to 199,999 to apply directly to the Federal Transit Authority for these funds.

Public Transportation Emergency Relief Program (Section 5324)

This program provides funding in case of a declared emergency or natural disaster. Funds may be used to reimburse expenses due to the emergency or disaster or to help reduce negative impacts of future emergencies or disasters. Congress appropriated funds after the declaration has been made.

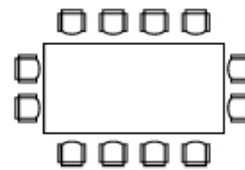
Various Discretionary Capital Programs

(Federal Transit Authority or United States Department of Transportation) Capital funding programs, which may be administered by the Federal Transit Authority or the United States Department of Transportation, award funds to projects based upon a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity. These typically have names such as Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (or "INFRA") or Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (or "BUILD"). Program specifics will vary from call-to-call, but typically the state may apply for funds on behalf of rural areas.

Public Transportation Advisory Committee



The Public Transportation Advisory Committee consists of nine members, appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor and speaker of the House of Representatives. The Public Transportation Advisory Committee's primary responsibilities include advising the Texas Transportation Commission on the needs of the state's public transportation providers and on the allocation of public transportation funds and commenting on rules involving public transportation.



SCAN WITH SMART PHONE

Find a current list of members and other resources at www.txdot.gov keyword search "Public Transportation Advisory Committee".



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



VALUES:

People

People are the Department's most important customer, asset, and resource. The well-being, safety, and quality of life for Texans and the traveling public are of the utmost concern to the Department. We focus on relationship building, customer service, and partnerships.

Accountability

We accept responsibility for our actions and promote open communication and transparency at all times.

Trust

We strive to earn and maintain confidence through reliable and ethical decision-making.

Honesty

We conduct ourselves with the highest degree of integrity, respect, and truthfulness.

VISION:

A forward-thinking leader delivering mobility, enabling economic opportunity, and enhancing quality of life for all Texans.

MISSION:

Through collaboration and leadership, we deliver a safe, reliable, and integrated transportation system that enables the movement of people and goods.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- **Deliver the Right Projects** – Implement effective planning and forecasting processes that deliver the right projects on-time and on-budget.
- **Focus on the Customer** – People are at the center of everything we do.
- **Foster Stewardship** – Ensure efficient use of state resources.
- **Optimize System Performance** – Develop and operate an integrated transportation system that provides reliable and accessible mobility, and enables economic growth.
- **Preserve our Assets** – Deliver preventive maintenance for TxDOT's system and capital assets to protect our investments.
- **Promote Safety** – Champion a culture of safety.
- **Value our Employees** – Respect and care for the well-being and development of our employees.



This document is part of an educational series on transportation issues produced by the Texas Department of Transportation. This document, the full Educational Series and other helpful resources can be found online at www.txdot.gov keyword search "State Legislative Affairs".