



2026 SWTA & NMTA Annual Conference Program

March 30 – April 2, 2026

All times and sessions subject to change.

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026

8:00 AM–1:00 PM EXPO Vehicle Move-in – Room: East Hall 1

Exhibitors move vehicles onto the EXPO floor and prepare displays.

1:00 PM–5:00 PM Exhibitor Move-in – Room: East Hall 1

Booth Exhibitors Load In

1:00 PM–5:00 PM Registration East Hall Lobby

Attendees check in and receive conference materials.

1:30 PM–2:00 PM NMTA Board Meeting – At Double Tree Hotel

NMTA leadership meets to review organizational updates.

2:00 PM–5:00 PM SWTA Board Meeting – At Double Tree Hotel

SWTA Board convenes to discuss strategic priorities and conference operations.

5:30 PM–7:00 PM Welcome Reception – At DoubleTree Hotel Sponsored by Transdev

A relaxed networking reception to kick off the conference.

Welcome Remarks by Emily Guill and Shannon Borst, Transdev

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026

7:30 AM–4:00 PM Registration East Hall Lower Lobby

Conference check-in available throughout the day.

8:00 AM–11:00 AM Expo Move-In (Small Booths)

East Hall 1

Small booth exhibitors finalize setup.

7:45 AM Breakfast Buffet Sponsored by Message Point Media

West Ballroom B/C

Join your colleagues for breakfast to start the day!

8:10 AM SWTA Conference Kick Off! SPONSORED BY UZURV

Kendra McGeady, SWTA President Welcome

City of Albuquerque Greetings, Dr Samantha Sengel, CAO

Uzurv Welcome and Introduction

8:30 AM–9:30 AM Opening General Session Keynote Before, During, and After Things Happen

Dan Mulraney, Mulraney Training and Consulting, LLC

West Ballroom B/C

Transportation professionals must know how to effectively manage critical events before, during, and after they occur. Participants will learn how to identify risks, train, plan and communicate proactively, then respond safely and decisively in real time. Finally, we will discuss post-incident review, recovery, and adjusting the agency's policy based on lessons learned.

Tuesday, BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK 1 — 9:45 AM–10:30 AM

LEADERSHIP TRACK 9:45 AM–10:30 AM

Creative Local Match Sources for Transit Funding

Estella Hollander – AECOM, Heather Dalmolin – Mountain Line, Tod Morris -Northern Arizona Council of Governments

235 Mesilla

A recent study evaluated ten innovative local match options for transit funding in Arizona, examining legal feasibility, revenue potential, and equity impacts. This session features a brief overview of key findings followed by a moderated panel discussion. Mountain Line will share agency perspectives on implementing new funding sources, while NACOG will highlight considerations for rural transit providers in northern Arizona. Attendees will gain practical insights into overcoming barriers and advancing creative local match strategies to strengthen transit funding.

About the Speakers: Estella Hollander, Heather Dalmolin, and Tod Morris

Estella Hollander is a Transportation Planner at AECOM specializing in transit, active transportation, and emerging mobility initiatives. She brings international planning experience from Denmark, the Netherlands, and Thailand, and holds an MSc in Urban Planning and Management from Aalborg University.

Heather Dalmolin is the CEO and General Manager of Mountain Line in Flagstaff, Arizona. Since beginning her career in 2002, she has held roles in grants, IT, HR, and finance, bringing deep operational and administrative expertise to her leadership.

Tod Morris is a Mobility Planner for the Northern Arizona Council of Governments, focusing on expanding public transportation across a 50,000-square-mile region. He holds a master's degree in Community and Regional Planning from Boise State University and has eight years of experience with NACOG.

NMDOT TRACK 9:45 AM–10:30 AM

Refreshing Your Transit Asset Management Plan

John Giorgis, KFH Group

215 San Miguel

FTA's Transit Asset Management Rule required State DOTs and urbanized area transit agencies to establish TAM plans by 2018 and update them every four years. With the next deadline approaching October 1, 2026, this session reviews lessons learned, key elements to revisit, and strategies for preparing a compliant and effective TAM Plan refresh.

About the Speaker: John D. Giorgis is a consultant with The KFH Group supporting transit agencies and State DOTs with NTD reporting, TAM Plans, and FTA funding formulas. He previously served as Director of Performance, Evaluation, and Enterprise Risk at USDOT and spent 18 years at FTA leading the National Transit Database Program and authoring the TAM Rule.

TRIBAL TRACK 9:45 AM–10:30 AM

FUNDING BRAIDING: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

SPEAKERS

230 Pecos

Join this informative session to explore “funding braiding” — a strategic approach that blends multiple federal, state, tribal, and local funding sources to support coordinated transit services. Designed especially for Tribal and rural transit providers, this discussion will highlight how braiding funds can reduce service gaps, maximize limited resources, and strengthen partnerships across jurisdictions. Attendees will gain practical insights into aligning grant requirements, maintaining compliance, and building collaborative models that improve mobility access and better serve riders across diverse and geographically dispersed communities.

TRANSIT 101 TRACK 9:45 AM–10:30 AM

Bridging the Gap: A Transit Core Competencies Program for Strengthening the Workforce

Kristen Ribaldo & Maurice Beard, International Transportation Learning Center / Transit Workforce Center

240 La Cienega

Transit agencies need practical tools to attract, prepare, and retain a skilled frontline workforce. The Transit Workforce Center developed the Transit Core Competencies Curriculum (TC3), a modular program offering ready-to-use training materials that support industry awareness, technical skills, and essential soft skills. This session explores sample materials and implementation strategies for agencies of all sizes.

About the Speakers: Kristen Ribaldo & Maurice Beard

Kristen Ribaldo - is Project Manager of Instructional Design at the International Transportation Learning Center/Transit Workforce Center. She leads national rail training consortiums, oversees the TC3 curriculum, and directs Train-the-Trainer programs that strengthen frontline workforce development across the country.

Maurice Beard – is a Senior Workforce Development Advisor at the International Transportation Learning Center/Transit Workforce Center. Starting as a bus operator, he has moved into positions as Line Instructor, Transportation Supervisor, and then full-time technical trainer.

COMMUNITIES TRACK 9:45 AM–10:30 AM

From Commute to Classroom to Career: Strengthening Education and Employment Transit Partnerships

Jonathan Braddick, Jennifer De Ruvo, & Anthony Lotten – Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)

220 Ruidoso

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) launched the GoPass app in 2013 offering its first digital fare pass to the public. Three years later, DART GoPass developed the Affiliate Partner Pass feature in the app and back office to allow staff to issue new digital fare media in bulk to large groups. DART Access, the agency’s Corporate and Higher Education Programs, makes it easy for employers and schools to offer their teams and students convenient, affordable access to public transportation. This feature transformed and streamlined what was once a burdensome administrative process managing physical fare media and transitioned it to a large fare revenue generating machine that can issue bulk digital transit passes to community partners throughout the region quickly and efficiently. This presentation will give an overview of the DART Access programs, the impact of the GoPass app on the growth of the programs, lessons learned, a plan of how to begin an institutional pass program, and the future of institutional pass programs in transit. Learn how your agency can expand transit access and support the needs of local universities and businesses.

About the Speakers: Jonathan Braddick, Jennifer De Ruvo, & Anthony Lotten

Jonathan Braddick is the Senior Manager Partnerships - GoPass Mobile Fare Systems since September 2024. He oversees business development in growing the GoPass agency network throughout North America.

Jennifer De Ruvo

Anthony Lotten is an Account Executive at DART, serving since May 2022. He specializes in developing and managing Corporate and Higher Education programs, crafting tailored solutions that enhance client engagement and drive sales growth. His strategic insights and innovative sales tactics were instrumental in promoting DART’s corporate and higher education initiatives within the service area.

INNOVATIONS TRACK 9:45 AM–10:30 AM

210 Tijeras

IT Curves

10:30 AM–10:45 AM Break Sponsored by TransitRE

Tuesday, BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK 2 — 10:45 AM–12:00 PM

LEADERSHIP TRACK 10:45 AM–12:00 PM

Creating a Culture of Leadership

Dan Mulraney

235 Mesilla

People do not leave jobs they love or co-workers they enjoy; they leave toxic environments, micromanagement, poor leadership, and lack of appreciation. This workshop addresses the issues that cause high turnover, low morale, and weak cohesion, and helps attendees understand their role in shaping a healthier workplace culture. Key takeaway: Self-awareness is the foundation of great leadership.

About the Speaker: **Dan Mulraney** is the Founder of Mulraney Training and Consulting and a nationally recognized instructor with more than 20 years of experience in workforce development. A retired Police Captain and former Director of Cape May County's Fare Free Transportation, he brings a unique blend of public service and transit leadership expertise. He is also a Master Instructor for CTAA, contributing to national training programs in safety, supervision, and workforce development.

NMDOT TRACK 10:45 AM–12:00 PM

Oversight Lessons Learned / Best Practices

Diane White, Bailey White Solutions, LLC

215 San Miguel

Real-world oversight insights and compliance strategies.

TRIBAL TRACK 10:45 AM–12:00 PM

Self-Governance and Tribal Nations

Panel, Kendra McGeady, Moderator

230 Pecos

Self-governance for Tribal Nations refers to the inherent sovereignty for tribes to govern their lands, communities, and futures—authority that predates the formation of the United States and is recognized through treaties and federal law. At its core, self-governance supports cultural preservation, legal authority, economic growth, and community accountability, making it a critical topic for discussions focused on sovereignty, partnership, and tribal led solutions in transit.

TRANSIT 101 TRACK 10:45 AM–12:00 PM

Creating a One-Call Mobility Center - Beginning, Growing, and Thriving

Kristin Lam Peraza, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission, Regional Transportation Collaborative

240 La Cienega

Learn how a rural region consolidated fragmented transportation options into a unified, data-driven, person-centered mobility system. This session highlights the development and growth of a One-Call/One-Click

Mobility Center, offering streamlined access to rides, resources, and referrals for older adults, people with disabilities, and underserved residents. Attendees will gain practical insights into launching a one-call center, key components of an effective model, and strategies for building long-term value.

About the Speaker: Kristin Lam Peraza is the Director of Regional Mobility Programs and Partnerships for the Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission. She specializes in developing One-Call/One-Click Mobility Centers, strengthening cross-sector partnerships, and designing people-centered mobility systems. Her work focuses on accessible transportation solutions for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and underserved communities.

COMMUNITIES TRACK 10:45 AM–12:00 PM

Transit at Universities

Chris Mandrell

220 Ruidoso

Join us for an engaging conference session on transit in universities, where we'll explore how innovative campus transportation systems improve accessibility, sustainability, and student success. From integrated bus networks and bike-share programs to partnerships with regional agencies, universities are reimagining mobility to reduce congestion, lower emissions, and create more connected campus communities. This session will highlight best practices, funding strategies, and real-world success stories to help institutions design transit solutions that move their campuses—and their missions—forward.

INNOVATIONS TRACK

10:45 AM–12:00 PM

210 Tijeras

Transit Technologies

12:00 PM–2:00 PM EXPO Opening Luncheon East Hall 1 SPONSORED BY: Spring Bird

A networking luncheon celebrating the opening of the EXPO.

2:00 PM Afternoon Snacks Sponsored by New Flyer and MCI

Tuesday, BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK 3 — 2:00 PM–3:15 PM

COMMUNITIES TRACK 2:00 PM–3:15 PM

Implementing Training and Coaching to Improve Safety and Performance Across the Organization

Mark Anderson

220 Ruidoso

Explore how to build a sustainable Safety Culture by making a practical, manageable shift in how agencies think and make decisions about safety. Using existing personnel and processes, participants will learn a Safety Culture model; how to identify, implement, and reinforce safety behaviors; how to support those behaviors through coaching; and how to measure progress using key performance indicators—without adding unnecessary workload or meetings. Attendees will leave with ready-to-use deliverables, including a coaching framework and tools that support implementation, sustainability, and informed decisions about technology or external consulting support.

About the Speaker: Mark Anderson is the President of Trackit and has more than 25 years of experience in the transportation industry, with a focus on training and workforce development. For the past 15 years, he has led the creation and evolution of Trackit, a system that helps transit agencies modernize operations, streamline workflows, and

strengthen safety and training programs. His work centers on practical, technologically supported solutions that improve performance and support organizational growth.

NMDOT TRACK 2:00 PM–3:15 PM

DAPM – Best Practices to prepare for Drug and Alcohol Review

Panel, Sean Oswald, Moderator

215 San Miguel

A multi-state panel sharing best practices for FTA drug and alcohol program reviews.

TRIBAL TRACK 2:00 PM–3:15 PM

Human Trafficking – Amy Hill, Muscogee Nation

230 Pecos

Human trafficking disproportionately impacts Native American communities and addressing this crisis requires collaboration and accountability between federal, state, and tribal leaders.

TRANSIT 101 2:00 PM–3:15 PM

Strategic Grant Writing for Transit Agencies

Michael Koch

240 La Cienega

Transit agencies with limited staff capacity face distinct challenges when seeking grant funding. This session provides a strategic framework for transit grant writing that emphasizes alignment of project narrative, scope, budget, and compliance elements. Drawing on experience supporting rural, resort, and small urban transit systems, the presentation highlights practical strategies for strengthening applications in competitive funding environments. Attendees will gain actionable insights and examples that can be applied immediately to upcoming state and federal grant opportunities.

About the Speaker: Michael Koch is the Founder and Principal Consultant of Compass Transit Consulting, specializing in transit planning, grant development, and federal compliance for rural and small urban agencies. He previously served as Transit Manager for the Town of Winter Park, Colorado, and now supports transit providers across the Mountain West with competitive grant strategies and practical implementation guidance.

LEADERSHIP TRACK 2:00 PM–3:15 PM

Get on the Board: The Value of Transit Associations

Panel, Moderator Kristen Joyner

235 Mesilla

Transit associations play a vital role in advancing shared goals by amplifying collective voices and fostering collaboration. Through advocacy, education, and networking, associations strengthen transit impacts and drive industry innovation while creating valuable leadership opportunities for mid-level managers. Supporting and volunteering with these groups is professionally beneficial for your agency. but also personally fulfilling and foster your professional growth.

About the Speaker: Kristen Joyner is the Founder and President of KJ Backpack, LLC. Her expertise includes transit association work as Executive Director for the South West Transit Association and administrative public transportation experience for Rock Region Metro, Little Rock, Arkansas. She has provided direct training in leadership, management, customer service, safety, and human trafficking awareness to thousands of public transportation employees across the U.S and is a member of the U.S. Secretary of Transportation's Advisory Council on Human Trafficking.

INNOVATIONS TRACK 2:00 PM–3:15 PM (SPONSORED Via Transportation, Inc)

SWTA Vendors will showcase opportunities for transits.

210 Tijeras

Via Transportation, Inc – Lucile Perrot contact

3:15 PM–3:30 PM Break Sponsored by FR Conversions, LLC

Tuesday, BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK 4 — 4:00 PM–5:00 PM

LEADERSHIP TRACK 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Private Sector Take Aways for Public Transit

Panel, Ehren Bingaman, Burgess & Niple

235 Mesilla

This session will empower public transportation leaders with practical insights and actions to truly bring private sector financial expertise to public transportation financial management.

OPERATIONS TRACK 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

An Agency on the Move – ABQ RIDE’s Transformational Turnaround

Bobby Sisneros, Deputy Director, ABQ Ride

230 Pecos

Join us for an in-depth look at the transformation of public transit in Albuquerque since 2022 and the strategic actions taken to strengthen ABQ RIDE through focused improvements in cleanliness, safety, technology, and service reliability. Bobby Sisneros will share how strong leadership, organizational restructuring, and clear operational priorities helped improve public safety, stabilize the workforce, increase service levels, clean up the system, better utilize resources, strengthen efficiencies, and rebuild community confidence. The session will explore the creation of dedicated Paratransit and Fixed Route divisions, along with the implementation and advancement of major initiatives such as Albuquerque Rapid Transit (ART), ABQ RIDE Connect, ABQ RIDE Forward, and the Zero Fares program. Attendees will gain practical strategies for addressing post-COVID staffing challenges, improving service delivery, and leading meaningful organizational change—regardless of agency size or budget. This session offers replicable lessons in operational excellence, service innovation, and building lasting public trust in transit.

TRANSIT 101 TRACK 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Foundational Skills to Bridge the Gap

Kristen Ribaudó

240 La Cienega

An overview of the national TC3 curriculum for workforce development.

About the Speaker: **Kristen Ribaudó** is Project Manager of Instructional Design at the International Transportation Learning Center/Transit Workforce Center. She leads national rail training consortiums, oversees the Transit Core Competencies Curriculum (TC3), and directs Train-the-Trainer programs that strengthen frontline workforce development across the country.

NMDOT TRACK 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Collection Sites: A Drug and Alcohol Panel

Sean Oswald, RLS & Associates

215 San Miguel

A discussion on collection site operations and compliance best practices.

COMMUNITIES TRACK 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Rethinking Paratransit: Do More with Less

Nicole Gomes

220 Ruidoso

How agencies modernize paratransit through technology and flexible service models.

INNOVATIONS TRACK 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM (SPONSORED- Swiftly)

210 Tijeras

Swiftly

5:00 PM–6:30 PM EXPO Evening Reception East Hall 1 SPONSORED BY: Gillig

A networking reception with exhibitors and attendees.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

7:30 AM–4:00 PM Registration

8:00 AM-9:00 Breakfast Buffet SPONSORED BY: Vontas

8:00 AM–9:30 AM SPONSORED BY:

Breakfast Keynote: Dr. Rick Grandinetti

True Servant Leadership

Ballroom B/C

Servant leadership starts with a desire to put others first. Introduced by Robert K. Greenleaf, it shifts the focus from authority and status to care and collaboration. Instead of leading through control, servant leaders invest in the personal and professional growth of their teams. They practice empathy, listen intentionally, and build meaningful trust. Their priority is not personal recognition but helping others succeed. By leading with humility and strong character, they create positive, accountable environments where people feel valued, empowered, and motivated to serve and lead others in return.

About the Speaker: Dr. Rick Grandinetti is a nationally recognized keynote speaker, author, and consultant known for helping organizations strengthen culture, leadership, and performance. Since founding his consulting practice in 1989, he has worked with military, government, and corporate clients including the U.S. Army, Pentagon, FEMA, Boeing, and GlaxoSmithKline. He holds degrees from Baldwin Wallace College, La Salle University, and a Ph.D. in Business Management from Ashley University.

9:30 AM–9:45 AM Break Sponsored by All Aboard

Wednesday, BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK 5 — 9:45 AM–10:45 AM

LEADERSHIP TRACK 9:45 AM–10:45 AM

The Power of Engagement - How to Thrive in Diverse, Dynamic Environments

Mitch Savoie Hill

235 Mesilla

In today's tech-centric environment, true connection and effective communication with team members, peers, clients, and prospects has become a lost art. In some ways we're more disconnected than ever.

Companies and individuals that harness the power of engagement can significantly increase connection, cooperation, and productivity. In this session, attendees will gain immediately applicable tools to successfully navigate diverse workforce dynamics, client expectations, and critical conversations.

TRIBAL TRACK 9:45 AM–10:45 AM

Tribal Track Session

230 Pecos

SPEAKER

A session addressing current priorities in tribal transit.

TRANSIT 101 TRACK 9:45 AM–10:45 AM

Maintenance Issues Throughout Public Transportation

Kevin Oliver, SporTran

240 La Cienega

A discussion on common maintenance challenges and solutions.

NMDOT TRACK 9:45 AM–10:45 AM

DBE Interim Final Rule Update

Bailey White

215 San Miguel

An update on the latest DBE regulatory changes.

COMMUNITIES TRACK 9:45 AM–10:45 AM

NEMT Panel Aging – Gov Services Speakers

220 Ruidoso

A panel exploring how NEMT supports aging populations.

9:45 AM–11:00 AM Let's Talk Transit!

EXHIBIT HALL VIP HOUR

SWTA Sponsors and Vendors will have the opportunity for transit director only conversations in the exhibit hall.

10:45 AM–11:00 AM Break

11:00 AM–1:00 PM Closing EXPO Luncheon SPONSORED BY: RATP Dev USA

1:00 PM–8:00 PM EXPO Closes/Move-Out

Wednesday, BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK 6 — 1:00 PM–2:30 PM

LEADERSHIP TRACK 1:00 PM–2:30 PM

Women in Transit - SPONSORED BY: Spare

Kendra McGeady, Moderator – Panelists: Andrea Ball, Angie Gilliam, Wendy Weedon, & Sarah Coulter

235 Mesilla

This engaging conference session explores how women thrive in transit while balancing the demands of personal and professional life. Featuring leaders and frontline professionals, the discussion will highlight real-world strategies for career growth, leadership development, and maintaining well-being in a fast-paced

industry. Panelists will share insights on balancing work and life, building strong support networks, and navigating demands that come from many places. Attendees will leave with practical tools, inspiration, and actionable ideas to help create sustainable careers while honoring personal priorities.

NMDOT TRACK 1:00 PM–2:30 PM

How to Successfully Navigate an FTA Oversight Review

Delilah D. Garcia, Kevin Olinger & Deborah Bach – NMDOT

Diane White & Denise Bailey -Bailey White

Moderator: Jaclyn Birley, Magnolia Ridge

215 San Miguel

This session will explore the process BWS implemented in assisting NMDOT in achieving a “no findings” 2025 FTA Statement Management/Triennial Review.

About the Speaker: Delilah D. Garcia is the Transit Bureau Chief for the New Mexico Department of Transportation with more than 20 years of experience in transit operations, planning, and program management. She began her career as a driver and dispatcher and advanced through supervisory and management roles overseeing budgeting, service planning, federal reporting, and major capital projects. She is recognized for her leadership in statewide mobility and deep expertise in federal transit programs.

OPERATIONS TRACK 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

National Transit Database Reporting: Moving from Surviving to Thriving

John Giorgis, KFH Group

230 Pecos

This session will focus on National Transit Database (NTD) reporting issues specific to operators in small urban areas (under 200,000 in population), rural operators, and Tribal Transit grant recipients. Get an overview of all the major NTD reporting requirements and concepts for these operators. Learn why the NTD is important, and why it's not just a requirement, but a process that can benefit your formula apportionment. Make sure that you meet all of FTA's requirements and maximize your credit in the formula apportionment. Time at the end will allow you to bring your own NTD reporting question and get an answer from an expert.

About the Speaker: John D. Giorgis is a consultant with The KFH Group supporting transit agencies and State DOTs with NTD reporting, TAM Plans, and FTA funding formulas. He previously served as Director of Performance, Evaluation, and Enterprise Risk at USDOT and spent 18 years at FTA leading the National Transit Database Program and authoring the TAM Rule.

TRANSIT 101 1:00 PM–2:30 PM

Boomer, Zoomer, and Millennials: Finding Connections and Purpose Across Generations

Katie Salerno & Adam Weigel, Olsson

240 La Cienega

This session explores how Baby Boomers, Gen X, Millennials, and Zoomers think, work, and communicate and what that means for transit agencies striving to build effective, inclusive, and collaborative workplaces. It highlights key generational values, differences in communication styles, expectations around work/life balance, and approaches to technology adoption. For transit environments facing workforce shortages, evolving service models, and increasing technological change, the session provides practical strategies to bridge generational gaps, strengthen team cohesion, and improve engagement across age groups. Attendees will gain tools for setting clear expectations, supporting diverse work styles, and creating work cultures where employees of all ages can contribute, connect, and thrive.

About the Speakers: Katie Salerno & Adam Weigel:

Katie Salerno is a Multimodal Transportation Planner with Olsson with experience supporting communities of all sizes, from rural towns to mid-sized cities to university environments. She specializes in transit planning, public engagement, and mobility management coordination, helping agencies design services that truly reflect community needs.

Adam Weigel is a Transportation Planner with hands-on experience leading transit systems and advancing technology-driven mobility solutions. Adam's experience working in complex public and political environments has helped him develop strategies for decision-making based on shared values, helping identify pragmatic, forward-moving solutions.

COMMUNITIES TRACK 1:00 PM–2:30 PM

Transit Projects Throughout SWTA Nation

Panel, Moderator

220 Ruidoso

A showcase of innovative transit projects across the region.

2:30 PM–2:45 PM Break SPONSORED BY: New Flyer

2:45 PM–3:45 PM FTA Regional Administrators Roundtable and Update

West Ballroom B/C

Join us for an update and roundtable discussion focused on the latest developments from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). This session will provide timely insights into current funding priorities, policy updates, and compliance requirements that impact transit agencies in the SWTA Nation from the government leaders shaping public transportation today.

LIST THEM

3:45 PM–4:00 PM Break with Themed Snacks

4:00 PM–5:00 PM General Session Keynote

DISCoteca: Relationships Are A Dance – Learn How To Follow & Lead Effectively

Mitch Savoie Hill (co-sponsored by LIT)

West Ballroom B/C

Whether you're a leader, an individual contributor, a salesperson, or a parent, managing different personalities and communication styles is the foundation of forming strong connections, inspiring effective action, and ensuring a sense of belonging and loyalty. In this session, learn how to adapt to different behavioral styles and increase effectiveness, productivity, and success through the lens of various Latin dance principles and movements. (*Dancing not required, but highly encouraged!*)

6:45 PM–9:00 PM Awards Gala West Ballroom B/C SPONSORED BY: Huitt-Zollars, Inc.

Dress in your best and join us for dinner and a celebration of the accomplishments of transits throughout the SWTA Nation.

6:00 PM – 6:45 PM – Welcome Reception Pre-Function Ballroom B/C

6:45 PM - 9:00 SWTA GALA Dinner Program of Events

- 7:15 PM Welcome from our Sponsor: Huitt Zollars

- 7:20 PM SWTA Nation Wins – State Updates and Certificates of Celebration
- 7:45 – NMDOT State Awards
- 8:05 – SWTA 37th Annual Spotlight Awards
- 8:25 – Kendra McGeady, SWTA President Retiring Remarks
- 8:35 –Retiring Board Thank You and New Board Introduction

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

8:00 AM–10:00 AM Registration

8:00 AM-9:30 AM Continental Breakfast for Intensive Training Attendees SPONSORED BY: Element Fleet Management Corp.

8:00 AM–12:00 PM

Intensive Training

The Front-Line GateKeepers: Navigating Reasonable Suspicion and Post-Accident Testing Decisions

Sean Oswald, RLS & Associates

215 San Miguel

Are you prepared to make high-stakes testing decisions? This intensive 4-hour workshop is designed specifically for transit supervisors and safety officials who serve as the front line of defense in agency safety and compliance. This workshop will bridge the gap between regulatory theory and real-world application by tackling the two most challenging "judgment call" scenarios supervisors often must make. First, we dive into Reasonable Suspicion, where attendees will learn to identify the physical, behavioral, and performance indicators of substance use and meet the federal requirements for authorized officials. Then we will pivot to Post-Accident D&A Testing Decision-Making, breaking down the FTA-defined post-accident testing thresholds, and the strict documentation required to justify your actions. You must register for this in advance – no cost.

8AM - 11AM - Reasonable Suspicion Determination Training

The session is provided for transit system supervisors/authorized officials that may be responsible for making reasonable suspicion determinations, employee safety assessments, and/or fitness-for-duty assessments. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Drug and Alcohol Testing Program regulations state that an employer must require a covered employee to submit to a drug and/or alcohol test when the employer has reasonable suspicion to believe that the employee has used a prohibited drug or misused alcohol. The training will focus on physical, behavioral, speech, and performance indicators of probable drug use and alcohol misuse. Supervisors are trained in facts, circumstances, physical evidence, physical signs, symptoms, patterns, and/or behaviors associated with prohibited drug use or alcohol misuse. The training will include resource materials and real-life scenarios.

The training meets the requirements of 49 CFR Part 655.14 for reasonable suspicion training.

11AM - 12PM - How to Make Quality Post-Accident Testing Decisions According to FTA Regulations

This interactive session will discuss all requirements related to USDOT-FTA Post-Accident Testing, including common findings/issues and best-practices. In the high-pressure moments following a transit accident, the decision to test—or not to test—is one of the most critical decisions a supervisor will face. This session will also cover the FTA's definition of an accident and the thresholds for drug & alcohol testing. It will cover the necessary steps that must be taken once a post-accident testing decision has been made, including the testing windows and documentation of the event. Participants will explore real-life accident scenarios and will work through the decision and documentation processes.

8:00 AM–3:30 PM Transit Tours Around Town - Behind-the-scenes tours of local transit operations.

ABQ Ride Operations Tour – SPONSORED BY: ABQ RIDE

Meet in the Hotel Lobby at 9:00 AM and Return at 2:00 PM*

Join us for an inside look at the operations that keep Albuquerque moving with a guided operations tour of ABQ RIDE. This behind-the-scenes experience offers a firsthand view of the people, technology, and coordination required to deliver safe, reliable public transportation across the city. The tour includes a visit to the operations, maintenance, and dispatch center, where you'll learn how routes are managed in real time, how safety protocols are implemented, and how maintenance teams keep the fleet road ready. Participants will gain insight into daily scheduling, operator training, fleet management, and the innovative tools that support efficient transit service throughout Albuquerque. After learning about ABQ Ride, we will head to Sawmill Market for a relaxed lunch and shopping break. Located in the heart of the historic Sawmill District, this vibrant area offers a wide variety of local flavors and cuisines, providing the perfect setting to connect, reflect, and continue conversations in a casual atmosphere. This operations tour is ideal for transit professionals interested in urban mobility, public service, and infrastructure. Come see how Albuquerque stays connected—on the road and behind the scenes. *Attendees wanting to stay longer at the Sawmill Market will be responsible for their own return to the hotel.** You must register for this tour in advance – no cost.

Technical Tour Aboard the Rail Runner to Old Town Santa Fe SPONSORED BY: RIO METRO

Meet in the Hotel Lobby at 8:15 AM and Return at 3:30 PM*

Embark on a captivating day trip to Santa Fe, the oldest capital city in the United States, where art, history, and culture come alive. Board the New Mexico Rail Runner Express for a seamless journey from Albuquerque to the heart of Old Town Santa Fe, enjoying high-speed, stress-free travel aboard this impressive diesel-powered commuter train. Your adventure begins as you climb aboard for a technical tour revealing the Rail Runner's inner workings and impacts on transit and tourism. Travel north 65 scenic miles at speeds up to 79 mph in the train's 85-foot, 120-ton cars painted to mimic the New Mexico State Bird, the Roadrunner. Upon arrival, step off near the historic Santa Fe Plaza, surrounded by centuries-old landmarks, vibrant boutiques, and inviting lunch spots. Be sure to savor the renowned red and green chiles during lunch on your own and take some time to explore the iconic sites such as the Palace of the Governors, the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, and the shops and artists that make Santa Fe so unique. Santa Fe Trails Transit will provide a ride for any participant who has mobility issues making the short walk to Old Town. As you return to Albuquerque, find a window seat and enjoy the New Mexico scenery and the deep Native American heritage that defines this remarkable region. With mountain ranges framing the horizon and desert beauty highlighted with every mile—the landscape looks much as it did when Don Pedro de Peralta founded Santa Fe over 400 years ago. You must register for this tour in advance to receive a complimentary train ticket.

**Don't Miss the Train! (The Railrunner departs the Downtown ABQ station at 8:43am and the suggested return train departs at 2:08pm from Santa Fe Station). The trip is approximately 1.5 hours each way. Attendees wanting to stay longer can use their train ticket on a later departure and should consult the train schedule for departure times. You must register for this tour in advance – no cost.*

3:30 PM Conference Concludes