



2026 SWTA & NMTA Annual Conference Program

March 30 – April 2, 2026

All times and sessions subject to change.

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026

12:00 AM–4:00 PM EXPO Vehicle Move-in – Room: East Hall 1

Exhibitors move vehicles onto the EXPO floor and prepare displays.

4:00 PM–6:00 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.

7:00 AM–11:00 AM Expo Move-In

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

Uzurv Welcome and Introduction

Kendra McGeady, SWTA President Welcome

About the Speaker: Kendra Sue McGeady is the Cherokee Nation Tribal Councilor for District 11, appointed in 2024 and currently is serving as the President of the South West Transit Association. Her work focuses on improving transportation access for rural and Native communities, strengthening infrastructure, and supporting housing and cultural preservation initiatives within Cherokee Nation. She previously served as Director of Pelivan Transit and the Northeastern Tribal Transit Consortium, overseeing transit services across a 4,466-square-mile region. McGeady has previously secured more than \$2.5 million in grants to expand rural and tribal transportation and the creation of PICK Transportation.

City of Albuquerque Greetings, Dr Samantha Sengel, CAO

About the Speaker: Dr. Samantha Sengel serves as the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the City of Albuquerque, overseeing the day-to-day operations of New Mexico's largest city, including a \$1 billion annual budget and nearly 6,000 employees. She brings more than two decades of executive leadership and management experience from one of New Mexico's largest higher education institutions. A New Mexico native, Dr. Sengel is known for her collaborative leadership, strong relationships with city, county, and state leaders, and her commitment to strengthening Albuquerque as a place to live, learn, work, and prosper.

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.

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.

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

LEADERSHIP TRACK 9:45 AM–10:30 AM SPONSORED BY MOUNTAIN LINE

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

Tischa Lemasters, Pelivan Transit & the Northeast Oklahoma Tribal Transit Consortium

Kendra McGeady, Cherokee Nation Tribal Counselor

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.

About the Speakers Tischa Lemasters and Kendra Sue McGeady

Tischa Lemasters is a dedicated transit leader with a passion for helping rural and tribal communities thrive. Through her work with Pelivan Transit and the Northeast Oklahoma Tribal Transit Consortium, along with her service on several transportation and nonprofit boards and committees focused on advocacy, rural, and tribal transportation, she is committed to improving access, strengthening communities, and making a lasting impact.

Kendra Sue McGeady is the Cherokee Nation Tribal Councilor for District 11, appointed in 2024 and currently is serving as the President of the South West Transit Association. Her work focuses on improving transportation access for rural and Native communities, strengthening infrastructure, and supporting housing and cultural preservation initiatives within Cherokee Nation. She previously served as Director of Pelivan Transit and the Northeastern Tribal Transit Consortium, overseeing transit services across a 4,466-square-mile region. McGeady has previously secured more than \$2.5 million in grants to expand rural and tribal transportation and the creation of PICK Transportation.

TRANSIT 101 TRACK 9:45 AM–10:30 AM

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

**Kristen Ribaudó & 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 Ribaudó & Maurice Beard

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 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 overseas business development in growing the GoPass agency network throughout North America.

Jennifer De Ruvo is an Account Executive at Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), where she leads the development and growth of the DART Access corporate and higher education pass programs. She has 16 years with DART in a variety of roles including corporate partnerships, business development, and institutional programs. In her current role, she applies her expertise with DART's GoPass® mobile ticketing platform and its Affiliate Partner Pass feature, helping scale bulk digital fare distribution into an efficient, revenue-generating program.

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 SPONSORED BY: IT Curves

AI Adoption in Transit

Jason Wells and Matthew Mohebbi, IT Curves

210 Tijeras

Artificial intelligence is transforming public transit, but where does adoption truly stand? This session offers a practical look at how transit agencies are using AI today, where it's creating real value, and where challenges remain. We'll walk through real examples, discuss common obstacles, and address the key questions leaders should be asking as they move from pilots to scalable, impactful solutions. Whether you're exploring AI or already experimenting with it, this session will give you the clarity and confidence to move forward.

About the Speakers: Jason Wells & Matthew Mohebbi

Jason Wells is the Head of AI Products at **IT Curves**, overseeing the company's AI division following IT Curves' acquisition of AI Dev Lab, which he founded. With over a decade of experience as an AI entrepreneur and advisor, Mr. Wells shapes and executes the AI product roadmap, aligning advanced AI technologies with IT Curves' mission to deliver smarter, more resilient solutions.

Matthew Mohebbi is the CEO of IT Curves and a transit technology leader with over 30 years of experience in engineering, product innovation, and public transportation solutions. He holds a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from George Washington University and began his career as an Associate Professor at the University of Wisconsin.

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

Moderator - Jaclyn Birley

Panelists – Kevin Olinger, Delilah Garcia, & Deborah Bach – NMDOT, Diane White & Denise Bailey – Bailey White Solutions, LLC

215 San Miguel

This panel discussion will feature representatives from the New Mexico DOT and Bailey White Solutions, focusing on the strategies implemented to successfully navigate the 2025 FTA SMR and achieve a no-findings review. Panelists will detail their approach to preparing for the review, beginning with designating lead personnel who possess both the authority and expertise necessary to work effectively with agency leadership and staff, thereby fostering cooperation and timely responsiveness.

About the Speakers: Jaclyn Birley, Kevlin Olinger, Delilah Garcia, Deborah Back, Diane White, & Denise Bailey
Jaclyn Birley is the owner of Magnolia Ridge Consulting. Jaclyn is a transit grants, compliance, and capital project oversight professional with 17+ years of experience supporting FTA-funded recipients and subrecipients across the full grant lifecycle—from project development through closeout.

Kevin Olinger is a Transit and Rail Division Director for the New Mexico Department of Transportation, where he oversees statewide transit systems, rail operations, and a \$52 million annual program. Throughout his career, Kevin has led high-performing teams, managed federal and state funding programs, launched new transit services, and advanced major planning initiatives in New Mexico, New York City, and the Atlanta region.

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.

Deborah Bach is a leading expert in rural and tribal transit and serves with the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) Transit Bureau. With more than 20 years of experience in state and federal program administration, she provides policy guidance, technical assistance, and strategic leadership to rural and tribal transit providers across New Mexico.

Diane White is the managing principal at Bailey White Solutions responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organization in achieving its vision and goals. Ms. White is responsible for day-to-day management, overseeing a portfolio of projects valued at over \$3 million.

Denise Bailey is a Principal at Bailey White Solutions, LLC. Ms. Bailey's experience spans over 35 years and her focus is on funding, efficiency, and compliance in the transportation and governmental sectors and includes areas of expertise in procurement, grants and project management and oversight, civil rights, accessibility, agreement negotiation, contract compliance, training, and construction management.

TRIBAL TRACK 10:45 AM–12:00 PM

Self-Governance and Tribal Nations

Cherokee Nation 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, Citibus

Adam Waddell, University of Arkansas

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.

About the Speakers: Adam Waddell and Chris Mandrell

Adam Waddell has served as the Director of Razorback Transit at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville for the past 14 years. With a career spanning over 28 years in transit, he has experience in every aspect of the field, from bus and paratransit operator to managing Paratransit Operations. Under his leadership, Razorback Transit has become a vital service for both the University of Arkansas and the City of Fayetteville.

Chris Mandrell, General Manager of Citibus, is dedicated to the citizens of Lubbock and the transit system that serves our city. Chris has been focused on bringing the company into the 21st century by investing in modern technology and improving services for the community. In recognition of his contributions to the transit industry, Chris was selected as one of Mass Transit's "Top 40 Under 40" in 2022.

INNOVATIONS TRACK SPONSORED BY TRANSIT TECHNOLOGIES

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.

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

LEADERSHIP TRACK 2:00 PM–3:15 PM

Get on the Board: The Value of Transit Associations

Moderator Kristen Joyner

Ann Rajewski - Association ED, CASTA

Chris Mandrell - Transit GM and Board member, TTA/SWTA

Heather Damolin - Transit GM and Board member AzTA/SWTA

Dinero Washington - Transit GM and Board member, LPTA/SWTA/CTAA

Allen Hunter - Association ED, TTA and former GM

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 Speakers: Kristen Joyner, Ann Rajewski, Chris Mandrell, Heather Dalmolin, Dinero' Washington & Allen Hunter

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.

Ann Rajewski is the Executive Director of the Colorado Association of Transit Agencies (CASTA), has played a pivotal role in propelling the organization's mission forward for 17 years. Her dynamic leadership has helped shape CASTA into a powerful advocate for transit professionals and organizations at both state and federal levels and has elevated the importance of transit services across Colorado's diverse rural, resort, and urban landscapes.

Chris Mandrell, General Manager of Citibus, is dedicated to the citizens of Lubbock and the transit system that serves our city. Chris has been focused on bringing the company into the 21st century by investing in modern technology and improving services for the community. In recognition of his contributions to the transit industry, Chris was selected as one of Mass Transit's "Top 40 Under 40" in 2022.

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.

Dinero' Washington is the President/Chief Executive Officer for Shreveport Transit Management (SporTran), and Metro Management Inc. SporTran serves as the public transit system for the Shreveport and Bossier urbanized area.

Allen Hunter is the Executive Director of the Texas Transit Association (TTA). Allen is constantly working to promote public transportation through his multifaceted approach of combining advocacy, collaboration, and strategic leadership to the association.

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

Sarah Hidalgo-Cook, SWART

Loretta Gallegos, South Central Regional Transit District

Sean Oswald, RLS & Associates - Moderator

215 San Miguel

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

About the Speakers: Sean Oswald, Sarah Hidalgo-Cook, & Loretta Gallegos

Sean Oswald is a nationally respected and recognized expert on FTA D&A regulations. He oversees many of the firm's largest multi-year compliance oversight projects and directs all of RLS' D&A oversight/training projects for transit systems and State DOTs. Mr. Oswald has extensive experience in Federal regulatory assessments, having conducted over 1,000 compliance and policy reviews across the country. An excellent presenter and skilled trainer, Mr. Oswald is known for his friendly demeanor and ability to put people at ease and explain complex regulations and concepts.

Sarah Hidalgo-Cook is the General Manager for Southwest Area Regional Transit District (SWART). Sarah has over 34 years of experience advancing public transit in Southwest Texas, significantly improving rural mobility across nine counties. She served 23 years as Transit Director and helped establish the Southwest Area Regional Transit District (SWART) in 2012. A Certified Community Transportation Manager, she holds 50+ certifications and degrees from Kansas State University and Sul Ross State University. A two-time Texas Transit General Manager of the Year, Sarah is a leader in the Texas Transit Association and national organizations. In 2023, she launched Partners In Transit, Inc. to expand mobility solutions, supporting SWART's SWIM initiative.

Loretta Gallegos

TRIBAL TRACK 2:00 PM–3:15 PM

Human Trafficking – Amy Hill, Muscogee Nation, Moderator

Panel

230 Pecos

This session will increase awareness of human trafficking and forced labor, what these crimes may look like in your community, and how they are often misunderstood. Human trafficking disproportionately impacts Native American communities, and addressing this crisis requires collaboration and accountability among federal, state, and tribal leaders. Participants will learn about available resources, training tools, and real-life stories that dispel common myths about how these crimes are committed and by whom—while highlighting the often-surprising realities of how they occur. As transit professionals, we serve as the first line of defense and must remain alert, open-minded, and prepared to be the eyes and ears in addressing this issue.

About the Speaker: Amy Hill is the Transit Director at Muscogee Nation and is an enrolled citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma. Her primary focus has been on administration of the Transit Program, Grant Management and Reporting, Transit Safety and Compliance, and administration of the Drug and Alcohol Testing Program. Amy currently serves as the President for the Oklahoma Transit Association, and as the current Secretary of the Oklahoma Tribal Transportation Council, as well a member of the Southern Plains TTAP Steering Committee, and has served as a Tribal Transit Toolkit Page Reviewing Committee member for National RTAP

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.

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

The Power of Partnership: New Models for Rural and Regional Transit

Bill Symon – Via, Latischa Lemasters - Pelivan Transit, Laura Corff – Cimarron Public Transit & Katherine Conrad – NEORide

Rural transit agencies face a familiar paradox: the communities that most need reliable transportation are often the hardest to serve efficiently. Limited funding, broad geographies, and riders whose needs don't stop at county lines can put real pressure on any one agency acting alone. Increasingly, the solution lies in what a coalition of partners can build together.

This session brings together two organizations that have turned that principle into practice. NEORide and PICK Transportation will share how they've built frameworks that expand service reach, pool resources, and create more resilient rural mobility systems — including in tribal and underserved communities. Attendees will come away with concrete models, lessons learned, and a roadmap for applying coalition-based approaches in their own regions.

210 Tijeras

About the Speakers – Danielle Borne, Latischa Lemasters, & Katherine Conrad

Bill Symon is the Director of Sales for Via Transportation, where he leads business development efforts across the Central United States, partnering with public agencies to design and implement innovative transit solutions. With more than 15 years of experience in the GovTech sector, Bill has worked closely with procurement leaders, facilities teams, IT departments, and executive leadership to deliver technology-driven outcomes that improve operational efficiency and public service delivery.

Tischa Lemasters is a dedicated transit leader with a passion for helping rural and tribal communities thrive. Through her work with Pelivan Transit and the Northeast Oklahoma Tribal Transit Consortium, along with her service on several transportation and nonprofit boards and committees focused on advocacy, rural, and tribal transportation, she is committed to improving access, strengthening communities, and making a lasting impact.

Laura Corff is the Transit Director of Cimarron Public Transit System, a division of United Community Action Program, Inc. of Pawnee, Oklahoma. She served as a National Rural Transit Assistant Program Review Board and is active on community coalitions and Ponca City Chamber committees. She also serves on the Pawnee County Health Department board of directors.

Katherine Conrad is currently the Director of NEORide. As such, she manages NEORide, a Council of Government, with 20 public transit agencies in Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, West Virginia and Arkansas. She focuses on project management, grant development, public relations and marketing and governance.

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

Tuesday, BREAKOUT SESSION BLOCK 4 — 3:30 PM–4:30 PM

LEADERSHIP TRACK 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Private Sector Take Aways for Public Transit

Ehren Bingaman, Burgess & Niple

Reed Bingaman, Pointe Strategy Group

Adam Linton, Pointe Strategy Group

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.

About the Speakers: Ehren Bingaman, Reed Bingaman, & Adam Linton

Ehren Bingaman offers 30 years of experience in public sector and public transit as an agency executive and consultant in strategy, leadership, organizational development, and infrastructure solutions. Always seeking practical solutions to complex problems, Ehren has demonstrated an ability to help teams grow and achieve results by focusing on the end the result. Ehren leads Burgess & Niple's national transit practice, offering planning, engineering, design, and management solutions to transit agencies around the country.

Reed Bingaman is founder of Pointe Strategy Group and brings over 30 years of operational and consulting experience to enterprise challenges – whether to drive cash management, revenue growth, or cost take-out. He believes in solutions that leverage collaboration and deliver outcomes that help organizations maximize the talent that already resides within them.

Adam Linton has over 20 years of experience in developing and executing value creation strategies for enterprises of various size, complexity, and industry. Leveraging experience as an in-house executive, private equity operations partner, and management consultant, Adam assists leadership teams in navigating shifting requirements, competing priorities, and ever-evolving technology to maximize performance and unlock enterprise value

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

Sean Oswald, RLS & Associates

215 San Miguel

A discussion on collection site operations and compliance best practices.

About the Speaker: Sean Oswald is a nationally respected and recognized expert on FTA D&A regulations. He oversees many of the firm's largest multi-year compliance oversight projects and directs all of RLS' D&A oversight/training projects for transit systems and State DOTs. Mr. Oswald has extensive experience in Federal regulatory assessments, having conducted over 1,000 compliance and policy reviews across the country. An excellent presenter and skilled trainer, Mr. Oswald is known for his friendly demeanor and ability to put people at ease and explain complex regulations and concepts.

COMMUNITIES TRACK 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Doing More with Less: Modernizing Paratransit in Waco

Ryan Powell – Spare & Serena Stevenson – Waco Transit System

220 Ruidoso

Transit agencies are being asked to deliver reliable service and meet growing demand, often without additional resources. In this session, Waco Transit System and Spare share how Waco modernized paratransit, microtransit, and Medicaid trip operations to do more with less. By bringing services onto a unified platform, improving operational visibility, and coordinating trips more effectively, the agency increased on-time performance to over 92% while improving the rider experience. Hear how the transition unfolded and the lessons other agencies can apply.

About the Speakers: Ryan Powell & Serena Stevenson

Ryan Powell is an Account Manager at Spare, where he partners with transit agencies to enhance microtransit and paratransit services. With several years of experience in urban mobility and public transportation, he helps agencies design and deliver solutions that improve efficiency, reliability, and rider experience. Ryan is passionate about using technology to expand access and create better transit for communities.

Serena Stevenson started her career in transit over 20 years ago, and in 2018 she moved to Waco, where she currently serves as the General Manager for Waco Transit System and the Transit Manager for McLennan County Rural Transit District. Serena currently serves as the President of Texas Transit Association (TTA), she is a graduate of Leadership APTA class of 2023, Eno Transportation Senior Executive Program, she served on the Executive Board for the Community of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) North Texas as Secretary, as well as the Executive Board for Delta Sigma Theta Incorporated, Waco Alumnae Chapter, as Treasurer.

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

210 Tijeras

Swiftly – I have this and need to add

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

8:30 AM–9:30 AM SPONSORED BY:

Breakfast Keynote: True Servant Leadership - 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

National RTAP 101

Neil Rodriguez, National Rural Transit Assistance Program.

New to rural transit—or looking to make better use of available resources? This session provides a practical introduction to National RTAP and how it supports transit agencies across the country. Led by Neil Rodriguez, attendees will explore the wide range of free tools, training programs, technical assistance, and products designed specifically for rural and tribal transit providers.

About the Speaker: Neil Rodriguez is the Tribal Transit Program Manager at the National Rural Transit Assistance Program. Neil led the initial development and management of the National RTAP eLearning management system. In 2020, he transitioned to the role of Tribal Transit Program Manager. He served on the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Rural, Intercity Bus, and Specialized Transportation Committee (AP055) and the Standing Committee on Native American Transportation Issues (AME30). He also currently serves on the National Transportation in Indian Country Conference Planning Committee.

TRANSIT 101 TRACK 9:45 AM–10:45 AM

Maintenance Hurdles

Kevin Oliver, Shreveport Transit Management (SporTran)

240 La Cienega

This collaborative session brings agencies together to share real-world strategies and practical solutions to the most pressing challenges facing maintenance departments today, including recruiting and retaining qualified technicians in a competitive labor market, keeping pace with evolving vehicle technology and training requirements, and creating clear career pathways that support technician advancement and pay progression. Participants will also explore effective approaches to encouraging and incentivizing ASE certification and other professional credentials.

About the Speaker: Kevin Oliver is a Transit Asset Manager and a retired Senior Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force —overseeing fleet, facilities, and parts operations while helping lead major initiatives including the transition to a fully CNG fleet, a systemwide route redesign, a new intermodal terminal and the opening of SporTran City, and the development of a State-approved Bus Maintenance Apprenticeship Program.

NMDOT TRACK 9:45 AM–10:45 AM

DBE Interim Final Rule Update

Denise Bailey, Bailey White

215 San Miguel

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) regulation was significantly revised in October 2025, changing the landscape of procedures and compliance considerations across various elements of the transit ecosystem. This session will cover the following topics. High-level history and overview of the intent and mechanics of the DBE Regulation, Impact from the October 3 Interim Final Rule and subsequently issued Frequently Asked Questions, & Contract, administrative, and grant compliance considerations

About the Speaker: Denise Bailey is a Principal at Bailey White Solutions, LLC. Ms. Bailey's experience spans over 35 years and her focus is on funding, efficiency, and compliance in the transportation and governmental sectors and includes areas of expertise in procurement, grants and project management and oversight, civil rights, accessibility, agreement negotiation, contract compliance, training, and construction management.

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 MOBILITY MATCH

New for 2026! Mobility Match is a new leadership-focused exhibit hall experience at the 2026 SWTA + New Mexico Joint Annual Conference & EXPO presented by Model 1 Commercial Vehicles. Open only to transit directors, executive leadership, and sponsoring SWTA Nation exhibitors. Mobility Match ensures agency leaders have dedicated time to learn about the innovative products, technologies, and services that advance public transportation. Participation is exclusive to sponsoring exhibitors and agency leadership. Agency leaders who participate will receive guaranteed SWTA Power Pass entries toward the conference grand prize drawing, which will be announced during the 2026 SWTA Gala. Mobility Match facilitates making meaningful connections with decision makers into business opportunities.

10:45 AM–11:00 AM Break SPONSORED BY: MTM

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.

About the speakers: **Kendra McGeady, Andrea Ball, Angie Gilliam, Wendy Weedon, & Sarah Coulter**

Kendra McGeady is the Cherokee Nation Tribal Councilor for District 11, appointed in 2024 and currently is serving as the President of the South West Transit Association. Her work focuses on improving transportation access for rural and Native communities, strengthening infrastructure, and supporting housing and cultural preservation initiatives within Cherokee Nation. She previously served as Director of Pelivan Transit and the Northeastern Tribal Transit Consortium, overseeing transit services across a 4,466-square-mile region. McGeady has previously secured more than \$2.5 million in grants to expand rural and tribal transportation and the creation of PICK Transportation.

Andrea Ball is the

Angie Gilliam is the Director of the Transportation Services Department for the Chickasaw Nation and has served in this capacity for 18 years. She is an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation. She began employment with the Chickasaw Nation in 1999 and has worked diligently to better the lives of First Americans thru the employment and training and transportation professions.

Wendy Weedon is the CEO/General Manager for the Brazos Transit District (BTD), she oversees operations across 20 counties in Central and East Texas. Mrs. Weedon has been instrumental in expanding services, enhancing customer

service, and driving strategic initiatives to improve rural and urban mobility. Under her leadership, BTD earned the FTA Region VI Transit System of the Year award in 2022.

Sarah Coulter is the Senior Assistant Director of Strategic Initiatives at Houston Public Works, where she leads the Strategic Initiatives Division and helps the department address complex, cross divisional challenges through a structured, outcomes focused approach.

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 provides an in-depth look at the steps and strategies Bailey White Solutions (BWS) used to support the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) in successfully achieving a “no findings” result during the 2025 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Statement Management/Triennial Review. Attendees will learn about the collaborative approach, key activities, and best practices implemented throughout the review process. The session highlights the specific methods used to address compliance requirements, improve documentation, and facilitate communication between NMDOT and FTA reviewers. Participants will gain valuable insights into effective preparation and execution that can be applied to their own agency reviews.

About the Speakers: Delilah D. Garcia, Kevin Olinger, Deborah Back and Diane White

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.

Kevin Olinger is a Transit and Rail Division Director for the New Mexico Department of Transportation, where he oversees statewide transit systems, rail operations, and a \$52 million annual program. Throughout his career, Kevin has led high-performing teams, managed federal and state funding programs, launched new transit services, and advanced major planning initiatives in New Mexico, New York City, and the Atlanta region.

Deborah Bach is a leading expert in rural and tribal transit and serves with the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) Transit Bureau. With more than 20 years of experience in state and federal program administration, she provides policy guidance, technical assistance, and strategic leadership to rural and tribal transit providers across New Mexico.

Diane White is the managing principal at Bailey White Solutions responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organization in achieving its vision and goals. Ms. White is responsible for day-to-day management, overseeing a portfolio of projects valued at over \$3 million.

Denise Bailey is a Principal at Bailey White Solutions, LLC. Ms. Bailey’s experience spans over 35 years and her focus is on funding, efficiency, and compliance in the transportation and governmental sectors and includes areas of expertise in procurement, grants and project management and oversight, civil rights, accessibility, agreement negotiation, contract compliance, training, and construction management.

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 – Sponsored by Insurica

Community Transit Risk Purchasing Group

Eddie Thomas, Insurica

Barbara Rhodes, Transit Reinsurance LTD

Heather Dalmolin, Mountain Line

220 Ruidoso

The Community Transit Insurance Program (CTIP) is managed by INSURICA Program Managers and powered by a non-profit Risk Purchasing Group (RPG) created specifically for public transit agencies and non-profit transit service providers. The program exists to serve members — not shareholders — keeping focus on long-term stability, safety, and cost control.

About the Speakers: Eddie Thomas, Barbara Rhodes & Heather Dalmolin

Eddie Thomas has been involved in the Transit industry for over 15 years and has served on various boards with APTA and regularly attends both CTAA and SWTA association events. A graduate of Alabama and a Marines Corps veteran, Eddie lives in Birmingham, AL, with his wife Vickie.

Barbara Rhoades is the Chief Executive for several diverse Public Transit organizations including Ohio Transit Risk Pool, Health Transit Pool of Ohio, Transit Insurance Group and Transit Re IC. Barbara has worked in the insurance industry including primary and reinsurance lines for over 30 years. She holds a degree in paralegal studies from the University of Hartford and has earned multiple professional destinations and awards. Barbara has served on the Ohio Public Transit Association Board and as the President of the AGRIP Board of Directors. Barbara also acts as fiscal agent for NEORide a Counsel of Governments with multiple public transit entities located in multiple states.

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.

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

?? Time and placement in agenda

West Ballroom B/C

NMDOT Acting Cabinet Secretary David Quintana

About the Speaker: NMDOT Acting Cabinet Secretary David Quintana has more than two decades of experience at the department, rising through the ranks from Engineer in Training to his most recent role as Programs and Infrastructure Division Director and Chief Engineer. Quintana has experience directing the department's statewide design and construction program, managing six district offices and overseeing project development, bridge design, environmental review, right-of-way acquisition and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan. Earlier in his career, he served in district engineering roles across northern New Mexico and as Roadway and Drainage Section Manager for the City of Santa Fe.

WEDNESDAY 2:45 PM–3:45 PM FTA Regional Administrators Update

West Ballroom B/C

Join us for an update 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.

Gail Lyssy, Regional Administrator Federal Transit Administration, Region 6

With more than 40 years of transportation experience, Gail Lyssy joined FTA Region 6 in 1996 as Regional Engineer and advanced through several leadership roles, including Director of Program Management and Oversight, Deputy Regional Administrator, and Regional Administrator. She has received multiple honors, including the USDOT Secretary's Award for Excellence. Before joining FTA, she was Director of Transportation for a Dallas-based engineering consulting firm. Ms. Lyssy holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University and is a registered Professional Engineer.

Ray Tellis, Regional Administrator Federal Transit Administration, Region 9

Ray Tellis has served as FTA Region 9 Administrator since February 2019. He oversees a \$40 billion program supporting public transportation in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Pacific territories, leading a staff of more than 40 professionals. With over 30 years of experience, before joining FTA, he worked in the private freight rail industry and at the Illinois Department of Transportation. He holds multiple civil engineering degrees from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

3:45 PM–4:00 PM Break with Themed Snacks – Sponsored by SilverRide

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!*)

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

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.

6:45 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.

About the Speakers: Sean Oswald is a nationally respected and recognized expert on FTA D&A regulations. He oversees many of the firm's largest multi-year compliance oversight projects and directs all of RLS' D&A oversight/training projects for transit systems and State DOTs. Mr. Oswald has extensive experience in Federal regulatory assessments, having conducted over 1,000 compliance and policy reviews across the country. An excellent presenter and skilled trainer, Mr. Oswald is known for his friendly demeanor and ability to put people at ease and explain complex regulations and concepts.

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 4:43 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 2:46pm 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