

TXLTAP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

TxDOT Invests Record \$142 Billion in Transportation

“Thanks to our booming economy, Texas has achieved a major milestone in our transportation infrastructure with this record \$142 billion investment that will strengthen our roadways and build a next-generation transportation network...The State of Texas will further improve roadway congestion and safety to meet the growing needs of Texans,” promises Governor Abbott. “This plan will not only connect Texans from every corner of our state, it will also bolster our economic growth and ensure Texans and businesses continue to thrive for generations to come.”

The unanimous approval of the 10-year, \$100 billion Unified Transportation Program (UTP) demonstrates TxDOT’s continued commitment to Texas infrastructure expansion and enhancement. The 2024 UTP will fund the development of 9,000+ projects throughout the state.

The 2024 UTP has 12 funding categories:

- Preventative Maintenance and Rehab- addresses preventive maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing state highway system, including pavement, signs, traffic signals, and other infrastructure assets.
- Metropolitan and Urban Corridors- addresses mobility and added capacity projects on urban corridors to mitigate traffic congestion, as well as traffic safety and roadway maintenance or rehabilitation. Projects must be located on the state highway system.
- Non-Traditionally Funded Transportation Projects- transportation projects that qualify for funding from sources not traditionally part of the State Highway Fund.
- Statewide Connectivity Corridor Projects- addresses mobility on major state highway system corridors, which provide connectivity between urban areas and other statewide corridors.
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement- addresses attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standard in

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non-attainment areas (currently the Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, and El Paso metro areas).

- Structures Replacement and Rehabilitation (Bridge)- addresses bridge improvements through sub-programs such as Highway Bridge Program, Bridge Maintenance and Improvement Program, and Bridge System Safety Program.
- Metropolitan Mobility and Rehabilitation- addresses transportation needs within the boundaries of Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) with populations of 200,000 or greater- known as transportation management areas (TMAs). This funding can be used on any roadway with a functional classification greater than a local road or rural minor collector. Includes roadway widening, new-location roadways, and interchange improvements.
- Safety- addresses highway safety improvements through the sub-programs such as Highway Safety Improvement Program, Systematic Widening Program, and Road to Zero. This includes medians, turn lanes, intersections, traffic signals, and rumble strips.
- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program- handles the federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside Program. This includes construction of sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic-calming techniques, lighting and other safety-related infrastructure, and transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Supplemental Transportation Programs- addresses a variety of transportation improvements through sub-programs such as Supplemental Transportation Projects (Federal), Carbon Reduction Program, Federal Lands Access Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Green Ribbon Program, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Pedestrian Program, Landscape Incentive Awards, Railroad Grade Crossing and Re-planking Program, Railroad Signal Maintenance Program, Safety Rest Area/Truck Parking, Intelligent Transportation Systems, and Category 10 Carbon Reduction.
- Direct Discretionary- addresses TxDOT district transportation needs through sub-programs such as District Discretionary, Energy Sector, Border State Infrastructure Funding, District Safety, and Construction Cost Overruns/Change Order. Project types include roadway maintenance or rehabilitation, added passing lanes (Super 2), and roadway widening (non-freeway).
- Strategic Priority- addresses projects with specific importance to the state, including those that improve: – Congestion and connectivity – Economic opportunity – Energy sector access – Border and port connectivity – Efficiency of military deployment routes or retention of military assets in response to the Federal Military Base Realignment and Closure Report – The ability to respond to both man-made and natural emergencies Common project types include roadway widening (both freeway and non-freeway), interchange improvements, and new-location roadways.

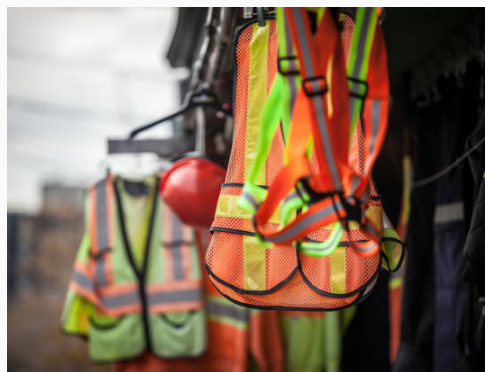
TxDOT is investing almost \$17 billion in safety, \$6 billion in Texas Clear Lanes to reduce congestion in our larger metro areas, and over \$19 billion to keep our rural cities connected. The 10-year investment is expected to increase business activity as well as add over 70,000 jobs per the Texas A&M Transportation Institute. They anticipate an annual economic benefit of over \$18 billion for Texas.



Focus on Training: Work Zone Construction Site Safety

Why is an OSHA 10-hour card critical in Public Works? According to Safety and Health Magazine, nearly one-third of all non-fatal injuries occur within an employee's first year of employment. This course is designed to concentrate on activities which generate the highest level of accidents and injuries in road construction and maintenance work zones. It will help participants recognize unsafe work practices and reduce or eliminate hazards from the work environment. The training reinforces components of proper work zone traffic control and flagging and includes all of the required content for the OSHA 10-Hour Outreach Construction Card, to include:

- Fall Protection
- Electrical
- Struck By, Caught in/Between - Heavy Equipment
- Health Hazards in Construction
- Material Handling
- Hand and Power Tools
- Excavations
- Stairways and Ladders
- Communication



An OSHA 10-Hour wallet card and a UTA Public Works Institute certificate are issued upon successful completion of this training. To schedule this course, please email txltap@uta.edu.

<https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/14053-new-workers-higher-risk>

Instructor Spotlight

DONNIE PETRU



Donnie is a former TxDOT employee with 28 years of experience in and around the work zone. He has been an instructor with TxLTAP/Public Works Institute for the last 7 years and is also a safety consultant with the City of Austin. Donnie has taught a wide variety of courses ranging from Heavy Equipment to Seal Coat Planning & Design and of course, all things Work Zone.

“Great class. Helpful tips, great stories...Donnie was very knowledgeable in this field. Great instructor.”

“Instructor was very detailed.”

“Very knowledgeable instructor.”

“Great job Donnie!”

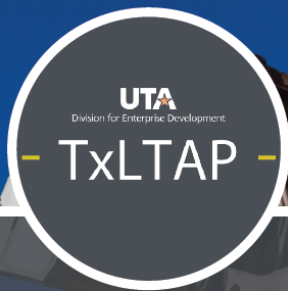
“Great instructor.”

“(Course was) done well with excellent expertise.”

What was the most valuable part of this course?

“Instructor knowledge.” “Donnie and the videos.”

“The interactiveness of the instructor.”



INSTRUCTORS WANTED

Are you looking for your next
adventure in the great state
of Texas?



TxLTAP IS LOOKING FOR EXPERTS IN:

Email Your Resume and
Letter of Interest to:
TxLTAP@uta.edu



- ✓ Work Zone
- ✓ Infrastructure
- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Heavy Equipment
- ✓ Management
- ✓ Flagging
- ✓ Environmental
- ✓ Electrical



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