BETTER ROADS SAFER ROADS









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Fall 2025 | TxLTAP.org

BECOME A ROAD SAFETY CHAMPION

The Road Safety Champion Program (RSCP) is a nationally-recognized "Roadway Safety 101" training series created for staff in transportation, public health, and first responder agencies who have an interest in roadway safety but are not safety experts.

GOVERNOR ABBOTT ANNOUNCES OVER \$146
BILLION TEXAS TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT

In August 2025, Governor Greg Abbott announced a new 10-year transportation plan with a total projected investment of over \$146 billion.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEW TEXAS LAWS REGARDING ROADWAYS AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently published Moving Texas Forward TxDOT's Legislative Session Review for the 89th Legislature.

TXDOT MARKED MAJOR PROGRESS ACROSS TEXAS IN SEPTEMBER

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ARE YOU PREPARED TO RESPOND TO A MEDICAL EMERGENCY?

Every second counts when responding to emergency medical situations. Recognizing the signs and symptoms – and knowing how to properly respond until help arrives – is vital.

TOW AND GO HELPS TRAFFIC FLOW

Imagine your car breaks down on one of Houston's fastest and busiest highways. You're nervous, panicked, and don't know what to do.

NEW AAA STUDY REVEALS NEARLY ALL DRIVERS EXPERIENCE AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

If it feels like everyone has road rage these days, that's because they probably do. A staggering 96% of drivers admit to engaging in aggressive driving behaviors over the past year, according to a new study from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

FEDERAL, STATEWIDE, AND REGIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Take a look at new opportunities now available for application.

TxLTAP TRAINING & SERVICES
Contact TxLTAP for more information or to request training, services, or equipment.

The Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) is a nationwide effort financed by the Federal Highway Administration and individual state departments of transportation. Its purpose is to translate into understandable terms the best available technology for roadways, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and public transportation for city and county roadway and transportation personnel. The TxLTAP, operated by the University of Texas at Arlington, is sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration. This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about new publications, techniques, and training opportunities that may be helpful to you and your community.

BECOME A ROAD SAFETY CHAMPION

The Road Safety Champion Program (RSCP) is a nationally-recognized "Roadway Safety 101" training series created for staff in transportation, public health, and first responder agencies who have an interest in roadway safety but are not safety experts. The Program equips professionals with safety-focused skills for managing, maintaining, and designing local roads. It focuses on reducing serious injuries and fatalities by building a workforce skilled in road safety. RSCP includes seven main courses and two specialized paths, open to Texas city and county employees. The program is offered virtually through live sessions and interactive assignments, combining independent online work with hands-on, collaborative exercises.

TxLTAP offers courses under the Maintenance & Construction Pathway and the Planning & Engineering Pathway. For more information, visit www.txltap.org/roadsafetychampion.cfm or contact TxLTAP staff at txltap@uta.edu.

The Public Health and First Responder Pathways are available through the National Center for Rural Road Safety. Visit ruralsafetycenter.org/road-safety-champion-program for more information.

ROAD SAFETY CHAMPION PROGRAM



The Road Safety Champion Program (RSCP) is a nationally recognized certificate program designed to develop a knowledgeable, safety-focused workforce responsible for operating, maintaining, and designing local roads. The RSCP prioritizes safety and aims to implement improvements that reduce fatalities and serious injuries. The program consists of seven core modules and two career-focused pathways. All participants must complete the core modules to establish a strong foundation in roadway safety. Upon finishing the seven core modules and one pathway, individuals will earn the Road Safety Champion Program Certificate from the National Center for Rural Road Safety, along with a digital badge from TxLTAP.

Core Module + One Pathway = RSCP Certificate

CORE MODULES

- ✓ Introduction to Road Safety
- ✓ Understanding Human Factors
- ✓ Introduction to Traffic Safety Culture
- Overview of the MUTCD
- Intersection of

 Transportation with
- Transportation with
 Public Health and Law
 Enforcement
- ✓ Reading the Roadway
- ✓ Safety Analysis Process

MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION PATHWAY

Maintaining a Safer Roadway

Work Zones

Worker Safety

Traffic Incident Management

Take Action Now - Maintaining Safety

Work Zone Construction Site Safety (OSHA 10)

Flagger Certification

PLANNING & ENGINEERING PATHWAY

Countermeasures for Road Safety

Work Zones

Overview of Local Road Safety

Overview of Data and Tools for Safety

Crash Reporting

Systemic Safety Project Selection Tool

> Road Safety Champion Certificate

Earn a Road Safety Champion Certificate through TxLTAP!

GOVERNOR ABBOTT ANNOUNCES OVER \$146 BILLION TEXAS TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT

In August 2025, Governor Greg Abbott announced a new 10-year transportation plan with a total projected investment of over \$146 billion. The plan by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will invest in local roads and major congestion relief projects to meet the demands of Texas' growing population and a thriving economy.

"This more than \$146 billion investment in our roadways will help Texas meet the critical needs of our growing state as more people and businesses move here for the freedom and opportunity they can't find anywhere else," said Governor Abbott. "We must strengthen our roadways and improve congestion and safety to keep our economy booming and keep Texans moving. By investing billions of dollars in our transportation network today, we will build the future of Texas for generations to come."

"This more than \$146 billion investment in our roadways will help Texas meet the critical needs of our growing state"

"It's no question why so many businesses and families want to move to Texas, and this monumental investment will help us take care of everyone here while attracting more to come in the future," said Acting Texas Transportation Chair Alvin New. "I want to thank Governor Abbott and the Texas Legislature for this investment that will provide lasting benefits for all Texans, focusing on saving lives and providing congestion relief."

"Built with our transportation partners and public feedback from across the state, the UTP will enhance safety, improve mobility, and support our growth over the next 10 years," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "Whether you live in a rural area or a big city, this plan benefits everyone as we continue to work to move people and goods safely and efficiently, fulfilling our mission of connecting you with Texas."



2026 Unified Transportation Program (UTP)

The Texas Transportation Commission adopted the 2026 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) during the August meeting. The UTP includes \$101.6 billion for projects over the next 10 years to improve safety, connect communities and encourage a robust economy. This marks the third consecutive year the plan exceeds \$100 billion. It also includes nearly \$45 billion for development and routine maintenance.

Many of the projects in the 2026 UTP are roadway segments identified on Texas' 100 Most Congested Roadways list. Texas Clear Lanes congestion-relief projects will increase in funding by nearly \$2 billion, supporting the \$84 billion total investment for completed, under-construction and planned non-tolled projects since 2015. It also includes a nearly \$17 billion investment in safety and an additional \$669 million in funding for rural corridors and key roadways in economic hubs.

The adoption of the 2026 UTP comes after an extensive process to allow the public to voice comments and opinions on the projects included in the document. Visit the <a href="https://www.utps.com/utps.com/utps.

Updated each year, the UTP "road map" guides project development to improve safety, address congestion and connectivity, and preserve roadways for Texas drivers. It also includes public transportation, maritime, aviation, rail, freight, international trade and bicycle and pedestrian connectivity.

Learn more about the program in the <u>UTP Fact Sheet</u>.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEW TEXAS LAWS REGARDING ROADWAYS AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

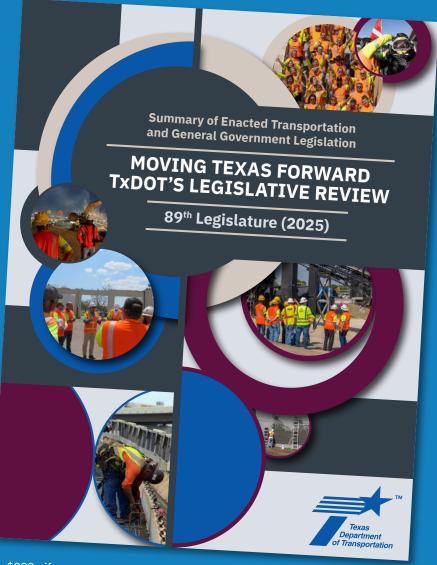
The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently published Moving Texas Forward TxDOT's Legislative Session Review for the 89th Legislature. The publication highlights key legislation passed during the 89th Regular Texas Legislative Session - legislature that affects TxDOT's operations, the state's transportation system, and the traveling public.

The state's 2026-2027 biennial budget allocates an estimated \$39.92 billion to TxDOT, with 89 percent dedicated to project development, delivery, and maintenance; \$588 million for capital facilities, vehicles, and equipment; and \$394 million for critical information technology infrastructure which support essential tools for TxDOT's daily operations and mission of *Connecting You with Texas*. The budget also strengthens multimodal investments, supporting rural and urban public transportation, rail, port connectivity, and general aviation airports across the state.

Some provisions related to local transportation issues, traffic safety, and transportation and law enforcement include:

- HOUSE BILL 3642 Amends the requirements for memorial signs for motorcyclists, aligning it with the requirements of the memorial signs for victims of impaired driving.
- SENATE BILL 305 Add vehicles operated by animal control officers and vehicles operated by individuals issuing parking citations to the statutory list of vehicles for whom drivers are required to "Move Over, Slow Down" on Texas roadways.
- SENATE BILL 2129 Establishes an offense—
 punishable by a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$200—if a
 roadway vehicle operator approaching a railroad grade crossing fails to comply with a lowered crossing gate or ignores a
 flagger's warning of an approaching train or other on-track equipment.
- SENATE BILL 2039 Relating to the applicability of certain pedestrian laws to certain sidewalk users.
- SENATE BILL 1555 Establishes a grant program to provide funding to political subdivisions for the following:
 - 1. Rail-roadway grade separation projects at intersections of railroads and public roadways not part of the state highway system; and
 - 2. Rail-pedestrian grade separation projects at intersections of railroads and public pedestrian crossings.

For additional information on this publication or transportation-related issues, visit TxDOT's State Legislative Affairs Section in the Government Affairs Division at www.txdot.gov/about/divisions/government-affairs-division.html.



TXDOT MARKED MAJOR PROGRESS ACROSS TEXAS IN SEPTEMBER by Ryan LaFontaine



The opening of long-awaited flyovers ahead of schedule and moving forward on plans for key highway expansions highlight the many project milestones across the state in September.

SAN ANTONIO: NEW TURNAROUND AND FLYOVER OPENINGS

On San Antonio's far West Side, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) opened a new turnaround bridge at the U.S. 90 and Texas 211 interchange, marking the "substantial completion" of a \$6.8 million project aimed at improving safety and traffic flow. The project, which began in summer 2024, wrapped up four months ahead of schedule.

Originally slated for completion in winter 2026, the turnaround now connects westbound to eastbound U.S. 90 traffic more efficiently. It's part of TxDOT's broader effort to expand U.S. 90 into a six-lane freeway from Loop 1604 to west of Texas 211.

That expansion is currently in advanced planning, with construction on the first phase expected to begin this fall.

Meanwhile, on the city's North Side, commuters are seeing progress on the massive Loop 1604 North Expansion Project, a \$1.4 billion investment to improve mobility and reduce congestion along 23 miles of the corridor across north Bexar County.

TxDOT also opened a fifth flyover ramp at the I-10/Loop 1604 interchange, connecting westbound I-10 to eastbound Loop 1604. It's the latest in a series of milestones for the project, which has already seen four flyovers open since December 2024. By the end of 2026, all eight flyovers are expected to be complete.

HOUSTON: PUBLIC GETS A LOOK AT GULF FREEWAY'S FUTURE

In Houston, TxDOT unveiled two proposals for the future expansion of the I-45 Gulf Freeway between downtown and Beltway 8. The 14-mile corridor—passing key landmarks like the

University of Houston, Texas Southern University, and Hobby Airport—could see the addition of two elevated managed lanes in each direction to ease congestion and improve safety.

One proposal retains current lane counts, while another adds a general-purpose lane in each direction. Both would include continuous sidewalks and improved frontage road access. The project remains in environmental review, with construction likely more than a decade away.

WACO: I-35 PROGRESS AND BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

In Central Texas, TxDOT continues progress on long-running work along Interstate 35 through Waco. The agency is replacing the 17th and 18th Street bridges as part of ongoing safety and mobility improvements through the corridor.

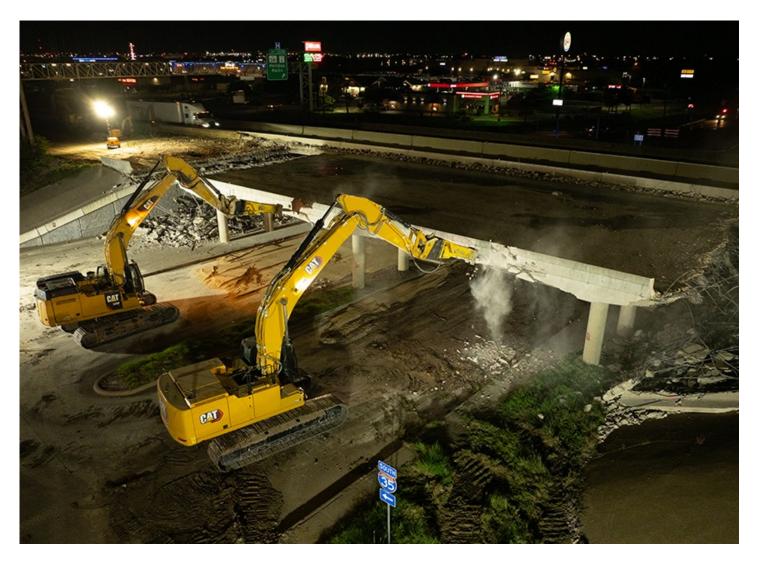
Elsewhere, in Valley Mills, TxDOT crews have begun replacing the State Highway 317 bridge over the railroad south of town. Built in the 1950s, the bridge no longer meets current design standards. The replacement will provide a more modern, wider and safer crossing.

WEST TEXAS: I-27 EXTENSION MOVES FORWARD

In the Permian Basin, the long-anticipated development of Interstate 27 is officially underway. TxDOT is currently in negotiations and anticipates starting preliminary engineering and environmental studies for the first phase of the new interstate along State Highway 349 from SH 176 in Martin County to I-20 near Midland.

The I-27 expansion is part of a larger effort to strengthen freight and passenger connections across West Texas. The project will eventually link to SH 158 and extend north toward Lamesa, with future phases planned through 2027.

From the Hill Country to the Gulf Coast and the High Plains, TxDOT's September progress underscores its commitment to improving mobility, safety and economic opportunity across the state.





ARE YOU PREPARED TO RESPOND TO A MEDICAL EMERGENCY?

KNOW THE SYMPTOMS - AND BE READY by Alan Ferguson

Every second counts when responding to emergency medical situations. Recognizing the signs and symptoms – and knowing how to properly respond until help arrives – is vital.

"Staying calm, being prepared and knowing what to do, including when to call 911" can help save a co-worker's life, said Maria Belen Cordova, program technical advisor for first aid at the National Safety Council.

Here, we've listed some common medical emergencies – and what bystanders should do. (In each situation listed, know that you should be ready to administer CPR at a moment's notice.)

HEART ATTACK

A heart attack occurs when the flow of blood is blocked in part of the heart. Signs of a heart attack include persistent pain, pressure or discomfort in the chest, which may spread to the neck, jaw, shoulder and/or arms. This discomfort may come and go or it could last several minutes.

Other symptoms: shortness of breath, dizziness, lightheadedness, nausea or vomiting, cold sweat, and pale or clammy skin.

"Victims having a heart attack may not have all of these signs and symptoms," NSC says. "Women especially may experience other symptoms, including shortness of breath, indigestion, nausea or vomiting, and back or jaw pain."

Call 911 right away if a co-worker is experiencing chest discomfort – even if you aren't sure it's a heart attack.

STROKE

A stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is interrupted, either by a blockage or a rupture in a blood vessel. The acronym **FAST** is an easy way to remember the symptoms of a stroke and what to do if you see them.

- Face drooping: Is one side of the worker's face drooping or numb? If you ask the person to smile, is their smile uneven?
- Arm weakness: Is one arm numb or weak? If you ask the worker to raise one arm, does it eventually drift downward?
- Speech issues: Is the person slurring their words or having trouble speaking or understanding you? If you ask them to repeat a simple sentence, can they do it correctly?
- Time to call 911 if any of these symptoms occur: Try to remember when the symptoms started and relay that information to the operator.

CHOKING

The most urgent signs of choking are the inability to cough, speak or breathe. Someone who's choking may also clutch their throat, appear panicked, or have bluish lips or skin because of a lack of oxygen. Breathing may become silent or high-pitched and attempts to cough may be weak or ineffective.

Call 911 in those cases or, better yet, have someone else do it so you can begin the Heimlich maneuver. (Watch a video on performing the Heimlich maneuver).

SHOCK

Someone experiencing shock may exhibit some of these symptoms:

- · Anxiety, confusion, agitation or restlessness
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Cool, clammy or sweating skin
- Skin that's pale, bluish or ashen
- Rapid, shallow breathing
- Thirst, nausea or vomiting

If any of these signs are present after an injury, sudden illness or traumatic event, it may indicate the person's body isn't getting enough blood flow – a serious medical emergency. Call 911 immediately if shock is suspected. Then:

- Lay the worker down and elevate their legs and feet slightly, unless you think this may cause pain or further injury.
- Keep the person still.
- Loosen any tight-fitting clothing and, if needed, cover the person with a blanket to warm them.
- If the worker vomits or is bleeding from the mouth and if no spinal injury is suspected – turn the person onto their side to prevent choking.

CONCUSSION

The symptoms of a concussion can range from mild to severe. They include:

- Headache or head pressure
- Feeling stunned or dazed
- Dizziness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Sensitivity to light and noise
- Confusion or memory problems

Monitor the worker closely. Call 911 if symptoms worsen or the person vomits repeatedly, loses consciousness, or shows changes in behavior or speech.

OPIOID DRUG OVERDOSE

Symptoms of an opioid drug overdose include unresponsiveness, pinpoint pupils, and slow or shallow breathing. "In severe cases, victims' lips and nail beds may turn bluish or ashen (and) seizures may occur," NSC says.

Be ready to administer naloxone (an opioid overdose reversal medication) and give CPR. The council encourages all workplaces to be ready to respond to an opioid overdose – including having naloxone in first aid kits. Go to nsc.org/respondready to learn more.

FAINTING

A worker may be about to faint if they're dizzy or feeling weak, are experiencing changes in their vision, have pale or ashen skin, or begin sweating a lot. If they do faint, lay them down, elevate their legs about 12 inches, loosen their clothing, provide fresh air and monitor them.

The general rule of thumb with fainting victims is to call 911 if someone hasn't regained consciousness after about a minute – unless they may have been injured during the faint. In that case, call 911 immediately.

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when the heart suddenly stops beating. This typically causes victims to collapse, become unresponsive, and stop breathing normally or altogether. If this occurs, call 911. Then, find an AED or ask someone else to get the AED while you begin CPR. An AED will check the heart's rhythms and deliver a shock, if needed, to help restore a normal heartbeat.

"It's so important for people to be trained in CPR and how to use an AED," Cordova said. "In those first few minutes, your actions can truly make the difference between life and death."

For more information on taking a CPR class, visit the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org/take-a-class/cpr/cpr-training/cpr-classes.

Permission to reprint granted by the National Safety Council.

TOW AND GO HELPS TRAFFIC FLOW

by Bailey Doucet



Imagine your car breaks down on one of Houston's fastest and busiest highways. You're nervous, panicked, and don't know what to do. This is where Gulf Coast Regional Tow and Go Program comes in to help. The Tow and Go is a program overseen by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and provides free towing on Houston's major highways and roads. Removing stalled vehicles from the road not only helps the people involved, but it keeps traffic flowing and reduces secondary crashes. Francis Rodriguez oversees the Regional Incident Management Program of Tow and Go. Rodriquez started working for the program in 2019 and has seen it grow tremendously. For example, last year in 2024, they completed more than 39,000 free tows.

Now let's get to the grand scheme of things, including the who, what, when, where and how's of the program. Starting off with why: of course it's safety. Safety is a big component simply because if vehicles are stranded, there is a real risk of secondary crashes. If cars are moved off the road quickly, Tow and Go can prevent crashes and keep the roads clear.

Moving onto the "when." Clearance time for a vehicle to get safely taken off the road is 17 minutes. This helps ensure quick, efficient help for drivers.

Next for the "what." The program is to help get stranded drivers towed and off the road to a nearby safe location. This could be a nearby gas station or commercial center – somewhere safely off a main busy highway. Even in some instances, drivers who have flat tires can also have their tires changed for free.

"Every motorist we can quickly move out of harm's way, we mark as

a metric of success," Rodriguez said.

As far as where this program operates, it covers most of Houston's area highways. Rodriguez and her team at Tow and Go hope to expand into other regions to help even more people.

Lastly, the "how" which is teamwork. For the operation to run smoothly, consistent communication needs to happen between everyone involved in the program. Things like regular meetings and consistent communication keeps the program running as efficient as possible, despite the many moving parts.

"We want motorists to know the program is here to help," Rodriguez said. "The Tow and Go program is proving itself not just as a local service for Harris County, but as a model for highway safety and pure efficiency across the state of Texas."



NEW AAA STUDY REVEALS NEARLY ALL DRIVERS EXPERIENCE AGGRESSIVE DRIVING



If it feels like everyone has road rage these days, that's because they probably do. A staggering 96% of drivers admit to engaging in aggressive driving behaviors over the past year, according to a new study from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. From speeding and tailgating to cutting off other vehicles, aggressive driving has become a near universal experience - and it's not just frustrating, it appears to be contagious.

The study found that the more drivers are exposed to aggressive behavior on the road, the more likely they are to drive aggressively themselves. This self-fulfilling cycle of aggressive driving and road rage is fueling a culture where impatience and hostility are becoming the norm behind the wheel.

"Almost every driver has either experienced or engaged in some form of aggressive driving, and that cycle only fuels more frustration on our roads," said Doug Shupe, AAA Texas Corporate Communications Manager. "The good news is that we can break the cycle. By practicing patience, showing courtesy, and remembering that every driver is someone's loved one, we can help create a safer, calmer driving culture for everyone."

OTHER KEY FINDINGS:

- 92% of drivers reported aggressive behaviors that put others at risk, like speeding or cutting off other vehicles. Their top motivators were to get to their destination faster and avoid perceived danger.
- 11% admitted to violent actions such as intentionally bumping another car or confronting another driver.
- Aggressive driving is contagious: Drivers who experienced higher levels of aggressive driving also had higher levels of engagement in aggressive driving.
- The vehicle plays a role: The kind of car you drive could predict how you act - and how others perceive you. Drivers in sports cars, big trucks, and motorcycles are often seen as more aggressive. Some drivers say they felt more powerful and dominant behind the wheel of these vehicles.

This latest study updates research originally conducted by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety in 2016, offering a look at how aggressive driving behaviors have shifted over time. While some behaviors have become more common, others have declined:

SINCE 2016:

- Cutting off other vehicles is up 67%.
- Honking out of anger is up 47%.
- On the positive side, tailgating is down 24% and yelling at other drivers is down 17%.

AAA encourages drivers to prioritize courtesy and safety to help curb aggressive driving. In fact, the study found that encouraging good road etiquette may be the most effective way to reduce aggressive driving and road rage. Simple actions—like using turn signals, letting others merge, and offering a friendly wave—can help de-escalate tension and create a safer, more respectful driving environment for everyone.

This self-fulfilling cycle of aggressive driving and road rage is fueling a culture where impatience and hostility are becoming the norm behind the wheel.

AAA'S TOP TIPS IF YOU ENCOUNTER AN AGGRESSIVE DRIVER

- 1. Stay Calm Don't Engage: No eye contact, no gestures, no response.
- 2. **Give Space:** Let them pass and keep your distance.
- 3. **Protect Yourself:** Call 911 or go to a public place never drive home.

AAA'S TOP 3 TIPS TO CONTROL ROAD RAGE

- 1. **Breathe Before You React:** One deep breath can reset your drive.
- 2. **Don't Take the Bait:** Ignore and avoid aggressive drivers.
- 3. Choose Time Over Tension: Leave early, give space, arrive safe.

ABOUT THE AAA FOUNDATION FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY

Established in 1947 by AAA, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety is a nonprofit, publicly funded 501(c)(3) charitable research and educational organization. The AAA Foundation's mission is to prevent traffic deaths and injuries by researching their causes and by educating the public about strategies to prevent crashes and reduce injuries when they do occur. This research informs the development of educational materials for drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other road users.

FEDERAL, STATEWIDE, AND REGIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



NATIONAL RAILROAD PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM / FEDERAL-STATE PARTNERSHIP FOR INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL (FSP) **GRANT PROGRAM**

This program provides funding for capital projects that reduce the state of good repair backlog, improve performance, or expand or establish new intercity passenger rail service, including privately operated intercity passenger rail service, if an eligible applicant is involved.

Funding Available for Award Under the FY 2024-2025 NOFO: \$5,070,784,989

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

- A project to replace, rehabilitate, or repair infrastructure, equipment, or a facility used for providing intercity passenger rail service to bring such assets into a state of good repair
- A project to improve intercity passenger rail service performance, including reduced trip times, increased train frequencies, higher operating speeds, improved reliability, expanded capacity, reduced congestion, electrification, and other improvements, as determined by the Secretary
- A project to expand or establish new intercity passenger rail service
- A group of related projects as described above
- The planning, environmental review, and final design of an eligible project or group of projects described above

ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS:

- States, including the District of Columbia
- A group of States
- An Interstate Compact

- A public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more States
- A political subdivision of a State
- Amtrak, acting on its own behalf or under a cooperative agreement with one or more States
- A federally recognized Indian Tribe
- Any combination of the entities described above

For more information, visit https://railroads.dot.gov/elibrary/fy-24-25-NOFO-FSP-national.



OFF-SYSTEM RAIL GRADE SEPARATION STATE FUND PROGRAM

Senate Bill 1555 (89th Texas State Legislature) established the Texas Off-System Rail Grade Separation State Fund Program, authorized under Transportation Code § 471.010. This program provides financial assistance to eligible governmental entities in Texas for rail grade separation projects that improve public safety, support economic development, and reduce traffic congestion. The Legislature allocated \$250 million through a supplemental budget appropriation.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Funding is available for project development and construction of projects that eliminate one or more existing adjacent at-grade rail-highway crossings or provide a grade-separated pedestrian-rail crossing.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for funding under the program, a project must:

Continued on page 12

Continued from page 11

- 1. be for the construction of a grade separation structure that will either eliminate one or more adjacent at-grade rail-highway crossings or provide a grade separated pedestrian-rail crossing;
- 2. be located off the state highway system (roadways that are not underTxDOT's jurisdiction);
- 3. increase public safety, enhance economic development, or reduce traffic; and
- 4. constitute a logical, self-contained unit of work that can be constructed as an independent project whether it is proposed as an independent project or as apart of a larger transportation project.

PROGRAM FUNDING MAY BE USED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Planning, detailed design activities including preparation of construction plans, environmental, right of way (ROW) acquisition, and utility adjustment
- Project construction

ELIGIBLE PROJECT SPONSOR

The project sponsor must be the political subdivision of the state (e.g., counties, cities, special districts, and school districts) that has jurisdiction over the project's location, authority to undertake the project, and authority to enter into an agreement with TxDOT.

2025 CALL FOR PROJECTS

TxDOT will hold a Call for Projects beginning November 3, 2025. This Call for Projects will consist of a Preliminary Application and a Detailed Application. The applications will be web-based, submitted online through TxDOT's Rail Division website. There is no limit to the number of projects sponsors can submit.

The Preliminary Application is designed to capture high-level project details, enabling the Committee to assess funding eligibility, challenges encountered by the community by the rail grade crossing, benefits created by the proposed project, and initial project readiness.

If a proposed project is selected for further evaluation, project sponsors will then complete a Detailed Application. The Detailed Application requests additional details, including, but not limited to, project complexity, project costs, letters of support, a conceptual layout or design plan if applicable, and ability to meet non-State match requirements.

Through the Call for Projects, selected projects will be recommended to the Texas Transportation Commission for final approval and awards.

For more information, visit www.txdot.gov/business/grants-andfunding/off-system-rail-grade-separation-state-fund-program. html.



NORTH TEXAS ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE CALL FOR **PROJECTS**

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is offering up to \$58.6M in rebate funding for the replacement of existing Class 6 and 7 vehicles with zero-emission vehicles through the North Texas Zero Emission Vehicle (NTxZEV) Call for Projects (CFP). This program is for "vocational vehicles" that operate primarily in the NCTCOG region including box trucks, step vans, refuse haulers, street sweepers, utility trucks, transit buses,

The CFP is now open and accepting applications. The deadline to submit applications is Friday, February 13, 2026 at 5 pm CT.

For more information, visit www.nctcog.org/trans/quality/air/ funding-and-resources/chdv.

For more information, visit TxLTAP.org

Call 817-272-2581 or email txltap@uta.edu to request training, technical assistance or equipment.

WORKFORCE **DEVELOPMENT**

Contact TxLTAP to schedule training or request assistance with developing a no-cost training program tailored to the unique needs of your organization. TxLTAP serves all Texas cities and counties, and instructors deliver training in accordance with all local safety guidelines.

EQUIPMENT LENDING LIBRARY

Equipment, such as traffic counters, a portable radar speed sign, handheld retroreflectometer, digital ball bank indicator, fall protection gear, dynamic cone penetrometer and more, is available for loan at nocost to local government agencies throughout Texas.

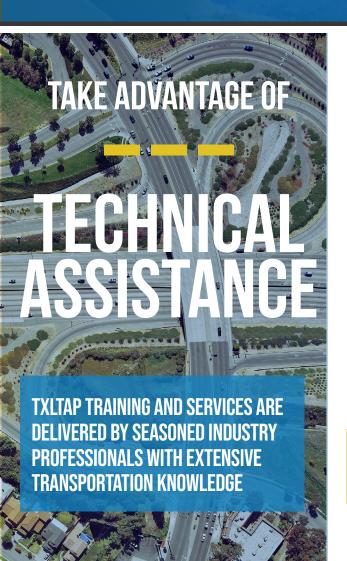
TXLTAP TRAINING & **SERVICES**

BUILD A BETTER MOUSETRAP

BABM is a competition by the Federal Highway Administration to discover, share, and celebrate innovations in road construction. Submit your innovative ideas, then TxLTAP selects nominations to be federally recognized.

ROAD SAFETY CHAMPION PROGRAM

This nationally recognized certificate program equips participants with safety-focused skills for managing, maintaining, and designing local roads. The program focuses on reducing serious injuries and fatalities by building a workforce skilled in road safety.



TxLTAP instructors, subject matter experts, and staff include former maintenance managers, heavy equipment operators, road crew chiefs, civil and transportation engineers, inspectors, and public works directors who have all worked on Texas' roads and have the unique experience and knowledge to support local safety, maintenance, and innovation efforts.

In addition to delivering training classes, publishing Better Roads, Safer Roads, and providing information exchange opportunities at conferences, TxLTAP provides local roadway agencies an opportunity to consult directly with carefully selected subject matter experts to specifically address organizations' unique issues and offer meaningful solutions. Like all resources TxLTAP offers, there is no charge to receive technical assistance.

Do you need information on proper methods for repairing your lingering road problem? Would it help if someone came out to watch your road crew perform a repair and offer suggestions on how to save time and money in the future? Could you use the help of a traffic engineer who could assess a problematic intersection? Would it be a benefit to you if a subject matter expert came to ride and evaluate local roads or develop a no-cost training model specific to the needs of your workforce?

Call 817-272-2581 or email txltap@uta.edu to request assistance.





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TxLTAP serves local government roadway agencies by providing no cost training, technical assistance, equipment lending & more. Learn more at TxLTAP.org.

Request training & services today!

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