

# BETTER ROADS SAFER ROADS

## GET TO KNOW YOUR TxLTAP TEAM

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Plus the Many Ways  
TxLTAP Can Assist You



# BETTER ROADS SAFER ROADS

Spring 2026 | TxLTAP.org

## 01 BYE-BYE BLUEPRINTS, HELLO HIGH-TECH HIGHWAYS

TxDOT is accelerating a major shift in how it designs and delivers road projects, rolling out new digital tools that promise greater accuracy, efficiency and safety across the state's transportation system.

## 02 TXDOT SELECTED FOR FUTURISTIC AIR TAXI TESTING PROGRAM

A new pilot project for the future of aircraft is coming to Texas that has the potential to generate new jobs, connect communities and help Texas lead the way in aviation innovation.

## 03 HELP PROTECT VULNERABLE ROAD USERS

Both spring and summer bring out walkers, cyclists and drivers to enjoy the beauty across the state. No matter how you explore Texas, we can help each other stay safe on the road.

## 04

### GET TO KNOW YOUR TXLTAP TEAM, PLUS THE MANY WAYS TXLTAP CAN ASSIST YOU

Focused on preserving and enhancing local road systems, TxLTAP delivers high-quality customized training and technical assistance to local city and county road agencies free of charge.



## 08 I-35 TEXAS CORRIDOR STUDY: A PATH TO 2050

From road trip kolaches to international trade, I-35 is a vital transportation artery for the state of Texas.

## 09 NEW FUNDING APPROVED FOR RAIL GRADE SEPARATION PROJECTS IN TEXAS

The Texas Transportation Commission approved \$160.4 million in state funds for rail grade separation projects across Texas that will help improve safety, provide congestion relief and boost economic development in communities that have significant rail activity.



## 10

### INTRODUCING THE ADVANCED ROAD INSPECTOR (ARI) PROGRAM

A workforce education initiative designed to prepare highly skilled highway construction inspectors for the growing infrastructure industry.

## 12 TxLTAP ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2026 BUILD A BETTER MOUSETRAP

TxLTAP, in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is now accepting nominations for 2026 Build a Better Mousetrap (BABM), a National Competition Highlighting Transportation Innovations.

## 12 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two funding projects are now available from the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA).

## 13 TxLTAP TRAINING & SERVICES

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

# BYE-BYE BLUEPRINTS, HELLO HIGH-TECH HIGHWAYS

by Ryan LaFontaine

TxDOT is accelerating a major shift in how it designs and delivers road projects, rolling out new digital tools that promise greater accuracy, efficiency and safety across the state's transportation system.

At the center of that shift is a move away from traditional 2D paper plans toward fully digital, [3D design environments](#) — a transformation agency leaders say will change how projects are planned, built and maintained for decades to come.

The new approach, known as [digital delivery](#), allows engineers to build detailed 3D models — or “digital twins” — of roads and bridges before construction begins. These models can identify potential problems such as drainage conflicts or utility clashes long before crews arrive on site.



*T-square, drafting table and other tools used by engineers over the years to build Texas highways.*

According to Jason Pike, TxDOT Director of Design, the shift provides a clearer, data-driven view of projects at every stage.

“Instead of relying on stacks of paper plans or disconnected files, contractors and planners can now work from a single, shared model that improves visualization, strengthens coordination and reduces costly surprises in the field,” Pike said.

The result: fewer change orders, more streamlined construction and better communication with the public.

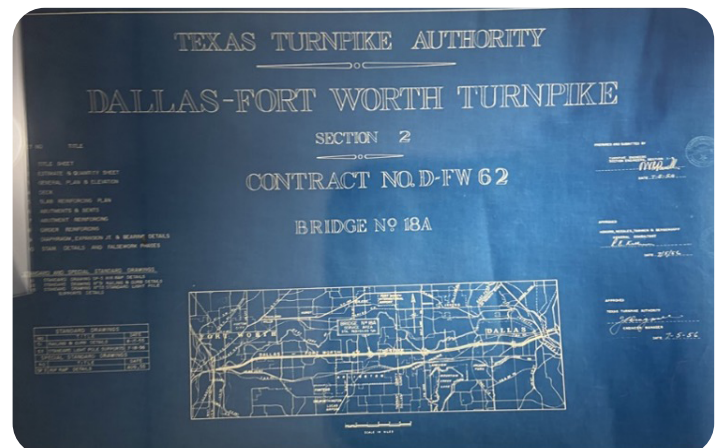
TxDOT is currently piloting digital delivery projects across the state, with plans to evaluate lessons learned from each project to ensure continuous improvement and thoughtful expansion. By the end of 2027, the goal is for all 25 TxDOT districts to have awarded at least one project using the new delivery method. The long-term goal is to make digital delivery the default approach for future projects.

The digital push is also closely tied to TxDOT's growing use of alternative delivery contracting, overseen by the agency's Alternative Delivery Division.

*“Instead of relying on stacks of paper plans or disconnected files, contractors and planners can now work from a single, shared model that improves visualization, strengthens coordination and reduces costly surprises in the field”*

The integration of digital tools, data-driven decision-making and collaborative delivery models represents a major evolution for the agency — one aimed at keeping pace with Texas' rapid growth.

As the pilot program expands, TxDOT officials expect the benefits to compound: faster project delivery, fewer delays and ultimately a safer, more resilient transportation network for millions of Texans.



*Blueprints from 1956 for what would eventually become the President George Bush Turnpike in Dallas.*

More information about TxDOT's Digital Delivery Program is included at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbQ10YnHDwk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbQ10YnHDwk).

# TxDOT SELECTED FOR FUTURISTIC AIR TAXI TESTING PROGRAM

by Julien Devereux

A new pilot project for the future of aircraft is coming to Texas that has the potential to generate new jobs, connect communities and help Texas lead the way in aviation innovation.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) have selected a Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) proposal to be part of the new Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) Integration Pilot Program (eIPP). The agency made the announcement March 9, 2026 saying these pilot projects will create one of the largest real-world testing environments for next-generation aircraft in the world.

TxDOT and industry partners will support regional test flights connecting the Texas Triangle (Dallas/Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio and Houston) and rural communities with air taxi networks expanding from each city to extend regional reach. Seven other government agencies nationwide with projects spanning 26 states were selected to be part of the program.

“The future of aviation is taking flight,” TxDOT Emerging Aviation Tech Director Sergio Roman said. “This is a first of its kind effort to safely integrate electric aircraft into U.S. airspace and puts Texas squarely in the center of the next generation of aviation as we work to improve safety and connectivity across the state.”

In addition to helping build the future of aviation, data from the pilot projects will be used by the FAA to develop new regulations that will safely enable the futuristic technology at larger scales.

The nationwide projects involve leading aircraft manufacturers, operators and state partners and include a range of operational concepts, including:

- Urban air taxi services
- Regional passenger transportation
- Cargo and logistics networks
- Emergency medical response operations
- Autonomous flight technologies
- Offshore and energy-sector transportation

The Texas pilot will launch in phases over the next three years. The first phase includes testing without passengers and with traditional aircraft like helicopters and fixed-in wing planes. This will help perform tests and validate the appropriate routes.

The next phase involve testing for medical and cargo logistics, such as transporting critical medical supplies or organs between rural facilities and urban medical centers in Austin and San Antonio.

The final phase involves passenger “air taxi” flights across the Texas triangle. The goal of the regional network connecting Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, and Houston is to create a multi-state “System of Systems.” Rather than isolated tests in a single city, TxDOT is building the infrastructure to handle the transition between urban, rural, and state airspace.



# HELP PROTECT VULNERABLE ROAD USERS

Both spring and summer bring out walkers, cyclists and drivers to enjoy the beauty across the state. No matter how you explore Texas, we can help each other stay safe on the road.

Texans take care of their neighbors, but far too often people forget to do that when they are behind the wheel. TxDOT is urging everyone to always follow the law and drive like a Texan: kind, courteous and safe.

"We continue to see an increase in the number of crashes involving pedestrians or cyclists each year," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "All of us share a responsibility to watch out for each other, but people on foot or riding a bike are most at risk for serious injury or worse in a crash with a car, which means drivers must be extra vigilant."

## THE DATA

In 2024, 852 cyclists and pedestrians were killed in crashes on Texas roads, accounting for more than 20 percent of all traffic fatalities. There were 6,095 crashes involving pedestrians and 2,761 crashes involving bicyclists.

In early 2025, there were 1,372 traffic crashes involving pedestrians in Texas and 527 traffic crashes involving bicyclists. In these crashes, 186 people were killed.

Know and follow the rules for sharing the road.

TxDOT's Drive like a Texan traffic safety initiative will remind Texans to Be Safe. Drive Smart. by providing safety tips to protect vulnerable road users.

## IF YOU'RE DRIVING

- Stop and yield for pedestrians, cyclists and other vulnerable road users in crosswalks
- Give bikes space and pass at a safe distance
- Yield when turning and always look twice for pedestrians and cyclists
- Follow the posted speed limit and adjust your speed to conditions

## IF YOU'RE WALKING

- Cross the street only at crosswalks and intersections
- Stick to sidewalks, but if none exists, walk facing traffic on the left side unless it is obstructed or unsafe

## IF YOU'RE BIKING

- Stop at red lights and stop signs
- Ride in the same direction as traffic and use bike lanes or ride as near as possible to the right-hand curb
- Use hand signals for turns or stops
- Equip your bike with lights at night, using a white light on the front and a red light or reflector on the back

This Be Safe. Drive Smart. campaign is an important part of TxDOT's Drive like a Texan: Kind. Courteous. Safe. initiative. Drive like a Texan is about embracing the pride, camaraderie and responsibility of being a Texan on the road. By making thoughtful choices, we can all help keep each other safe. Learn more at [Drive Like a Texan](#).



**BE SAFE.  
BIKE SMART.**



# GET TO KNOW YOUR TxLTAP TEAM

## PLUS THE MANY WAYS TxLTAP CAN ASSIST YOU



**Dawn Hinton**  
PWI DIRECTOR



**Anna Hollis**  
PWI ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



**Genevieve Touns**  
TxLTAP PROGRAM MANAGER



**Anaili Duarte**  
TxLTAP PROGRAM COORDINATOR



**Matthew Rico**  
TxLTAP ADMIN ASSISTANT

The **Texas Local Technical Assistance Program (TxLTAP)** has been managed by the University of Texas at Arlington's Extension and Extended Campus Public Works Institute since September 2016. Focused on preserving and enhancing local road systems, TxLTAP delivers high-quality customized training and technical assistance to local city and county road agencies free of charge. TxLTAP instructors and subject matter experts have hands-on experience in a variety of areas that include, but are not limited to, civil and transportation engineering, heavy equipment operations, road crew operations, inspections, public works, maintenance, and incident response.

The team that handles the day-to-day activities of the program are Dawn Hinton – Director, Anna Hollis – Assistant Director, Genevieve Touns – Program Manager, Anaili Duarte – Program Coordinator, and Matthew Rico – Administrative Assistant.

Although you may be familiar with some of the services that TxLTAP offers, today we want to make you aware of the many other resources available through TxLTAP.

### DID YOU KNOW...

TxLTAP has a YouTube channel that features a variety of videos that cover topics from work zone safety to management skills.

- Work Zone Safety (8:51)
- Asphalt Profiler (19:05)
- Asphalt Distributor (14:58)
- Street Sweeper (22:22)
- Inspection – Motor Grader (12:55)
- Flat Bottom Ditch – Motor Grader (18:37)
- Dump Truck – Pre-Operation Inspection (6:47)
- Loading a Dump Truck from a Stockpile (15:25)
- Loading a Dump Truck with a Gradall (14:37)
- Cutting a V Ditch – Motor Grader (11:04)
- Safety Tips When Loading Heavy Equipment (10:06)
- Official Crane Hand Signals (19:35)
- County Road Maintenance and Inspection (11:52)

Visit and subscribe to the TxLTAP YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/@txltap5247](http://www.youtube.com/@txltap5247).



## DID YOU KNOW...

TxLTAP hosts a Lending Library that has over 20 pieces of equipment that can be checked out by cities and counties in Texas at no-cost. More information on the equipment and the procedure to check out the equipment can be found at [www.txltap.org/equipmentcheckout.cfm](http://www.txltap.org/equipmentcheckout.cfm).



- Digital Ball Bank Indicator
- Handheld Retroreflector
- TC-400 Portable Radar Speed Sign
- MetroCount RoadPod® VT MetroCount
- AMS Dual Mass Dynamic Cone Penetrometer
- 3M Sayline 50 Fall Protection Kit - 2 USER
- Carson Microflip Pocket Microscope
- BW Technologies Gas Alert Max XT II Detector
- Black Cat II Plus Radar Kit
- Jamar Tech TDC Ultra Traffic Data Collector
- Delta MTG Marking Thickness Gauge
- RAC GEO II GPS DMI
- ICOM IC-A120 - VHF Air Band Transceiver - Vehicle Mount
- Kenwood KSC-35S Rapid Charger
- Traffic Worker Alert System
- Radiodetection RD8200 Locator
- Radiodetection TX-5 Signal Transmitter
- Radiodetection TX-10 Signal Transmitter
- Schonstedt Maggie Magnetic Locator
- Infrared Digital Thermometer
- QuestTemp® QT-44 Heat Stress Monitor Kit

## DID YOU KNOW...



The TxLTAP website includes a variety of inspection checklists that are critical tools for ensuring the safety, efficiency, and longevity of heavy equipment. Regular inspections help identify potential issues before they become costly or hazardous problems, reducing downtime and improving workplace safety. Consistent use of inspection checklists also helps maintain compliance with industry regulations and enhances overall operational reliability.

- Aerial Bucket Truck Crane Inspection Checklist
- Asphalt MNT Unit Truck and Trailer Equipment Inspection Checklist
- Boom Truck PreShift Inspection Form
- Motor Grader Equipment Inspection Checklist

- Dozer Equipment Inspection Checklist
- Excavator (Backhoe, Telescoping, Articulating) Equipment Checklist
- Forklift Equipment Inspection Checklist
- Light Medium Heavy Dump Truck Equipment Inspection Checklist
- Loader Equipment Inspection Checklist
- Roller Steel Wheel and Pneumatic Equipment Inspection Checklist
- Skid Steer Equipment Inspection Checklist
- Street Sweeper and Rotary Broom Equipment Inspection Checklist
- Trailer Towed Equipment Inspection Checklist

Visit the TxLTAP website to download copies of the available equipment checklists at [www.txltap.org/inspectionchecklist.cfm](http://www.txltap.org/inspectionchecklist.cfm).

## DID YOU KNOW...

TxLTAP offers year-round training opportunities that can be taken both in-person and virtually that covers topics from workforce development to infrastructure. The [TxLTAP Training Catalog](#) is available electronically and in hard copy.

A sample of training topics are included below.



### INFRASTRUCTURE

- LTP 515 Installation and Maintenance of Signs and Pavement Markings - 16 hours
- LTP 611 Storm Drainage Pipe & Precast Box Culvert Installation Best Practices - 8 hours
- UTL 101 Subsurface Utility Locating & Marking Workshop - 8 Hours
- UTL 102 Advanced Utility Locator Training - 16 Hours



### WORK ZONE

- LTP 100 Work Zone Safety: Temporary Traffic Control - 4 hours
- LTP 300 Flagger Training - 4 hours
- LTP 520 Work Zone Traffic Control/Qualified Flagger - 16 hours (Available in Spanish)
- LTP 421 Traffic Control Supervisor - 16 hours
- LTP 401 Work Zone Construction Site Safety - 12 hours



### INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

- LTP700 Traffic Management for First Responders - 6 hours
- LTP 701 Traffic Incident Management for Secondary Responders - New in 2026

*Continued on Page 6*



### SAFETY

- LTPLN 201 Tree Trimming Safety Awareness - 8 hours
- LTP7405 Fall Hazard Awareness for the Construction Industry - 8 hours
- LTP7300 Understanding OSHA's Permit-Required Confined Space Standard - 8 hours
- LTP7410 Managing Excavation and Trenching Operations - 8 hours



### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- LTP 400 Managing Conflict in the Workplace - 8 hours
- LTP 404 Basic Supervision and Management Skills - 16 hours
- LTP 405 Developing Employee Performance Plans & Conducting Employee Performance Evaluations - 8 hours
- LTP 406 Advanced Management Skills - 24 hours
- LTP407: DISC Styles in Leadership – New in 2026
- LTP 801 Entry Level Driver's Training, Behind-the-Wheel, Train-the-Trainer - 8 hours
- LTP 802 Entry Level Driver's Training, Theory Assessment, Knowledge - 8 hours



### HEAVY EQUIPMENT

- LTP 110 Equipment Preventative Maintenance - 8 hours
- LTP 155 Backhoe/Front End Loader - 32 hours
- LTP 179 Bucket Truck - 8 hours
- LTP 192 Skid Steer - 8 hours

## ROAD SAFETY CHAMPION PROGRAM

A nationally recognized certificate program designed to build a knowledgeable, safety minded workforce, responsible for operating, maintaining, and designing local roads. Road Safety Champions prioritize safety and are motivated to implement safety improvements that reduce fatalities and serious injuries on rural and local roadways.

Visit [www.txltap.org/catalog.cfm](http://www.txltap.org/catalog.cfm) to review the complete list of available training opportunities in the TxLTAP Training Catalog.

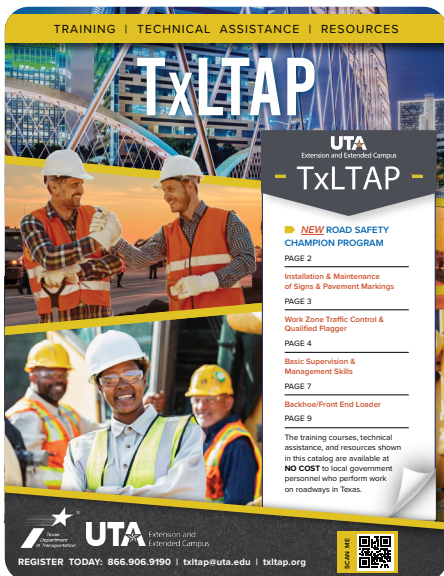
### DID YOU KNOW...

TxLTAP offers no cost technical assistance to city and county staff that can include customized training, advice on engineering problems, consultation services, and more. The TxLTAP Technical Assistance Program is designed to provide economically feasible recommendations to unique or challenging roadway issues.

Our consultants have experience in:

- Road maintenance (asphalt, cement, chip seal and all-weather)
- Drainage issues
- Equipment maintenance
- Signage and roadway markings
- Safety (roadway, equipment operation, office, all aspects)
- Utility locating
- Work Zone Planning
- Contract administration
- Construction and maintenance inspection
- Project Management planning and implementation

To learn more about the available resources available through TxLTAP, please visit [www.txltap.org/](http://www.txltap.org/) or reach out directly to the TxLTAP team at [TxLTAP@uta.edu](mailto:TxLTAP@uta.edu) or by phone at 866-906-9190.



# DOWNLOAD OUR TRAINING CATALOG

# 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 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
- ✓ OSHA 10
- ✓ FLAGGER CERTIFICATION

## PLANNING & ENGINEERING PATHWAY

- ✓ COUNTERMEASURES FOR ROAD SAFETY
- ✓ WORK ZONES
- ✓ WORKER SAFETY
- ✓ OVERVIEW OF LOCAL ROAD SAFETY PLANS
- ✓ OVERVIEW OF DATA AND TOOLS FOR SAFETY
- ✓ CRASH REPORTING
- ✓ SYSTEMIC SAFETY PROJECT SELECTION TOOL

**UTA**

Extension and Extended Campus

**- TxLTAP -**

**Texas Local Technical Assistance Program**

TxLTAP.org

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# I-35 TEXAS CORRIDOR STUDY: A PATH TO 2050

From road trip kolaches to international trade, I-35 is a vital transportation artery for the state of Texas. To meet the transportation needs of Texas' growing population and robust economy over the next 25 years, TxDOT recently concluded a public survey on the future of I-35 to gather feedback to help guide proposed improvements in TxDOT's I-35 Texas Corridor Study: A Path to 2050 from Laredo to the Texas and Oklahoma state line.

Known as the "Main Street of Texas", the I-35 corridor is home to around half of Texas' total population and connects travelers with tourism destinations, military bases and numerous state parks.

The study aims to address current and future mobility challenges, incorporate improvement opportunities for all users and transportation modes, and benefit urban, rural and border areas while advancing economic development and regional growth. The study includes the entire I-35 Texas Corridor from the Oklahoma State line to the Mexico international border for approximately 590 miles. I-35 stretches across Texas with approximately four to 10 main lanes in addition to frontage roads in the urban and metropolitan areas with discontinuous frontage roads in the rural areas.

"I-35 is one of the most important interstates for the state of Texas and our nation, supporting Texas' economy and quality of life," said TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programs Director Humberto "Tito" Gonzalez Jr. said. "This statewide survey is a great opportunity for the public to join TxDOT in helping shape its future, continuing to successfully deliver and provide for Texans."

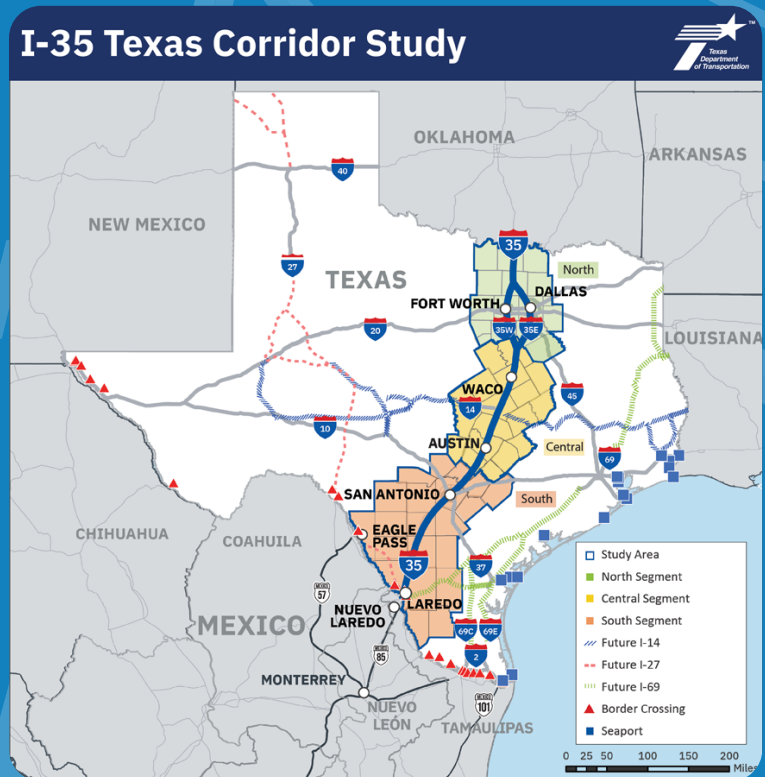
## STUDY GOALS

The border-to-border corridor study will identify existing gaps and evolving multimodal transportation needs and opportunities for the next 25 years.

Through data-informed analysis and collaborative stakeholder engagement, the study will develop prioritized solutions. These include multimodal improvements, policies, programs, or regional planning studies across urban, rural and border areas.

TxDOT anticipates that the study will be completed by early 2027.

Visit the [I-35 Texas Corridor Study on TxDOT](#) to learn more about the study.



The study will consider the following key elements to identify and prioritize proposed improvements along the corridor:

- Safety
- Asset preservation
- Multimodal passenger and freight
- Intermodal (rail/air)
- Truck parking
- Mobility and congestion
- Alternative routes and resiliency
- Connectivity
- Operations and emerging technologies
- Economic competitiveness

# NEW FUNDING APPROVED FOR RAIL GRADE SEPARATION PROJECTS IN TEXAS

The Texas Transportation Commission [approved](#) \$160.4 million in state funds for rail grade separation projects across Texas that will help improve safety, provide congestion relief and boost economic development in communities that have significant rail activity.

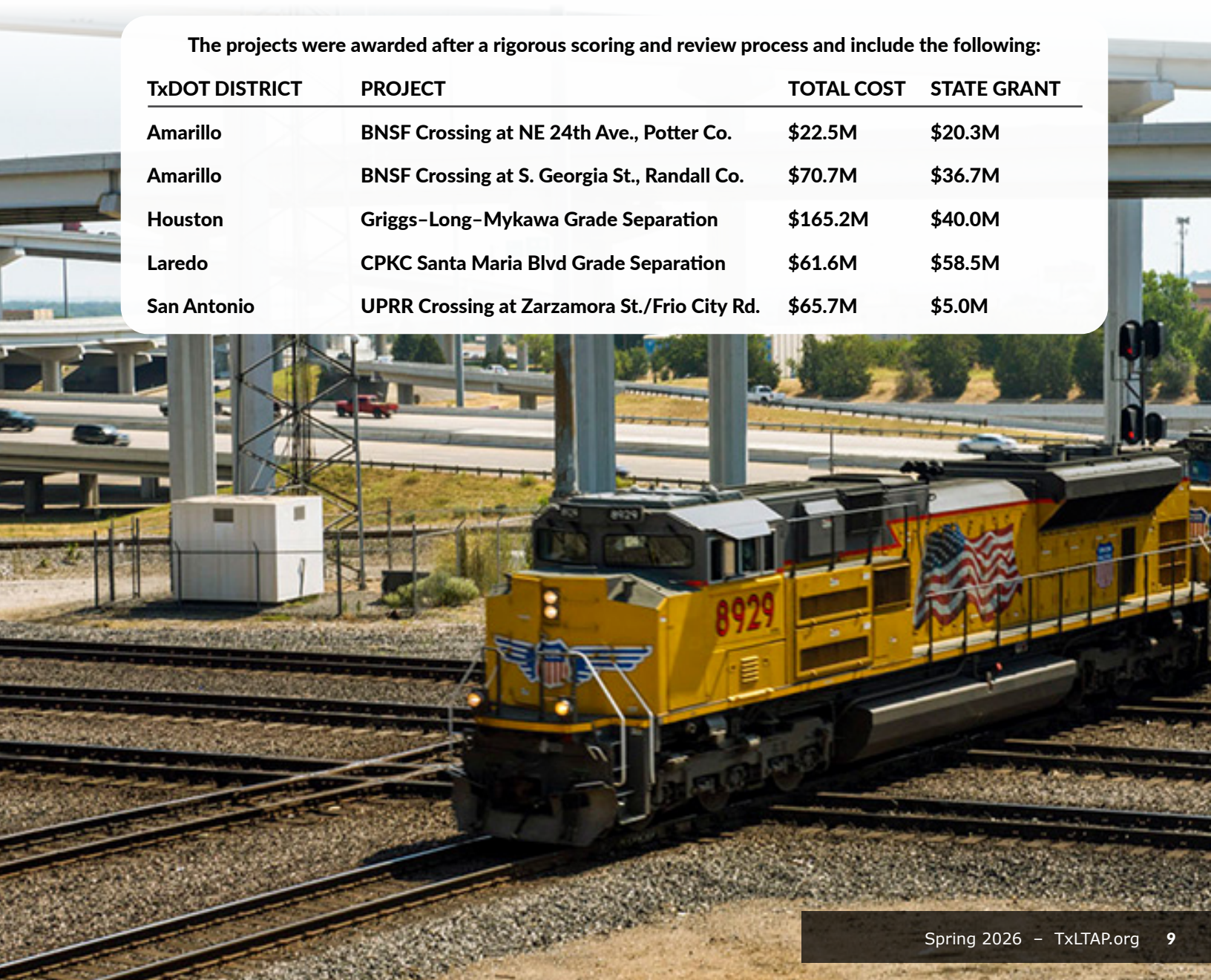
The funding, from the Off System Rail Grade Separation State Fund Program, will go toward five projects in Amarillo, Laredo, San Antonio and Houston. Approved by the 2025 Texas Legislature, it was created to help local governments eliminate at-grade crossings, reduce congestion, improve emergency response times and enhance freight network efficiency.

“By removing any interaction between trains and traffic on the road, we can help save lives, reduce delays and strengthen the economic competitiveness of our communities,” said TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams. “We deeply appreciate the Texas Legislature for establishing and funding the Off System Grade Separation Program. Their leadership and investment make it possible for communities across the state to address long standing rail-roadway conflicts and build safer, more resilient transportation networks.”

The Commission also reserved \$89.6 million from the program as matching funds to leverage potential federal grant funding. The Commission retains full discretion to allocate reserved funds after federal grant decisions are made.

The projects were awarded after a rigorous scoring and review process and include the following:

TxDOT DISTRICT	PROJECT	TOTAL COST	STATE GRANT
Amarillo	BNSF Crossing at NE 24th Ave., Potter Co.	\$22.5M	\$20.3M
Amarillo	BNSF Crossing at S. Georgia St., Randall Co.	\$70.7M	\$36.7M
Houston	Griggs-Long-Mykawa Grade Separation	\$165.2M	\$40.0M
Laredo	CPKC Santa Maria Blvd Grade Separation	\$61.6M	\$58.5M
San Antonio	UPRR Crossing at Zarzamora St./Frio City Rd.	\$65.7M	\$5.0M



# INTRODUCING THE ADVANCED ROAD INSPECTOR (ARI) PROGRAM

The [Advanced Road Inspector \(ARI\)](#) program at the University of Texas at Arlington's Extension and Extended Campus Public Works Institute is a workforce education initiative designed to prepare highly skilled highway construction inspectors for the growing infrastructure industry. Through a series of specialized workshops and certifications, the program addresses critical workforce needs in transportation and public works. Developed in collaboration with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the ARI program aligns with both regional and national priorities for workforce development, ensuring that participants gain the technical knowledge and practical experience required to meet today's infrastructure demands.

At the heart of the program is a strong partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). TxDOT's collaboration helped guide the development of the course content and ensured the curriculum meets current industry standards and expectations. This alignment with employer needs enhances the academic relevance of the program and increases participants' job-readiness and placement potential.

The base of the ARI program is structured as a series of six skill-specific workshops, each focused on a key area of highway and transportation-infrastructure inspection. These workshops can be taken individually or as a complete series, offering stackable credentials that support both career entry and advancement. Participants receive digital badges upon completion of each module, providing a verifiable record of their skills and promoting career mobility.

Here's a breakdown of each workshop:

## **ADVANCED INSPECTION SKILLS (ARI 481)**

This foundational course introduces the history of highway construction and the role of the inspector, general contract requirements and covenants, plan reading, and basic surveying skills. Participants learn mathematics used for inspection measurements and payments, develop basic sampling and testing documentation skills, and gain exposure to modern highway inspection methods. This workshop builds the core competency for inspectors who must interpret contract documents, read plans, perform surveying, and document inspection activities.

## **INSPECTING SOILS, FLEX BASE, AND SUBGRADES (ARI 482)**

This module focuses on embankment, flexible-base, and subgrade treatments. Learners will distinguish between types of soils and aggregates used in roadway construction; identify typical materials for subgrade treatments; understand measurement and payment techniques used on roadway projects; and develop inspection documentation, sampling, and testing skills for soils and

aggregates. This course addresses a foundational stage of highway construction-critical for inspectors to ensure stable subgrade conditions and correct base preparation before pavement installation.

## **INSPECTING ASPHALT SURFACE TREATMENTS AND HOT MIX (ARI 483)**

In this workshop, participants cover asphalt surface treatments and an introduction to hot-mix asphalt pavement. The module includes a coordinated trip to a TxDOT materials-testing laboratory and an actual work zone, enabling hands-on exposure to asphalt paving, material sampling/testing, and real-world inspection of surface treatments. By focusing on asphalt processes and surface treatments, this workshop equips inspectors with the technical knowledge to monitor pavement quality, compliance with specifications, and construction documentation.

## **INSPECTING BRIDGES AND CONCRETE PAVEMENT (ARI 484)**

Bridge construction inspection and concrete pavement inspection are covered in this advanced module. Topics include basics of concrete, bridge construction inspection techniques, concrete paving inspection, and associated documentation and measurement issues. This workshop addresses more complex structural elements and durability issues-essential for inspectors overseeing bridge work and concrete pavement construction where quality and safety demands are higher.

## **INSPECTING DRAINAGE, EXCAVATION AND BACKFILLING (ARI 485)**

This course emphasizes drainage systems, excavation, and backfill operations. Topics include identifying materials, equipment uses, sampling/testing of backfill, measurement and payment for excavation/backfill, and contract-document analysis for these components. This module focuses on subsurface and support systems that, while often less visible than pavement or bridge work, are critical for infrastructure integrity and longevity.

## **INSPECTING PERMANENT SAFETY DEVICES (ARI 486)**

The final workshop addresses signs, signals, pavement markings, highway-safety devices, and the inspection of permanent safety installations. It includes material compliance, documentation techniques, and inspection of safety hardware in the roadway context. This module prepares inspectors to verify that safety features are correctly installed, functioning, and compliant-a key aspect of modern highway construction and maintenance.



ARI Pilot Course Participants

Completion of all six workshops, followed by the required exam, leads to the Road Inspector Certification. Beyond that, the Advanced Road Inspector Certification can be earned by completing additional training (such as TxAPA Level 1B HMA Roadway Specialist Training and Certification, ASTM International Field Concrete training, Temporary Traffic Control training, and Storm Water Pollution Prevention training).

While the ARI program is primarily workshop-based, it integrates work-based learning through field experiences (for example, the asphalt/Hot Mix module includes a laboratory and work-zone visit) which provides participants with real-world exposure and bridges classroom instruction to career application.

The program's flexible format supports streamlined academic and career pathways. Whether a participant is new to the field or an experienced professional looking to upskill, the design allows learners to start with foundational modules (such as soils/subgrade) or target advanced topics (such as bridge/concrete or safety devices) as needed. Stackable credentials and digital badges further support the career-mobility mission.

Affordability is also a key consideration. Course fees range from approximately \$495.00 to \$1,295.00 per person. Many of these offerings are included within broader workforce and corporate training initiatives. They are often eligible for workforce funding, third-party lending, or employer sponsorship. By providing guidance and support around these funding opportunities, UTA helps reduce financial barriers and improves access—especially for working professionals seeking career advancement.

In summary, the ARI Workshops and Certifications exemplify a comprehensive, forward-looking approach to workforce education. The program:

- Aligns with high-demand occupations in infrastructure inspection.
- Was shaped by direct input from a major state agency (TxDOT) to ensure relevance.
- Supports stackable and short-term credentials across six distinct workshop modules.
- Incorporates work-based learning and field exposure.
- Enables flexible and efficient career pathways for both entry-level and experienced professionals.
- Prioritizes affordability and accessibility through workforce-friendly design.

As Texas strives to build a future-ready workforce, the ARI program stands out as a scalable, impactful model that truly translates classroom learning into career opportunity—advancing the goals of “Building a Talent-Strong Texas.”



# TxLTAP ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR 2026 BUILD A BETTER MOUSETRAP

TxLTAP, in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is now accepting nominations for 2026 Build a Better Mousetrap (BABM), a National Competition Highlighting Transportation Innovations.

BABM highlights locally relevant, innovative solutions and provides a platform to share innovations to everyday challenges that local and tribal transportation professionals encounter on local roads. These local road solutions range from the development of new project delivery or design processes to the invention of new tools, equipment, or modifications that increase efficiency, enhance safety, reduce cost, and/or improve the quality of transportation on local roads.

Submissions are organized into five primary categories:

- **INNOVATIVE PROJECT:**  
Original and creative solutions addressing any phase of the project lifecycle, including planning, design and engineering, construction, and operations and maintenance.
- **BOLD STEPS:**  
High-risk initiatives or processes that demonstrate breakthrough solutions with significant, high-reward outcomes.
- **SMART TRANSFORMATION:**  
Significant improvements to transportation activities or processes that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound, resulting in measurable efficiency gains.

- **PIONEER:**  
Locally developed products or tools that provide first-of-their-kind, home-grown solutions to maintenance challenges.
- **PUTTING FAMILIES FIRST INNOVATION:**  
A new program, initiative, tool, or process that greatly enhances transportation and mobility for families in communities and within tribal areas. (New for 2026.)



If you have a new or existing innovative solution that you would like to share for Build a Better Mousetrap 2026, please contact TxLTAP at [txltap@uta.edu](mailto:txltap@uta.edu) for more information and for assistance with the application. Multiple submittals are welcome. The FHWA's Center for Local Aid Support team is accepting nominations through Friday, June 5th, so contact TxLTAP today.

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FY25-26 RAILROAD CROSSING ELIMINATION PROGRAM (RCEP)

The Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program or Crossing Safety Program focuses on crossing projects that improve the safety and mobility of people and goods, eliminate railroad crossings that are frequently blocked by trains, and educate communities on railroad crossings to save lives.

Funding Availability - \$1,146,528,000

Application Deadline – June 8, 2026

For more information, visit <https://railroads.dot.gov/elibrary/fy25-26-NOFO-RCE-crossing-safety>

### CONSOLIDATED RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE & SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS (CRISI) PROGRAM

The FRA Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program focuses on projects that modernize passenger and freight rail. Since 2017, CRISI has invested nearly \$6 billion in building safer rail infrastructure.

Funding Available - \$2,039,246,480

Application Deadline – June 22, 2026

For more information, visit <https://railroads.dot.gov/elibrary/fy-2025-2026-nofo-crisi>

For more information, visit [TxLTAP.org](http://TxLTAP.org)

Call 817-272-2581 or email [txltap@uta.edu](mailto: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.

## 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.

## EQUIPMENT LENDING LIBRARY

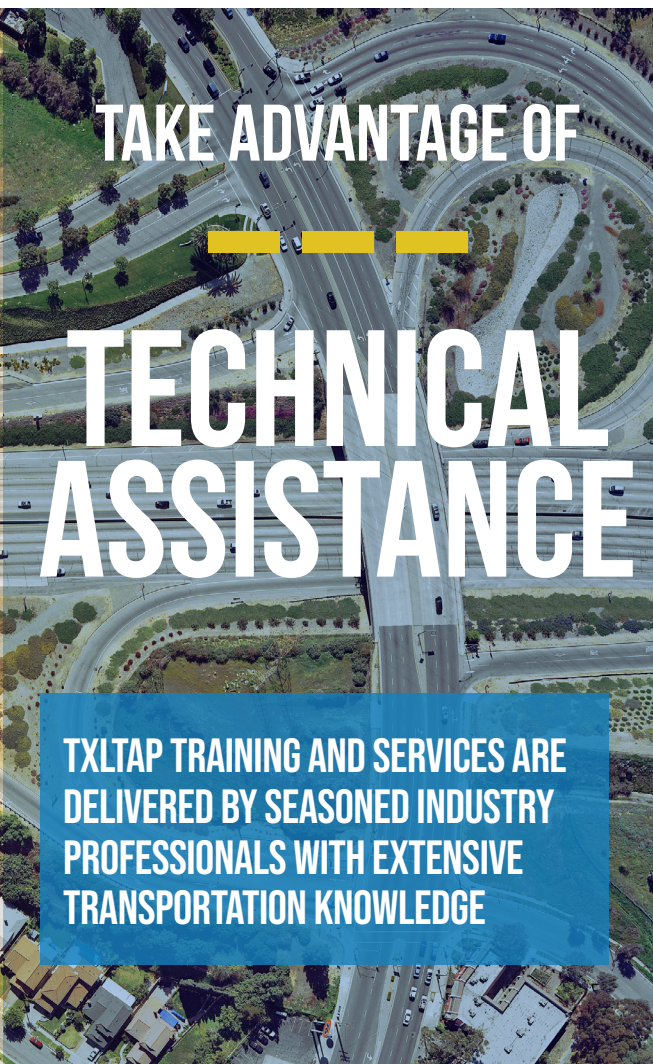
Equipment, such as traffic counters, a portable radar speed sign, handheld retroreflectometer, digital ball bank indicator, fall protection gear, dynamic cone penetrometer and more, is available for loan at no-cost to local government agencies throughout Texas.

## 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 TRAINING & SERVICES



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF

# TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

TXLTAP TRAINING AND SERVICES ARE DELIVERED BY SEASONED INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS WITH EXTENSIVE TRANSPORTATION KNOWLEDGE

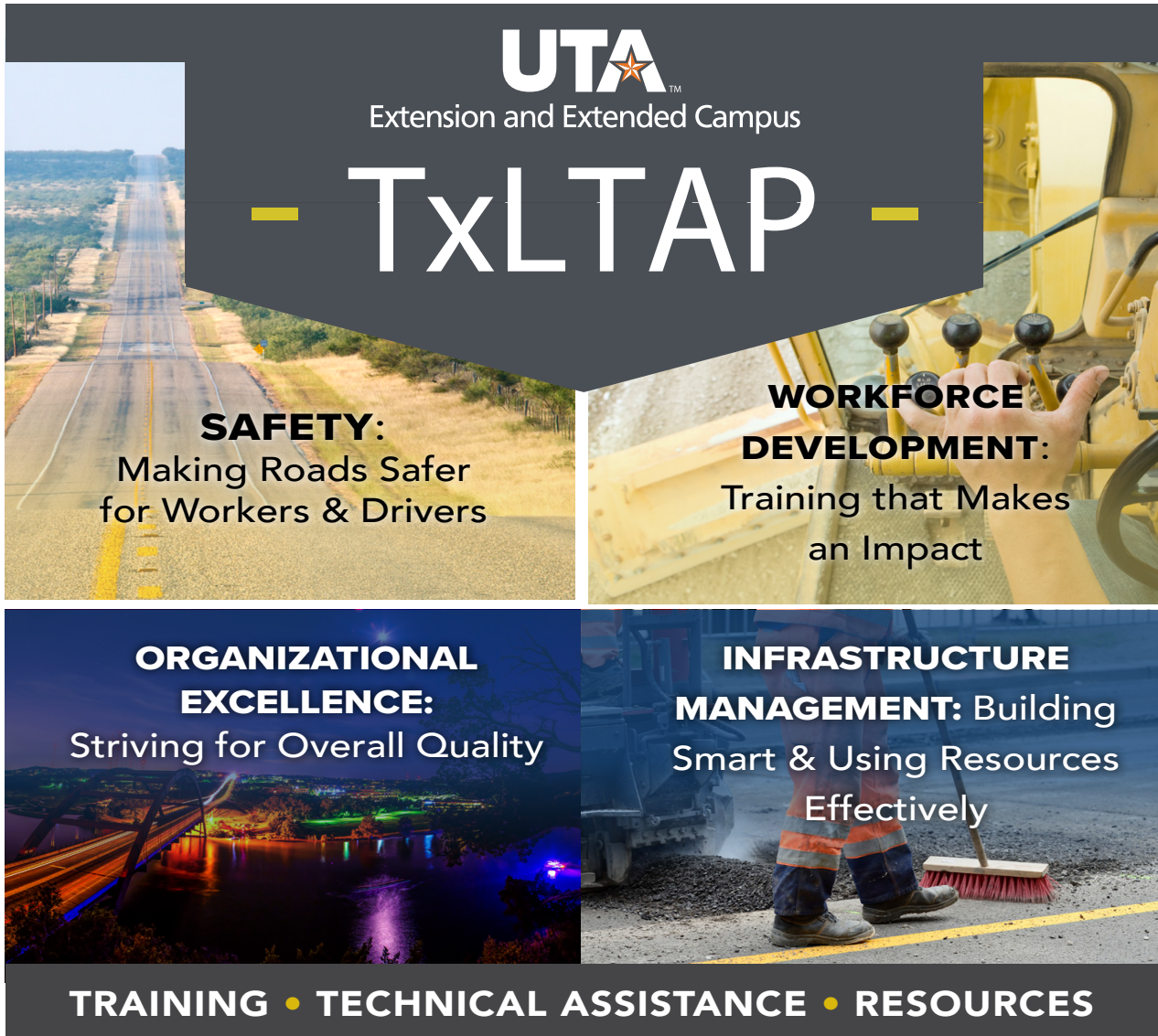
TxLTAP instructors, subject matter experts, and staff include former maintenance managers, heavy equipment operators, road crew chiefs, civil and transportation engineers, inspectors, and public works directors who have all worked on Texas' roads and have the unique experience and knowledge to support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

Take advantage of technical assistance services!

Call 817-272-2581 or email [txltap@uta.edu](mailto:txltap@uta.edu) to request assistance.



**UTA**  
Extension and Extended Campus

**- TxLTAP -**

**SAFETY:**  
Making Roads Safer  
for Workers & Drivers

**WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT:**  
Training that Makes  
an Impact

**ORGANIZATIONAL  
EXCELLENCE:**  
Striving for Overall Quality

**INFRASTRUCTURE  
MANAGEMENT:** Building  
Smart & Using Resources  
Effectively

**TRAINING • TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE • RESOURCES**

TxLTAP serves local government roadway agencies by providing no cost training, technical assistance, equipment lending & more. Learn more at [TxLTAP.org](http://TxLTAP.org).

Request training & services today!  
**TxLTAP@uta.edu | 817.272.2581**