



May 4, 2023

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Time to push for sales tax vote to support Ozark Regional Transit, officials say

Ozark Regional Transit officials said Thursday they need to go to voters in the four major cities sooner rather than later with a proposal for a dedicated sales tax to pay for expanding public transit.

"I believe it's really time for us to push forward with this," said Joel Gardner, executive director. "I think that if we wait another year, a

concept of catch-up will never really occur. We'll be so far behind anything that we do will be taxed. Our performance levels will be taxed to the limits on a regular basis. We re operating at 100% of vehicle usage right now." [Read More](#)



RTA wants to put commuter rail project before Oklahoma City, Edmond and Norman voters

The Regional Transportation Authority of Central Oklahoma would like to bring a ballot referendum before Oklahoma City, Edmond and Norman voters in either fall 2024 or spring 2025 to fund its proposed rail commuter project, RTA representatives told the Edmond City Council on April 24. Jason Ferbrache, the interim executive director of RTA, said Burlington Northern Santa Fe has shown a willingness to share its right of way for the project, which would travel through each of the member cities along the north-south corridor. The project, which faces unanswered questions about its total cost to RTA member cities, will ultimately need an access agreement with BNSF to be completed. [Read More](#)

Exercise Your Ride to Vote on May 6

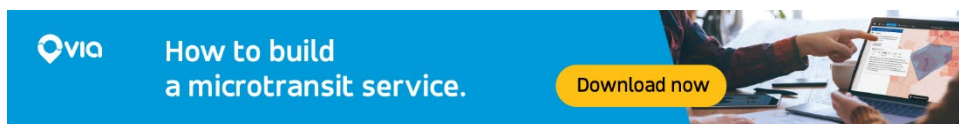
SAN ANTONIO Need a ride to the polls? VIA Metropolitan Transit offers fare-free trips for voters on Election Day, Saturday, May 6.

The “Ride VIA to Vote” initiative provides complimentary public transportation on municipal, state and federal election days. The goal is to encourage civic engagement and participation among VIA customers and to provide transportation for voters who may not otherwise be able to get to and from their polling location. To ride fare free, customers must present a valid voter registration card to the bus or van operator on Election Day.

Missouri Public Transit Association Education Series on the Impacts of Legalization of Marijuana on Transit Drug & Alcohol Testing

This event explored the impacts of the legalization of marijuana in Missouri on drug and alcohol testing in the transit sector and featured SWTA Member Jonathan Flint, Transit Manager at Steamboat Springs Transit in Colorado.

[Listen Here](#)



Legislative Update

[USDOT Publishes Final Rule on Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Programs: Addition of Oral Fluid Specimen Testing for Drugs](#)

[Sen. Casey \(PA\) Making Push For Rural Transit Funding](#)

[Biden-Harris Administration Opens Applications for \\$848 Million in Competitive Grant Funding to Make Roads, Bridges, Transit, Rail, and Ports More Resilient to Climate Change](#)



Upcoming Events

CTAA Rodeo

May 20- May 21, 2023

Oklahoma

2023 Summer University

Aug 13- Aug 16, 2023

Wichita

SWTA Social Night @ Social Capital Biergarten

Tuesday, May 23rd - 6 to 8 pm
Join SWTA during the CTAA/OTA EXPO



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**Social Capital
517 S Hudson Ave
Oklahoma City**



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