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TxLTAP October Newsletter

October 2024
Volume 3 Issue 1

Department of Transportation Announces \$802 Million to Repair Roads and Bridges Damaged by Natural Disasters and Extreme Weather Events

The U.S. Department of Transportation is directing significant funds to repair infrastructure by natural disasters and extreme weather across 36 states. Learn how this funding is part of a broader effort to strengthen America's infrastructure.

[Read More](#)



TxDOT Warning Drivers of Spike in Texting Scams Targeting TxTag Customers

TxTag customers in Texas are being targeted by phishing scams, receiving fraudulent texts claiming overdue payments. TxDOT urges customers to avoid clicking links and to contact TxTag Customer Service directly if they receive suspicious messages. Stay informed and protect your account from these scams.

[Read More](#)

9 Trends That Will Shape Work in 2024 and Beyond

"In 2023, organizations continued to face significant challenges, from inflation to geopolitical turmoil to controversy over DEI and return-to-work policies — and 2024 promises more disruption. Gartner researchers have identified nine key trends, from new and creative employee benefits to the collapse of traditional career paths, that will impact work this year. Employers who successfully navigate these will retain top talent and secure a competitive advantage for themselves.

1. Organizations will offer creative benefits to address the costs of work.
2. AI will create, not diminish, workforce opportunity.
3. Four-day workweeks will move from radical to routine.
4. Employee conflict resolution will be a must-have skill for managers.
5. GenAI experiments will yield hard lessons and painful costs.
6. Skills requirements will overtake degree requirements as the "paper ceiling" crumbles.
7. Climate change protection becomes a new employee benefit.
8. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion won't disappear; it will become more embedded in the way we work.
9. Traditional stereotypes of career paths will collapse in face of workforce change."

[Read More](#)

Staying in the loop on roundabouts

To reduce fatal crashes at intersections, where one-third of Texas' serious accidents occur, TxDOT is implementing roundabouts and other innovative solutions. Using the new Intersection Control and Evaluation (ICE) process, TxDOT aims to prioritize safety, joining 13 other states in adopting these approaches. Learn how roundabouts and other innovations can make Texas roads safer. Read more!

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National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Work/Construction Zones Fact Sheet



Work Zones are becoming increasingly hazardous for both workers and drivers. As road construction projects rise, drivers need to follow safety guidelines. Learn more about work zone safety and how to protect yourself and others on the road.

[View Here](#)

OSHA Know the Hazards: Tree Care Work

OSHA's Tree Care Work Safety Infographic highlights key hazards and essential safety measures for tree care professionals. Protect yourself, and your employees, by reviewing these critical tips for a safer work environment.

[Read More](#)

Check out TxLTAP's Social Media!

View, follow, and share our TxLTAP social accounts. Stay up to date with the latest of what TxLTAP has to offer.



Regional Training Focus

Benefits of Regional Training

For many local governments, finding affordable, accessible training is a persistent challenge. TxLTAP's regional training sessions offer a practical solution by delivering hands-on learning in areas like Work Zone Safety, Workforce Development, and other critical topics. These programs have already helped cities and counties across Texas address their specific training needs while significantly reducing costs and travel. Regional training also promotes continuity in performance, ensuring local teams have the knowledge and skills needed to consistently deliver high-quality results on projects. The sessions are tailored to region-specific challenges, fostering collaboration and aligning best practices to enhance efficiency, safety, and long-term success. By investing in regional training, local governments can ensure their workforce is skilled and prepared to tackle the unique challenges facing their communities.

Accessibility

Local governments, especially those in smaller or remote communities, often face significant barriers in accessing essential training for public works employees. Traditional training programs can be costly, with high expenses not only for the courses themselves but also for travel and accommodations, which further strain local budgets. Moreover, long-distance travel and time away from regular duties can disrupt daily operations, making it difficult for employees to attend necessary training. For many, finding training programs that are both affordable and accessible remains a constant challenge.

Collaboration

Regional training creates valuable opportunities for cities and counties to come together and collaborate. By participating, public works professionals can connect with peers facing similar challenges, fostering a sense of community and shared interests. This collaboration allows regions to discuss and analyze local issues, whether they involve practical challenges in roadway and work zone safety, training gaps, or broader operational concerns. Additionally, regional training facilitates dialogue and stronger connections between neighboring municipalities. Ultimately, it not only equips individuals with essential skills but also strengthens the network of public works professionals, benefiting their communities as a whole.

TxLTAP's First Steps in Regional Training

TxLTAP took its first major steps into regional training in early 2023 by partnering with the City of Fort Worth to address post-Covid training needs in its Public Works Division. Recognizing the value of collaboration, Fort Worth invited surrounding cities and counties to participate, maximizing the reach of LTAP/CCT grant-funded courses. This initiative, now known as the Fort Worth Regional Training Center, became a model for successful

multiorganizational training programs. By pooling resources and expertise, the program provided consistent, high-quality training across the region and fostered collaboration among municipalities. The response was overwhelming, with the first CCT300 Flagger courses filling all 50 seats within two days, drawing participants from seven different cities across two counties. This success highlights the power of regional training in expanding access to professional development for cities and counties.

Expansion Through Webcast Trainings

Building on the success of in-person regional training, TxLTAP has recently introduced webcast training to further expand its outreach and accessibility. In September 2024, TxLTAP held its first Virtual Regional Training, focused on LTPEX: Excavation Safety. This virtual session included participation from not only Fort Worth but also surrounding areas such as Denton County, the City of Justin, and the City of Burleson. By offering virtual training options, TxLTAP continues to meet the training needs of diverse regions, ensuring that communities across Texas can access critical professional development. This innovative approach strengthens regional collaboration and ensures that public works professionals remain well-equipped, regardless of geographic limitations.

Conclusion

TxLTAP's regional training programs offer practical and effective solutions to the challenges faced by Texas cities and counties. Through on-site sessions and webcast trainings, TxLTAP ensures that local governments can train their workforce efficiently, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to address the unique challenges their communities face.



FHWA Public Roads Magazine

Since 1918, Public Roads has been the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) leading magazine, showcasing cutting-edge highway research, technology, and program advancements. Discover how Public Roads continues to shape the future of safer and more resilient roadways.

[Read more](#)

Where TxLTAP will be!

Texas Municipal League (TML)

- Houston, TX
- October 9 - 11

West Texas Rural Counties Association

- Abilene, TX
- October 16 - 17

County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas Educational Conference

- San Marcos, TX
- October 21 - 24

Texas Association of Counties Engineers and Road Administrators' Conference

- College Station, TX
- October 29 - 31





Webcast Trainings

Webcast training offers a convenient and effective way for professionals to gain essential skills and knowledge without the need for travel or in-person attendance. Through live, interactive sessions, participants can engage with expert instructors, ask questions, and collaborate with peers, all while learning from the comfort of their office or home. This flexibility makes it easier to fit training into busy schedules, ensuring that vital safety education is accessible to all.

[Secure a Spot!](#)

TxLTAP is proud to announce the availability of webcast/live training versions of the following courses: Fall Safety (8hr), Excavation Safety (8hr), Confined Space Safety (8hr), and Work Zone Construction Site Safety (12hr). These sessions provide comprehensive insights and practical knowledge on critical safety topics, equipping participants with skills that can be immediately applied to their work environments. All course materials will be shipped directly to the City/County Point of Contact for distribution prior to the class. This format makes it easier than ever for your team to stay up-to-date on safety practices, no matter where they are located.

In addition to the scheduled webcasts, TxLTAP is also offering regional webcast sessions, allowing teams from specific areas to participate together in a focused, tailored training experience. This ensures that participants not only benefit from the convenience of online learning but also receive content that addresses the unique challenges and safety concerns relevant to their region.



We Want to Hear From You!

We invite you to share your thoughts and ideas on the topics you'd like to see covered in our future newsletters. Whether it's industry insights, training tips, or specific issues that matter to you and your crew, your input will help us craft content that is both relevant and valuable to your needs. By letting us know what interests you most, you'll help shape the direction of our upcoming newsletters, ensuring we keep you informed on the subjects that matter to you.

[Share your thoughts!](#)

Instructors Wanted

TxLTAP is currently seeking instructors with extensive ASPHALT RELATED EXPERIENCE and METAL GUARD RAIL EXPERIENCE who are capable of traveling to various locations across Texas. Your expertise will play a crucial role in delivering high-quality training to local transportation professionals.

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INSTRUCTORS WANTED

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

TxLTAP IS LOOKING FOR EXPERTS IN:

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

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

UTA
Extension and Extended Campus
- TxLTAP -

UTA | Extension and Extended Campus | TxLTAP
866-906-9190 | txltap@uta.edu | 140 W. Mitchell St. Arlington, TX 76019

[Interested Candidates](#)

More from TxLTAP!



We are excited to announce the launch of the updated TxLTAP website! This new version is designed to provide a more user-friendly experience, offering quick access to training programs, resources, and the latest updates for local transportation professionals. With enhanced features and improved navigation, the website makes it easier than ever for city and county personnel to explore educational opportunities and resource tools to support roadway safety and infrastructure projects. Everything you need is now just a click away. Don't wait—check it out today!

[VIEW OUR NEW LOOK!](#)



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