

Topic of the Month: Transit

Summer has officially arrived and with it comes big concerts, major sports games, festivals and other special events. And with those events come traffic congestion and parking woes.

With so many public transportation options in our region, however, it's easy to bypass traffic snarls and parking headaches. For July's Topic of the Month, we're giving you the inside scoop on how local transit can be a convenient, affordable and eco-friendly alternative to driving, whether for work or play.

Regional public transit

Going to concerts, big games and other exciting events is a blast. But getting there and getting home, not so much.

North Texas' three major transit providers – Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), Trinity Metro and Denton County Transportation Authority (DCTA) – can make those to and from trips a lot easier.

DART: Whether you're heading to an event at the American Airlines Center, exploring Dallas' arts district or heading to work, DART light rail and buses offer seamless connections throughout Dallas and its surrounding cities. DART continues to expand its services throughout the region with its new Silver Line. Projected to open in late 2025 or early 2026, the 26-mile line will run through parts of Denton, Dallas and Collin counties, and connect DFW Airport to Plano. For more information, visit [dart.org](https://www.dart.org).

TRINITY METRO: In Fort Worth, Trinity Metro provides comprehensive bus service, including the new Blue Line for easy downtown exploration and the Orange Line, which connects downtown to the iconic Fort Worth Stockyards. Trinity Metro also serves DFW Airport through its TEXRail commuter rail line (see next paragraph). For more information, visit ridetrinitymetro.org.

TRINITY RAILWAY EXPRESS: Connecting Dallas and Fort Worth is the Trinity Railway Express, a commuter rail service that transports riders from one downtown to the other - with several stops in between - for an affordable rate. It's a convenient way to travel to the American Airlines Center; there's a station right in front of the AAC. Jointly owned by DART and Trinity Metro, the TRE runs Monday-Saturday and on Sundays during special events (check the TRE website for updates on Sunday service). . Visit trinityrailwayexpress.org.

DCTA: The Denton Country Transportation Authority offers its A-train commuter rail and bus services, making it easy to navigate Denton and connect to the broader DART system. For information, visit dcta.net.

DFW AIRPORT: If your travel plans this summer include a trip to DFW Airport, consider taking public transportation to and from the airport. Trinity Metro's **TEXRail** rail line offers a direct connection from downtown Fort Worth to DFW Airport's Terminal B, where travelers can catch the airport's free Skylink train or shuttles to other terminals. Another option from Fort Worth is TRE, which stops at the CentrePort Station, located about three miles south of the airport; TRE Link buses then shuttle passengers to terminals.

Similarly, DART's **Orange Line** rail whisks travelers from stations in Dallas, Irving, Richardson and Plano to Terminal A, where Skylink and shuttles to other terminals await.

Each mode of transportation allows riders to bring aboard their bikes, greatly enhancing first and last mile connectivity.

LOVE FIELD: If you're traveling out of Dallas Love Field, consider taking Dallas Area Rapid Transit's (DART) [Love Link](#) bus, which operates between the airport and [Inwood/Love Field](#) rail station in Dallas. Visit [DART's Love Link website](#).

Bike-pedestrian trails

Paved trails built for pedestrians and cyclists are an essential part of North Texas' transportation system, as they often provide first and last mile connections – that is, the crucial first and last segments of a person's trip – as well as opportunities to burn a few calories and get where you're going.

Hundreds of miles of existing trails wind through the region, inviting residents and visitors to use them for both transportation and exercise; many more miles are under construction. For a list of trails, visit our [Trails and On-Street Bikeways Network](#) webpage.

Microtransit

Microtransit plays an important role in the region's transportation system. For the uninitiated, microtransit refers to on-demand transportation services that use vans or large sedans to pick up and drop off passengers in designated zones. Unlike traditional bus and train routes with fixed schedules, microtransit allows riders to request a ride through a mobile app or phone, like rideshare services such as Lyft and Uber. The system then provides shared rides to passengers heading in similar directions.

Microtransit helps fill in the gaps in so-called "transit deserts," where traditional public transportation options are scarce or non-existent. Microtransit can also enhance mobility for individuals without vehicles or those with mobility challenges, providing access to jobs, healthcare, retail stores and other essential services.

The major transit agencies in the Dallas-Fort Worth region operate their own microtransit services. These include:

[DART GoLink](#): GoLink provides on-demand, curb-to-curb service within designated DART zones. Riders book trips via the GoPass app or by phone.

[Trinity Metro On-Demand](#): Similar to GoLink, Trinity Metro On-Demand (formerly ZIPZONE) offers shared-ride services within specific zones in Tarrant County, including the Medical District, the Alliance area, northeast Tarrant and Mansfield. The service also provides connections to TEXRail and Trinity Metro buses. Riders book trips over the phone or through the Trinity Metro On-Demand app.

[DCTA GoZone](#): Denton County Transportation Authority offers its own on-demand rideshare service, which transports riders to locales in Denton, Lewisville, Highland Village and Castle Hills, along with connections to DART's Trinity Mills Station and Frankford Station.

[Via](#): Via is Arlington's on-demand microtransit service in which riders order trips through the Arlington Transportation mobile app, or by phone. Rides are provided in branded Via vans throughout the Arlington area. The service also provides a connection to the CentrePort TRE Station.

Transit 2.0

The Dallas-Fort Worth region is poised for remarkable growth over the next 25 years, much of it beyond current transit zones. This raises concerns about increased congestion, density and over-reliance on single-occupant vehicles. To address these challenges, the North Central Texas Council of Governments has developed Regional Transit 2.0, an initiative designed to bolster the region's growth, elevate the quality of life for all residents and promote better access to transportation, with public transit playing a crucial role in shaping a more connected and thriving future. To read about Regional Transit 2.0, along with other NCTCOG transportation planning initiatives, please visit our [Transit Planning Projects webpage](#).

