

2025 Texas Innovation Invitational

June 16 - 18, 2025
Fort Worth, TX

Connecting Texas to the Future of Transportation



JUNE 16 TECH SHOWCASE & POSTER SESSION

- **1:30 PM | Tech Showcase and Poster Session Opens**
Interactive demonstrations and poster presentations open to all Texas Innovation Invitational attendees and the public.
- **5:00 PM | Welcome Reception**
Network with attendees.
- **5:30 PM | Welcoming Remarks**
TxDOT and local leadership provide welcoming remarks.
- **6:00 PM | Welcome Reception Continues**
- **6:30 PM | Adjourn**

JUNE 17 CONFERENCE

- **8:00 AM | Breakfast & Registration**
- **9:00 AM | Opening Remarks**
Shelley Row, Blue Fjord Leaders
Darran Anderson, TxDOT
Jessica Heer, Fort Worth Economic Development Partnership
David Salazar, TxDOT Fort Worth District
- **9:30 AM | FIRESIDE CHAT: Innovation Across Texas Leadership Panel**
Leaders at the local, regional, and state level discuss the impacts of innovation on transportation.
Moderator: Darran Anderson, TxDOT
Eric Lykins, TxDOT Odessa District
Michael Morris, Director of Transportation, North Central Texas Council of Governments
- **10:30 AM | Networking Break**

- **11:00 AM | PANEL: Driving Texas Forward: Economy and Transportation**

Panelists dive into industry opportunities and the growing innovation marketplace in Texas.

Moderator: Steve Montgomery, Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce

Cooper Ericksen, Toyota North America*

Paul Puopolo Executive V.P. Innovation, DFW Airport

Nick Konen, Director, Strategic Development, AllianceTexas

- **11:45 AM | PANEL: Partnerships for Implementation**

Public agencies highlight how effective industry partnerships have led to successful implementation.

Moderator: Kay Shelton, DART

Qing Li, TxDOT Houston District & Lisa Hawkins, Replica

Brian Moen, City of Frisco & Kendal Prosack, Wing

Mike Arellano, TxDOT Austin District & Paul-Matthew Zamsky, Rekor

- **12:30 PM | Lunch**

- **1:30 PM | PANEL: Homegrown Innovations**

Panelists share about local innovations developed and deployed in Texas.

Moderator: Randy Hopmann, CONSOR Engineers

Dan Neal, TxDOT PEPS Division

Jeff Bush, TxDOT Dallas District

Theresa Poer, TxDOT Fort Worth District

Michael Bolin, TxDOT Waco District

Noel Paramanatham, TxDOT Paris District

*Tentative



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2:00 PM | Panel: Future of the Freight Ecosystem

Industry leaders will discuss the future of the freight ecosystem as new technologies are hitting the road.

Moderator: Caroline Mays, TxDOT

Tiffany Melvin, North American Strategy for Competitiveness (NASCO)
French Thompson, BNSF Railway
Earl Adams, Plus
Andrew Canon, TxDOT

2:45 PM | TxDOT Innovation Awards

3:00 PM | Networking Break

3:30 PM | Breakout Sessions

Participants meet in breakout sessions for technical panel discussions.

Breakout 1: AI and Data Tools

Moderator: Ben McCulloch, TxDOT

Dell Streetlight
Blynscy Cylv

Breakout 2: Connected and Autonomous Vehicles

Moderator: Zeke Reyna, TxDOT

Panel 1: Serve Robotics Gatik
Aurora Kodiak

Panel 2: Bot Volvo
Torc Stack

Breakout 3: Multimodal Systems

Moderator: Bonnie Sherman, TxDOT

Avride City of Arlington Metropia
Trinity Metro City of Austin Masabi

Breakout 4: Traffic Operations

Moderator: Will McLane, TxDOT

iCone Iteris
City of Houston HAAS Alert

5:00 PM | Adjourn

JUNE 18 TEAM SHOWCASE

8:00 AM | Breakfast

9:00 AM | Welcome

Shelley Row, Blue Fjord Leaders

9:15 AM | Opening Remarks

Mayor Mattie Parker, City of Fort Worth

9:25 AM | Meet the Experts

Darran Anderson, TxDOT Caroline Mays, TxDOT
Gaby Tassin, Au+ Engineering Karina Ricks, CityFi
Josh Johnson, SwRI

9:30 AM | TEAM SHOWCASE: Part One

Teams deliver presentations and receive feedback.

Team Austin Team Bryan-College Station
Team Arlington Team Fort Worth

10:30 AM | Networking Break

10:45 AM | TEAM SHOWCASE: Part Two

Teams deliver presentations and receive feedback.

Team Frisco Team Permian Basin
Team DFW Team East Texas

11:45 | Where Are They Now? Updates From Past Winners

12:00 PM | S.T.A.R. Award Announcements

Team Showcase winners are announced.

Erika Kemp, TxDOT

TxDOT is pleased to announce **up to three winners** at the 2025 Texas Innovation Invitational. Winners will receive the prestigious STAR award and recognition.

12:15 PM | Closing Comments

Erika Kemp, TxDOT
Darran Anderson, TxDOT
Shelley Row, Blue Fjord Leaders

12:30 PM | Adjourn



