Texas Innovation Alliance

Collaborating across Texas to accelerate safe, efficient, and reliable mobility.

Overview of Program

November 20, 2026



TIA as the Texas STIC

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

STIC
State Transportation Innovation Councils

The Texas Innovation Alliance is nationally recognized and serves as the State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC) for Texas and is part of the National STIC Network.

Vision & Mission



Vision

Advancing Texas transportation safety, efficiency, mobility, and reliability through collaboration, knowledge sharing, and innovation partnerships.



Mission

Connecting Texans with the future of transportation through innovation.

CONNECT: TIA Members at State Level

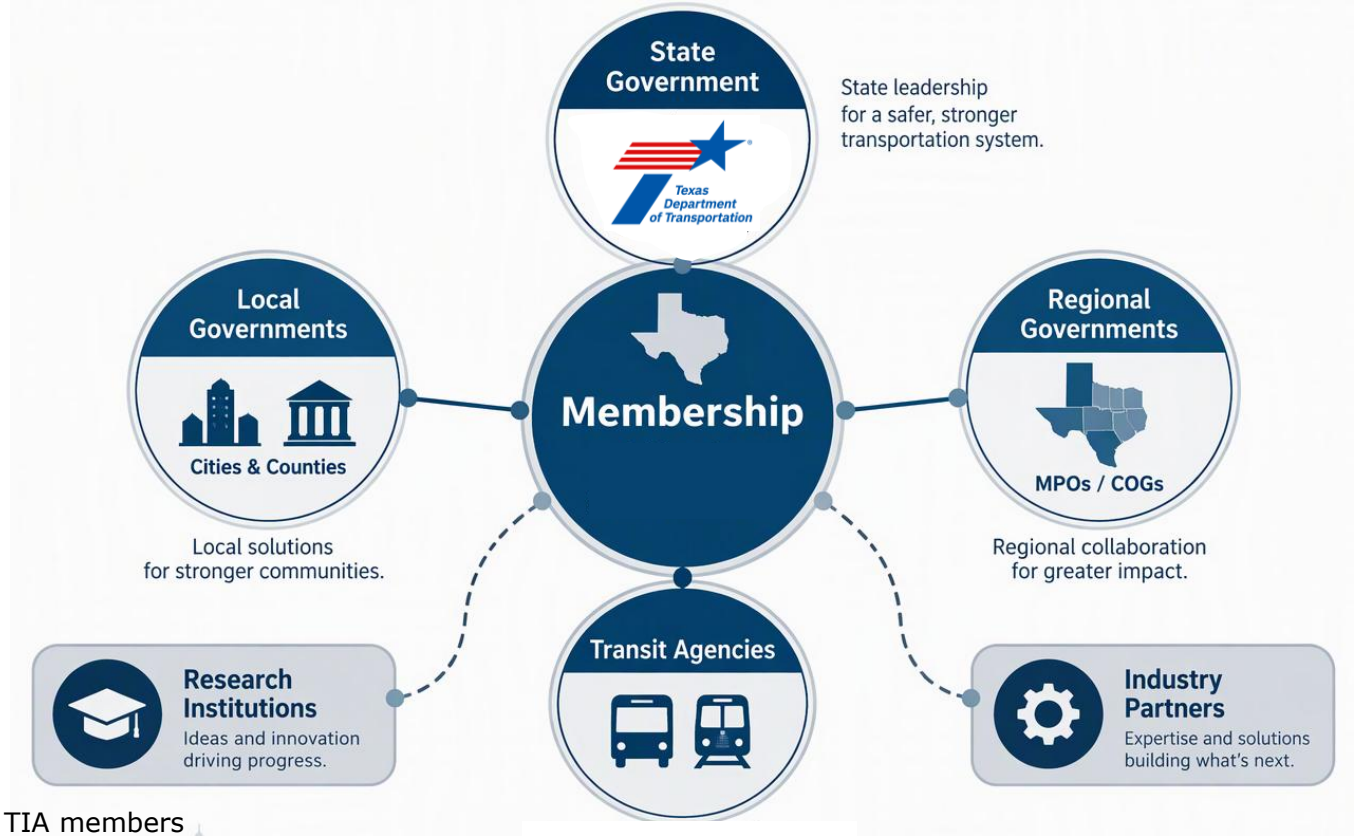


Figure: Diagram of TIA members

EXPLORE: Programming to Support Solutions



Member Meetings
Quarterly in person



Communications
Monthly Newsletter and special notices



Deep Dive Calls
Monthly virtual calls to explore topics of interest

ADVANCE: Ways to Support Members



Knowledge Sharing & Technology Transfer



Coordinate Grant Applications



Tap into Expertise



Connect with Peers & Partners

Federal Highway Every Day Counts Program

Every Day Counts
Innovation for a Nation on the Move



A State-based model that identifies and deploys proven, yet underutilized innovations — saving time, money and resources that can be used to deliver more projects.

Learn more about Every Day Counts >>

Find Proven Innovations
Explore innovations >>

Learn from Others
Explore success stories >>

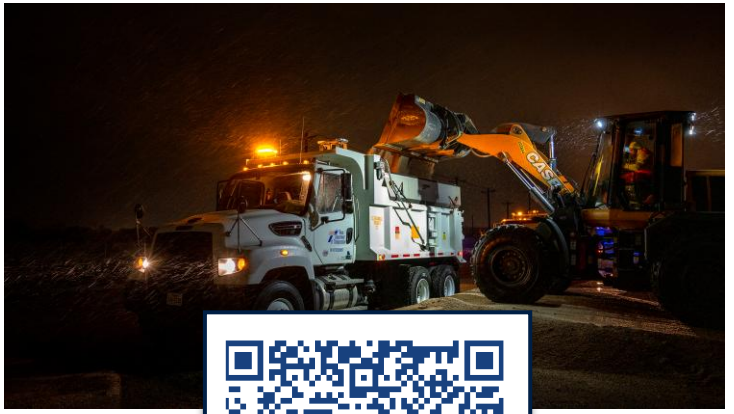
Fund Innovation Deployment
Explore funding opportunities >>

EDC-8 Innovations

- Advancing Nighttime Work Zone Safety
- Beyond BID-Build: Innovative Project Delivery Methods
- Connected Corridors
- Integrated Digital Project Delivery
- Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE)
- UAS 2.0: Innovative Infrastructure Management

Advancing Nighttime Work Zone Safety

- Nighttime work zones present challenges and high safety risks for agencies, workers, and drivers.
- **Risk Assessment Strategies:** *Enforcement, Lighting, Positive Protection Devices, PPE, Traffic Control Devices*
- **Benefits:** *Increased Safety, Process Efficiency, Operational Efficiency*



Advancing Nighttime Work Zones

Beyond Bid-Build: Innovative Project Delivery Methods

Use of alternative contracting methods to offer flexible tools that reduce risks, helping agencies deliver projects faster.

- **Uncommon Contracting Methods:** *Progressive Design-Build; Fixed Price Variable Scope (FPVS) for Design-Bid-Build*
- **Benefits:** *Increased Efficiency, Cost Control, Industry Innovation, Coordinating Risk*



Beyond Bid-Build: Project Delivery

Connected Corridors

Leverages the power of data exchange as a foundation for breaking down jurisdictional barriers to operations intelligence.

- **Key areas:** *Communicating information on work zone activity using the Connected Work Zone (CWZ) Standard; Consistent data specifications; published data feeds/exchange*
- **Benefits:** *Increased Safety, Innovation, Economic Value, Operational Efficiency*



Connected Corridors

Integrated Digital Project Delivery

Helps transportation agencies improve the way they plan, build, and maintain projects in a unified system.

- **Digital Systems Working Together:** *Focuses on connecting people, data, and tools across all phases of a transportation project*
- **Benefits:** *Increased Safety, Lower Costs, Faster Processes, Longer-Lasting Asset, Public Transparency*



Integrated Digital Delivery

Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE)

SUE uses a mix of engineering, surveying, and geophysical methods to locate underground utilities.

- **Innovative Methods:** *Such as vacuum excavation and subsurface-scanning tools*
- **Benefits:** *Increased Safety, Cost & Time Savings, Increased Efficiency, Lower Risk of surprise discoveries*



Subsurface Utility Engineering

UAS 2.0: Innovative Infrastructure Management

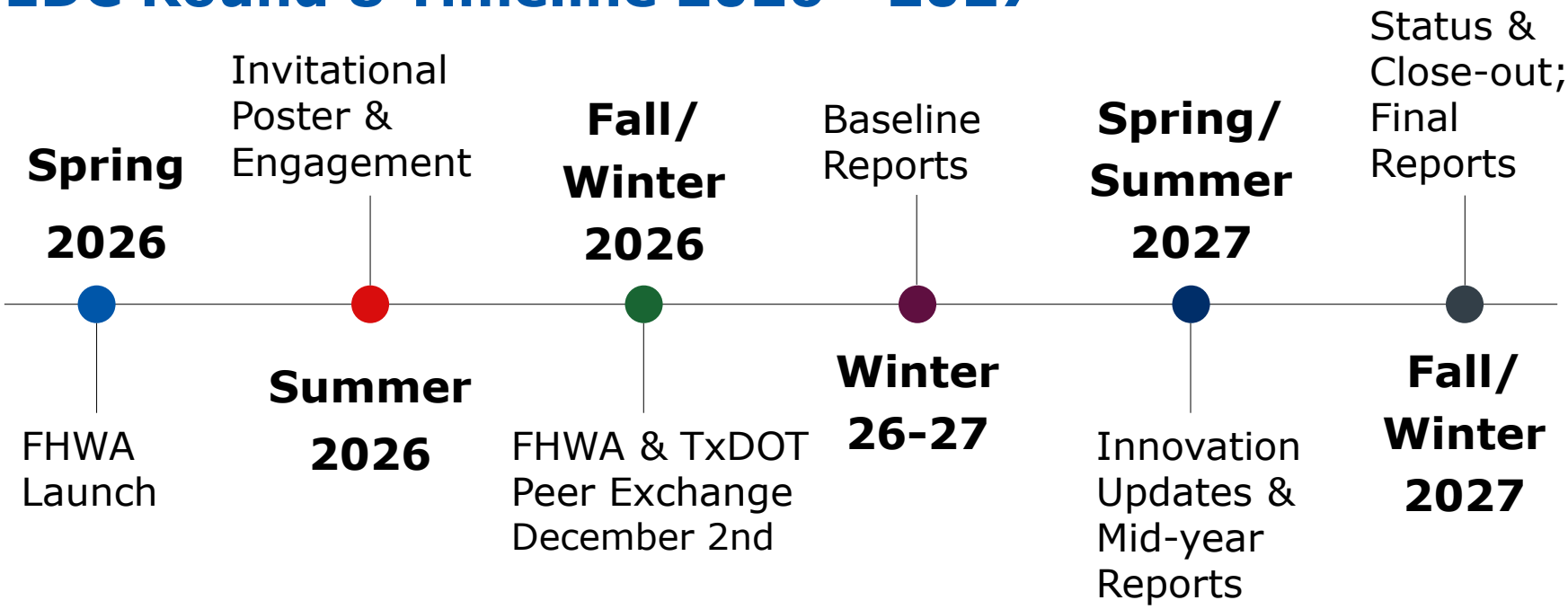
After the success of EDC-5, which led to drone use in all 50 States, the focus is now on improving how these tools are used.

- **New Features:** *Remote docking, better work zone lighting, and more accurate performance to help transportation asset longevity*
- **Benefits:** *Increased Safety, Cost Savings, Long-Lasting Assets, Better Nighttime Visibility, Resource Efficiency*



UAS 2.0: Infrastructure Management

EDC Round 8 Timeline 2026 - 2027



High-level Every Day Counts (EDC) timeline for the state of Texas.

Please complete the survey with the QR code…

Is your organization conducting work aligning with the EDC-8 topics?

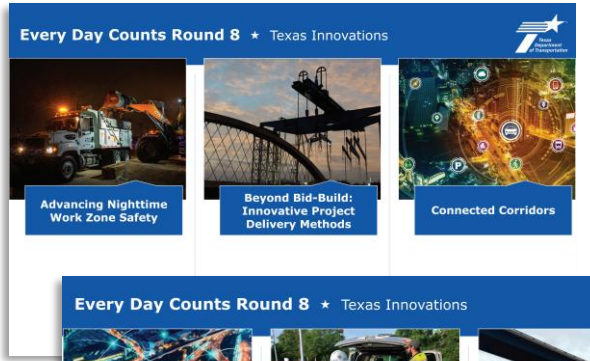
- **YES or NO**

Provide a title and brief description of your project.

- **If yes, then…**

Provide POC, Organization Name and Contact. Info.

- **Who can we reach out to?**



11/23/2026

Thank you

Benjamin King, Strategic Initiatives and Innovation Division Section Director, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

Benjamin.king@txdot.gov

Mikhaela Sample, Research Engineer, CTR, University of Texas at Austin

Mikhaela.sample@utexas.edu