

Upcoming Meetings & Events

March

2-5 – TEEX Train the Trainer, **Arlington ISD**
9-12 – TEEX Train the Trainer, **Pearland ISD**
13 – Chapter Meeting, **Houston ISD (Region IV)**
Sponsor – Thomas Bus Gulf Coast
30 – GCAPT Officer Nominations DUE

April

1 – GCAPT Scholarship Applications DUE
10 – Chapter Meeting, **Deer Park ISD**
Sponsor – National Guaranteed Vinyl
14 – GCAPT School Bus Safety Road-e-o,
Houston ISD
23 – 6th Annual TAPT State School Bus Safety
Speech Contest, **Austin**
27-30 – TEEX Train the Trainer, **Austin ISD**

May

8 – Chapter Meeting, **Humble ISD (Humble Civic Center)**
Sponsors – International & Forward Edge
23 – Child Passenger Safety Training, **Region IV ESC**

June

1-4 – TEEX Train the Trainer, **El Paso**
15-20 – TAPT Conference & Trade Show,
Waco

July

6-9 – TEEX Train the Trainer, **Bryan**

For STATE School Bus Speech Contest Information, please contact Pam McCurdy, TxDPS, 254-759-7111
pam.mccurdy@txdps.state.tx.us

For REGIONAL School Bus Speech Contest Information, please contact Kathryn Cook, Region IV ESC,
713-744-6887
kcook@esc4.net

For Train the Trainer information, please contact Laura Wilson, TEEX, 979-862-3735.
laura.wilson@teexmail.tamu.edu

For Child Passenger Safety information, please contact Pam McCurdy, TxDPS, 254-759-7111
pam.mccurdy@txdps.state.tx.us

For TEA School Transportation information, please contact Randy Boatman, TEA, 512-463-9238
randy.boatman@tea.state.tx.us

For TASB safety information, please contact Chuck Kennedy, TASB Risk Management, 800-482-7276 x-6609
chuck.kennedy@tasb.org

TAPT Position Statement on School Bus Passenger Protection

The Texas Association for Pupil Transportation (TAPT) serves an important role as the state's only professional organization which represents and promotes safe and efficient pupil transportation operations for the over 1,000 public school districts in Texas, and as such has always advocated use of the compliant and properly maintained yellow school bus to transport our most precious and delicate resource, our school children.

The most recent statistics from the Texas Education Agency indicate that roughly 35,000 school buses travel more than one million miles transporting about 1.4 million students to and from school each day. But in spite of this colossal and inherently hazardous task, national traffic accident data reveals that each year since 1990, resulting fatalities and injuries sustained by students while as passengers of school buses involved in a crash have proven extremely rare (typically less than one-half of one percent of all traffic-related student fatalities and injuries).

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the federal agency that sets the requirements for safety equipment on school buses, considers the school bus the safest form of ground transportation in America. This is due in large part to the current passenger crash protection system called "compartmentalization" which relates to the secure interior design of the high back, well-padded, strongly anchored, evenly spaced seats to help protect passengers. As professional school transportation providers, we depend upon NHTSA as the regulatory body to make official recommendations for additional equipment that will improve upon or enhance the overall safety of the school bus.

In 2002, NHTSA reported to Congress that lap seat belts alone are NOT a viable form of passenger crash protection in large school buses. They also indicated that the use of combination lap/shoulder belts could provide some benefit and that the "potential exists for reducing the annual average passenger fatalities in frontal crashes of school buses from two to one, assuming 100 percent use of the lap/shoulder belt system." However, the same report also stated that serious neck and abdominal injury could result when lap/shoulder belts are improperly used, as they then function like a lap belt.

It is apparent that NHTSA's estimate of the safety benefit that could be derived from lap/shoulder belt technology was based upon two virtually impossible parameters – 100 per cent usage and no misuse. Also, NHTSA made a specific point in its report to Congress to note that if states and local school districts decide on their own to require lap/shoulder belt systems, they should be aware of "unintended consequences," including the possibility that the reduced capacity of individual school buses and the nation's school bus fleet as a whole could result in more children being killed or injured when using alternative forms of transportation to get to and from school.

TAPT will continue to recognize and advocate the current design for passenger crash protection on school buses to be the safest restraint system now available and until such time as NHTSA recommends the implementation of an alternative or additional safety system that provides greater protection for our students. We also fully agree with and promote the position statement made by the National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT), that "our organization will only support changes to compartmentalization when we are sure that those changes will not compromise student safety in any way." TAPT also recognizes and emphasizes the fact that many more students are actually killed and injured while outside (as compared to those more protected inside) the bus, and we strongly believe and contend there should be a much greater focus on protecting these more vulnerable students.

Gulf Coast Association for Pupil Transportation

SCHOLARSHIP

Established May 2006

The Gulf Coast Association for Pupil Transportation Scholarship

The Gulf Coast Association for Pupil Transportation Scholarship is sponsored and administered by the Gulf Coast Association for Pupil Transportation (GCAPT). The GCAPT is an affiliate chapter of the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation (TAPT). The GCAPT Scholarship was created by the Executive Committee under the direction of President Marisa Weisinger to continue the education of our most valuable assets-our children.

The scholarship is provided for a family member of a current member of the GCAPT to further their educational opportunities.

This scholarship will provide a one-time grant of \$1000.00 for the selected participant for either an approved two year or four year program resulting in a vocational or academic degree.

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Family member of a current member of GCAPT. (Son, Daughter, Stepchild, Grandson or Granddaughter)
2. Graduating senior of an accredited Texas High School.
3. Eligible for admission in selected educational institution.
4. Maintain acceptable attendance and scholastic performance each semester.
5. Recipient must be present at the GCAPT May meeting in order to receive the scholarship.

SELECTION:

The scholarship recipient will be chosen from written applications and possible personal interviews by the scholarship selection committee. The selection committee shall consist of the GCAPT current President (or his/her designee), Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian and past President.

APPLICATION:

Written application must be submitted to the committee by April 1st, of the year in which the scholarship is to be granted. The application must include:

1. Applicant name, address and phone number.
2. High school from which applicant graduated.
3. Name and relationship of member of GCAPT.
4. Educational institution which applicant wishes to attend.
5. A written statement of the educational goals and objectives of the applicant.
6. A written statement of the applicants outside activities and service.
7. A written statement from the applicant's high school counselor as to the appropriateness and obtainability of the applicant's educational goals.
8. A written statement from the applicant's high school principal as to the applicant's attendance and personal character.

Complete in written form and mail to GCAPT, P.O. Box 33, West Columbia, Texas 77486. If you require further information contact the GCAPT Secretary, Keith Kaup by email at kkaup@sheldon.k12.tx.us.

Revised 5-20-06



GULF COAST CHAPTER

TEXAS ASSOCIATION FOR PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

Proudly Serving Regions IV and VI since 1972

2006-2007 GCAPT Scholarship Application

CONTACT INFORMATION

LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		MI
STREET ADDRESS			CITY	ZIP
HOME PHONE () -		ALTERNATE PHONE () -		

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

HIGH SCHOOL FROM WHICH APPLICANT GRADUATED			GRADUATION YEAR	
HIGH SCHOOL ADDRESS			CITY, STATE	ZIP
HIGH SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER () -		NAME OF PRINCIPAL		
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION APPLICANT WISHES TO ATTEND		LOCATION		
INTENDED PROGRAM OF STUDY		2 YEAR or 4 YEAR PROGRAM		

GCAPT MEMBER INFORMATION

LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		MI
STREET ADDRESS			CITY	ZIP
HOME PHONE () -		ALTERNATE PHONE () -		
DISTRICT or ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION		RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT		

All applications must include the following attachments:

- a typed statement from the applicant outlining personal educational goals and objectives
- a typed statement from the applicant describing the applicant's outside activities and service
- a letter from the applicant's **high school counselor** as to the appropriateness and attainability of the applicant's educational goals
- a letter from the applicant's **high school principal** as to the applicant's attendance and personal character

Selected recipient MUST be present at the GCAPT May Meeting (May 8, 2007 10:00 am at Humble Civic Center) in order to receive the scholarship.

Applicant Signature

Date

Join the TxDPS School Bus Mailing List

<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/schoolbus>


Texas Department of Public Safety - Courtesy, Service, Protection - Mic...

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help




Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites

Address <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/schoolbus/> Go Links

Texas Department of Public Safety
Courtesy Service Protection
Main Page Site Index Divisions Online Services Employment News

 **School Bus Transportation**

[Links to School Bus Transportation Web Sites](#)
[School Transportation Forms and Documents](#)
[New Information](#)

For information regarding school bus transportation

Join the School Bus Mailing List.
Email:

Charley Kennington, Program Administrator
Pam McCurdy, Administrative Assistant

Texas Department of Public Safety
1617 East Crest Drive
Waco, Texas 76705

Office: (254) 759-7111
Fax: (254) 759-7238
email: schoolbus@txdps.state.tx.us

Internet

Minutes from the January 2007 Meeting

- Call to Order:** Vice President – Sam Davila
Attendance – 119
- Invocation/Pledge:** Ray Westmoreland / Sam Davila
- Welcome and Introductions:** John Ralph & Dr. Greg Smith, Superintendent of Schools
- Minutes:** Motion by Aaron Hobbs – Houston ISD
Second by Allan Hammond – Willis ISD
Motion passed
- Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Raymond Vyoral – Cy-Fair ISD
Second by Jim Abney – Santa Fe ISD
Motion passed

Old Business:

New Business:

Committee Reports:

- Aaron Hobbs – TAPT Nominating Committee
Nominating Committee needs interested parties to run for state positions (nominating committee, President Elect, and Area Director)
Travel for state officers is now covered by TAPT and not the responsibility of the supporting school district. See Aaron Hobbs or Larry Taylor for Nominating Committee.
- Kathryn Cook – Region IV
Transportation Crisis Training, January 19
Regional Transportation Speech Contest, February 2
Optional Master Instructor designation for Certification instructors
4 requirements must be completed within 1 year.
Good for 4 years
1st recipient of designation – Keith Kaup, Sheldon ISD
- Marisa Weisinger – GCAPT Winter Conference & Trade Show Committee
Conference registration forms available online
Nominations needed for GCAPT offices
Deadline approaching for GCAPT Scholarship application
- David McMillian – TASBT
Classes offered at GCAPT Winter Conference – AC, Tires, Advanced Electronics
Register at TASBT.org
- TAPT – Rhonda Davis, Area 3 Director
TAPT Executive Committee meeting this weekend in Waco
Making final preparations for state conference

- Program:** John Ralph – TAPT Legislative Committee Chairman
Legislative Updates and Discussion

Program Sponsor: Capital Bus Sales and Service

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn by Bob Peel – Cy-Fair ISD
Second by Aaron Hobbs – Houston ISD
Motion approved.

Raffle Donations: \$_____ Collected toward the GCAPT Scholarship

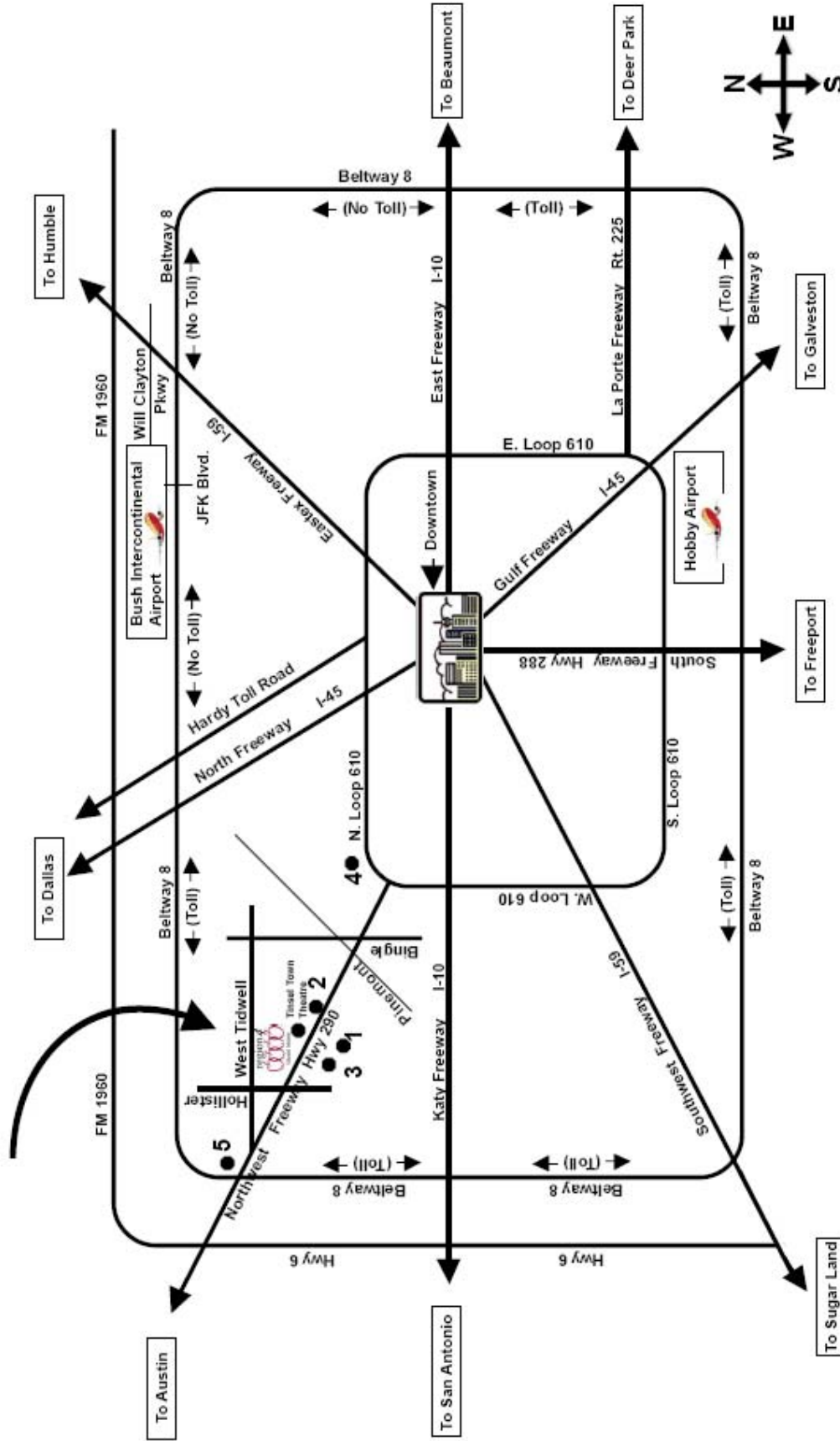


From Austin: Exit 290 at West Tidwell
Turn Left at first light (West Tidwell)

- HOTELS:**
- 1 Crowne Plaza 713.462.9977
 - 2 Towne Place Suites 713.690.4035
 - 3 Red Roof Inn 713.939.0800
 - 4 Sheraton Brookhollow 713.688.0100
 - 5 Houston Northwest Inn 713.939.9955

From Loop 610: Take 290 West (to Austin)
Exit 290 at West Tidwell/Hollister
Turn Right at first light (Hollister)
Turn Right at next light (West Tidwell)

From Beltway 8: Exit Beltway 8 to 290 East (to Downtown)
Exit 290 at West Tidwell
Turn Left at first light (West Tidwell)



Map not to scale