



VIA METROPOLITAN TRANSIT NEWS RELEASE

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SA Voters Say ‘Yes’ to Better Transit Funding

Additional 1/8-cent share of existing sales tax approved to support public transit programs beginning 2026

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (Nov. 4, 2020) – San Antonio voters said “yes” to funding VIA’s Keep SA Moving Plan, designed to connect more people to jobs and economic opportunity through improved and expanded VIA services.

Advanced Transportation District (ATD) Proposition A passed Tuesday with 68% of voters approving the measure that will rededicate a 1/8-cent share of local sales tax for public transit, beginning in 2026. This is not a new tax. It reallocates a portion of an existing 1 cent of local sales tax made available for transit use by the Texas Legislature.

VIA currently receives a 5/8-cent share to fund operations for over 1,200 square miles of Bexar County—a service area roughly the size of Houston’s Metro service. Other major Texas cities, including Houston, Austin and Dallas dedicate the full cent to transit, pulling billions of dollars ahead of San Antonio in transit development and infrastructure. Tuesday’s win for ATD Proposition A means more funding will go to support transportation in San Antonio in 2026.

Voters also approved the City of San Antonio’s Proposition A to renew the 1/8-cent of sales tax that supports the Pre-K 4 SA early childhood education program, and the city’s Proposition B to support local workforce and economic development.

Proposition B will begin receiving a 1/8-cent share of the 1 cent sales tax in 2021 to invest in workforce training as part of regional economic recovery plans. Beginning in 2026, that 1/8-cent share will transfer to the ATD for public transit programs, including improved frequency for VIA bus service and planning for a future Advance Rapid Transit system.

Statement from Jeffrey C. Arndt, VIA President/CEO

“With voters’ support, we have taken a major step forward in rewriting the region’s transit history. An additional 1/8-cent sales tax will move us closer to our goals and toward parity with peer transit agencies in other major Texas cities.

We are grateful to the people of San Antonio for their vote of confidence and their show of support for funding the plan to Keep SA Moving. This initiative is the product of years of public engagement and community input and we are proud to have delivered on the community’s priorities for mobility today and in the future.



The revenue from this increment of sales tax will be available for transit improvements in 2026, but securing it today means that we can start important planning — and begin to tap into federal funding that has never before been available to our agency.

VIA has been moving people and connecting our community for over 40 years. We continue to ensure that essential workers can stay connected to essential jobs during the global pandemic so that our city can move ahead, toward recovery. I'm proud of the work our agency has done, even with the ongoing challenge of historic underfunding.

I'd like to thank the VIA operators, frontline workers and staff for the work they do, every day. Also, for the guidance and leadership from the VIA Board of Trustees and our Board Chair Hope Andrade, who separately served as chairwoman of the transit campaign that advocated for Prop. A's passage."

To learn more about the Keep SA Moving plan, visit [KeepSAMoving.com](https://www.KeepSAMoving.com).

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