

MINUTES
NORTHEAST TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC., AND
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 30, 2026

The Northeast Texas Economic Development District, Inc. (NETEDD) and the Executive Committee of the Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) met at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 30, 2026, at the Pilgrim's Community Center, 820 West Pecan Street, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via videoconference.

1. Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center, called the meeting to order.
2. Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County, gave the invocation.
3. Public Comment.

No members of the public made comments.

NETEDD Agenda Items

4. The next order of business was to review and consider approval of the minutes as submitted for the NETEDD meeting held on Thursday, December 4, 2025.

Motion to approve was made by Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County, and seconded by Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County. It was approved.

5. Ms. Toni Lindsey presented the NETEDD Program report for information only.

This concludes all NETEDD agenda items.

ATCOG Executive Committee Agenda Items

6. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director, presented for review and approval of the consent agenda items.
 - Approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Executive Committee Meeting held Thursday, February 26, 2026.
 - Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee meeting held Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Judge Reeder. It was approved.

7. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director, presented the Executive Director Report for information only.
 - Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR), and THSSP Implementation Plan (IP) Feedback Report

Ms. Rudel stated that Ms. Whitney Fezell, ATCOG Homeland Security Coordinator, is responsible for working with all of our emergency management coordinators within the region to develop this plan. The report notes her outstanding performance, including the

highest possible score, which reflects our region's preparedness and efforts very well. Congratulations were extended to Ms. Fezell.

- ATCOG FY25 9-1-1 Program Final Compliance Assessment

ATCOG's 9-1-1 Compliance Assessment, from the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC), is typically low risk; this year, we are at moderate risk.

Ms. Rudel explained that Texas has transitioned to a different network, and all data had to be prepared to comply with that network, including how data transfers and communicates with all of the different public safety answering points. ATCOG 9-1-1 has completed the Texas data transfer and maintained it for some time.

ATCOG 9-1-1 is a bi-state region and must include Arkansas. We are working with providers to obtain, update, and include the Arkansas data. We are currently waiting on a necessary data format conversion so the data can communicate with the Texas network. At this time, we will still have errors, even though we have reported and corrected them. CSEC is aware of data challenges and our continual progress.

ATCOG 9-1-1 accuracy and match rate is currently 98.28%, within 1% of the 99.5% requirement.

- Indirect Finance Quarterly Report
- Quarterly Program Reports

8. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director, presented for review and approval of revisions to the ATCOG Rural Transit District Title VI Program Plan.

ATCOG'S Rural Transit District's Title VI Program Plan is reviewed every three years to capture updates and demographic changes. Title VI is a federal law that protects individuals or groups, regardless of citizenship, from discrimination based on race, color, and national origin. Other related regulations prohibit discrimination based on sex, age, and disability. The Title VI plan summarizes how any person who believes he or she, individually or as a member of any specific class, has been subject to discrimination, may file a complaint. The TRAX Title VI Plan outlines the department's roles, responsibilities, and procedures to ensure compliance with Title VI.

This update includes the following revisions:

- Contact information for the new Title VI Coordinator, Ms. Sheena Record (Transportation Coordinator)
- Executive Order 14151: Ending Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Program** – This Executive Order has removed environmental justice from Title VI.
- Executive Order 14244: Designation of English as the Official Language** – This Executive Order does not mandate a four-factor analysis or require a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan.

The Plan includes information for Bowie, Cass, Titus, Lamar, Red River, Delta, Hopkins, Franklin, and Morris Counties.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Newsom and seconded by Judge Lee. It was approved.

9. Ms. Jenny Butler presented for review and approval of the Ark-Tex Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Area Plan FFY2027-FFY2029.

The Area Plan FFY2027-FFY 2029 document describes in detail the identified needs within the Ark-Tex PSA and how the AAA plans to address these needs through the development and expansion of new and existing community services. It provides information on service priorities and targeted outreach to vulnerable older individuals. The area plan also states the goals and objectives that the AAA and its staff plan to accomplish during the planning period, subject to the availability and limitations of funding and the authorization of services provided by or through the AAA. The plan reflects the AAA's efforts to develop and implement current and future plans. The Area Plan for FFY2027-FFY2029 was included in the addendum.

The area plan, developed for FFY2027-FFY2029, was reviewed and approved on April 28, 2026, by the AAA Regional Advisory Council. The proposed plan completed the required 30 calendar-day public input period on April 29, 2026. The plan must be approved by the ATCOG Board prior to submission to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) for final approval.

Motion to approve was made by Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville, and seconded by Judge Reeder. It was approved.

10. Ms. Jenny Butler presented a resolution for adoption authorizing recognition of Older Americans Month for May 2026.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Newsom and seconded by Mayor Rushing. It was approved.

11. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director, presented for review and approval of funding priorities to be submitted to the Office of the Governor, Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division (OOG PSO/CJD).

Each year, applications are submitted to OOG PSO/CJD through eGrants by agencies and organizations in the ATCOG region. After the applications have been submitted, OOG PSO/CJD requires ATCOG to distribute the applications to the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (RCJAC) to be reviewed and scored, and the ATCOG Board to approve funding recommendations to submit to OOG PSO/CJD, who will then make the final funding decisions.

The RCJAC met on April 7, 2026, and applicants gave a brief presentation about their project. RCJAC members then had an opportunity to ask questions to each presenter regarding their project. Applications were scored, and the RCJAC held a follow-up meeting on April 14, 2026, to review the scoring results and further discuss the projects and determine funding recommendations for all funding categories. The RCJAC's recommendations are reflected in the attachments.

Ms. Rudel presented RCJAC's recommendations to the Executive Committee and opened the floor for questions. No questions were presented.

Motion to approve was made by Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County, and seconded by Judge Newsom. It was approved.

12. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director, presented a resolution for adoption authorizing recognition of National Police Week for May 10-16, 2026.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Judge Bell. It was approved.

13. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director, presented the Computerized Criminal History System update for review and information only.
14. Following the announcements, Scott Norton called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion to adjourn was made by Judge Lee and seconded by Judge Newsom. It was approved. Meeting adjourned.

Announcements

Ms. Rudel announced the Workforce CEO meeting to be held immediately following their meeting. All Judges were asked to reconvene at the front of the room or remain on Zoom. All others may move to the hallway or exit the Zoom meeting.

Ms. Rudel announced that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at the Pilgrim's Community Center, 820 West Pecan Street, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via videoconference.

NETEDD BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County
Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County
Tanner Crutcher, Judge, Delta County
Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

ATCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County
Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County
Tanner Crutcher, Judge, Delta County
Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Juan Duenez, Board of Trustees, Mt. Pleasant Independent School District
Laney Harris, Director, City of Texarkana-AR
Dana Reeves, General Manager, Franklin County Water District
Shannon McGuire, Board, Paris Junior College

GUESTS PRESENT

Sherrie Houff, Department of State Health Services
KiAnn Richardson, Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas
Bart Spivey, Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas
Ray Wilson, Office of Senator Bryan Hughes

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director
Leslie McBride, Deputy Director
Jenny Butler, AAA Director
Daneshia Cherry, Housing Director
Laura Cowling, Finance Director
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator
Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator
Melody Harmon, Economic Development Coordinator
Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Coordinator
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator
Debbie Purifoy, Compliance and Purchasing Officer

/s/ Scott Norton, June 25, 2026

Scott Norton, Vice President
Board of Directors
North East Texas Economic Development District Board, Inc.

ATTEST:

/s/ Kent Cooper, June 25, 2026

Board of Directors
North East Texas Economic Development District Board, Inc.