

**JOINT MINUTES  
NORTHEAST TEXAS RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION,  
NORTHEAST TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC., AND  
ARK-TEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
April 24, 2025**

The Northeast Texas Rural Transportation Planning Organization (NETRTPO), 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 24, 2025, at the Pilgrim's Community Center, located at 820 West Pecan Street, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via videoconference.

Item 1. Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County, called the meeting to order.

Item 2. Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County, gave the invocation.

Item 3. Public Comment.

No members of the public made a comment.

**NETRTPO Agenda Items**

Item 4. Review and consideration approval of the minutes as submitted for the NETRTPO meeting held on Thursday, March 31, 2022.

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

Item 5. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director, introduced Ms. Katie Martin, TxDOT Transportation Planning and Development Director of the Atlanta District, to present the FY25-2028 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) project information to the Board.

Ms. Martin thanked the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Executive Board for the invitation and presented the following STIP project information.

Ms. Martin stated that the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is TxDOT's federally required, fiscally constrained capital improvement program. It outlines multimodal transportation projects and investments planned for funding and readiness for construction or implementation within the next four years. It includes funding for projects, programs, and services in all areas of the state. TxDOT, in cooperation with Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Regional Planning Organizations (RPOs), transit agencies, and other planning partners, identifies projects for inclusion in the respective Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs).

The STIP includes federal funding for projects, programs, and services across the state. In addition, the STIP includes TxDOT Division projects such as Public Transportation Division (PTN), National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI), Railroad initiatives, and other agencies, including Federal Land, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and Tribal Projects.

The STIP begins with the creation of the Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPS), which lists four years of funded (committed from local, state, and federal sources) multimodal transportation projects.

Based on the rural long-range plan, TxDOT Districts create Rural TIPs for areas outside of an MPO. MPOs develop Metropolitan TIPs based on their Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTPs).

The STIP is adopted every two years and incorporates both MPO and Rural TIPs. It covers all phases of transportation projects. It aligns with the state's long-range transportation plan and serves as the four-year capital improvement program for the State of Texas.

A project must be in the STIP if it has federal funds, requires federal action, and is regionally significant (regardless of funding source or need for federal action). A project is considered in the STIP when it is individually listed or grouped by the STIP Team per the FHWA Grouped project allowance. A project may be in the STIP but not approved, which is considered a "STIP Exception." The project will not be authorized until HWA lifts the "STIP Exception."

Ms. Martin explained the difference between the two types of STIP revisions. An amendment (formal revision) requires public review and comment, and an administrative modification (administrative amendment) does not.

Major changes that require an amendment include an addition or deletion of a project, a major change in project scope, and changes in the federal funding source or the federal funding amount. An administrative amendment includes changing the project funding source from federal funding to 100 percent state funding or changing the letting date that is within the four-year STIP time frame. The MTPs, TIPs, and STIP must be consistent to avoid project delays. Also, changes in the TIP must be reflected in the MTP.

Ms. Martin concluded her report by providing her contact information and opened the floor for questions. Ms. Rudel thanked Ms. Martin for coming and for her presentation.

***This concluded all RTPO Agenda Items.***

#### **NETEDD Agenda Items**

Item 6. The next order of business was to review and consider approval of the minutes as submitted for the NETEDD meeting held on Thursday, August 29, 2024.

Motion to approve was made by Judge Reeder and seconded by Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County. It was approved.

Item 7. Ms. Toni Lindsey presented the NETEDD Project updates for information only. The updates included the Economic Development Administration's new investment priorities and ATCOG's Hazard Mitigation plans. Ms. Lindsey shared video links regarding Fair Housing and the Federal Joint Effort to Increase Housing. She reminded everyone to sign up to receive *The Quarterly Advisor* newsletter.

***This concluded all NETEDD Agenda Items.***

#### **ATCOG Executive Committee Agenda Items**

Item 8. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel presented the following consent agenda items:

- Approval of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Executive Committee meeting held Thursday, February 27, 2025.
- Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Area Agency on Aging Regional Advisory Council meeting held on Monday, April 14, 2025.
- Acceptance of the minutes as submitted for the ATCOG Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

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

### **Regular Business**

Item 9. Ms. Mary Beth Rudel 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
- ATCOG FY24 9-1-1 Program Final Compliance Assessment
- Indirect Finance Quarterly Report
- Quarterly Program Reports

Item 10. Mr. Paul Prange presented for review and consideration approval of the FY2026-2027 application to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to administer the Solid Waste Pass-Through Grant Program.

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments receives funding every two years from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to administer the Solid Waste Pass-Through Grant Program. An application must be submitted by ATCOG to TCEQ at the beginning of each biennium to execute the contract for the grant period.

ATCOG is seeking authorization from the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Executive Committee to submit an application to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to administer the FY2026-2027 Solid Waste Pass-Through Grant Program.

Motion to approve was made by Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County, and seconded by Judge Bell. It was approved.

Item 11. Ms. Jenny Butler presented for review and consideration approval of the revised Area Agency on Aging Policy and Procedures Manual.

The Area Agency on Aging is seeking approval from the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Executive Committee for revisions made to the AAA Policy and Procedures. The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) conducted a monitoring desk review on March 7, 2025. HHSC recommended two revisions concerning the Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey and Contribution sections in the AAA Policy and Procedures Manual. The following changes were made:

- Administrative Responsibilities (Chapter 2; pages 12 and 13) and Access and Assistance (Chapter 4; pages 40 and 41):  
These sections add language to include procedures for using a statistical sample size for ongoing services and ensure that clients receive a one-time service and are provided with a survey after the service is complete. It also assures that the AAA will follow up with the client or service provider regarding surveys returned with valid issues or reasonable concerns. Satisfaction surveys are used to ensure services are provided, determine whether services meet the needs and expectations of the client, and, where necessary, advocate for improvement in service delivery.
- Administrative Responsibilities (Chapter 2; page 16) Contributions:  
Added language "May provide a program participant with a contribution schedule that suggests a contribution amount based on the income ranges of the program participant population but may not determine a program participant's income using means testing."

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

- Item 12. Ms. Jenny Butler presented a resolution for adoption authorizing recognition for the month of May 2025 as Older Americans Month.

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

- Item 13. Ms. Patricia Haley presented for review and consideration approval of the priorities and recommendations established by the Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (RCJAC) concerning projects being submitted to the Office of the Governor-Public Safety Office, Criminal Justice Division (OOG-PSO/CJD), for funding consideration.

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 RCJAC to be reviewed and scored, and the ATCOG Board to issue approved recommendations to send to OOG-PSO/CJD, who will then make the final funding decisions.

The Regional Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (RCJAC) met on April 1, 2025, and applicants gave a brief presentation about their project. RCJAC members then had an opportunity to ask questions to each presenter regarding their application/project. Applications were scored, and the RCJAC had a follow-up meeting on April 10, 2025, to review the scoring results and discuss and determine funding recommendations for Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), Juvenile Justice Grant, Truancy Prevention Grant, and General Victim Assistance-Direct Services (VOCA) funding categories. The RCJAC's recommendations were provided for review in the attachments provided.

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

- Item 14. Ms. Patricia Haley presented a resolution for adoption authorizing recognition and declaring the week of May 11 – 17, 2025, as National Police Week.

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

- Item 15. Ms. Patricia Haley presented the Computerized Criminal History System (CCH) Update.

Ms. Haley reported for an applicant to be eligible for FY26 grant funding through the Office of the Governor-Public Safety Office (OOG/PSO), the county (or counties) in which the applicant is located must have a 90% average on both adult and juvenile criminal history dispositions to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) for calendar years 2019 through 2023. The disposition completeness percentage is defined as the percentage of arrest charges a county reports to DPS for which a disposition has been subsequently reported and entered into the computerized criminal history system.

Ms. Haley confirmed that all ATCOG counties are in compliance.

- Item 16. Ms. Rea Allen presented Ms. Gretchen Houk, Dispatcher for the Hopkins County Sheriff's Office, with the ATCOG Telecommunicator of the Year Award. Ms. Danielle Hastings, Dispatch Supervisor, was present to read the nomination letter and expressed their appreciation for Ms. Houk's dedicated service to the region.

### **Announcements**

Judge Howell announced that a Workforce CEO meeting will be held immediately following this meeting. He asked the Judges to reconvene at the front of the room or remain on Zoom.

Judge Howell announced that the next Executive Committee meeting will be held on May 29, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Pilgrim's Community Center, located at 820 West Pecan Street, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, and via videoconference.

NETRTPO MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County  
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center  
Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County  
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County  
Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County  
Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County  
Tanner Crutcher, Judge, Delta County  
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County  
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County  
Marc Reiter, Mayor, City of Hooks  
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

NETEDD BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County  
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center  
Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County  
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County  
Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County  
Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County  
Tanner Crutcher, Judge, Delta County  
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County  
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County  
Marc Reiter, Mayor, City of Hooks  
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

ATCOG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bobby Howell, Judge, Bowie County  
Scott Norton, Executive Director/CEO, TexAmericas Center  
Travis Ransom, Judge, Cass County  
Scott Lee, Judge, Franklin County  
Brandon Bell, Judge, Lamar County  
Kent Cooper, Judge, Titus County  
Tanner Crutcher, Judge, Delta County  
Robert Newsom, Judge, Hopkins County  
Doug Reeder, Judge, Morris County  
Marc Reiter, Mayor, City of Hooks  
Ann Rushing, Mayor, City of Clarksville

ATCOG BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

John Booth, Ph.D., Board Trustee, Texarkana College  
Chris Brown, Vice President, Hopkins County Hospital District  
Laney Harris, Director, City of Texarkana-AR  
Larry Hinsley, Mayor, City of Bogata  
Brad Johnson, NETEX Rural Rail Authority

GUESTS PRESENT

Kirk Basmajian  
April Corbit, NETX Workforce Solutions  
Reede DeWoody, Office of Senator Bryan Hughes  
Gretchen Houk, Hopkins County Sheriff Department  
Danielle Hastings, Hopkins County Sheriff Department  
Katie Martin, Texas Department of Transportation  
KiAnn Richardson, NETX Workforce Solutions  
Bart Spivey, NETX Workforce Solutions  
Stacie Wilson, Texas Department of Transportation

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Beth Rudel, Executive Director  
Leslie McBride, Deputy Director  
Rea Allen, 9-1-1 Program Director  
Tina Bell, Public Relations/Media Coordinator  
Jenny Butler, Area Agency on Aging Director  
Daneshia Cherry, Housing Director  
Mark Compton, Transportation Director  
Samantha Davis, 9-1-1 Program Coordinator  
Whitney Fezell, Homeland Security Coordinator  
Patricia Haley, Criminal Justice Coordinator  
Toni Lindsey, Regional Development Director  
Merle Luster, 9-1-1 Network Operations Coordinator  
Marla Matthews, Executive Assistant  
Amber Murr, Human Resources Director  
Paul Prange, Environmental Resources Coordinator  
Bobby Williams, Transportation Operations Coordinator

  
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Scott Norton, Vice President  
Board of Directors  
Ark-Tex Council of Governments

ATTEST:

  
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# Item 4 - Minutes - 2025-04-April 24 ECMIN

Final Audit Report

2025-09-29

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