

Background

- TxDOT Research Project 0-5542
- Project Website:
 - <http://www.regionalserviceplanning.org/>
 - Many project-related documents, presentations, reports, and other materials

Why?

- SAFETEA-LU requires locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plans.
- Chapter 461 of the Texas State Transportation Code also provides for coordination of public transportation services.
- Former Texas Transportation Commissioner Commissioner Hope Andrade, established the Regional Planning and Public Transportation Study Group (Study Group).

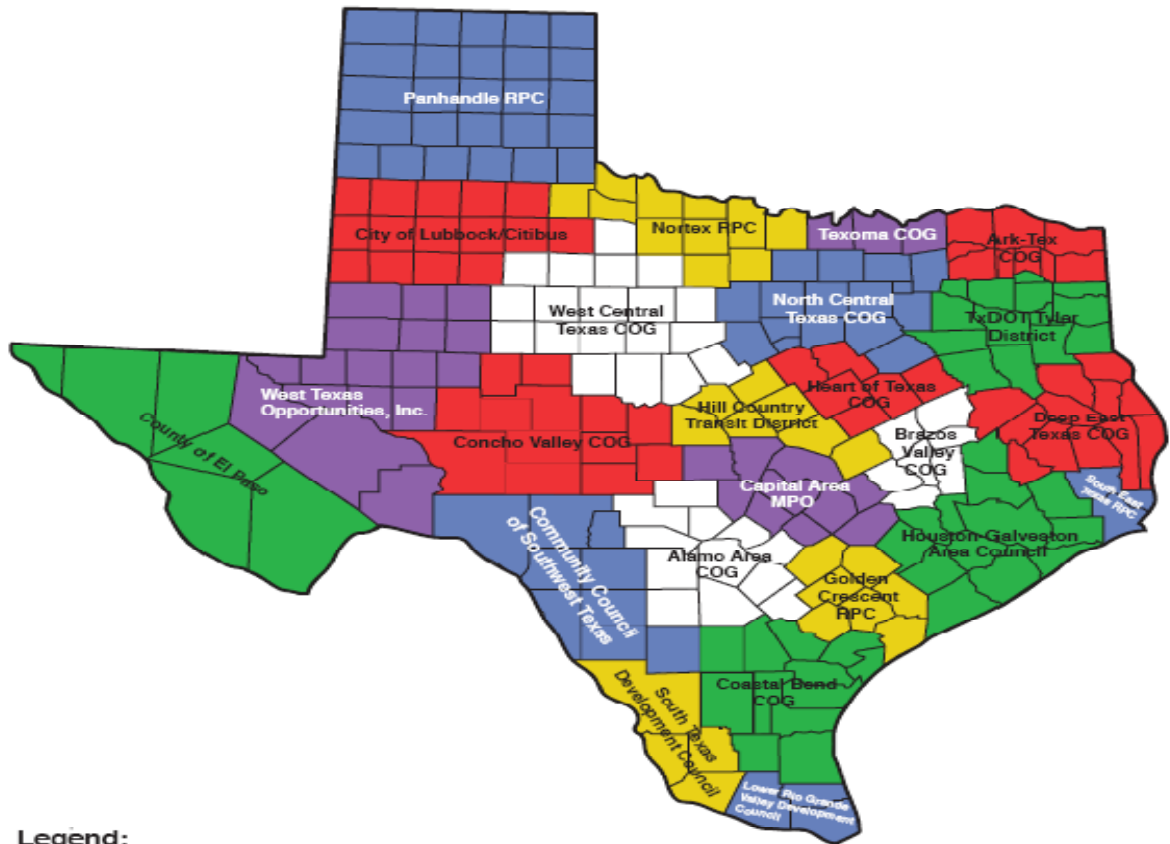
Why? (really)

- It makes good sense
- It's the right thing to do
- Maximize resources
- Improve lives
- Improve mobility

Texas Public Transit Providers

- 8 Metropolitan Transit Authorities serving areas with populations over 200,000
- 30 Urban Transit Districts serving urbanized areas with populations between 50,000 to 200,000
- 39 Rural Transit Districts serving areas with a population under 50,000
- 343 Service Provider Companies, with a combined fleet of 7,753 vehicles, and
- 16,400 private-for-hire vehicles

Lead Agencies for Regional Public Transportation Planning



Legend:

- COG-Council of Governments
- MPO-Metropolitan Planning Organization
- RPC-Regional Planning Commission

July 2008



Border Lead Agencies

- Upper Rio Grande – El Paso County
- West Texas Opportunities
- Community Council of Southwest Texas
- South Texas Development Council
- Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

What we did...

- Identify stakeholders
- Coordinate work plans
- Regional organizational structure
- Prepare regional goals and objectives
- Outreach to stakeholders
- Identify needs and strategies
- Identifying barriers, constraints, and best practices
- Preparing the regional coordination plans

Lessons Learned

- Leadership
- Overcome Barriers & Constraints
- Maintain Clearinghouse & Network
- Provide Support
- Workshops
- No Boundaries
- Mentoring
- Use existing organization
- Use Technology

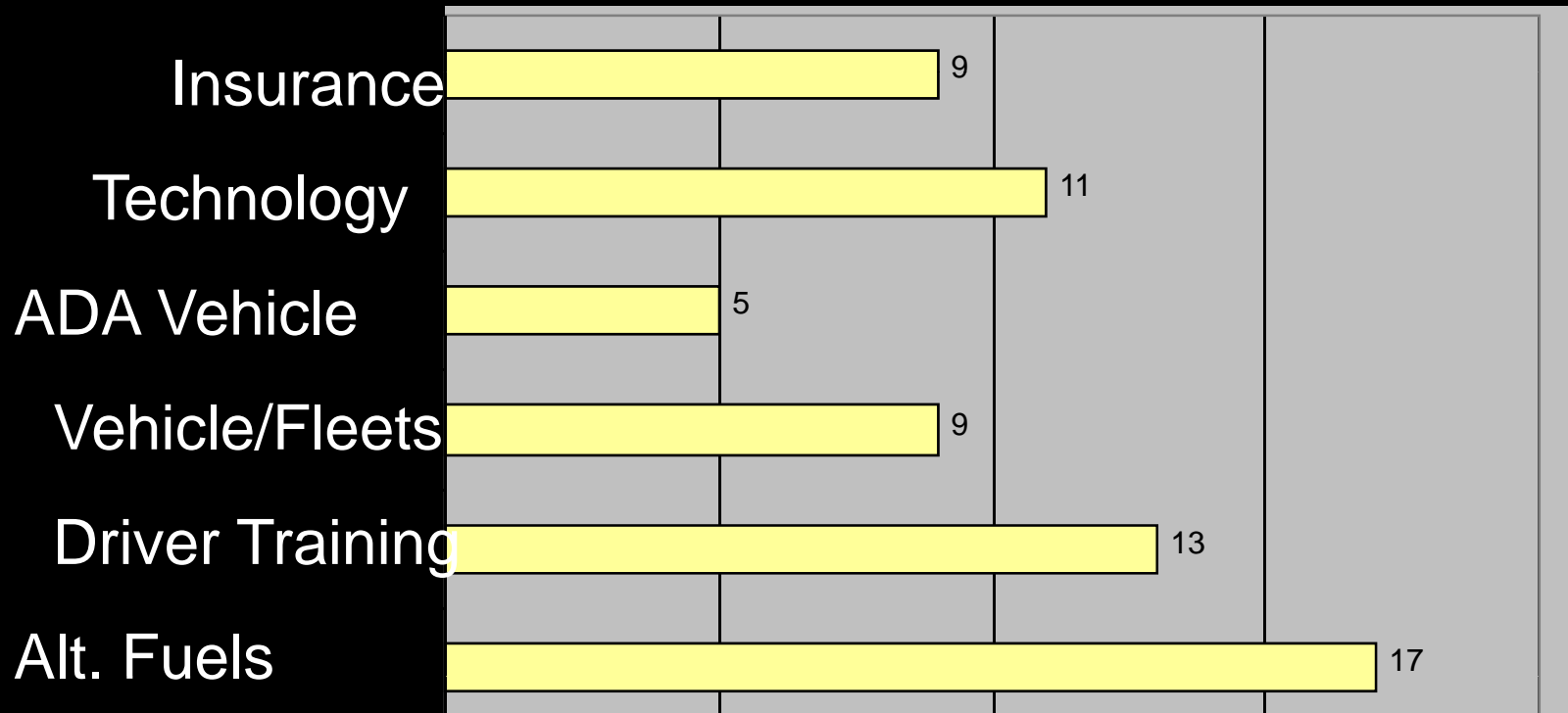
It Takes Leadership

- Start the charge with champions.
 - A state transportation commissioner led the charge.
- Local political and community leader investment.
 - Success easier to regions that maintain interest
 - involve respected political and community leaders
- Identify and develop new practitioner-leaders.
 - Practice-leaders serve as example to other practitioners in coordination

Barriers & Constraints

- Shine a light on barriers and constraints.
- Perceived barriers to coordination
 - Examine in proper context,
 - Found to be myths or misunderstandings.
- Share experiences
 - regions discovered that the barriers that had already been in addressed in one region could be applied to another.

Barriers & Constraints



Clearinghouse

- Maintain a clearinghouse and repository for information and documents
- Share information
 - Regions were able to share plans, barriers and constraints, MOUs, by-laws, and other documents to avoid duplicating efforts

RSP Website

regionalserviceplanning.org

- Clearinghouse for documents, plans and practices
- information about Study Group activities
- announcements for coordination-related news,
- calendar of events and meetings
- an e-mail group

PROVIDE SUPPORT

- Financial
- Technical
- Facilitation support

Workshops Work

- Showcase success
- Convening practitioners
- Networking
- Mentoring
- Sustains momentum



Coordination Workshops

- Five workshops over 3 years
 - July 2008, May 2007, November 2006 , June 2006, October 2005
 - identifying stakeholders
 - addressing barriers and constraints
 - best practices
 - Agendas, presentations and handouts are available on the RSP website

No Boundaries

- Boundaries are lines on maps
- Continue coordination and planning outside your region's boundary
- Inter-regional coordination is an important contributor to success

MENTORING

- Organizational mentoring
- Individual mentoring
- Small urban and rural can benefit from the expertise and resources at other agencies involved in coordination.
- Large urban and metropolitan agencies can also be useful to small urban and rural organizations.

USE EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS

- Committees
- Stakeholders
- Councils of Governments
- Regional Development Councils
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Transit advisory committees

Use Technology Wisely

- Assess the existing system
- Predict future needs
- Analyze current business processes
- Learn about Technologies
- Consider Short and Long Term Role of New Technologies
- Understand Acquisition and Maintenance Costs of New Technologies

Acknowledgments

- Hope Andrade, Texas Transportation Commissioner
- Shawna Russell, Assistant to Commissioner Hope Andrade
- **TxDOT**
 - Eric Gleason,
 - Kelly Kirkland
 - Karen Dunlap
 - Paul Moon
 - Steve Wright
 - Ginnie Mayle
- **Study Group**
 - Michael Morris, NCTCOG
 - Lara Rodriguez, NCTCOG
- **TTI**
 - Linda Cherrington
 - Jeff Arndt
 - Suzie Edrington

- Alamo Area State
- Lower Rio Grande Valley
- Ark-Tex
- Middle Rio Grande
- Brazos Valley
- Nortex
- Capital Area
- North Central
- Central Texas
- Panhandle
- Coastal Bend
- Permian Basin
- Concho Valley
- South East Texas
- Deep East Texas
- South Plains
- East Texas
- South Texas
- Golden Crescent
- Texoma State Planning Region
- Gulf Coast State
- Upper Rio Grande
- Heart of Texas
- West Central State

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