

# Keep it Moving

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*An update on ETCOG's transportation program, services that benefit you*

Transportation is one of the greatest needs in our East Texas Region. Whether the need is a means to get to work, the development of area roads and highways to improve accessibility and promote economic development, or advocacy for new technologies; ETCOG staff is working to help meet these needs.

## **Public Transportation**

ETCOG operates the Rural Transit District (RTD) providing demand/response public transportation in all fourteen counties of East Texas. Our fleet of 44 buses makes 400 - 500 trips a day throughout the region. The RTD just gained three new buses, and as a result of funding from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, our fleet will increase by 17 buses in September.

In order to accommodate a growing need for public transportation as well as provide customers in East Texas with better service, ETCOG has adopted a new operating schedule giving RTD riders expanded hours to travel. The new operating schedule is 6 AM - 7 PM Monday through Friday. To schedule a trip, just call our dispatch center at 1.800.590.3371.

## **Advocacy**

To position East Texas for federal and other funds, as well as prioritize regional transportation project needs, ETCOG has formed a Citizens Advisory Team to advise staff on the development of a Rural Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO).

Staff and Team efforts will place the region in front of proposed State Legislation which would encourage RTPOs being linked to Councils of Governments. The team will consider best practice alternatives with the goal to present the ETCOG executive committee an RTPO framework that will strengthen the region's transportation, planning, consensus building and advocacy activities.

Citizens Advisory Team Members include: Harrison County Judge Richard Anderson; Jeff Austin III, Chairman of Northeast Texas Regional Mobility Authority; Smith County Judge Joel Baker; Randy Brogotti, MB Construction Management; Randy Hopmann, TxDOT Tyler District; Griff Hubbard, Amtrak; Bobby Littlefield, TxDOT Paris; Robert Ratcliff, TxDOT Atlanta; Gregg County Judge Bill Stoudt; Tim Vaughn, East Texas Corridor Council Chairman. The team is supported by staff members John Hedrick, ETCOG's newly appointed Director of Transportation; and David Cleveland, ETCOG's Executive Director.

ETCOG has also partnered with the East Texas Corridor Council providing staff support for the initiative of bringing Higher Speed Rail to East Texas from Shreveport, LA to Dallas. For more information on our Transportation programs and services, visit our website [etcog.org](http://etcog.org) or call 903.984.8641.