



PRESS RELEASE

Transportation Groups Seeking Community Opinion on Public Transportation Service in Henderson County

Take an Online Survey or Join One of Five Public Meetings

Kilgore, TX, July 8, 2010: ETCOG in cooperation with TxDOT, the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) and the graduate program for urban planning at Texas A&M University is conducting research about travel patterns and public transportation needs in Henderson County. Five public meetings will be held throughout the county to collect public opinion and feedback on the existing public transportation services. In addition to the public meetings, approximately 4,500 surveys have been mailed to a random sample of Henderson County residents and to all existing public transit users. Recipients should receive the mailed survey early next week.

The public meeting schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, July 13th – Payne Springs

10:00 AM, Payne Springs Community Center, 9602 Highway 198

Tuesday, July 13th – Chandler

2:00 PM, Chandler Community Center, 811 Highway 31 East

Wednesday, July 14th – Gun Barrel City

2:00 PM, La Quinta Inn & Suites, 210 Heritage Parkway (Near new theater)

Thursday, July 15th – Athens

2:00 PM, Cain Community Center, Room B, 915 South Palestine Street

Thursday, July 15th – Malakoff

7:00 PM, Malakoff Community Center, 503 North Terry (HWY 198, Senior Center)

If unable to attend a public meeting, individuals are encouraged to take an online survey at www.tiny.cc/county. Public transportation is available for attendees to all meetings except the 7 pm Malakoff meeting by calling the GOBUS dispatch office at 1(800)590.3371. Two free GOBUS trip passes will be provided for attendees. If an individual has special needs, please contact Jonathan Brooks with TTI at (409)740-4762 or j-brooks@ttimail.tamu.edu.

For more information, contact ETCOG's Director of Transportation, John Hedrick, at (903)984.8641 x 242 or john.hedrick@etcog.org.

About GOBUS

ETCOG provides demand-response rural transportation in its fourteen county region through GOBUS, formerly named the East Texas Rural Transit District. As long as a trip originates or ends in a rural area, GOBUS can provide the transportation. To "Get on the GO," call the dispatch office at 1.800.590.3371 to schedule a trip. Trips must be scheduled 24 hours in advance. Please call before 2:00 PM for next day service.

About ETCOG

The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is a voluntary association of counties, cities, school districts and special districts within the fourteen-county East Texas region. ETCOG assists local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit and coordinating for sound regional development. Established in 1970, ETCOG, either directly, or through its contractors, provides programs and services for East Texas seniors, employers, and job seekers. ETCOG and its contractors also build the 9-1-1 emergency call delivery system, provide peace officer training and homeland security planning services; and deliver rural transportation services, business finance programs, and environmental grant funding for the region.