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EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS



PRESS RELEASE

East Texas Corridor Council Chair, Member selected for State Steering Committee

Kilgore, TX, August 17, 2010: The East Texas Corridor Council (ETCC) is pleased to announce the ETCC Chair, former White Oak Mayor Tim Vaughn, and ETCC member Karen Owen, Director of the Longview Metropolitan Planning Organization, have been selected by the Texas Department of Transportation to serve on a statewide steering committee to provide input and feedback to assist in the development of the Texas Rail Plan.

The updated Texas Rail Plan will establish the vision and goals for rail transportation in the state and describe the existing freight and passenger rail systems in the state and identify improvements that could be progressed to meet the vision and goals on a 5 year and 20 year horizon. TxDOT assembled the 12-15 member steering committee with railroad representatives, industry experts and public sector decision-makers.

"I am honored by the TxDOT Rail Division appointment to this select committee representing statewide stakeholders. Our rail infrastructure is an important mover of people and goods, and I consider East Texas' representation in the first-ever Texas State Rail Plan to be a major asset for continued growth of mobility options and economic development across the entire region," said ETCC Chair and former White Oak Mayor Tim Vaughn.

TxDOT is hosting nine public meetings to hear public views on freight and passenger rail, current and future. The meetings began August 2 and will go through August 19. The East Texas meeting will be held in Tyler on Thursday, August 19, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Tyler TxDOT District office (2709 West Front Street).

For more information, contact ETCOG's Director of Transportation, John Hedrick, at 903.984.8641 x242, or ETCC's Executive Director, Griff Hubbard, at 903.757.5734.

About ETCC

The East Texas Corridor Council is a regional organization seeking capacity investments to secure higher speed rail along the I-20 and US 59 corridors from Dallas/Fort Worth to Arkansas and Louisiana border connections. ETCOG is the administrative and fiscal agent for the ETCC.

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.