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**EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS**



PRESS RELEASE

Local Transportation Group to Hold Community Workshops

East Texas, TX, January 10, 2011: The East Texas Regional Transportation Coordination Planning Steering Committee will begin a series of community workshops next week to bring together transit riders, health and human service organizations, and transportation operators to collaboratively identify mobility needs and priorities in the East Texas region.

"Quality transportation services have become recognized as the 'linchpin' in the evolving strategy linking national healthcare, jobs, and energy," noted Dr. Carolyn Salter, Chair of the Steering Committee. "The Steering Committee's purpose is to enhance the quality of life of East Texas residents through improved and enhanced transportation choices. In doing so, our members are committed to fostering a comprehensive, flexible, and sustainable transportation network throughout the 14-county East Texas region."

The latest evidence of this commitment is an update of the 2006 Regional Transportation Coordination Plan which identified 15 projects ranging from targeted outreach to promote transit use to coordinated vehicle procurement and maintenance. Since 2006, there have been considerable changes in the national and regional economies, as well as changes in the transportation needs and priorities of the East Texas region. The current effort will assess project progress; outline specific steps for implementing the 2006 project recommendations, and update regional mobility needs.

Community Workshop Schedule:

Palestine

Monday, January 17, 2011, 10:30 AM
Palestine Senior Activity Center
200 N. Church Street

Carthage

Wednesday, January 19, 2011, 5:15 PM
The Texas Country Music Hall of Fame
310 W. Panola Avenue

Canton

Tuesday, January 18, 2011, 10:00 AM
City Hall Complex, Council Chambers
290 E. Tyler Street

Pittsburg

Thursday, January 20, 2011, 10:30 AM
Pittsburg Nutrition Site
525 Elm Street

Longview

Tuesday, January 18, 2011, 6:00 PM
Maude Cobb Convention & Activity Complex
100 Grand Avenue

The East Texas Council of Governments Transportation division is the lead agency for the East Texas Regional Transportation Coordination Planning Steering Committee. Details such as workshop agendas, locations, and times can be found at www.easttexasmoves.org or by calling Scott Lewis, ETCOG Mobility Manager, at (903) 984.8641 x239.

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.

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