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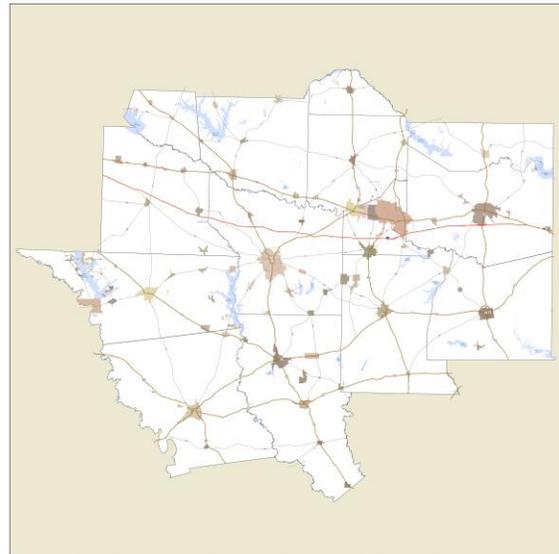www.etcog.org

EAST TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

PRESS RELEASE

ETCOG Expands Services in Geographic Information Systems
Meeting Scheduled for Interested Cities and Counties to Learn More

Kilgore, TX, February 19, 2014: ETCOG announces new expansion of GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Services program and invites cities and counties and interested agencies to attend a March meeting to learn about service options. Today, GIS services play a large role in city and county decision making. Since most city and county information is tied to locations on the ground (ex: boundary lines, water lines, code violations, etc.) and most decision-making is tied to location (prioritizing capital improvements, analyzing economic development incentives, crime and code hot spots, etc.), GIS technology is needed to facilitate quick access to this location information and assists in the decision making process. The ETCOG Executive Committee reviewed service expansion options and approved the plan on December 12, 2013.

"Unlike other programs and services provided by ETCOG, GIS has no source of state or federal funding. However, it became obvious that many of our members need a way to access GIS services at an affordable cost without having to hire additional staff and purchase equipment. We are pleased to be able to offer an affordable GIS services solution to all of our members! ETCOG began providing limited GIS services on a case by case basis in 2010 and now have expanded the program with additional staff members, service options and a regional dashboard," said ETCOG Executive Director, David Cleveland.

The new ETCOG Regional Dashboard is a website with an easy to view county profiles, workforce, demographic and social statistics and charts, regional maps up to date with the latest census data of our combined 14 counties. It is available for public use and can be viewed at http://dashboard.etcog.org/_region/.

"We provide a wide range of cost-effective data services which are customized to each member's needs. Our objective is for our customer to have precision in every decision. The member entity will be able to display, interpret, and spatially analyze data, which supports practical and effective decision-making," said GIS Program Manager, Michelle Cahal.

Service options include a technology plan, GIS & GPS training, GPS equipment, wide format prints and lamination, workstations and field data collection, GIS web hosting, secure and public access and data backups. The services are available for $5,000 to the partner for the first year and $1,200 for maintenance services each year after. To view the expanded GIS Services options, visit our website at http://www.etcog.org/614/GIS-Services.htm.

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ETCOG will be holding a meeting at 10:30 AM on March 26 at 3800 Stone Road for representatives of cities and counties in the region to attend. For more information, contact GIS Services Manager, Michelle Cahal, at 903.218.6434.

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.