

CAPCOG CONNECTIONS



A PUBLICATION OF THE CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

GeoMap 2008 Orthoimagery is Here

Another invaluable dataset has just been added to the Information Clearinghouse. The 18-inch resolution, 2008 orthoimagery (aerial photography), is now available for download and made possible through a purchase by The Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO), Texas Department of Transportation Austin District, and the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG). The data acquisition flights occurred in Feb. 2008. This dataset provides a comprehensive



SH 130 at Manor Downs

and current perspective for the entire ten-county CAPCOG region. The imagery is organized by 3.75 minute quarter-quadrangle boundaries. A new interactive interface allows users to download the imagery via intuitive maps (broken down by county). The entire dataset (in MrSID file format) is approximately 40 GB. Those users who require the entire dataset (or the TIF file format) are encouraged to contact Linda Crouch at lcrouch@capcog.org to schedule an appointment at CAPCOG's public workstation.

CDBG Applications Due to ORCA in September

Grant applications for the Capital Area Council of Governments' Regional 2009-2010 TxCDBG Community Development (CDBG) grant funds are due to the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) by 5 pm, Sept. 30, 2008.

Applications and the application process have been changed this year. Previously, applicants delivered copies of their grant applications to both ORCA and to the appropriate COG. Under the new changes, the applicants need to send copies of the application to ORCA only, who will review and forward to the appropriate COG and Regional Review Committee after the deficiency period has elapsed and corrections are received.

CAPCOG recently released the Regional Review Committee's (RRC) 2009-2010 Guidebook. The Guidebook provides applicants from the CAPCOG region with the guidelines necessary to be scored under the Capital Area RRC scoring criteria. (See *CDBG*, p. 4)

Capital Area Resource Recovery Roundtable Scheduled

CAPCOG will host the next quarterly Capital Area Resource Recovery Roundtable on Thurs., Aug. 21, 2008, 1:30-4:30 pm. This quarter, the focus topic will be computer and electronics recycling, including the Texas Computer Recycling Program rolling out Sept. 1, which will require that all computer manufacturers accept consumer computers at the end of their lifecycle for recycling. Please join us for this discussion of the future of electronics recycling in Texas. For more information on this or

previous CARRR events, the application and the Application Guidebook for the 2009/2010 CD Fund are available on the agency website at www.orca.state.tx.us or CAPCOG's website at www.capcog.org. Application questions should be directed to: Mark Wyatt, Director of Community Development, Office of Rural Community Affairs, Texas Community Development Block Grant Program, PO Box 12877, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711.

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9-1-1 Puts Final Touches on 9-1-1 Location Technology

CAPCOG's Emergency Communications Division has deployed Phase II wireless location technology throughout the region with all carriers. These include AT&T Mobility®, Verizon Wireless®, Sprint-Nextel Communications®, T-Mobile USA®, Alltel Communications®, and Cricket Communications®. AT&T Mobility recently acquired Dobson Communications® (formerly Cellular One), and the Dobson network should be integrated into the AT&T Mobility network by the end of August.

Having location technology available in the PSAPs provides an additional tool to the 9-1-1 operators when callers are not sure of their locations. In most cases, location information should always be available to the 9-1-1 operator. In areas where a caller is "roaming," or using another carrier's network, Phase II data may be provided depending on the technology in use. CAPCOG continues to work with wireless carriers to improve location information accuracy with its Quality Assurance program. (See 9-1-1 p. 4)



Lee County Sheriff's Office

"Everything is bigger and better in Lee County," says Linda Ward, Communications Manager for Lee County. The Lee County sheriff's office moved into a new state-of-the-art facility on July 29th. At 38,000 s.f., the Lee County Law Enforcement Center is approximately 10

times the size of the old facility. The \$9.6 million project was started in Feb. 2007 and took 18 months to complete. Some of the upgrades include 60 site-and-sound recording cameras, a commercial kitchen, a commercial laundry facility, a training room that doubles as an Emergency Operations Center and tons of office space to accommodate future growth! The new jail will house up to 96 prisoners, complete with a book-in area, visitor area, and control room for jail staff to monitor prisoners at all times. The 9-1-1 Communications Center has more space and comfort to accommodate two dispatch positions and can be expanded to three positions in the future. Lee County has added 18 people to staff the new facility.

CAPCOG Staff Meets with Jamaican Chamber of Commerce

CAPCOG, Envision Central Texas, and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center recently hosted meetings with the Jamaican Chamber of Commerce to exchange ideas on the development issues. Their primary objective was to examine various models of integrated development approval systems, permitting processes and services then try to determine what would and would not work in Jamaica. This will lead to a review of the existing process by the Jamaican government.

Lissa Grant, the Project Manager, stated they were grateful for CAPCOG Regional Director Sean Moran's invaluable and more in-

depth presentation on the benefits of a Geospatial Base Mapping Program. "That presentation contribute to making our visit worthwhile and successful," according to Ms. Grant who also noted that a presentation on regional community and economic development by Brian Kelsey, Director of that division, provided good information. In addition to CAPCOG staff, Diane Miller, Envision Central Texas, presented on the regional vision undertaken for the five-county MSA area and subsequent implementation efforts, and Dr. Steve Windhanger with the Wildflower Center presented on sustainable site development.

Austin-Round Rock Region Comments on Likely Boundaries for Nonattainment Areas with EPA's New Ozone Standard

Representatives from the Clean Air Coalition Advisory Committee (CACAC) attended a July meeting in Austin to comment on how the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) should handle designating new Nonattainment Areas in Texas given last March's change in the air quality standards for ground level ozone by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Austin-Round Rock MSA region has been a Near Nonattainment Area up until now and followed aggressive emission reduction measures to stay out of Nonattainment status; however, the new standard for ground-level ozone goes from 84 parts per billion (ppb) to 75 ppb and will result in many areas now in compliance with the old standard being reclassified.

The Austin-Round Rock region will likely have the dubious distinction of joining other long-time nonattainment areas in Texas such as Houston and Dallas. Although EPA has the final say on what the nonattainment area boundaries will be, states will first have an opportunity to recommend by Mar. 2009 which areas should be designated attainment/unclassifiable or nonattainment. EPA then has until Mar. 2010 to announce their decisions on the nonattainment area designations.

The TCEQ held public meetings during July in areas likely to be designated as nonattainment to discuss the process for the State of Texas to develop recommendations on the boundaries for nonattainment designations. EPA requirements dictate that the presumed nonattainment area boundaries will be those counties constituting the MSA, unless a compelling case can be made for excluding a county(s) as outlined in the EPA memo referenced below. A schedule for the ongoing designation process can be found on the TCEQ website at the link referenced below. During the public meetings, and until Sept. 5, 2008, the TCEQ will be accepting comments from local government officials and members of the public concerning designation recommendations.

The presentation given by the TCEQ during the Austin public meeting can be found at the TCEQ website (See EPA p. 4)

CAPCOG Welcomes New Staff

CAPCOG has added several new staff members in three of its divisions in recent months and has also seen one promotion which brings the agency to a fully-staffed level. Michael Jennings, Chief Instructor for the Regional Training Academy (RTA), was promoted to Director in June with the departure of long-time staff member Scott Huckabee. Randy Holmes joined the RTA staff taking over the Chief Instructor position after 22 years with the San Marcos Police Department where he had obtained the rank of commander. He holds a Master Peace Officers license, TCLEOSE police instructor license as well as Firearms Instructor.

David Fowler joins the Regional Planning Division as a Senior Planner focusing on transportation and land use planning. This is a new position

made possible by the State Planning Assistance grant being reinstated through the Governor's Office for Texas councils of governments. Originally from Omaha, David joins us from the east coast where he held various planning positions with city, county, and regional governments. David will assist local governments with regional development strategies that pertain to land use and transportation.

Our Emergency Communications Department hired Tina Chaffin as a new Systems Analyst. Tina was a dispatcher with the McKinney PD/FD. She has 12 years of public safety experience including extensive time as a trainer and will play a key role in CAPCOG's Basic Telecommunicator Training Academy launched earlier this year.

CAPCOG's Area Agency on Aging welcomed back past employee Eileen Coyle. Eileen retired in 2005 but was talked into coming back as a Benefits Counselor even though she has been

busy with her grandchildren and as the chair of her neighborhood Hospitality Committee. She recently joined the Texas Historical Commission as an RIP Guardian volunteer dedicated to recording, investigating, and protecting historic cemeteries. Eileen will be assisting our Area Agency on Aging customers with issues that they are having with government agencies.

Area Agency on Aging also welcomed Jill Findlay as Program Manager. Jill came to the region from Minneapolis but has also lived and worked in Illinois and California. Jill is a licensed social worker and has held numerous positions in the social services field. Jill will oversee the Care Coordination and Care-giver Support program areas.

Job openings at CAPCOG are listed on the website under Quick Links.

Proposed FY 2009 CAPCOG Budget

The CAPCOG Executive Committee has recommended approval of the FY 2009 budget. The General Assembly will consider final approval of the budget on Aug. 13th. The new fiscal year begins on Oct. 1, 2008.

The budget includes expenditures of \$20,452,119 and funding for 59 positions. In addition to \$5.7 million included in the budget for sub-grants to local entities, CAPCOG also projects to recommend approval of an additional \$9.4 million in sub-grants to local entities during the upcoming fiscal year. These additional sub-grants are made directly from state agencies to local entities; however, this brings the total funding for sub-grants to local entities in the CAPCOG region to more than \$15 million for FY 2009.

9-1-1 service fees received from the state remain the largest revenue source, making up 44% of total revenues. Other state grants provide

an additional 10% of total revenue, with federal grants accounting for 22% of the total. Next, grant matching by sub-grantees comprises 15% of revenues, contractual revenue accounts for approximately 7%, and finally, local government membership dues make up the balance of 2% of the total.

Copies of the budget have been mailed to each General Assembly Representative. For additional information or to request a copy of the CAPCOG Budget, contact Clay Collins, Deputy Executive Director, at 916-6006.



Flag of Honor Ceremony

Regional Training Academy Cadet class # 49 participated in the United States flag of honor return to Austin, Texas on July 3, 2008. This flag was flying over the Texas State Capitol on September 11, 2001 when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The flag has since flown all around the world as a symbol of remembrance and patriotism and is used to honor fallen police officers, fire fighters, and soldiers. Along with CAPCOG cadets' class # 49, more than 100 police officers were on hand at Bergstrom International Airport to receive the flag.

CARRR (*cont'd from p. 1*) please visit our website at <http://www.capcog.org/crd/solidwaste/CARRR.asp>. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Kelly Freeman at 512-916-6040 or kfree-man@capcog.org.

9-1-1 (*cont'd from p. 2*) Federal law requires that all phones have access to 9-1-1 regardless of whether or not they have a service plan. In general, any phone that has power should be able to access 9-1-1 as long as there is a signal. This is true even if the phone no longer has a corresponding service plan that prevents it from being used for routine calls. These phones are referred to as uninitialized phones. In cases where a caller is using an uninitialized phone, location information is generally provided as normal. The only problem is that the 9-1-1 operator cannot call the 9-1-1 caller back if the call is disconnected. Victims of domestic violence and/or the elderly often receive these types of phones to use for emergencies. In many cases, old phones are given to young children, which can cause problems for 9-1-1 centers if the phone still has power. Children can inadvertently dial 9-1-1 on a phone creating havoc in the 9-1-1 center. With this in mind, make sure that the batteries of any phones given to children are completely dead or removed.

EPA (*cont'd from p. 2*) at the link shown below. As outlined in the TCEQ presentation, the ozone concentrations monitored in the A-RR MSA for the most recent three-year period of 2005-2007 result in a design value of 80 ppb ozone, which exceeds the new standard by 4 ppb. Based on this and past trends, the A-RR MSA is expected to be designated nonattainment. Although the TCEQ recommendation will be based on the three-year average compiled after the 2008 ozone season ending in Oct., the A-RR MSA has already monitored values this year which put us above the 75 ppb standard.

During the public meeting for the Austin area, representatives from the Clean Air Coalition Advisory Committee (CACAC) submitted preliminary discussion comments to the TCEQ concerning designation of the A-RR MSA.

The CACAC, a committee that provides information and analysis to the region's elected officials who form the Clean Air Coalition (CAC), submitted draft comments to assist the TCEQ in evaluating designation factors that are detailed in a guidance memo issued by the EPA (see EPA Memo below). The CACAC's comments are available at the link shown below. These preliminary comments will be finalized, pending approval of the CAC, and submitted to

the TCEQ prior to the Sept. 5th deadline.

For additional information on the TCEQ public meetings, comment opportunities and designation process, contact Margie McAllister with the TCEQ at mmcallis@tceq.state.tx.us or 512-239-1967.

TCEQ public meetings and comments notice:

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/implementation/air/sip/Hottop.html>

TCEQ presentation on possible non-attainment boundaries:

http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/implementation/air/sip/miscdocs/08.07.11-naaqs_revisions.pdf

EPA Memo on criteria for nonattainment designations:

[http://www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations/docu-](http://www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations/docu-ments/032800_boundaryguidance.pdf)

[ments/032800_boundaryguidance.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations/docu-ments/032800_boundaryguidance.pdf)

CACAC draft comments on designation for A-RR MSA:

<http://www.capcog.org/capcoairquality/CACAC%20Comments%20%283%29.pdf>

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