

# CAPCOG CONNECTIONS

A Publication of the Capital Area Council Of Governments



## CARTPO Finalizes Prioritization Of Transportation Projects

The Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO) Project Evaluation Subcommittee met in November to finalize the prioritization of this year's list of submitted projects.

They heard project presentations and scored each of the 16 projects submitted from six of the ten CAPCOG counties.

Bob Daigh, the TxDOT Austin District Engineer, attended the CARTPO meeting and committed to working with project sponsors to identify alternatives required to fund the listed projects. He encouraged CARTPO members to consider pass-through tolling as a viable funding alternative to more traditional funding mechanisms.

CARTPO's next full committee meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2006. For more information, contact Eric Dusza, Community Planner, at (512) 916-6184 or [edusza@capcog.org](mailto:edusza@capcog.org).

### CARTPO Approved Prioritized List of Projects

1. US Hwy 281 from RM 1855 to Delaware Springs Dr. addition of center turn lane and improved shoulders
2. SH 71 at Loop 150 and FM 969: construct overpass
3. SH 71 at FM 20: construct overpass
4. SH 210 from south of FM 1966 to FM 2720: widen to four lanes and add shoulders
5. SH 21 from 1.5 miles east of FM 2440 to FM 1624: realign curves, add shoulders, and construct left turn lane
6. SH 71 from CR 307 to SH 16: add shoulders
7. Colorado River Bridge (FM 1431): widen to four lanes
8. SH 21 from FM 2720 to the north city limit of Niederwald: widen to three lanes with improved shoulders
9. SH 71 from CR 307 to RM 2233: add shoulders
10. RM 2147 at US Hwy 281 to 0.5 west of US Hwy 281: addition of center turn lane and shoulders with improvements at intersection
11. SH 21 from the Burleson County line to US 77/SH 21: widen to four lanes, divided
12. FM 150 E from 1 mile east of IH 35 to CR 203: construct continuous turn lane and shoulders
13. RM 2147 from 0.8 miles east of Llano County line to 2.5 miles east of Llano County Line: addition of center turn lane and shoulders
14. FM 696 from FM 112 to CR 304: rehab to improve alignment and add shoulders, improve two small bridges, turn lane at the intersection of CR 309 and FM 696
15. SH 142 between Elm Street and Borchert Road: safety improvements, improve drainage, install traffic signals
16. FM 1100 from County Line Road to SH 95: curb and gutter urban section road way with sidewalks, intersection realignment and intersection signalization

### Inside this issue:

**DADS Release  
Results From  
Statewide Survey**



2

**RTA To Offer Basic  
Peace Office Courses**



2

**CAPCOG Highlights  
Economic Trends**



3

**Burnet County Tests  
Bioterrorism Plans**



3

**Start Preparing Now  
For 2007 CJC Grants  
Applications Process**



4

## CAPCOG Annual Membership Meeting And Luncheon Set For December 14th

CAPCOG will host its Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Marriott Austin Airport South Hotel, located at 4415 South IH 35, on the east side of IH 35 service road between Stassney and Ben White.

Agenda items for the meeting include approval of proposed 2006 Executive Committee Slate and presentation of the Jack Griesen-

beck *Leadership in Regionalism Award*. Betty Voights, Executive Director of CAPCOG, will also give a presentation titled: *Do More Jobs Equal More Prosperity?* assessing the state of economic development in the capital area.

There will be an \$18.00 charge for each luncheon guest who is not a General Assembly representative. Please RSVP to Brenda Henderson at 512.916.6000.

# RTA Basic Peace Officer Classes Underway In CAPCOG Region

The CAPCOG Regional Training Academy (RTA) is currently providing three Basic Peace Officer courses (BPOC) within our region. The nighttime BPOC Class 39 began on June 20, 2005. The Pflugerville Police Department



Fred Kelly and Michael Monaghan at RTA classes.

is host to this class of 29 students which will graduate February 28, 2006. The daytime BPOC class is being held at the RTA. The 38 students of Class 40 began on October 10, 2005 and is scheduled to graduate on March 3, 2006. The Texas State University Police Department is hosting the 21 students of the BPOC Class 41. This nighttime class began on October 17, 2005 and is slated to

graduate on June 9, 2006. The next day class will begin in May, 2006 and the next night class will begin in June, 2006. Our Training page on the CAPCOG web site is up and running. If you haven't taken a look, please do so. We provide the most updated information about law enforcement training in our region. We provide information about our training, training provided by other departments within CAPCOG, as well as training provided by other agencies within our region, i.e., Sheriff's Association, TDCAA, TMPA, etc. Our website is updated regularly. Classes may be

added at any time. You can also register online and pay online for any classes the RTA provides. The RTA is currently working on an in-service training schedule that will cover January to June, 2006. This schedule will reflect the results of the training survey that was completed in November. You can view our website at [www.capcog.org](http://www.capcog.org) and click on "training."



Cadet Terry Ballard with RTA instructor.

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Training Coordinator Bruce Harlan explains the proper use of the striking shield.

# DADS Releases Results of Statewide Satisfaction Survey

Survey results recently released from the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services' (DADS) annual statewide customer satisfaction survey indicate an overall high level of satisfaction, according to Toni Packard CPS/CAP AAA Policy & Oversight Support Specialist, Area Agencies on Aging.

In August, DADS conducted its annual statewide customer satisfaction survey of several Older Americans Act funded programs: Care Coordination, Home Delivered Meals, Legal Assistance, and Transportation programs.

"We are pleased to announce the survey results demonstrated an overall high level of satisfaction," said Packard. "The highest level of satisfaction was with the Care Coordination Program with 94% responding "yes" to the question, "Overall, are you satisfied with the person who arranged the services you received"? The other services rated very high as well with Home Delivered Meals at 93%, Transportation at 89%, and Legal Assistance at 78%.



The survey was conducted via telephone interviews between August 15 and August 26, 2005. The months surveyed were May, June, and July of 2005. Using established survey instruments, the telephone interviews were conducted on a random sampling total of 400 respondents (100 per service).

The respondents felt the impact of these services was very important (83% to 95% for all services) to their lives and instrumental to maintaining their independence. Transportation was felt to have the greatest impact. The survey was completed and the results were reported to the Legislative Budget Board.

"We always look for ways to improve the services we provide to the individuals we serve," said Packard. "The Department has established a Customer Satisfaction Survey Redesign Workgroup to refine the survey process and tools to be more aligned with the Administration on Aging's Performance Outcome Measures Project."

The workgroup is tasked to review

the current process, determine the missing elements, and design a new method with written processes and guidelines, revised survey instruments, and ways the results can be used as tools for determining areas for continued improvement that would be used by all Area Agencies on Aging (AAA).

Workgroup members were designated by the Texas Association of Area Agencies on Aging (T4A) and include: Glenda Rogers, CAPCOG, Doni Van Ryswyk, NCTCOG, Eva Williams, HGAC, Jose Gonzalez, LRGVCOG, and Don Smith, Tarrant County AAA. These members will be working with Department staff to redesign the current process.

On October 14, 2005 the workgroup held its first meeting to discuss the vision and goals of the group and the issues the Department and the AAA representatives had with the current design. The redesign work will continue for most of 2006 with implementation expected in 2007.

For more information, contact Toni Packard at 512.438.4290 or 512.438.4375 - Fax, or [toni.packard@dads.state.tx.us](mailto:toni.packard@dads.state.tx.us)

# CAPCOG Highlights Economic Trends in New Study

Despite having only 7% of the total biotechnology jobs statewide, the ten-county region appears to be developing strengths in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and Scientific Research & Development, which both pay significantly higher than average wages, according to a study just completed by CAPCOG for the Rural Capital Area Workforce Development Board (RCAWDB).

The study, which identifies local economic trends affecting workforce opportunities in each of RCAWDB's nine counties as well as Travis County, provides county level reports on general economic conditions such as population, employment, and wages, and also identifies trends related to each county's major industry sectors or clusters. The primary goal of the project is to assist the RCAWDB in identifying the local trends impacting current workforce needs and to anticipate likely needs in the future. However, working together with RCAWDB on the project also served CAPCOG's broader mission of promoting regional collaboration, according to Betty Voights, Executive Director, who notes that the region's future success depends on the ability to foster meaningful synergy between economic and workforce development efforts. This project represents CAPCOG's latest step toward that end.

Brian Kelsey, CAPCOG's Economic Development Coordinator and manager of the workforce study, emphasized that the challenge that lies ahead for economic and workforce developers is to identify a strategy for navigating the new economic environment in the Greater Austin region. "In the 1980s and 1990s, the technology sector in Travis and Williamson counties accounted, either directly or indirectly, for the majority of wealth creation throughout the ten-county region. Signs of recovery from 2001 have surfaced recently, but the signals are mixed," explained Kelsey. The research for the study showed that total employment in Information and Computer Technology grew by 4% in 2004-05, but two of the region's traditional strong suits—computer equipment and semiconductor manufacturing—lost 500 jobs. In contrast, Computer Systems Design, Internet Service Providers & Web Search Portals, and Wireless

Telecommunications have all posted substantial gains. Sorting through these trends and developing effective strategies for capitalizing on our economic development assets will require close cooperation among all of the region's economic and workforce development organizations.

For information on how to obtain copies of the reports, please contact Al Lopez at RCAWDB at 512-244-7966.

For information on the study methodology or related questions, please contact Brian Kelsey at CAPCOG at 512-916-6183 or [bkelsey@capcog.org](mailto:bkelsey@capcog.org).

## Industry Sector Distribution Within CAPCOG's Ten-County Region

Industry Sector	Firms 2005	Emp 2005	Avg Wage 2005
Biotechnology, Life Sciences & Medical	2,214	41,336	\$47,644
Electronics & Applied Computer Equipment	908	57,841	\$107,526
Telecommunications & Information Services	2,419	34,458	\$70,039
Legal, Protective & Human Support Services	2,002	26,790	\$38,774
Corporate HQ, Administrative & Government	118	4,361	\$41,566
Business and Financial Services	8,078	103,883	\$43,632
General Line Store Retailers	2,197	56,588	\$21,816
Tourism, Hospitality and Leisure	2,748	73,736	\$15,705
Distribution, Transportation & Logistics	755	13,340	\$35,611
Heavy and Special Trade Construction	3,590	41,303	\$38,527
Energy, Mining and Related Support Services	218	4,759	\$79,462
Petroleum Refining & Chemicals	470	7,114	\$30,316
Transportation Equipment	1,170	16,257	\$35,889
Production Support & Industrial Machinery	657	10,132	\$40,061
Agriculture, Forestry & Food	415	5,475	\$29,117
Education, Training & Personal Development	747	15,386	\$24,018
Apparel, Leather, Wood & Related Non-durables	332	4,186	\$28,634
Personal and Residential Services	2,754	25,410	\$21,180

## Burnet County Tests Bioterrorism Plans

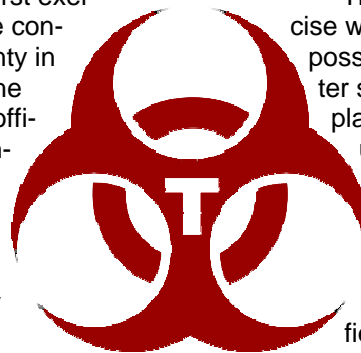
Burnet County took preparedness planning in the western end of the CAPCOG region to the next level by hosting a formal bioterrorism tabletop exercise on December 6, 2005. This was the first exercise of this scale to be conducted in Burnet County in the past ten years. The support from elected officials has been tremendous and shows a willingness to ensure that Burnet County is striving to improve disaster plans already in place.

The exercise was facilitated by a team of experts from the National Response and Rescue Training Center (NRRTC) out of Texas A&M. This free exercise program coordinated through the Governor's Di-

vision of Emergency Management (GDEM) represents a collaborative regional effort in which Blanco and Llano Counties were invited to participate.

The purpose of this exercise was to talk through a possible public health disaster scenario and to test the plans (both written and unwritten) that Burnet, Blanco, and Llano Counties had prepared. Personnel and leaders from the health and medical field, fire and EMS, law enforcement, government, and schools were invited.

All three counties gained valuable information on the strengths of their plans, the areas that require collaboration and sharing of resources, and the points for improvement.



# Start Now Preparing For FY 2007 CJC Grants Applications

While the Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD), has yet to announce the date they will post the FY 2007 application kits online, agencies and organizations interested in applying for funding can start preparing for the FY 2007 application process by contacting Michelle Casanova, CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Planner, beginning in December 2005.

CJD contracts with the 24 regional councils of governments (COGs) to facilitate CJD's grant application process within each region. Criminal Justice Planners and staff at each COG provide planning and prioritization for local governments within their specific regions.

COG staff distribute information, facilitate community planning groups, prioritize submitted applications, notify grant recipients of awards, and provide technical assistance throughout the grant year. The COG Criminal Justice Planner also works with the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC), a multi-disciplinary representation of

members from the ten-county region appointed by CAPCOG's Executive Committee. The CJAC reviews and scores applications submitted under each of the six funding sources, as well as presides over the review meetings where each applicant is required to make a five-minute presentation regarding their grant.

The Governor's Office website provides a funding schedule and detailed information on the eligibility criteria for each of the following grants: Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Juvenile Justice Delinquency Act (JJDP), Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC), State Fund 421, and Title V Delinquency Prevention grants.

Click on the following link to access the Governor's website to learn more about these funding resources:

<http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/cjd/>

Agencies and organizations interested in pursuing FY 2007 CJD grant funds are urged to contact CAPCOG Criminal Justice Planner, Michelle Casanova, at [mcasanova@capcog.org](mailto:mcasanova@capcog.org), so that they can be included on a distribution list announcing CAPCOG required workshops and meetings.

The FY 2006 grant period for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Juvenile Justice Delinquency Act (JJDP), Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC), State Fund 421, and Title V Delinquency Prevention grants through the Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division, began on September 1, 2005.

The FY 2006 grant period for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) started July 1, 2005. For a complete list of FY 2006 CJD grantees, please go to the CAPCOG website at: [www.capcog.org](http://www.capcog.org), and click on "Divisions", then "Criminal Justice."

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