

CAPCOG CONNECTIONS

A Publication of the Capital Area Council Of Governments



GeoMap Project To Save Communities Over \$500,000

Communities participating in the Capital Area Geospatial Base Mapping (GeoMap) Project will save over \$500,000 due to a cost-sharing initiative devised by the Capital Area Regional Planning and Information Services Division.



Example of Base Map Image

The GeoMap Project is a multi-year initiative to produce and maintain current geospatial base map data for our region.

Base map layers include aerial photography, elevation data, structures, road centerlines, pavement, vegetation, and land cover. Historically, project participants have received several dollars of data for every dollar contributed, making GeoMap a great opportunity for Central Texans to develop low cost, accurate, and up-to-date Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data for their organization.

GeoMap participants are striving to:

- Leverage taxpayer dollars to create enhanced base map products at a reduced cost;
- Minimize duplicative efforts to

generate base map data in our region;

- Establish a common geographic framework for addressing local and regional issues; and
- Create readily accessible base map data in the public domain

GeoMap supports many critical applications including disaster preparedness, E-9-1-1, and infrastructure management. The CAPCOG GIS Planning Council Selection Committee recently selected the Sanborn Map Company, Inc. to provide services described in the GeoMap Statement of Work (SOW).

Daigh Receives Leadership Award

Bob Daigh, District Engineer for the Texas Department of Transportation Austin District, was presented the 2005 Jack Griesenbeck Leadership in Regionalism Award during CAPCOG's annual General Assembly meeting held in December. He was recognized for his support of the Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization and the pursuit of a regional vision and goals for transportation across all ten counties of the CAPCOG region.

The Griesenbeck Leadership Award, named after the former Bastrop County Judge and first chair of CAPCOG, is presented each year to an elected official or volunteer who played a pivotal role in bringing the

spirit of regionalism to a project or initiative involving issues that contribute to the growth and develop-

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Judge McDonald (right) along with Ray Sanders (center) present Bob Daigh (left) with this year's leadership award.

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ENS Unveiling In Late February

The Emergency Notification System (ENS) will be made available to Emergency Management Coordinators (EMC) and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) throughout the CAPCOG region in late February.

The ENS is a web-based system which allows authorized agencies to send out emergency messages to specific geographic locations using land-line telephones.

Authorized agencies also have the ability to notify predefined groups such as city/county officials, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), and volunteer organizations that would need notification to respond to or be aware of an ongoing emergency.

Notifications for predefined groups can be made via home, work, cell phones, email, and pagers.

The ENS's sole purpose is to provide critical/emergent notification to public safety forces or the community for issues which pose an immediate threat to the general public's safety such as. missing persons, inclement

weather and hazardous material incidents.

All questions regarding the validity of usage should be directed to CAPCOG staff. Routine testing will be conducted to ensure system readiness.

The ENS will deliver a voice message via the telephone and will prompt the call-recipient to accept the message by pressing a key on the phone. Caller ID devices will show *EMERGENCY* in the display window when receiving an incoming call from the ENS. If there is no answer, the ENS will redial the number until it is successful or until it has exhausted a set number of attempts. When an answering machine is detected by the ENS, a message will be left.

Access to the ENS will be granted to EMCs and PSAPs once a Memorandum of Understanding has been executed and training on the use of the system has been completed by personnel. ENS training sessions will be posted in the "Homeland Security Planning" section of the CAPCOG website www.capcog.org.

McDonald Appointed CAPCOG Chairman

Bastrop County Judge Ronnie McDonald was re-elected Chairman of the CAPCOG Executive Committee during its first meeting of the year in January.

Other officers elected include Lee County Commissioner Maurice Pitts, 1st Vice Chair; Rollingwood Alderman Bill Hamilton, 2nd Vice Chair; and San Marcos Mayor Susan Narvaiz, Secretary.

The Nominating Committee recommended officer candidates at the same time the Executive Committee membership was approved by the General Assembly in December.

This year's Executive Committee also includes Travis County Judge Sam Biscoe, Blanco County Judge Bill Guthrie, Burnet County Judge David Kithil, Caldwell County Judge H.T. Wright, Fayette County Judge Ed Janecka, Hays County Judge Jim Powers, Llano County Judge R.G. Floyd, Williamson County Judge John Doerfler, and Hays County

Commissioner Will Conley, Austin Councilmember Betty Dunkerley, Round Rock Mayor Pro Tem Alan McGraw, Village of Bee Cave Mayor Caroline Murphy, Elgin Mayor Eric Carlson, Lockhart Mayor Jimmy Bertram, Giddings Mayor James Arndt, and City of Cedar Park Councilmember Tina Collier.

The Executive Committee meets at the CAPCOG offices at 10 a.m. on the second Wednesday of every month.

ORCA Presents Grant Checks

Capital Area Council of Governments' (CAPCOG) officials and members of the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) presented ceremonial checks honoring 27 Capital Area communities that received grants from ORCA during FY 2005 at the CAPCOG Executive Committee Meeting in January. The 27 grant recipients received a total of \$3,876,540.

Twelve of the grants, totaling \$2,782,750, presented were from the Community Development Block Grants Program. CAPCOG staff is responsible for administering this program through the Governor's Capital Area Regional Review Committee (GCARRC).

The grantees were Smithville Regional Hospital, Burnet County Constable Pct. #2, Briggs VFD, Seton Highland Medical Center – Burnet County, Seton Edgar B. Davis Hospital – Caldwell County, Giddings VFD, St. Mark's Medical Center – Lee County, Llano Memorial Hospital, Florence VFD, the counties of Bastrop and Caldwell and the cities of Blanco, Burnet, Cottonwood Shores, Granite Shoals, Luling, Flatonia, Dripping Springs, Lexington, Llano, Florence, Granger and Thrall.

The funds supported a variety of local undertakings, including local infrastructure development (planning, capacity building, water, and wastewater) projects, disaster relief, healthcare accessibility enhancements, medical facility improvements, and healthcare professional recruitment endeavors.

"We commend the efforts of every recipient for their dedication to sup-

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Regional Hurricane After Action Review

The recent response in Central Texas to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has sparked a desire by Emergency Management and Public Safety officials from throughout the region to explore lessons learned from the response actions that took place during each event.

In response to this interest, CAPCOG hosted an After Action Review

recently to evaluate the actions that occurred in response to the hurricanes. The review process emphasized regional evaluation of four key points: communication, special needs, transportation, and shelters.

This review signifies an unprecedented level of regional cooperation in order to improve multi-jurisdictional response to major disasters.

Kids Say The Darndest Things

Thank You Letters from Elementary School Students



Approximately 55,000 book covers were distributed to elementary school students throughout the CAPCOG region. The book covers displayed the CAPCOG Regional Environmental Task Force Message *Stop Illegal Dumping*. And included the 1-877-No Dumps hotline number along with games and puzzles. The funding of approximately \$10,000 for the book covers was available through the TCEQ pass-through grant program.

Since distribution of these book covers, CAPCOG has received numerous thank you letters from the children; below are copies of some of the more thoughtful or humorous ones.

"Book covers are so asome. They protect it from nasty stuff getting on it. It kind of decorates it. Protects pencil marks from dameding or messing up the covers. It sometimes tells you inforation. Thanks for the Book Covers Keith.

- Robert L.

"I love bookcovers because if you spill anything the book-cover is covered with plastick and saves it. Bookcovers are great about something else to if your reading a book that you never read before and you want to know what it's about before you even read it you look at the great bookcovers and guess what it's about and get some ideas so it's easier. Thanks for bookcovers."

-Zedrique

"Thanks for the book covers. The book covers look great. Brings us the same ones every year. We thank you for all the help. Book covers are the best!!!

- Synchrony, Moises

"I think bookcovers are great because you can decorate on them and your schoolbooks wouldn't get dirty. You can put anything you want on them like stickers, or cut-outs. I would use book covers on all my schoolbooks.

- Justin

Book covers are very safe for books. Covers can help books from getting germs, spilled drinks, dirty stains, and marks. Book covers can come in handy when it gets dirty stuff on the book. I like book covers.

- Max

14 To Receive Solid Waste Grant

Fourteen applicants will receive solid waste grants through the Capital Area Council of Governments' Solid Waste Grant Program, according to Keith Helmers, Solid Waste Task Force Coordinator for CAPCOG. The funds are from solid waste pass-through funding from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The FY 2006 RFA was posted on November 7, 2005. Notices were mailed to all local governments within the CAPCOG region. The due date for all solid waste applications was December 9, 2005.

Twenty applications were received with a total of \$887,707 requested. There was only \$442,000 in available funds.

SWAC reviews, scores, and ranks all applications based on the following scoring criteria: identified need/problem resolution, technically feasible, ecologically sound project, regional coordinated effort, cost effectiveness of project, direct services vs. administrative overhead, sustainability of proposed project, local match directly related to project, and innovative solution and approach.

The following is a list of applicants who will receive solid waste pass-through funding from TCEQ through CAPCOG:

Blanco County
LCRA
Fayette County
Williamson County
Johnson City
City of San Marcos
CAPCOG (3)
Hays County (2)
City of Rollingwood
Travis County
City of Georgetown

FY 2007 CJD Application Due Dates

CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) will review and prioritize applications for six Governor's Office Criminal Justice Division (CJD) grant programs during FY 2006, according to Angie Martin, As-

sistant Director of Programs and Grants Administration and COG Liaison from the CJD.

Those funding opportunities and their application due dates to CJD are:

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	DATE APPLICATION DUE TO CJD	DATE APPLICATION DUE TO CAPCOG	DATE PRIORITY LISTS DUE TO CJD
Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)	March 1, 2006	February 22, 2006 by 5:00 p.m.	May 1, 2006
S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)	April 3, 2006	March 27, 2006 by 5:00 p.m.	June 1, 2006
State Criminal Justice Planning (421) Fund	April 3, 2006	March 27, 2006 by 5:00 p.m.	June 1, 2006
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA)	April 23 2006	March 27, 2006 by 5:00 p.m.	June 1, 2006
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP)	May 1, 2006	April 24, 2006 by 5:00 p.m.	July 3, 2006
Title V Delinquency Prevention Act	May 1, 2006	April 24, 2006 by 5:00 p.m.	July 3, 2006

VOCA Seeks Applications For Funds

The Criminal Justice Division (CJD) of the Governor's Office is soliciting applications for projects that provide services to victims of crime under the state fiscal year 2007 grant cycle.

The purpose of the VOCA Fund Program is to provide services and assistance directly to victims of crime to speed their recovery and aid them through the criminal justice process.

Services may include the following: (1) responding to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims; (2) assisting victims in stabilizing their lives after a victimization; (3) assisting victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and (4) providing victims with safety and security.

Eligible applicants are: state agencies; hospital districts; native American Tribes; universities; community supervision and corrections departments; hospital and emergency medical facilities that offer crisis coun-

seling, support groups, and/or other types of victims services; units of local government; nonprofit corporations; crime control and prevention districts; colleges; Councils of Governments that offer direct services to victims of crime; and faith-based organizations that provide direct services to victims of crime. Faith-based organizations must be tax-exempt nonprofit entities as certified by the Internal Revenue Service.

To read the full announcement and access the FY 2007 VOCA application instructions and application kit, go to: <http://www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/cjd/formsapps/view>.

Be sure to read all THREE documents: the VOCA application kit instructions, the VOCA application kit, and the VOCA application addendum.

For more information, contact Michelle Casanova at 512/916-6163 or mcasanova@capcog.org.

Central Texas Counties Achieve Key Milestone In Early Action Compact

Successful implementation of emission reduction measures agreed to in the region's Early Action Compact (EAC) was accomplished by the December 31, 2005 deadline. The Clean Air Coalition (CAC), a committee of local elected officials that monitors EAC implementation, met last month to review the area's progress toward meeting the EAC milestones and approve the EAC Semi-annual Progress Report to be submitted to TCEQ and EPA. In addition to hearing that emission reduction strategies have been implemented by the due date, they also were pleased to hear that monitored ozone levels for the 2005 ozone season indicated compliance with the federal standard.

Besides reviewing progress of the EAC, CAC officials also voiced their collective opinion on several other issues with the potential to impact air quality in the area. Resolutions were passed and letters signed endorsing the Texas Hydrogen Highway concept, the City of Austin Plug-in Hybrid Vehicle initiative and a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) rule proposal for updating the heavy-duty vehicle idling restriction rule to reflect recent legislative changes.

In addition, the CAC endorsed sending a comment letter to TCEQ expressing concern with a pending TCEQ proposed rule which would allow local fuel suppliers to postpone the requirement to supply the cleaner Texas low emission diesel fuel to the area. Another letter to TCEQ was approved by the CAC expressing concern with the possibility that emissions from several new coal and lignite-fueled power plants could jeopardize the area's attainment of the federal ozone standard if TCEQ does not evaluate and control the new sources with respect to regional ozone formation.

The letters and other EAC documents discussed herein can all be found on CAPCOG's web site at the Air Quality Division, EAC Section.

Capital Area Data User Group Holds Quarterly Meeting

The recent Capital Area Data User Group's quarterly meeting focused on economic/workforce data with presentations from Dr. Bob Glover, The University of Texas at Austin; Marc Anderberg, Texas Workforce Commission (TWC); and Sara Wilson and Bob Springer, Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA).

The group held its second meeting in January at the Capital Area Council of Governments' (CAPCOG) Board Room. The Capital Area Data User Group is an informal group of regional professionals interested in the analysis and sharing of data.

Dr. Glover presented on evaluating critical skills shortages in the work-

force. He is a research scientist and former director of the Ray Marshall Center for the Study of Human Resources. His research has focused on various aspects of human resource development, including education, apprenticeship, industry training practices, school-to-work

transition, and skill standards.

Marc Anderberg provided an overview of employment and wage data availability from TWC and discussed strategies for doing collaborative economic and workforce development projects. Mr. Anderberg has been

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37 Attend CAPCOG County Subdivision Regulations Workshop At Wildflower Center

The Capital Area Council of Governments organized and conducted a County Subdivision Regulations Workshop in mid-January in conjunction with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The workshop began with an introduction to county subdivision regulations and then proceeded to more specific county subdivision regulation topics such as water availability, water quality, connection of utilities, and conservation development.

Thirty-seven participants attended from several municipalities located within the CAPCOG region. Guest speakers included Jeff Barton - Doucet and Associates, Tom Hornseth - Comal County, Dr. Steve Windhager - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and Terry Mitchell - Momark Development. The workshop concluded with a state of the region roundtable discussion where participants had an opportunity to discuss issues unique to their municipalities.

CAPCOG is currently collecting feedback from the workshop and soliciting topics for future follow-up workshops. To submit a possible future workshop topic or receive more information on this workshop, please contact Eric Dusza, Community Planner, at edusza@capcog.org or (512) 916-6184.



Ryan Robinson (left), Jim Walker (center) and Dr. Bob Glover, right, review data from his presentation during the meeting.

The RTA Sponsors Training for Educators on School Violence

The CAPCOG Regional Training Academy (RTA) recently sponsored two eight-hour courses hosted by the Central Texas School Safety Consortium and the Austin Independent School District Police Department to provide training for educators on school violence. These classes were presented by the nationally acclaimed author and speaker, Lt. Col. Dave Grossman.

Within the past ten years, violence and mass killings in schools have plagued America as well as other countries. Information gained from these tragic events has been extremely valuable in deterring these incidents or dealing with them much more effectively.

Lt. Col. Grossman's classes included "The Bullet Proof Mind" which was presented to 199 law enforcement officers and provided insight on

previous school shootings and how to be prepared for similar situations in our region. The second course, taught for 103 educators and law enforcement personnel, was titled "What Our Kids are Learning from

TV." This course provided documented evidence of the adverse affects of television and video games on young people. It also offered parent-involved programs that schools can use to address this problem.

RTA Peace Officer Courses Underway

The CAPCOG Regional Training Academy (RTA) is currently providing three Basic Peace Officer Courses (BPOC) within our region.

The nighttime BPOC Class 39 began last June at the Pflugerville Police Department; that class' 29 students will graduate February 28, 2006. The daytime BPOC Class 40 is being held at the RTA with 36 students 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 in October 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.

Beginning with Class 39, all BPOC classes will receive training in Nation Incident Management System (NIMS) course 100 and 700 to meet new federal requirements in homeland security training.

DATA (Continued from page 5)

the Director of Applied Research at TWC since 2002.

The group also heard from Sara Wilson and Bob Springer on economic impact modeling using IMPLAN and reviewing findings from their recent study of Lake Travis parks. Ms. Wilson has more than 10 years of experience working with Texas communities. Mr. Springer has been with LCRA for more than five years in various capacities and is responsible for assisting communities in due diligence of economic development projects.

For more information, please contact Eric Dusza at 512-916-6045 or edusza@capcog.org.

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ment of the region.

Past recipients of this award include Ray Sanders, former Mayor of Lockhart, Robert Huston, former chairman of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Neal Kocurek, former chairman of Envision Central Texas, and Kirk Watson, former mayor of Austin.

During the meeting, the General Assembly approved the CAPCOG 2006 Executive Committee membership. Two members were replaced: Ray Sanders and Kermit Roeder, former mayors of Lockhart and Johnson City. New members are City of Lockhart Mayor James Bertram and Hays County Commissioner Will Conley.

GRANTS (Continued from page 2)

porting their rural Texas community," said ORCA Executive Director, Charles Stone. "ORCA was created to assist rural Texans with building their own communities, and I applaud everyone who applied for funding to address the needs of their community."

Ethanol/Biodiesel Workshop Set For Feb.

The State Energy Conservation Office of Texas will sponsor a two day educational workshop and expo on February 15-16, 2006, at the Hilton Austin Airport, 9515 New Airport Drive. The event, coordinated by Central Texas Clean Cities, will set fleet managers and others on the course to bringing the alternate fuels to Texas. Perspectives from ethanol and biodiesel producers, transporters, and production technology providers will be given. Participants will be shown where renewable fuels are produced in Texas and how to order your fuel. Attendees will explore the challenges and possibilities from various perspectives: applications for use, the Energy Bill, regulatory issues, and how to get public buy-in. Information will be discussed by the foremost industrial professionals related to barriers to increased use of biodiesel and ethanol. Renewables are the up-and-coming fuels of national focus since their use can have multiple benefits related to air quality improvements and independence from unstable foreign oil supplies. Registration and program begins Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 15th and continues on Thursday, Feb. 16, at 8 a.m. For additional information and registration: <http://www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/>

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