

CAPCOG CONNECTIONS

A Publication of the Capital Area Council of Governments



Transportation Committee Undergoes Structural Change

The Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization elected new leadership at a recent meeting held on May 25, 2007. Commissioner Will Conley of Hays County will serve a two-year term as Chairperson, while Judge Wayne Brascom of Llano County will be the new Vice-Chair. The newly-elected officers follow CARTPO's recent adoption of their first set of bylaws.

CARTPO's bylaws define the role of CARTPO as "a forum for elected officials to come together on transportation issues to recommend changes in policy and practice, advocate for legislation, recommend regional priorities, direct certain planning and data initiatives, oversee the federally-prescribed local consultation process, and collaborate with the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO)."

CARTPO's new mission reflects this important organization's past as well as their future and better defines CARTPO's role as a transportation stakeholder in the Capital Area.

Attendance and membership on CARTPO is still open to any interested organization or individual; however, the bylaws define three types of members: voting, ex-officio, and associate.

Voting members are elected officials appointed from each of the 10 counties within CAPCOG. Counties may appoint up to three voting members with one suggested from a municipality. The Ex-Officio members consist of one official from nine regional transportation stakeholder organizations that have historically participated in CARTPO. These members are not eligible to vote but will provide expertise and coordination on transportation issues and projects. Associate members consist of participants from other governmental entities, organizations, or interested individuals and are non-voting for general CARTPO business but may serve on working committees.

One significant difference in the functioning of CARTPO involves the way future committee work will be performed.

(see *TRANSPORTATION* p. 4)

The Regional Training Academy Begins Two More BPOC Classes

As agencies within the region are challenged with maintaining 100% staffing due to retirements as well as growth, CAPCOG's Regional Training Academy is continuing to provide trained applicants for law enforcement agencies. On May 7, 2007, Basic Peace Officer Course Class 45 began with 23 students and meets from 6-10 p.m. on weeknights and most Saturdays from 8 to 5. Class 45 meets at Pflugerville Police Department and will graduate Jan. 2008.



On Apr. 30, 2007, the 37 students of the daytime Basic Peace Officer Course Class #46 began meeting at CAPCOG's Regional Training Academy. Class 46 is scheduled to graduate Sept. 14, 2007.

New Coalition Forms to Address Regional Public Health and Medical Planning

The City of Austin/Travis County Office of Emergency Management, Capital Area Trauma Regional Advisory Council (CATRAC), Austin/Travis County Health & Human Services (ATCHHS), and the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) are leading a new coalition for regional pre-hospital, hospital, and public health preparedness planning. The mission of this new collaborative, called the Capital Area Public Health and Medical Preparedness Coalition, is to:

- Facilitate the development of medical and public health preparedness plans,

- Coordinate operational and logistical functions for medical and public health preparedness,
- Promote and share system-based solutions in the continuum of care,
- Facilitate and coordinate communication with participating agencies, and
- Facilitate and coordinate medical and public health disaster-related exercises and trainings.

The coalition, which began meeting in March, includes the Capital Area counties of Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, San Saba, (See *COALITION* p. 4)

Inside This Issue

| | |
|--|---|
| National Telecommunicator Week . . . | 2 |
| Airborne Monitoring for Ozone. | 2 |
| Crisis Intervention Training | |
| Deadline. | 2 |
| Spring Cleaning for Household | |
| Waste. | 3 |
| CJAC Reviews VOCA Applications | 3 |
| ORCA Recommends TCDB Grant | |
| Program Projects. | 3 |

National Telecommunicator Week

CAPCOG Emergency Communications worked with the Round Rock Express to set up a "9-1-1 Night with the Express" for the baseball game in April in honor of National Telecommunicator Week which was celebrated April 8-14. The Express discounted tickets that were purchased by Emergency Communications as a Public Education event and given away to the public and Telecommunicators from across the Region.

All of the Telecommunicators attending the game were taken onto the ball field and introduced to a standing ovation prior to the beginning of the game in a parade with Red E. Fox leading the way. During the 3rd inning, each Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) was flashed across the jumbo-screen so that everyone in attendance could cheer for their community. An Express T-shirt was given to each Telecommunicator in attendance to commemorate the event.

In addition, Red E. Fox was paid the highest honor by throwing out the first pitch of the night! Although he had to move the pitcher's mound up closer to the catcher, he was able to get the pitch to the dirt at home plate (he indicated later that it is difficult to throw a baseball around his big ears). As a memento of the occasion, Red E. was given the ball signed by the Express coach and a framed picture of his pitch.

Throughout that week, cities and counties paid tribute to their Telecommunicators with luncheons, receptions, and recognition ceremonies. CAPCOG Executive Committee showed their appreciation by issuing a Resolution recognizing the week and all Telecommunicators within the Region.

Airborne Monitoring for Ozone to be Conducted in Central Texas

CAPCOG's Air Quality Planning Division has contracted with the Baylor Institute for Air Science (BIAS), a division of Baylor University, to collect aircraft-based air quality samples during the 2007 ozone season. Since 2007 is the last year of the



Early Action Compact, the region's air quality management plan, it is important to collect the baseline data which will be used as a benchmark against which future years' ozone through 2012 can be compared. The samples will be collected by a suite of instruments loaded onto a Cessna 172 aircraft to be flown on pre-selected flight plans over central Texas. The instrument platform will provide a complete set of measurements to assess ozone formation and address related issues.

The objectives of the flights in 2007 will focus on collecting meteorological and air quality data to gain a better understanding of ozone formation, background ozone in central Texas, and ozone transport into central Texas from plumes originating outside the central Texas area. Flights are planned to assess different meteorological conditions leading to transport of air pollutants into the area from Houston and other urban

areas, as well as from large sources of industrial emissions such as power plants and cement plants. Other objectives will include flights that may improve the understanding of local source contributions such as traffic-related emissions near large freeways,

of the vertical profile of ozone formation at ground level up to 10,000 feet, and of the approximate distance that an ozone-generating plume from a single facility can be transported.

The distance of ozone transport is an especially critical piece of information needed to assess the impact(s) of existing and planned point source facilities outside the five-county area. The airborne monitoring conducted in 2006 indicated that air quality in the Austin region could be affected by emissions from a large power plant located some 100 miles distant. In order to maintain the area's air quality and avoid nonattainment status in regard to the federal ozone standard, air quality planners must be able to better understand the influences of these distant sources on the total ozone load of the area (background ozone plus transported ozone).

(See *OZONE* p. 4)



Red E. Fox

Be Aware of the Mandatory Crisis Intervention Training Deadline

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) recently distributed a notice to law enforcement agencies relating to the Crisis Intervention Training mandated course. Based on calls to the

Regional Training Academy, there is some confusion over who needs to attend the training. The notice from TCLEOSE indicates that peace officers who graduated an academy between Sept. 1, 2003 and Aug. 31, 2005 must complete the crisis intervention training course prior to Aug. 31, 2007 or become subject to suspension of their peace officer license. This deadline does not apply to anyone who graduated an academy on or after Sept. 1, 2005 and received this training in their Basic Peace Officer Course. Officers licensed prior to Sept. 1, 2003 must complete the Crisis Intervention Training before Sept. 31, 2009. Once this four-year training cycle is completed on Sept. 31, 2009, the crisis intervention training will become an intermediate certification course.

Spring Cleaning Underway for Household Waste

This spring, many Capital Area residents were faced with a dilemma – how do I dispose of common consumer products that contain chemicals? Paint, insecticide, oil, household cleaners, etc., contain chemicals that can present safety concerns if improperly used or disposed. Although they can be legally disposed of in landfills that accept regular trash, the Capital Area Council of Governments is partnering with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) and local communities to safely dispose of these products at community clean-up and household hazardous waste collection events.

Categorized as hazardous household waste (HHW), tons of these materials are taken by citizens to local clean-up and collection events across the Capital Area for proper disposal. Many of these materials are recycled instead of ending up in the landfill.

This spring is an excellent gauge of the growth in popularity and the importance of continuing and expanding these collection events. For example, at our 2007 events, CAPCOG collected 656 total gallons of latex paint and saved over \$3000 in disposal costs. In addition to saving money, the latex paint was diverted from our landfills and redistributed to citizens free of charge. If our recent collection events are any indication, there is a growing need for HHW disposal events. Here is the complete list of recent and future collection

events.

2007 Events Completed: Blanco County in Johnson City on Mar. 31st, the City of Cedar Park on Apr. 14th, the City of Pflugerville on Apr. 21st, Imperial Valley Community Cleanup on May 12th, the City of Martindale on May 12th and 19th. (See *SPRING CLEANING* p. 4)



CJAC Reviews Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Applications

Each year, states and territories receive VOCA funds from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime, to support community-based organizations that serve crime victims. Approximately 5,600 grants are made to domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, child abuse programs, and victim service units in law enforcement agencies,

prosecutors' offices, hospitals, and social service agencies. These programs provide services that include crisis intervention, counseling, emergency shelter, criminal justice advocacy, and emergency transportation.

States and territories are required to give priority to programs serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. Additional funds must be set aside for underserved victims such as survivors of homicide victims and victims of drunk drivers.

In Texas, the administrative agency for VOCA funding is the Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD). Each year, CJD contracts with the 24 regional councils of governments (COGs) to facilitate CJD's grant application process within each region, provide planning and prioritization for local governments within their regions, distribute information to potential grant applicants about CJD's application process and deadlines, facilitate local community planning groups, and provide technical assistance throughout the grant year.

In April, CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) reviewed 14 applications from around the CAPCOG region and prioritized them for recommended funding through the Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD). CAPCOG's Executive Committee reviewed and approved the prioritization order and the list was sent to CJD for final funding consideration. A table listing the applicants, programs, and recommended funding amounts can be found on CAPCOG's web page at www.capcog.org. Final award notification is expected from CJD sometime late in July 2007.

ORCA Recommends Texas Community Development Block Grant Program Projects

The Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) submitted their preliminary funding recommendations for the 2007-2008 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program (TxCDBG) to the State Review Committee. The State has allocated \$1,500,000 in funds to the Capital Area for Program Year 2007. It is estimated that the Capital Area will receive the same allocation in 2008. However, depending on the amount received by the State, the 2008 program year funding recommendations may be revised. Based on the combined scoring of the Governor's Capital Area Regional Review Committee and ORCA, the following communities have been recommended for funding for the 2007-2008 Texas Community Development Block Grant Program:

| <u>2007 Recommendations</u> | <u>TCDP Amount</u> | <u>2008 Recommendations</u> | <u>TCDP Amount</u> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Elgin | \$250,000 | Granite Shoals | \$250,000 |
| Lockhart | \$250,000 | Bastrop | \$250,000 |
| Giddings | \$250,000 | Carmine | \$250,000 |
| Dripping Springs | \$250,000 | Blanco | \$250,000 |
| Johnson City | \$250,000 | Hays County | \$250,000 |
| Bastrop County | \$250,000 | Cottonwood Shores | \$250,000 |

TRANSPORTATION (cont'd from p. 1)

Previously, CARTPO had three standing subcommittees: Planning & Project Development, Legislation & Policy Initiatives, and Alternative Transportation. The new CARTPO replaces standing committees with issue-specific ad-hoc working committees. This should focus the work effort on particular issues of relevance. For example, a new ad hoc committee has been formed to assist with the development of a scope of work and prioritization of a county transportation planning process, which will be funded by the TxDOT Austin District.

With the new bylaws and leadership in place, CARTPO will have several new initiatives to report about in the coming months. For more information about CARTPO, contact Chris Ramser at 512-916-6184 or cramser@capcog.org.

COALITION (cont'd from p. 1)

Travis, and Williamson. Ideally, this new endeavor will streamline efforts in planning, reduce the amount of duplicative meetings, and increase the networking of large and small jurisdictions across the region.

Hospitals, EMS providers, public health departments, and emergency management planners currently attend the meeting. However, the coalition welcomes anyone who is interested in participating. Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of every month, 1:30-3:30, at the Combined Transportation, Emergency, and Communications Center (CTECC).

For more information about the Capital Area Public Health and Medical Preparedness Coalition, contact Robin Wiatrek at (512) 916-6014 or rwiatrek@capcog.org.

OZONE (cont'd from p. 2)

There will be six to seven flights (25 hours of flight time) in the June—September part of the 2007 ozone season. So if you see a Cessna 172 flying above Austin this June, August, or September, it may be the BIAS aircraft staff hard at work helping to improve the state of knowledge about ozone formation and transport in our Central Texas region.

SPRING CLEANING (cont'd from p. 3)

2007 Future Events:

City of San Marcos and Hays County residents July 7th, Sept. 15th, and Dec. 1st

<http://www.ci.san-marcos.tx.us/departments/publicworks/Docs/2007NewspaperAd.pdf>

TCEQ's Agricultural Waste Pesticide Collections:

June 5th in Luling

June 6th in Giddings

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/AgWaste/agwaste.html>

Almost all of us all have gardening products, automotive lubricants, household cleaners, paints, and solvents in our homes, and as our population grows, so has our need for community cleanups and household hazardous waste collection events. For more information on regional and CAPCOG sponsored events <http://www.capcog.org/crd/hhw/>.

Capital Area Council of Governments

6800 Burleson Road
Building 310, Suite 165
Austin, Texas 78744

P. O. Box 17848
Austin, Texas 78760-7848

TEL: (512) 916-6000
FAX (512) 916-6001

www.capcog.org

CAPCOG Management Staff

512.916.6000

Betty Voights, Executive Director

Clay Collins, Deputy Executive Director
Bill Gill, Director of Air Quality Planning
Juliette Brown, Director of Homeland Security
Scott Huckabee, Director of Criminal Justice

Sean Moran, Director of Center for Regional Development
Glenda Rogers, Director of Aging Services
Becky Stewart, Director of Emergency Communications