



## Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO) | Agenda

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9:30 a.m., Friday, August 1, 2025

Pecan Room, CAPCOG

6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 165

Austin, TX 78744

Commissioner Terry Cook, *Williamson County*, **Chair**  
Commissioner David Glass, *Bastrop County*, **Vice Chair**  
Commissioner Clara Beckett, *Bastrop County*  
Councilmember Jimmy Jenkins, *Bastrop County*  
Mayor Mike Arnold, *Blanco County*  
Commissioner Emil Uecker, *Blanco County*  
Commissioner Thomas Weir, *Blanco County*  
James Oakley, *Burnet County*  
Commissioner Joe Don Dockery, *Burnet County*  
Councilmember Richard Westerman, *Burnet County*  
Judge Hoppy Haden, *Caldwell County*  
Commissioner Ed Theriot, *Caldwell County*  
Mayor Lew White, *Caldwell County*  
Commissioner Michelle Cohen PhD, *Hays County*  
Mayor Jane Hughson, *Hays County*  
Commissioner Alan Turner, *Lee County*  
Commissioner Richard Wagner, *Lee County*

Judge Ron Cunningham, *Llano County*  
Councilmember Buck Weatherby, *Llano County*  
Commissioner Linda Raschke, *Llano County*  
Commissioner Jeff Travillion, *Travis County*  
Ricardo E. Rendon, *Travis County*  
Commissioner Cynthia Long, *Williamson County*  
Larry Bush, *Williamson County*  
*Ex officio* – Tucker Ferguson, P.E., *TxDOT*  
*Ex officio* – Ashby Johnson, *CAMPO*

*Vacant* – *Hays County*  
*Vacant* – *Fayette County*  
*Vacant* – *Fayette County*  
*Vacant* – *Fayette County*  
*Vacant* – *Lee County*  
*Vacant* – *Travis County*

### 1. Call to Order

Commissioner Terry Cook, Chair

### 2. Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Terry Cook, Chair

### 3. Public Comment (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Commissioner Terry Cook, Chair

### 4. ACTION ITEM: Approval of May 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Terry Cook, Chair

### 5. Presentation: Evolving Freight Rail Policy and Long-Term Infrastructure Trends

Brett Sebastian, State Director, GoRail

### 6. Presentation: Advancing Safety on Rural Roadways — Current Initiatives and Strategic Outlook

Kevin Elliott, Senior Marketing & Communication Strategist, National Center for Rural Road Safety

### 7. Presentation: Rail Quiet Zones and the Role of MovingCentralTexas.org in Regional Planning

Simon Fichter, Transportation Planner, CAPCOG

### 8. Roundtable Discussion

Commissioner Terry Cook, Chair

### 9. Adjournment

Commissioner Terry Cook, Chair

2025 Meeting Dates: February 7; May 2; August 1; November 7



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BASTROP BLANCO BURNET CALDWELL FAYETTE HAYS LEE LLANO TRAVIS WILLIAMSON

## **MEMORANDUM**

### **August 1, 2025**

**TO:** Capital Area Regional Transportation Organization (CARTPO)

**FROM:** Simon Fichter, CAPCOG Transportation Planner

**RE:** Item 3 – Public Comment (3 Minutes per Speaker)

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Beginning with the August 1, 2025 meeting, CARTPO agendas will formally include a public comment period. Each meeting will include a dedicated time for public comment, with individual speakers limited to three minutes. This policy aims to enhance transparency, encourage community participation, and ensure the public has a consistent opportunity to engage with regional planning discussions.



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## **MEMORANDUM**

### **August 1, 2025**

**TO:** Capital Area Regional Transportation Organization (CARTPO)

**FROM:** Simon Fichter, CAPCOG Transportation Planner

**RE:** Item 4 – ACTION ITEM: Approval of May 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes

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At the May 2, 2025, CARTPO meeting, members held the first formal vote to approve recorded meeting minutes, first recorded for the February 7, 2025 meeting. As established at that time, CARTPO will now include formal approval of past meeting summaries as a standing agenda item. For the August 1 meeting, members will vote to approve the minutes from the May 2, 2025 meeting.



## Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO) | MINUTES

9:30 a.m., Friday, May 2, 2025

Pecan Room, CAPCOG

6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 165

Austin, TX 78744

### Present (12):

Commissioner Terry Cook, *Williamson County*, **Chair**  
Commissioner David Glass, *Bastrop County*, **Vice Chair**  
Commissioner Clara Beckett, *Bastrop County*  
Council Member Jimmy Jenkins, *Bastrop County*  
Commissioner Emil Uecker, *Blanco County*  
Commissioner Thomas Weir, *Blanco County*  
Commissioner Ed Theriot, *Caldwell County*  
Mayor Jane Hughson, *Hays County*  
Commissioner Alan Turner, *Lee County*  
Commissioner Richard Wagner, *Lee County*  
Commissioner Jeff Travillion, *Travis County*  
Mr. Ricardo E. Rendon, *Travis County*

### CAPCOG Staff (3):

Charles Simon, Program Director  
Simon Fichter, Transportation Planner  
Robert Jones, Jr, Administrative Coordinator

### Absent (14):

Mayor Mike Arnold, *Blanco County*  
Mr. James Oakley, *Burnet County*  
Commissioner Joe Don Dockery, *Burnet County*  
Councilmember Richard Westerman, *Burnet County*  
Judge Hoppy Haden, *Caldwell County*  
Mayor Lew White, *Caldwell County*  
Commissioner Dr. Michelle Cohen, *Hays County*  
Judge Ron Cunningham, *Llano County*  
Council Member Buck Weatherby, *Llano County*  
Commissioner Linda Raschke, *Llano County*  
Commissioner Cynthia Long, *Williamson County*  
Mr. Larry Bush, *Williamson County*  
Ex officio Mr. Tucker Ferguson, P.E., *TxDOT*  
Ex officio Mr. Ashby Johnson, *CAMPO*  
*Vacant – Hays County*  
*Vacant – Fayette County*  
*Vacant – Fayette County*  
*Vacant – Fayette County*  
*Vacant – Lee County*  
*Vacant – Travis County*

## 1. Opening Introductions and Comments

Commissioner David Glass, Vice-Chair called meeting to order at 9:30am

## 2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner David Glass, CARTPO Vice-Chair, presented the motion to approve meeting minutes from February 07, 2025. Commissioner Thomas Weir was first to approve the motion and Commissioner Alan Turner was second to approve the motion. Motion passed unanimously by CARTPO members. Commissioner Terry Cook arrived at the meeting at 9:40am

## 3. Presentation on Hazard Mitigation Funding

Kevin Enoch, Region 8 Section Chief, TDEM, began presentation on Hazard Mitigation Funding. There were not any questions presented from CARTPO members.

## 4. Presentation on CAMPO's Regional Safety Action Plan

Nicholas Samuel, Senior Regional Planner, CAMPO presented on CAMPO's Regional Safety Action Plan. Commissioner Ed Theriot asked if there were any deadlines for the county safety action plans. Mr. Samuel stated the deadline would be June 26, 2025.

Mayor Jane Hughson wanted to know what was used to determine what causes accidents after dark. Mr. Samuel explained that most of the data came from referencing accident reports and officers' observations at the scenes as well as frequency of accidents in a particular section of roadways.

Commissioner Alan Turner questioned what would cause distracted driving to have 11% reported as the cause of accident in the safety analysis report. Mr. Samuel explained that some data could be under reported due to some drivers' not wanting to admit actual contributing factors to the causes of accidents.

Commissioner Glass asked how old the data is which is being used in the safety analysis report. Mr. Samuel stated this data is from the years 2019-2023.

**5. Presentation on Transportation Grant Finder and Newsletter**

Charles Simon, RPS Program Director, CAPCOG requested the CARTPO members to table the Transportation Grant Finder until the next CARTPO meeting on August 01, 2025.

**6. Roundtable Discussion of Regional Transportation Issues**

Commissioner David Glass, CARTPO Vice-Chair, opened the meeting for CARTPO members to discuss any regional transportation issues or concerns.

Commissioner Terry Cook wanted to know if there was any information available on the reasons for closing MOPAC near Hwy 183 beginning May 05, 2025.

Charles Simon, RPS Director, stated he would look more into this and explained often there are TXDOT notifications which are provided for highway closures, and he did not recall any recent notifications related to this section of MOPAC's closing.

Commissioner Turner wanted to know if there were any updates on the bypass around the City of Giddings.

Simon Fichter, RPS Transportation Planner, explained that due to budget shortages, TXDOT has paused all non-construction related projects for the current fiscal year in the Bastrop Area but expects to resume these non-construction projects in the next fiscal year. Mr. Fichter explained these non-construction projects included the pre-construction planning processes, environmental impact studies and other non-construction tasks.

Commissioner Clara Beckett asked if there was any data available on the state funding contributions related to bond issuances from property taxes and if there was a way to find out the last 5 years data on how much has been contributed from these bond issuances.

Mr. Simon stated this information could be easily collected and would provide this information once he has had time to research and gather this information.

**7. Other Business**

Commissioner Glass, Vice Chair, asked if there was any other business to present. No other business was provided.

**8. Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:37 am.



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**MEMORANDUM**  
**August 1, 2025**

**TO:** Capital Area Regional Transportation Organization (CARTPO)

**FROM:** Simon Fichter, CAPCOG Transportation Planner

**RE:** Item 5 – Presentation: Evolving Freight Rail Policy and Long-Term Infrastructure Trends

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Brett Sebastian, State Director at GoRail, will provide a presentation on evolving freight rail policy and long-term infrastructure trends. The session will include recent developments in state and federal freight strategy, key policy shifts, and how these trends may shape future planning, investment, and coordination efforts.



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## **MEMORANDUM**

**August 1, 2025**

**TO:** Capital Area Regional Transportation Organization (CARTPO)

**FROM:** Simon Fichter, CAPCOG Transportation Planner

**RE:** Item 6 – Presentation: Advancing Safety on Rural Roadways — Current Initiatives and Strategic Outlook

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Kevin Elliott, Senior Marketing & Communication Strategist at the National Center for Rural Road Safety, will present an overview of current safety initiatives focused on rural roads. His presentation will highlight national strategies, resources available to local governments, and tools aimed at reducing serious injuries and fatalities in rural transportation networks.



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## **MEMORANDUM**

**August 1, 2025**

**TO:** Capital Area Regional Transportation Organization (CARTPO)

**FROM:** Simon Fichter, CAPCOG Transportation Planner

**RE:** Item 7 – Presentation: Rail Quiet Zones and the Role of MovingCentralTexas.org in Regional Planning

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Simon Fichter, Transportation Planner at CAPCOG, will present on the establishment and coordination of rail quiet zones, including key requirements and recent activity across jurisdictions. The presentation will also introduce MovingCentralTexas.org, CAPCOG's regional planning and data tool, and demonstrate how it can support project planning, infrastructure mapping, and local decision-making.



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**MEMORANDUM**  
**August 1, 2025**

**TO:** Capital Area Regional Transportation Organization (CARTPO)  
**FROM:** Simon Fichter, CAPCOG Transportation Planner  
**RE:** Item 8 - Roundtable Discussion

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In this quarterly meeting, the CARTPO agenda will include an item to allow members to engage in a roundtable discussion on any topic related to regional transportation. Topics will not be determined beforehand, and any member may suggest a topic for discussion at this point in the meeting.