



Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) | Agenda

10:30 a.m., Friday, August 15, 2025

Pecan Room, CAPCOG

6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 165

Austin, TX 78744

Donald Tracy, *Austin Community College*, **Chair**
Council Member Frank Ortega, *City of Round Rock*,
Vice Chair

Jimmy Flannigan, *Austin Convention Enterprises Inc.*

Kevin Fincher, *Austin Regional Manufacturers Association*

Adena Lewis, *Bastrop County*

Bill Hamilton, *Bill Hamilton Associates*

Judge Brett Bray, *Blanco County*

Judge Hoppy Haden, *Caldwell County*

Council Member Kevin Harris, *City of Cedar Park*

Corina Zepeda, *CI Innovative Collective*

Fred Terry, *Hart Properties*

Emily Mathes, *Hays Caldwell Economic Development Partnership*

Commissioner Walt Smith, *Hays County*

Council Member Shane Saum, *City of Lago Vista*

Mick Normington, *Lee College*

Maurice Pitts, *Lee County Resident*

Ari Arias, *City of Luling*

Christian Fletcher, *Marble Falls EDC*

Roland Peña, *Opportunity Austin*

Jim McDonald, *Retail Business*

Mayor Jane Hughson, *City of San Marcos*

Christi Scow, *Texas State Technical College*

Mike Heath, *Williamson County Resident*

Tamara Atkinson, *Workforce Solutions Capital Area*

Paul Fletcher, *Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area*

Commissioner Ann Howard, *Travis County*, **Executive Committee Liaison**

1. Call to Order

Donald Tracy, Chair

2. Welcome and Introductions

Donald Tracy, Chair

3. Public Comment (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Donald Tracy, Chair

4. ACTION ITEM: Approval of May 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Donald Tracy, Chair

5. Presentation: Economic Development-Related Legislation Tracked by the City of Austin in 2025

Alison Ross, Senior Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator, City of Austin

6. Presentation: Project ION Distributed Work Centers

Michael Shear, CEO, Strategic Office Networks

7. Presentation: Texas State Technical College (TSTC) - Connecting with Industry

Christi Scow, Industry Relations Specialist, TSTC

8. Roundtable Discussion

Donald Tracy, Chair

9. Adjournment

Donald Tracy, Chair



6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 165
Austin, Texas 78744-2306
Ph: 512-916-6000 Fax: 512-916-6001
www.capcog.org

BASTROP BLANCO BURNET CALDWELL FAYETTE HAYS LEE LLANO TRAVIS WILLIAMSON

MEMORANDUM

August 15, 2025

TO: Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)

FROM: Kaileen McHugh, CAPCOG Planning and Economic Development Coordinator

RE: Item 3 – Public Comment

Beginning with the August 15, 2025 meeting, EDAC 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.



6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 165
Austin, Texas 78744-2306
Ph: 512-916-6000 Fax: 512-916-6001
www.capcog.org

BASTROP BLANCO BURNET CALDWELL FAYETTE HAYS LEE LLANO TRAVIS WILLIAMSON

MEMORANDUM
August 15, 2025

TO: Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)

FROM: Kaileen McHugh, CAPCOG Planning and Economic Development Coordinator

RE: Item 4 – Approval of May 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes

EDAC began formally recording minutes as of the February 21, 2025 meeting. The May 16, 2025 meeting marked the first vote to approve these minutes. EDAC members will now review and vote to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2025 meeting.



Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) | MINUTES

10:30 a.m., Friday, May 16, 2025

CAPCOG Pecan Room

6800 Burleson Road

Building 310, Suite 165

Austin, TX 78744

Present (15):

Mr. Donald Tracy, *Austin Community College*, **Chair**
Council Member Frank Ortega, *City of Round Rock*,
Vice Chair

Mr. Jimmy Flannigan, *Austin Convention Enterprises Inc.*

Mr. Kevin Fincher, *Austin Regional Manufacturers Association*

Mr. Bill Hamilton, *Bill Hamilton Associates*

Judge Hoppy Haden, *Caldwell County*

Council Member Kevin Harris, *City of Cedar Park*

Mr. Fred Terry, *Hart Properties*

Ms. Emily Mathes, *Hays Caldwell Economic Development Partnership*

Commissioner Walt Smith, *Hays County*

Mr. Mick Normington, *Lee College*

Ms. Christina Arias, *City of Luling*

Mayor Jane Hughson, *City of San Marcos*

Mr. Paul Fletcher, *Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area*

Commissioner Ann Howard, *Travis County*, **Executive Committee Liaison**

Absent (8):

Ms. Adena Lewis, *Bastrop County*

Judge Brett Bray, *Blanco County*

Ms. Corina Zepeda, *CI Innovative Collective*

Mr. Maurice Pitts, *Lee County Resident*

Mr. Christian Fletcher, *Marble Falls EDC*

Mr. Roland Peña, *Opportunity Austin*

Mr. Jim McDonald, *Retail Business*

Mr. Mike Heath, *Williamson County Resident*

Ms. Tamara Atkinson, *Workforce Solutions Capital Area*

CAPCOG Staff (4):

Charles Simon, *RPS Director*

Kaileen McHugh, *Planning and Economic Development Coordinator*

Simon Fichter, *Transportation Planning Coordinator*

Robert Jones, Jr, *Administrative Coordinator*

1. Welcome and Introductions

Donald Tracy, Chair, called meeting to order at 10:43 am and began the introduction of EDAC members.

2. Approval of February Minutes

Donald Tracy, Chair presented the motion to approved EDAC meeting minutes from 02/21/2025. Council Member, Frank Ortega, Vice Chair, was the first to approve the motion with Mayor Jane Hughson second to approve the motion. Motion carried unanimously by EDAC members.

3. Introducing Texas' 6th Spaceport: the Central Texas Spaceport Development Corporation

Scott Smith, Assistant Director of Economic Development for the City of Cedar Park, introduced the Central Texas Spaceport Development Corporation (SDC), a new nonprofit organization and the sixth designated spaceport in Texas. The SDC will focus on building infrastructure to support spacecraft, rocket, and satellite activity, while also advancing economic development, strategic partnerships and funding, innovation, and workforce development.

A committee member asked whether the SDC is partnering with additional counties beyond adjacent ones. Smith noted that while the spaceport is currently based in Williamson County and Burnet County chose not to participate, the SDC is actively working with other regional partners and envisions forming a broader cluster.

A committee member inquired about job training strategies. Smith responded that Firefly, a company involved with the initiative, is prioritizing middle-skill jobs. For soft and mid-tech roles, they plan to collaborate with local independent school districts (ISDs).

Additional questions from committee members addressed wage levels, potential testing sites, and opportunities within the spaceport's supply chain.

4. Overview of Economic Growth Business Incubator's (EGBI) Services & Impact

Larissa Davila, Executive Director of Economic Growth Business Incubator (EGBI), provided an overview of EGBI, a nonprofit business incubator founded in 2003 that supports small business development across Central Texas. EGBI offers training, coaching, and resources to help aspiring and existing entrepreneurs—especially those facing barriers to growth. The organization serves clients in several CAPCOG counties, including Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson.

A committee member asked about the cost of services. Davila explained that coaching is provided free of charge, while workshops and training sessions carry a small fee.

A committee member inquired about how EGBI promotes its services. Davila noted they use a combination of a mailing list, referral partners, word of mouth, and social media to reach potential clients.

Committee members discussed the possibility of expanding services through additional partnerships. Davila shared that EGBI is actively working on building new partnerships to extend its reach and offerings.

Additionally, Davila reported that EGBI was named the #1 business incubator in Central Texas in 2023, 2024, and 2025, and also received Austin Community College's Lifelong Learning Award at the Learning Festival.

5. Updates from the Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Updates from Economic Development Administration (EDA) were cancelled by EDA.

6. Presentation of the 2025-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Kaileen McHugh, Planning and Economic Development Coordinator, CAPCOG presented on the 2025-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Mr. Bill Hamilton requested clarification on the forecast data being used. Ms. McHugh stated the forecast data would cover the years from 2025-2030.

Commissioner Ann Howard wanted to know if the strategy plan process worked out as expected. Ms. McHugh provided the positives and negatives of the strategy plan process. Charles Simon added there was participation from all 10 counties in the CAPCOG region and good feedback was provided from those who attended and participated in those areas.

Council Member Kevin Harris wanted to know what happens with the information as there are changes in elected officials and, more specifically, which staff receive this information. Charles Simon provided insight into how this information is dispersed and discussed CAPCOG's goals to be in contact with each county's key staff. Mr. Tracy also added the importance of being more deliberate in sharing information and ensuring each county officials and staff are up to date on information.

Council Member Ortega, Vice Chair, wanted to know if there is a way to determine whether key county staff are receiving this information. Mr. Simon explained the information was provided in various ways to each of the key staff members. Mr. Tracy, Chair, suggested some of the information could be used as key points of discussion in EDAC agenda items. Commissioner Howard added this should be included in the CAPCOG General Assembly to target key personnel in Economic Development. Mr. Simon stated this can be investigated and added to the general assembly topics.

7. Roundtable Discussion

Kaileen McHugh provided updates on census data for areas with populations over 20,000 for the CAPCOG region as of May 15, 2025.

Judge Hoppy Haden began the discussion related to 2 Texas legislative bills and their effects on bond elections.

8. Other Business

No other business was presented for discussion.

9. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:48pm.

DRAFT



6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 165
Austin, Texas 78744-2306
Ph: 512-916-6000 Fax: 512-916-6001
www.capcog.org

BASTROP BLANCO BURNET CALDWELL FAYETTE HAYS LEE LLANO TRAVIS WILLIAMSON

MEMORANDUM
August 15, 2025

TO: Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)

FROM: Kaileen McHugh, CAPCOG Planning and Economic Development Coordinator

RE: Item 5 – Economic Development-Related Legislation Tracked by the City of Austin in 2025

Alison Ross, Senior Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator for the Government Relations Office at the City of Austin, will present on legislation tracked by the city in 2025. Her presentation will highlight key legislation and its potential implications for economic development across the broader region.



6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 165
Austin, Texas 78744-2306
Ph: 512-916-6000 Fax: 512-916-6001
www.capcog.org

BASTROP BLANCO BURNET CALDWELL FAYETTE HAYS LEE LLANO TRAVIS WILLIAMSON

MEMORANDUM
August 15, 2025

TO: Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)

FROM: Kaileen McHugh, CAPCOG Planning and Economic Development Coordinator

RE: Item 6 – Project ION Distributed Work Centers

Michael Shear, CEO of Strategic Office Networks and Advisor to the Autonomy Institute, will present on Distributed Work Centers. These centers house multiple employers in dedicated office suites, tailored to local hiring needs, and are securely connected via private broadband, ensuring high-capacity, low-latency communication. This distributed model not only alleviates traffic congestion and creates local job opportunities but also supports advanced technologies such as virtual presence, holographic telepresence, and augmented reality. Additionally, centers have the potential to offer remote education, healthcare services, community events, and emergency response capabilities. Operating through a public-private partnership, the model integrates real estate and ICT infrastructure to meet the needs of a knowledge-based workforce, boosting productivity, quality of life, and sustainable economic growth.



6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 165

Austin, Texas 78744-2306

Ph: 512-916-6000 Fax: 512-916-6001

www.capcog.org

BASTROP BLANCO BURNET CALDWELL FAYETTE HAYS LEE LLANO TRAVIS WILLIAMSON

MEMORANDUM

August 15, 2025

TO: Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)

FROM: Kaileen McHugh, CAPCOG Planning and Economic Development Coordinator

RE: Item 7 – Texas State Technical College (TSTC) - Connecting with Industry

Christi Scow, EDAC member and Industry Relations Specialist at Texas State Technical College (TSTC), will share an overview of TSTC's programs in the region. TSTC serves Central Texas through the East Williamson County Higher Education Center (EWCHEC), offering educational opportunities and workforce readiness programs in Hutto and Taylor. In collaboration with Temple College and Texas A&M University-Central Texas, TSTC provides certificates, as well as associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees. Additionally, TSTC recently broke ground on a 70,635-square-foot Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence, scheduled to open in spring 2027, with programs in Advanced Manufacturing Technology-Semiconductor, Industrial Maintenance, and Precision Machining Technology.



6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 165
Austin, Texas 78744-2306
Ph: 512-916-6000 Fax: 512-916-6001
www.capcog.org

BASTROP BLANCO BURNET CALDWELL FAYETTE HAYS LEE LLANO TRAVIS WILLIAMSON

MEMORANDUM
August 15, 2025

TO: Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)

FROM: Kaileen McHugh, CAPCOG Planning and Economic Development Coordinator

RE: Item 8 – Roundtable Discussion on Regional Economic Development Issues

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