



Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO) | Agenda

9:30 a.m., Friday, November 7, 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 August 1, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Terry Cook, Chair

5. Presentation: Preview the 2027-2030 Rural Transportation Improvement Plan

TBD, TxDOT

6. ACTION ITEM: Prioritizing Transportation Projects in CAPCOG Region

Simon Fichter, Transportation Planner, CAPCOG

7. Presentation: Project ION Distributed Work Centers

Michael Shear, CEO, Strategic Office Networks

8. Update: Capital Area Regional Safety Action Plan

Simon Fichter, Transportation Planner, CAPCOG

9. Update: movingcentraltexas.org

Simon Fichter, Transportation Planner, CAPCOG

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

10. Discussion: Setting Meetings for 2026

Simon Fichter, Transportation Planner, CAPCOG

11. Roundtable Discussion

Commissioner Terry Cook, Chair

12. Adjournment

Commissioner Terry Cook, Chair



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BASTROP BLANCO BURNET CALDWELL FAYETTE HAYS LEE LLANO TRAVIS WILLIAMSON

MEMORANDUM
November 7, 2025

TO: Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO)

FROM: Simon Fichter, CAPCOG Transportation Planner

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

Beginning with the August 1, 2025 meeting, CARTPO agendas included a public comment period. Each meeting with 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
November 7, 2025

TO: Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO)
FROM: Simon Fichter, CAPCOG Transportation Planner
RE: Item 4 – ACTION ITEM: Approval of August 1, 2025, Meeting Minutes

CARTPO now formally approves past meeting minutes as a standing agenda item. For the November 7 meeting, members will vote to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2025, meeting.



Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO) | Minutes

9:30 a.m., Friday, August 1, 2025
Pecan Room, CAPCOG
6800 Burleson Road, Building 310, Suite 165
Austin, TX 78744

Present (13):

Commissioner Terry Cook, *Williamson County*, **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 Lew White, *Caldwell County*
Commissioner Michelle Cohen PhD, *Hays County*
Commissioner Alan Turner, *Lee County*
Commissioner Richard Wagner, *Lee County*
Commissioner Linda Raschke, *Llano County*
Commissioner Jeff Travillion, *Travis County*
Ricardo E. Rendon, *Travis County*

CAPCOG Staff (4):

Charles Simon, Director of RPS
Simon Fichter, Transportation Planner
Kaileen McHugh, Planning/Economic Dev Coordinator
Robert Jones, Jr., Administrative Coordinator

Guest (1):

Michelle Conkle, TxDOT Austin Region Representative

Excused Absence (1):

Commissioner Cynthia Long, *Williamson County*

Absent (12):

Commissioner David Glass, *Bastrop County*, **Vice Chair**
Mayor Mike Arnold, *Blanco County*
James Oakley, *Burnet County*
Commissioner Joe Don Dockery, *Burnet County*
Council Member Richard Westerman, *Burnet County*
Judge Hoppy Haden, *Caldwell County*
Mayor Jane Hughson, *Hays County*
Judge Ron Cunningham, *Llano County*
Council Member Buck Weatherby, *Llano 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 called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Cook initiated the member welcomes and introductions.

3. Public Comment (3 Minutes per Speaker)

Commissioner Cook asked for public comments from guests. No comments were presented.

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

Commissioner Cook requested a motion to approve May 02, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Linda Raschke moved to approve. Commissioner Michelle Cohen, PhD, seconded the motion. The motion to approve May 02, 2025, meeting minutes passed unanimously.

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

Brett Sebastian, State Director, GoRail presented on Evolving Freight Rail Policy and Long-Term Infrastructure Trends. Commissioner Cook asked if there are ways the freight rails can act as a dry land ferry. Mr. Sebastian explained this concept exists in the United States but is most common in the East Coast/New England regions as well as Europe. Commissioner Cook asked in relation to the rise in railroad related crimes if there are any cyber security issues that may reveal the exact locations of

valuables within the railcars. Mr. Sebastian explained this is certainly being recognized as cybersecurity risks and legislation is being considered to address these cyber risks. Commissioner Cook asked if the use of drone surveillance can be used to assist in railcar thefts. Mr. Sebastian explained that even though drone surveillance is in current use, the highly organized theft rings are quick and efficient in their methods and drone response times can be delayed.

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

Kevin Elliott, Senior Marketing & Communication Strategist, National Center for Rural Road Safety presented via Microsoft Teams on Advancing Safety on Rural Roadways – Current Initiatives and Strategic Outlook.

Commissioner Raschke left the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

Mr. Ricardo E Rendon left the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Mr. Rendon returned to the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Commissioner Raschke returned to the meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Commissioner Cook asked if the closing of rural emergency medical facilities affects EMS response times to traffic accidents. Mr. Elliot explained the closing of rural emergency medical facilities does impact the response times and the National Center for Rural Road Safety has begun trainings for these impacted areas focusing on teaching communities to stop and assist when encountering traffic accidents, training more people in first responder skill such as stop the bleed, CPR and first aid, as well as, helping rural emergency response services being equipped with whole blood.

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

Simon Fichter, Transportation Planner, CAPCOG, presented information on Rail Quiet Zones and the Role of MovingCentralTexas.org in Regional Planning.

Commissioner Michelle Cohen, PhD., left the meeting at 10:27 am.

Mayor Lew White asked if there is data available showing the percentage of quiet zone applications that railroad companies reject. Mr. Fichter explained that to his knowledge there was not, but that railroad companies rarely reject completed quiet zone applications. Commissioner Cook wanted clarification on the Round Rock quiet zones that were established and then removed. Mr. Fichter explained he was made aware of this unique change with quiet zones in Round Rock and has reached out for more information and has not received anything new.

Michelle Conkle asked if Mr. Fichter reported incorrect data when discovered from the TxDOT website. Mr. Fichter stated yes, he does provide feedback to the agency when information needs updating.

Commissioner Alan Turner asked if the crash analysis tools track the causes of crashes. Mr. Fichter stated that currently it did not but explained that this feature would be added in the future.

8. Roundtable Discussion

Commissioner Cook opened the meeting to roundtable discussion. Members discussed emergency medical services on rural areas and gaps in critical medical care services which are deeply impacting by recent rural facilities closing due to federal health care budget cuts.

9. Adjournment

Commissioner Cook adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.



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MEMORANDUM
November 7, 2025

TO: Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO)

FROM: Simon Fichter, CAPCOG Transportation Planner

RE: Item 5 – Presentation: Preview the 2027-2030 Rural Transportation Improvement Plan

Representatives from TxDOT will be present to introduce the 2027-2030 Rural Transportation Improvement Plan and the process it will follow.



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TO: Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO)

FROM: Simon Fichter, CAPCOG Transportation Planner

RE: Item 6 – ACTION ITEM: Prioritizing Transportation Projects in CAPCOG Region

CARTPO previously reviewed transportation projects proposed or needed within the CAPCOG region and developed a prioritized list to present to the TxDOT Austin District. It is an appropriate time to repeat this effort, as TxDOT is beginning work on the Rural Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP).

To strengthen CARTPO's ongoing role, project prioritization should become a regular part of its operations. In addition to setting priorities for the 2027 RTIP, CARTPO should also discuss and establish a process for prioritizing projects in future years.



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TO: Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO)

FROM: Simon Fichter, CAPCOG Transportation Planner

RE: Item 7 – Presentation: 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.



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November 7, 2025

TO: Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO)

FROM: Simon Fichter, CAPCOG Transportation Planner

RE: Item 8 – Update: Capital Area Regional Safety Action Plan

At the August CARTPO meeting, staff provided an update on the Capital Area Regional Safety Action Plan (CARSAP), which focuses on identifying the most hazardous intersections in Blanco, Llano, and Lee counties and developing preliminary designs to advance those projects toward construction readiness.

Since that meeting, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced a funding opportunity through its Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program, for which the CARSAP qualifies. CAPCOG has submitted an application and is awaiting a response from USDOT. If the grant is awarded, the project scope will expand to include full engineering designs for the proposed improvements.



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TO: Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO)
FROM: Simon Fichter, CAPCOG Transportation Planner
RE: Item 9 – Update: movingcentraltexas.org

At the August CARTPO meeting, staff introduced the **MovingCentralTexas.org** transportation web app. Since then, additional features have been added that provide valuable tools for CAPCOG cities and counties. These new capabilities will be demonstrated at the upcoming CARTPO meeting.



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TO: Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO)

FROM: Simon Fichter, CAPCOG Transportation Planner

RE: Item 10 – Discussion: Setting Meetings for 2026

It is customary for CARTPO to set the following year's meeting schedule during its final meeting of the year. CARTPO typically meets on the first Friday of February, May, August, and November. When proposing meeting dates, staff avoids holidays and other dates that may create significant conflicts for members or staff.

The proposed CARTPO meeting dates for 2026 are:

- **Friday, February 6**
- **Friday, May 1**
- **Friday, August 7**
- **Friday, November 6**

While no formal action is required at this time, staff requests discussion of the proposed dates so that any necessary adjustments can be made now.



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MEMORANDUM
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TO: Capital Area Regional Transportation Planning Organization (CARTPO)

FROM: Simon Fichter, CAPCOG Transportation Planner

RE: Item 11 - Roundtable Discussion

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.