



# Project Summary

Texas Department of Transportation

## 0-5542: Integrating Regional Multimodal and Public Transportation Planning

### *Background*

In 2005, the Texas Transportation Commission established the Regional Planning and Public Transportation Study Group. The group's purpose was to review current public transportation planning and programming practices within metropolitan, suburban, and rural areas and to enhance service delivery, customer satisfaction, efficiency, and effectiveness. Ultimately, the study group would help Texans develop regional public transportation coordination plans.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) sponsored project 0-5542 to support the study group and regional efforts to develop transportation coordination plans. Specific activities of the project were to develop a website and information clearinghouse, facilitate regional coordination and coordination plan development, and provide technical and information resources.



**Commissioner Hope Andrade Addresses Regional Planning Representatives at One of the Study Group's Workshops.**

### *What the Researchers Did*

Following formation of the Regional Planning and Public Transportation Study Group by the Texas Transportation Commission, researchers assisted the study group in organizing efforts, conducting meetings, and documenting progress toward regional public transportation coordination plans. Each of 24 state planning regions held meetings with a wide range of stakeholders represented, establishing a set of common regional goals and objectives that served as the keys to developing a successful plan. The research team participated in more than 35 meetings in 14 of the 24 regions. Some regional planning meetings had more than 100 stakeholders in attendance.

In addition to facilitating and documenting meetings, researchers developed a website and information clearinghouse. Each of the 24 regions completed its plan and submitted it to the website coordinator for posting and sharing. The regions also reported on work plans, stakeholders, and identified barriers and constraints to coordination.

### *Research Performed by:*

Texas Transportation Institute (TTI),  
The Texas A&M University System

### **Research Supervisor:**

John Overman, TTI

### **Researchers:**

Jeff Arndt, TTI

Linda Cherrington, TTI

### **Project Completed:**

8-31-07

The research team presented strategies and solutions to overcoming barriers and constraints to coordination reported by the regions. These efforts to resolve barriers and constraints to coordination resulted in the preparation of five white paper reports discussing specific aspects of public transportation operations. A technical report that covers project activities and findings will be available.

## *What They Found*

Researchers discovered that coordinated efforts to establish regional transportation plans enabled all 24 Texas transportation regions to complete plans and enhance public transportation service coordination in their regions. Researchers found that the Regional Service Planning (RSP) website provides effective support to the regions and assists them in coordinating regional public transportation service across metropolitan, suburban, and rural areas. Participants may use the website to find published planning resources, announce meetings, request expert assistance, and join an e-mail list. The website also serves the original study group in its continuing efforts to enhance public transportation services.

The RSP website, located at <http://www.regionalserviceplanning.org/>, includes:

- a clearinghouse where users can access records of websites, documents, and other material that may be useful in developing regional plans,
- information about the Regional Planning and Public Transportation Study Group and its activities,
- a map of the Texas transportation regions with contact information for each region,
- a help screen to request help and view outcomes of past requests,
- an opportunity to sign up for an e-mail group that enables users to participate in or help facilitate efforts to coordinate regional transportation.

## *What This Means*

With many different agencies and stakeholders involved in public transportation, coordination is key to successful regional transportation service plans. Regions have also been able to overcome many of the barriers and constraints faced in coordinating public transportation operations and services. In preparing regional coordination plans in advance of SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users) and planning rules from Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration, Texas is ahead in compliance with the federal requirements and a leader in coordination.

The greatest benefit is improved transportation services for the many Texans – young and old, disabled or not, and in both urban and rural settings – who rely on public transportation to travel to their jobs, make it to medical appointments, and live productive lives.

### *For More Information:*

Research Engineer - Duncan Stewart, TxDOT, 512-465-7403

Project Director - Shawna Russell, TxDOT, 512-463-7858

Research Supervisor - John Overman, TTI, 817-277-5503

*Technical reports when published are available at:*

<http://library.ctr.utexas.edu/index.html>

[www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov)

keyword: research



Research and Technology  
Implementation Office  
P.O. Box 5080  
Austin, Texas 78763-5080  
512-465-7403

This research was performed in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration. The contents of this report reflect the views of the authors, who are responsible for the facts and accuracy of the data presented herein. The contents do not necessarily reflect the official view or policies of the FHWA or TxDOT. This report does not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation, nor is it intended for construction, bidding, or permit purposes. Trade names were used solely for information and not for product endorsement.