

COASTAL BEND REGION'S REPORT  
ON  
REGIONAL PUBLIC PLANNING EFFORTS

The Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG) has been recommended to serve as the lead agency for the Coastal Bend Region. This choice was made by the Steering Committee and is based upon the CBCOG's serving as the lead agency for a Rural Public Transportation Plan that was prepared in 2000 and the fact that the CBCOG Membership has representatives from all the twelve counties in the Region. The CBCOG Membership has passed a resolution accepting this responsibility and has authorized its staff to participate in the planning effort.

The Steering Committee has developed a Work Plan to carry out the Coastal Bend Regional Public Transportation Service Plan. This Work Plan is the result of efforts put forth by the Corpus Christi MPO this past summer. In 2000, the CBCOG obtained funds from the Texas Department of Transportation to do a study of the coordination of public transportation in the Coastal Bend Region. The preparation of this study was guided by a Steering Committee made up of the rural transit providers, the Regional Transportation Authority, the Work Force agency, the CCMPO, TxDot and the CBCOG. This study recommended that a transportation coordinator position be established to help implement the Coastal Bend Inter-County Transportation Coordination Plan. To oversee this effort, the Steering Committee continued to function and actively operates today.

In July, this committee recommended that the CCMPO use its funds to hire a consultant to review the transportation coordination plan from 2000 and the requirements of HB3588. This review would be used to provide guidance on how to develop the Coastal Bend Regional Public Transportation Service Plan. Our Work Plan will build on the 2000 plan. The public transportation providers in the Region are active on the Steering Committee, as well as, social service providers, the CCMPO, TxDot, and Work Force. It is this committee which will be used to oversee the development of the plan. We will be identifying private sector transportation providers and adding them to the committee. The technical support for the plan will be provided by the CCMPO. There is short-term need for professional services to do the research and develop alternatives for the plan.

The 2000 plan recommended the creation of a transportation coordinator position. Until early this year, there was a person doing this job, but currently, there is no one in this position. We see this position as an integral part in the coordination of any inter-county public transportation effort. Therefore, we see the need for funding two projects. First, for the development of the Coastal Bend Regional Public Transportation Service Plan, the Region will need \$65,000 in the short-term. Long-term, to establish a transportation coordinator position and set up the necessary communication support, we will require an annual amount of \$130,000. We feel this is necessary to deliver coordinated public transportation services.

In response to the three deliverables:

1. Lead Agency: Coastal Bend Council of Governments
2. Work Plan: Use Guide developed by consultant to update and expand the coordination plan prepared in 2000 to meet the HB3588 requirements
3. Funds Needed: Short-term one-time expenditure to develop Plan - \$65,000  
Long-term annual expenditure in current and subsequent years to support transportation coordinator -\$130,000 annually