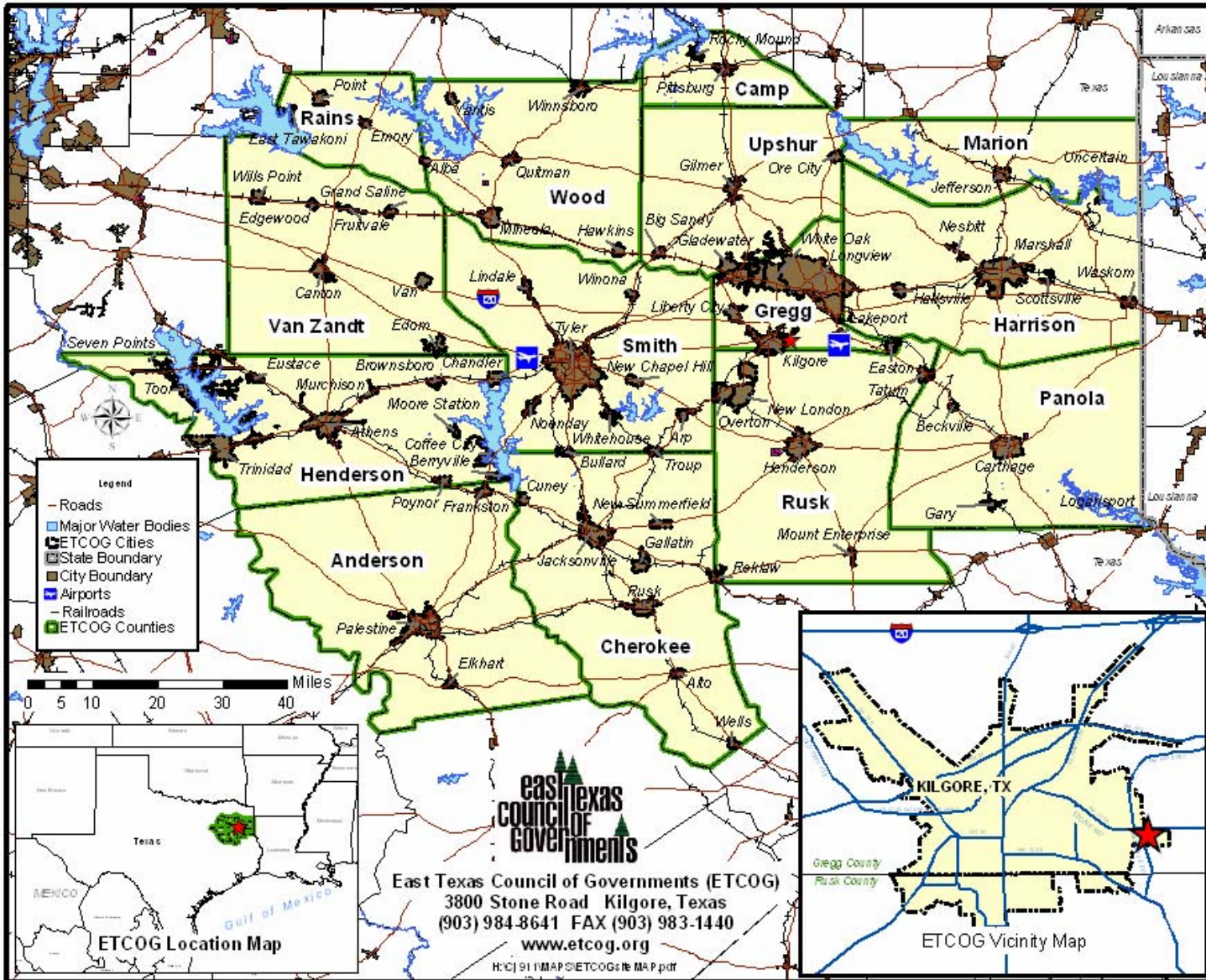




# *“East Texas Regional Transit Coordination Plan”*

*Mark W. Sweeney, AICP*

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# Stakeholders Process

## ➤ Stakeholders Meetings were held in Tyler on:

- August 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Public transportation priorities established:
    - People-first, barrier free
    - Multi-modal interconnectivity across the region
    - Aggressive outreach and education to the broad base
    - Increased and flexible funding
    - Increase and expand services
    - Address emergency planning and homeland security
- August 19<sup>th</sup>
  - East Texas Transportation Summit
    - Open forum and discussion concerning rural and urban public transit issues
- October 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Lead Entities designated

## ➤ Next Stakeholders Meeting to be held:

- October 25<sup>th</sup> in Marshall (Atlanta District)
  - To further develop public transportation priorities and to establish a procedure for selecting a Steering Committee to provide policy guidance and direction to the lead entities.

# Designation of Lead Entities

At the October 6<sup>th</sup> stakeholders meeting three agencies were selected by consensus to serve as the co-lead entities for the preparation of the regional coordination plan.

- East Texas Council of Governments/Rural Transit District (ETCOG/RTD)
- Greater East Texas Transportation Assn. (GETTA)
- TxDOT
  - Atlanta District
  - Tyler District
  - Paris District

# Work Plan

## “Methodology”

- Establish Regional Goals/Objectives
- Develop RFP for the selection of a qualified Transit Planning Consultant
- Tasks to be completed by selected consultant:
  - Inventory Current Conditions
  - Conduct public forums to obtain community input from HHS and Advocacy groups
  - Identify and Evaluate Opportunities
  - Draft preliminary plan for review by Steering Committee
  - Develop final plan with five (5) year implementation strategy:
    - Service alternatives
    - Recommended policies
    - Implementation phases
    - Capital budget program
  - Final review and approval of regional plan by Steering Committee
  - Submit final plan to TTC

# Local Resources

## In-Kind Contributions

- ETCOG: GIS, demographic analysis, administrative services, professional staff, IT services
- GETTA: stakeholders database, survey information and research
- TxDOT (Atlanta, Tyler, Paris): Technical assistance, research services and meeting facilities

## Potential Financial Resources

- \$72,000 from ETCOG/RTD
- \$53,000 from City of Tyler
- \$32,000 from City of Longview

Total:

\$157,000

# Proposed Budget

## Estimated Transit Planning Consultant Expenses

- \$47,000 - Inventory Current Conditions
- \$45,000 - Conduct public forums to obtain community input from HHS and Advocacy groups
- \$44,000 - Identify and Evaluate Opportunities
- \$43,000 - Draft preliminary plan for review by Steering Committee
- \$64,000 - Develop final plan with five (5) year implementation strategy:
  - Service alternatives
  - Recommended policies
  - Implementation phases
  - Capital budget program

Total: \$243,000

**\$243,000 Requested from TTC**

Total Project Cost: \$400,000

# Inventory of Constraints

- Funding Silo's
- Medicaid and other programs
  - Rules, regulations and practices
- FTA Requirements relaxed and/or unified
  - Drug and Alcohol Testing
  - Preventive Maintenance
  - Charter
  - School Bus
- Clear Directions from FTA and TxDOT
  - Vendor requirements when using their own equip

# Concluding Remarks

- On behalf of ETCOG, GETTA, and TxDOT, I want to express our willingness to take on this challenge and responsibility of developing for the first time, a grass-roots, regional plan that takes us to the next level of transit service for all of our citizenry.