

FAR WEST TEXAS/EL PASO
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
COORDINATION COMMITTEE
(WTEP)

January 2023

Introduction

- **Genesis of this committee goes back to the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act by President George W. Bush.**
- **The ADA mandated that reasonable accommodations be provided to elderly persons and persons with disabilities.**
- **Advocates for these populations noted a disconnect between transportation services and social services**
- **There is a need to communicate and collaborate with social service agencies that serve this population.**

2003

Texas legislature required coordination of public transportation services funded with federal, state, or local funds.

2004

Federal gov't called for reduction of duplication by federally funded transportation services, and expanding access to transportation services for elderly, disabled, low income, and others.

2005

Federal transportation bill called for establishing locally-developed, coordinated public transit/human service transportation plans.

2006

TxDOT contracted with local agencies to develop a regional coordination plan for each of Texas' 24 state planning regions.

2006

El Paso County, Area Agency on Aging, and Amistad came together and established WTEP. EPC became the Lead & Fiscal Agent.

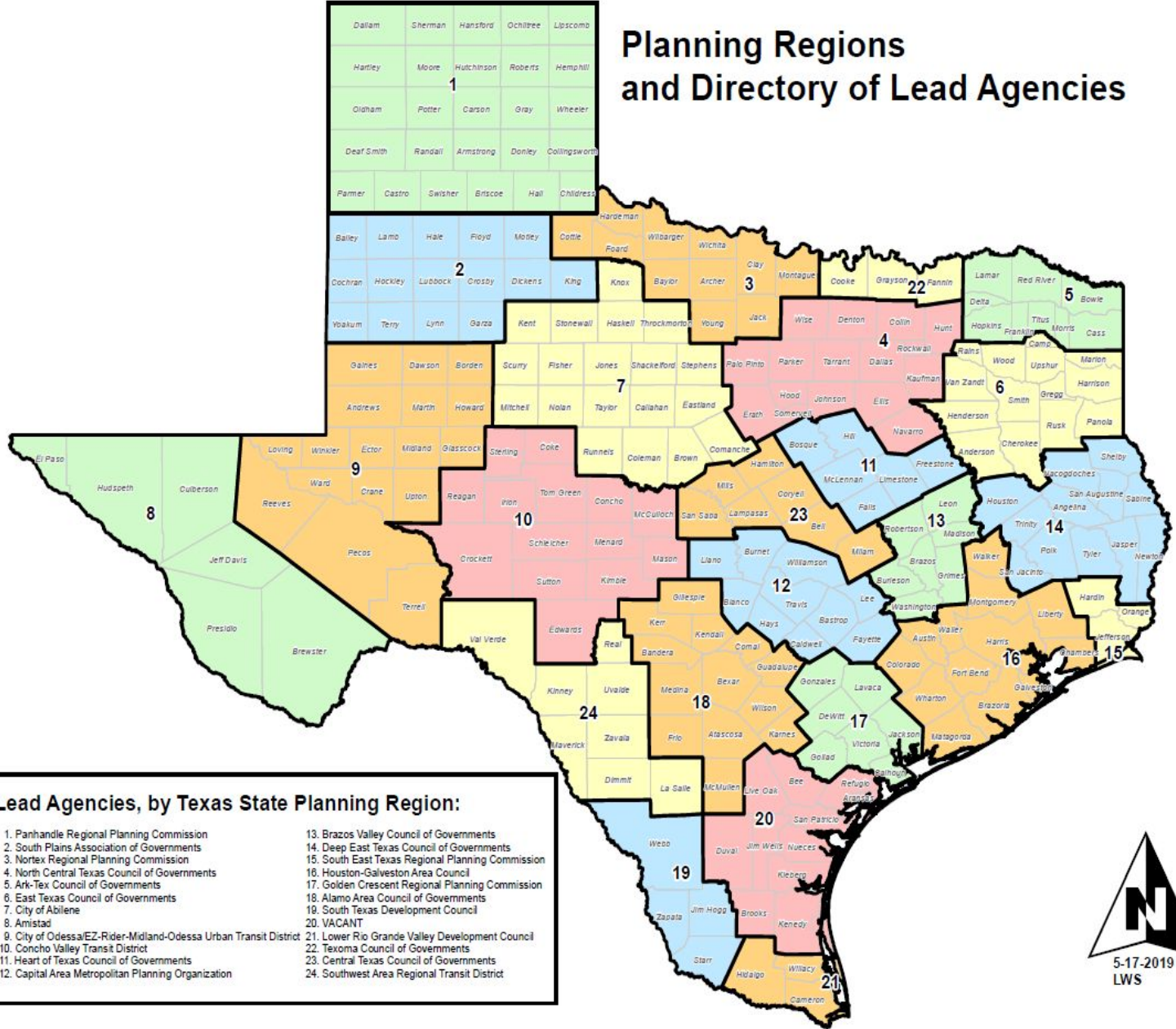
2017

Amistad became the Lead & Fiscal Agent to continue the implementation of the transportation Regional Plan.

2022

TxDOT approved WTEP's Regional Plan for 2022-2026

Planning Regions and Directory of Lead Agencies



Region 8 – Upper Rio Grande

1. El Paso
2. Hudspeth
3. Culberson
4. Jeff Davis
5. Presidio
6. Brewster

Lead Agencies, by Texas State Planning Region:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Panhandle Regional Planning Commission | 13. Brazos Valley Council of Governments |
| 2. South Plains Association of Governments | 14. Deep East Texas Council of Governments |
| 3. Nortex Regional Planning Commission | 15. South East Texas Regional Planning Commission |
| 4. North Central Texas Council of Governments | 16. Houston-Galveston Area Council |
| 5. Ark-Tex Council of Governments | 17. Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission |
| 6. East Texas Council of Governments | 18. Alamo Area Council of Governments |
| 7. City of Abilene | 19. South Texas Development Council |
| 8. Amistad | 20. VACANT |
| 9. City of Odessa/EZ-Rider-Midland-Odessa Urban Transit District | 21. Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council |
| 10. Concho Valley Transit District | 22. Texoma Council of Governments |
| 11. Heart of Texas Council of Governments | 23. Central Texas Council of Governments |
| 12. Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization | 24. Southwest Area Regional Transit District |



Purpose

- **Statewide Coordination of Public Transportation was established:**

- (1) to eliminate waste in the provision of public transportation services;*

- (2) to generate efficiencies that will permit increased levels of service; and*

- (3) to further the state's efforts to reduce air pollution.*

- The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) through their Public Transportation Division responsible for monitoring, guiding, and funding.

Why Regional Planning?

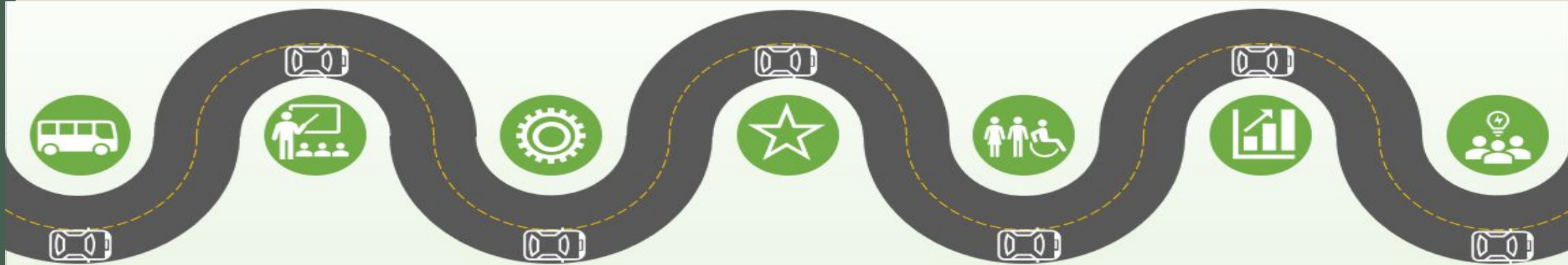
- Plan for a more efficient and effective network of public transportation services
- Identify resources to get people to desired destinations
- Have communities come together to develop five-year public transportation - human services plan
- Identify inventories of transportation resources available
- Complete comprehensive needs assessments and gap analyses in the region

Member Agencies from New Mexico

- Several communities straddle the Texas / New Mexico border (Chaparral, Sunland Park, Antony).
- A daily bus express service operates between points in El Paso and Las Cruces.
- South Central Regional Transit District operates bus transit services between El Paso, Las Cruces and points in-between.
- El Paso County and Doña Ana County have formal and informal relationships whereby cooperative functions exist that address the health and welfare of persons who live within close proximity of the New Mexico – Texas border.
- Doña Ana County is a member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and has within its board of directors several elected officials from Doña Ana County.

Mission Statement

Promote collaboration between transportation providers and health and human services organizations so that persons served experience an improved quality of life.



Vision Statement

Persons within the West Texas / El Paso six-county region will have access to social services that include customer-centered, dependable, and convenient transportation.



Implementation Plan 2022 - 2026

- **Goal 1: Implement the WTEP Regional Health and Human Services – Public Transportation Coordination Plan through collaboration of services by member agencies.**
- **Goal 2: Promote collaboration resulting in continued and improved services to persons served.**

- **Goal 3: Fill gaps in service through identification and assessment of changing mobility needs, increased efficiencies, funding opportunities, and new technologies.**
- **Goal 4: Maintain board public knowledge of transit and social services throughout the six-county region.**
- **Goal 5: Promote efforts to maximize technical assistance and training to member agencies.**

Implementation Plan 2022 - 2026

- **This is the fourth regional plan since inception in 2006**
- **There are 5 Goals with 28 Objectives**
- **Goal I – 7 Objectives**
- **Goal II – 6 Objectives**
- **Goal III – 5 Objectives**
- **Goal IV – 5 Objectives**
- **Goal V – 5 Objectives**

Contents of Regional Plan

- **Empirical data from various sources (Chapter I)**
- **Surveys from clients and service providers (Appendix)**
- **Input from policy makers (Chapter I, pages 11-20)**
- **Gap analysis (Chapter III)**
- **Performance measures (Chapter VIII)**
- **Planning sessions with member agencies (Chapter I, pages 40-67)**
- **Vehicle inventories of all transportation providers (Chapter IX)**

2019 Transportation Summit

- *Panel discussions*
- *Provided information to public and attendees*
- *Participated in Public Meetings*
- *Welcoming Address by County Commissioner*
- *Participation by TxDOT upper management*
- *Seventy-five attendees*
- *Reported on regional plan's status to date*
- *New Stakeholders welcomed*
- *Keynote speaker – TxDOT Director Transit Division*
- *The 2021 Transportation Summit canceled due to COVID*



Eric Gleason (TxDOT Director) at our 2019 Transportation Summit



Davita
Dialysis

Amistad

Amerigro
up

Amistad

2-1-1
Texas
Rio
Grande

HHS Region
10





City of Socorro

Amistad

City of El Paso

Sun Metro

Big Bend Community Action (BBCA)

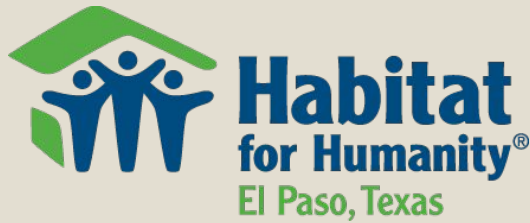
County of El Paso

Amistad

WTEP Members & Affiliates (Partial List)

- Big Bend Community Action (BBCA)
- City of Socorro
- Amistad
- Aging Disability & Transportation Resource Center
- County of El Paso
- Habitat for Humanity
- MPO
- NM Family Services
- HHSC Eligibility
- Centro San Vicente
- Bienvivir All-Inclusive Senior Health
- Opportunity Center for the Homeless
- Project Bravo
- Rio Grande Council of Governments
- South Central NM Regional Transit
- Sun Metro Transportation
- Area Agency on Aging
- Village of Vinton
- Volar Center for Independent Living
- TxDOT
- Davita Dialysis
- Workforce Solutions Borderplex

Partnering Agencies



2022 Officers & Steering Committee

Officers

- Chair – Victor Reta, City of Socorro
- Vice Chair – Yvette Lugo, Area Agency on Aging
- Secretary – Tita Nuñez, Big Bend Community Action (BBCA)



Members

- Lourdes Torres, NM Family Services
- Xavier Bañales, Amistad
- Astrid Bunner – Sun Metro, City of El Paso
- David Armijo – South Central NM Regional Transit

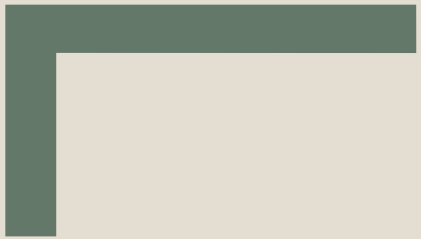


Meetings

- WTEP Committee meets at least four times a year (monitors implementation of the regional plan, guest presentations, update members on relevant issues, etc.)
- Steering Committee meets as needed to plan agenda items and discuss relevant topics
- Meetings are held at held Amistad's board room (3210 Dyer St. El Paso) and virtually (members decide mode of participation)
- Special meetings are held as needed

To access WTEP's website, go to projectamistad.org At the top banner, click on WTEP





THANK YOU!

