



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

We're
Headed
in the Right
Direction

A large-scale version of the AACOG logo is painted on the asphalt of a winding road. The logo, including the mountain peak icon and the text 'AACOG Alamo Area Council Of Governments', is rendered in white. The road curves through a lush, green landscape with trees and hills in the background under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

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2015 Management Team

Diane Rath
Executive
Director



William Moseley
Regional
Transportation
Director



John Clamp
Chief Financial
Officer



Mark Mueller
Director of
Support Services



Clifford Herberg
General Counsel
and Senior
Director



Rose Ryan
Alamo & Bexar
Aging Director



Susan Lodge
Senior Director of
Alamo Local
Authority and
Agency Coordination



Blanca Tapia
Controller



Tim Treviño
Senior Director
of Operations
and Strategic
Partnerships



Gloria Vasquez
Regional Services
Director



Marcela Medina
Public Safety
Director



Brenda Williams
Natural
Resources
Director





Dear AACOG members and residents of the Alamo Region:

As 2015 comes to a close, we want to take this opportunity to thank our membership, partners, staff, and the Board of Directors.

We began the year with our executive leadership setting a course to change the Agency. Within that vision, several organizational changes were accomplished; evaluated existing policies and diligently worked towards streamlining them to improve operational efficiencies; and engaged all levels of the Agency to begin the process of changing the organizational mindset. These actions quickly improved morale and began a transactional change-effort that we believe will ultimately lead to a transformational change. It is our hope by taking these steps, we are fortifying our operations and ability to improve our overall service delivery to our constituency and consumer needs. Finally, we rounded out our senior management team by hiring a General Counsel and Chief Financial Officer.

As the Region continues to experience substantive changes, our team has worked to further nurture, and in some cases redevelop, working relationships with funding agencies and strategic partners to better serve our constituency. One partnership we're very excited to have developed is with Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA). AACOG led a team comprised of SAWS, City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and JBSA to seek funding from the Texas Military Preparedness Commission to support a plan to provide reliable water services to JBSA. This project was subsequently selected as the top application by both Texas Military Preparedness Commission and the Office of the Governor; and was awarded \$5 million in funding. The military value of this project is its assurance of water to JBSA, which serves one third of the military members stationed in Texas. This project will cover increased and changed military missions, and fully supports existing and future potential additional military missions.

During this year, the Agency and some of its staff received special recognition. Most notably, we initiated or accomplished the following:

- In September, our Clean Cities Coalition program received the National Parks Service Director's 2015 Partnership Award for its role in helping the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park apply for and receive a grant to replace two gasoline vehicles with one all-electric and one propane vehicle that saves the park over 500 gallons of gasoline every year.
- In October, our Commute Solutions Program partnered with Joint Base San Antonio (photo below), VIA Metropolitan Transit, Enterprise Rideshare, and V-Ride through a Memorandum of Understanding, to enhance and expand alternative transportation options for JBSA, which employs about 80,000 people at area military bases. If only a very conservative 100 new vanpools of 5 employees each are created as a result of this partnership in its first year, it is estimated that the ozone generating emissions from at least 166 thousand gallons of fuel will be kept from the air we breathe.
- The State of Texas continues to recognize our Law Enforcement Academy as one of the top programs in the State. The most recent class continued the tradition for successful first-time pass rates on the state exam by passing with a score of 100%.

These are but a few of the many successes we have achieved. As we begin a new year, it is our vision to continue looking at the future, improve on an already successful delivery of services, and create stronger partnerships and alliances among the region. With your help, we are confident we will continue to be successful. Thank you.

Jim O. Wolverton
Commissioner Jim O. Wolverton
AACOG Board Chair
Guadalupe County

John Williams
Mayor John Williams
AACOG Board Vice Chair
City of Universal City



John Busarello, Enterprise Rent A Car, Diane D. Rath, AACOG Executive Director, Brigadier General Robert D. LaBrutta, JBSA Commander, James Kessler, vRide, Inc., Keith J. Horn, VIA Metropolitan Transit CEO, and James L. Williams, 502d Logistics Readiness Squadron. Photo courtesy of Johnny Saldivar, Wingspread, a JBSA Publication.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Arnulfo Luna	County Judge, Frio County, Representing Frio County
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Ron Nirenberg	Councilman, City of San Antonio, District 8, Representing City of San Antonio
Tom Pollard	County Judge, Kerr County, Representing Kerr County
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Katie N. Reed	Board President, Northside ISD, Representing School Districts
Sergio "Chico" Rodriguez	Commissioner, Bexar County, Precinct 1, Representing Bexar County
Tom Schoolcraft	Mayor, City of Helotes, Representing Suburban Cities (GBCCC)
Chris Schuchart	County Judge, Medina County, Representing Medina County
Mike Schultz	Mayor, City of Boerne, Representing Area Cities-Group C
Mark Stroehrer	County Judge, Gillespie County, Representing Gillespie County
James E. Teal	County Judge, McMullen County, Representing McMullen County
Carlos I. Uresti	Senator, State of Texas, District 19, Representing Urban and Rural Areas
Kevin A. Wolff	Commissioner, Bexar County, Precinct 3, Representing Bexar County
Ryan Guillen	Representative, State of Texas, District 31, Ex-Officio Member
John Kuempel	Representative, State of Texas, District 44, Ex-Officio Member
Ruth Jones McClendon	State Representative, District 120, Ex-Officio Member
Judith Zaffrini	Senator, State of Texas, District 21, Ex-Officio Member

Alamo Local Authority

Since 2006, AACOG's Alamo Local Authority (ALA) has served as the Local Intellectual and Development Disability (IDD) Authority in Bexar County; responsible for planning, policy and resource development, and oversight of IDD services. The ALA serves as the single point of access and "front door" to publicly funded services and supports; provides access to community safety net services; manages state funded General Revenue and Medicaid reimbursements to deliver the following array of services:

- Behavioral Supports
- Community Support
- Consumer Benefits
- Day Habilitation
- Eligibility Determination
- Employment Assistance
- Respite
- Service Coordination
- Specialized Therapies
- Supported Employment
- Nursing.



Family receiving Home & Community-Based Services

ALA provides out-of-home respite services to a significant number of individuals through Serenity House. Respite care allows temporary relief from the stress involved in caring for a loved one with an intellectual or developmental disability. This service is an effort to avoid permanent out-of-home placements and to reduce the likelihood of abuse and neglect.

ALA also serves as the point of enrollment for the following residential options and Medicaid waiver programs:

- Nursing Facilities (NF)
- Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF/IID)
- State Supported Living Centers (SSLC)
- Home and Community-based Services (HCS)
- Texas Home Living (TxHmL)



The 2015 program year for ALA proved to be tremendously challenging, yet successful, with more than:

- 2850 individuals served in Medicaid waiver programs;
- 1000 individuals served in institutional settings;
- 20 individuals transitioned from an Institution to the community;
- 850 individuals served through safety net services; and
- 1250 individual program enrollment offers worked.

In June 2015, the ALA implemented the new Community First Choice (CFC) program at the direction of Texas Health and Human Services Commission. CFC provides services to individuals living in the community, including personal assistance services, habilitation, emergency response services, and support management. The ALA is dedicated to collaborating with managed care organizations and the State of Texas in order ensure that individuals in Bexar County can successfully live in the community, minimizing the need for institutionalization, and allowing people to age in place. All while encountering a more effective care experience, improved health and quality of life, and at a reduced healthcare cost.

Area Agencies on Aging *Your Gateway To Services!*

AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER/ALAMO SERVICE CONNECTION

The Alamo Service Connection (ASC) is the gateway to the public's access to services from the AAA's, and is the comprehensive network of social services in the AACOG region. It is the designated Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) serving the AACOG region and provides unbiased information about the providers and services in the community through a "needs assessment" and "options counseling" framework. Moreover, it helps seniors; people with disabilities, veterans, and their family caregivers navigate the maze of available options to assure that they are receiving the services and supports that best fit their situation. ASC is also a major community resource for other service providers seeking services and supports for their clients. Alamo Service Connection offered assistance to 17,005 callers in FY 2015.



Ombudsman Program earns State Award:

Jeanette Blankenship, AACOG Staff Ombudsman, was chosen to receive the statewide "Ombudsman of the Year" award, posthumously, for 2015 by the Texas Health Care Association (THCA). Jeannette served the rural communities for 11 years; was an extraordinary Ombudsman, and used humor, love and absolute diligence advocating for Resident Rights through the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

CARE COORDINATION AND CAREGIVER CARE COORDINATION SERVICES:

The Care Coordination program provided services to 1,028 clients in Bexar County and 703 clients in the rural counties for fiscal year 2015. Some of those services provided included residential repair, which included providing grab bars, handrails, and appliances. Also, the Care Coordination staff provided health maintenance items such as incontinence supplies, eyeglasses, dental assistance. In addition, Bexar AAA provided income support assistance, which was a great help to clients with shut off notices from CPS Energy or San Antonio Water System.



Caregivers gather to celebrate National Caregivers Month

The Caregiver Support program provided back-to-school assistance to "grandparents raising grandchildren" families with an \$85.00 voucher to *Fallas Paredes* to assist with school supplies. Assistance was provided to 189 "grand families", aged 55 years and older.

Area Agencies on Aging

The AACOG staff rallied to round up school supplies to assist families in the “Grandparents Raising Grandchildren” program. An outpouring of school supplies came in from staff donations and from community partners, such as the Community Bible Church. Without the generous donations from AACOG staff and the community, school supplies would not have been able to be provided to those families. This is a wonderful example of AACOG working together with staff, and the community, to provide for families in need.



*Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program
School Supplies Drive*

The Care Coordination program also provides on-going case management services to seven veterans through the Veteran Directed Home and Community Based Services program. These veterans live in the community and are given assistance through the Veterans Administration to manage their care, with a provider of their choice.



*Texas Veterans Commission – Ride for
Mrs. Coffey, at age 108 - Oldest Living
Female WWII Veteran*

Texas Veterans Commission partners with AACOG:

The Alamo Call-A-Ride 4 Vets program, funded through a \$300,000.00 grant from the “Fund for Veterans’ Assistance” program by the Texas Veterans Commission, provided over 4,000 rides to Veteran and Veteran spouses in the Alamo community this year. Transportation can be a challenging barrier for many Veterans, spouses, and Veteran widows and widowers in accessing benefits and services in the Alamo region. Through this grant, and leveraging other Mobility programs, AACOG is able to increase transportation accessibility by veterans. The rides have helped Veterans and spouses with transportation to: medical appointments, prescription pick-ups, apply for benefits, job interviews, and college applications. In one case, the program helped a Veteran widow to be able to visit her spouse’s grave at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery for the first time in many years.

Alamo & Bexar Aging Health & Wellness Program Grants:

The Alamo and Bexar Area Agencies on Aging are the recipients of two grants serving to increase the health, wellness, and safety of seniors in the 13-county AACOG area. The Senior Medicare Patrol Grant, funded in part by the Administration on Aging, Administration for Community



Living, has provided \$60,000 in funding over a three-year period to provide Medicare beneficiaries with important information on protecting, detecting, and reporting Medicare and other types of elder Fraud. The Falls Reduction Empowerment and Education Grant was recently awarded and provides funding for increased access “Matter of Balance” – an evidenced-based training that help seniors prevent and protect themselves from falls and fall hazards.



Health & Wellness at Siclovía

AGE WELL, LIVE WELL!

The “Age Well, Live Well” Coalition collaborated with the City of San Antonio Siclovía event to “Play in the Street”, and provide outdoor activities for people of all ages! The Coalition, which includes over 40 community agencies, promotes opportunities for all individuals to be active and healthy throughout their lives.

Alamo & Bexar Area Agencies on Aging 2016 Goals:

- Work with the community and stakeholder partners to prepare the tri-annual Bexar Aging Area Plan for 2016
- Increase the community’s knowledge of Aging Programs by increasing the number of outreach events
- Increase the number of clients served by 15%
- Increase stakeholder partners in the Alamo & Bexar Senior Advisory Committees



Natural Resources

AACOG's Natural Resources department focuses on regional ozone pollution issues in order to promote clean air and a healthy community.

The program encompasses a variety of projects that enhance our understanding of local ground-level ozone and strategies that promote clean air. These projects include characterizing the meteorological factors that influence local ozone pollution, identifying appropriate measures for improving air quality, apprising local leaders of state and federal regulatory actions that target air pollution, and distributing educational messages that keep the community informed of pollution-related issues. The agency operates a network of six ozone monitors in the region that provide insight on the behavior of ground-level ozone. Other program activities include identifying and quantifying the sources of chemicals generated in the AACOG area that form ozone and conducting modeling to determine the impact of control strategies on ozone levels.



2015 Air Quality Stewardship Awardees

In 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency strengthened the standard for ground-level ozone in order to make the threshold more protective of human health and the environment. The new ozone standard poses a particular challenge to the area; AACOG will work with local government and business leaders to adopt strategies that benefit air quality in the region.

TWO EXAMPLES

An important component of AACOG's air quality program is the facilitation of the Air Improvement Resources (AIR) Committee meetings. The AIR Committee represents the air quality planning body for the region and membership on the AIR Executive Committee and its advisory committees includes elected officials from the San Antonio-New Braunfels Metropolitan Statistical Area, as well as representatives from industries, businesses, utilities, schools, and environmental groups. In 2015, committee members developed a regional strategic plan to address changes to the ozone standard that will help guide the community through the process of identifying appropriate and cost-effective pollution reduction strategies, maintaining a public process that seeks input from diverse stakeholders, and conducting outreach to encourage adoption of ozone-reducing measures.

During 2015, AACOG completed multiple studies that analyzed the specific emission sources in and around the region. These sources included industrial fuel combustion operations and traditional oil and gas wellheads in the AACOG region, as well as fracking operations in the Eagle Ford Shale Play. The 2015 studies, in combination with analyses conducted in previous years, characterize the sources, geographic locations, and emission rates of local or nearby facilities and activities in order to determine whether they have an impact on local ozone levels, and if so, to what extent.





2016 GOALS

In addition to continuing to facilitate the work of the AIR Committees, the air program has several additional goals for 2016. One of these is to develop a cost analysis that defines the economic impact to the Alamo region as the result of a nonattainment designation. A nonattainment designation initiates federally-mandated requirements for planning and control strategy implementation and, under the air quality program, AACOG will be evaluating and determining the costs to local governments, industries, and the general public of those mandated controls.



During the first air quality branding roundtable, participants discussed basic marketing concepts: identifying primary audiences, determining important messages, and identifying avenues for distributing air quality messages.

Other goals for 2016 include enhancing the ozone monitoring network to increase the amount and range of information available for characterizing the behavior of ozone in the region; modeling control strategies to predict their ability to reduce local ozone concentrations; and conducting a public survey to determine the community's understanding of ozone issues and their level of support for specific ozone reduction strategies.

ALAMO AREA CLEAN CITIES COALITION

The Alamo Area Clean Cities Coalition (AACCC) is the South Texas resource for education,

technical assistance, access to grant funds and other services in reducing petroleum use in transportation. AACCC provides technical support to public and private fleet operators that are interested in replacing gasoline- or diesel-powered vehicles and equipment with domestically produced fuels including natural gas, propane, electricity, hydrogen, biofuels, and biogas.

In 2015 the coalition focused on strengthening its relationships with the public, outreach to educational institutions and encouraging more fleet conversions to alternative fuels. A major roadblock to fleet conversion was the lack of public natural gas fueling stations; however, in 2015 the number of natural gas stations increased four-fold.



Natural Resources



In March, AACCC was awarded a grant under the Clean Cities University Workforce Development Program by Argonne National Laboratory and the American Society for Engineering Education which allowed the coalition to hire a summer intern which enhanced many of the coalitions' outreach activities to schools and businesses.

In August, the Coalition partnered with Plug In America, Sierra Club, and the Electric Auto Association to host the 3rd annual Drive Electric Day, which educated citizens on the benefits of electric vehicles and the different models currently available. Due to attendance at the event and increased interest in electric vehicles in South Texas, the event organizers decided to re-establish the Alamo City Electric Auto Association, a chapter of the national Electric Auto Association, which had been inactive the last few years.

The most recent data shows that the coalition helped its partners avoid the consumption of nearly 4.5 million gallons of gasoline, representing a 54% increase in the use of alternative fuels over the previous year.

CASE STUDY

In June, the AACCC hosted the Texas Workplace Charging Workshop Roadshow in conjunction with three other Clean Cities Coalitions across Texas. Each workshop educated business owners and building managers about the benefits of installing electric vehicle charging stations at their businesses and buildings. This included presentations on the basics of electric and hybrid vehicles, a charging station demonstration and a ride-and-drive opportunity. The workshop was attended by small businesses, educational institutions, governments and large businesses.

As a result, San Antonio secured its first Department of Energy Workplace Charging Challenge Partner and a number of other businesses are working on installing charging stations to become partners themselves. The event also received media attention from multiple outlets, and led to follow up stories that increased attention on electric cars and charging stations in the San Antonio Area.



Pictures from the Workplace Charging Roadshow - July 28, 2015



Photo courtesy of San Antonio Business Journal

Pictures from the 2015 San Antonio Drive Electric Day – September 19th



COMMUTE SOLUTIONS PROGRAM

The Commute Solutions program promotes modes of transportation other than single occupant vehicles as a means of alleviating traffic congestion and improving air quality. In addition to providing air quality outreach and education for schools, businesses, and community events, it sponsors an online carpool matching service (NuRide.com) and ride home from work in case of emergency program (CARE) for people who regularly commute by carpooling, biking, walking or taking a bus. The Commute Solutions program also manages four school programs: School Pool, a carpool matching service specifically for parents driving children to school; the Green Patrol, in which children are enlisted to ask their parents not to idle their vehicles on school campuses; Walking School Bus, in which groups of children walk to school with a parental chaperone; and Bike Buddies, in which groups of children bike to school with a parental chaperone. Finally, it conducts an Ozone Action Day notification program (formerly known as the "Air Quality Health Alert" program), through which schools, businesses, news media, governmental agencies, and others receive an email message when the air quality is predicted to reach harmful levels the following day. The Commute Solutions' carpool match, ride home in an emergency and other programs serve an eight-county area surrounding San Antonio.

Natural Resources

During the first nine months of 2015, for example, the members of NuRide, recorded 741,611 trips they had taken by alternative modes of transportation in the San Antonio area. These trips saved the equivalent of 13,156,622 vehicles miles traveled, which in turn kept over 8 tons of volatile organic compounds and 12 tons of nitrogen oxides (the two leading components of ground-level ozone) out of our air.



A Commute Solutions staff member informs a Guadalupe County resident about NuRide at the AACOG Roadshow Seguin, July 2015.



Attendees at the 2015 San Antonio Earth Day visit the Commute Solutions / Air Quality exhibit.



Public Safety

The Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy trains future Texas Peace Officers, Correction Officers, and Emergency Telecommunications personnel for the AACOG Region in a state-of-the-art facility with training simulators and equipment worth \$1.2 million. In February 2015 the Public Safety Department moved to this new facility and rolled out training using these high tech simulators to train the military and Law enforcement in active shooter response and hostage negotiations. The Academy will continue to expand classes in 2016 and host training using portable simulators throughout the region.

Additionally, the Academy provides state mandated and specialized training for current Texas Peace Officers, Correction Officers, Emergency Telecommunications personnel, Federal and Military law enforcement personnel from 100+ agencies in the AACOG Region. The Alamo Area Regional Law Enforcement Academy was the only academy in the State of Texas to train Texas School Marshal in FY 2015.



Police Use of Force Drills in the Computer Simulator

The Academy also provides in-service training for public safety personnel. Using the latest in reality based training technologies, the Academy is providing in depth use of force training and de-escalation techniques and continues to enhance officer safety and survival training. The Academy provides quality public safety training at little to no cost to public safety agencies. This helps our area partners and their personnel to meet their obligations for attending state mandated continuing education classes.

"This course was way more than expected!"
– AACOG Texas School Marshal course participant.

"Very knowledgeable and excellent instruction. I would recommend to anyone in LE!"

– In-service student from Handgun Fundamentals Course #2055.

"Best training so far in the Academy. Loved it!"

– Cadet from Class 2015A in reference to Tactical Police Driving Course.

Public Safety



Academy Career and Education Fair

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING

Criminal Justice Planning Program conducts grant workshops, provides information about funding opportunities, and offers technical assistance in the grant process, including performing technical reviews for law enforcement and non-profit agencies seeking funding from the Office of the Governor – Criminal Justice Division. Criminal Justice Planning staff continues to complete

1,500 hours of technical assistance and provide grant management assistance to more than 60 funded projects. The projects funded help provide victim assistance, violence prevention, juvenile delinquency prevention, law enforcement equipment and other programs that meet a need in the community.

In 2016, the Planning Program will utilize existing plans and resources to reach out to community stakeholders and service providers to develop a new Strategic Plan to define regional needs and priorities, as well as plan for the sustainability of services in the community.

HOMELAND SECURITY

The Homeland Security program provides jurisdictions with technical assistance in planning for emergency preparedness by identifying threats and security weaknesses and helping develop local emergency management plans to meet those identified needs. In addition, it encourages efficiency by assisting jurisdictions in administering federal and state programs that benefit from regional cooperation and to eliminate duplication of services. Furthermore, it provides guidance, coordination, development and implementation of programs pertaining to First Responders, Homeland Security or Emergency Preparedness. Some of the programs include the Regional Homeland Security Strategic Plan, the Alamo Area Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Plan, Interoperability Communications, and Mutual Aid. These programs are dedicated to supporting the Alamo region's first responders through maximum preparedness and answering citizens' calls for emergency services.

REGIONAL 911

The AACOG 9-1-1 Program purchases essential equipment and software that is necessary at each of the 9-1-1 emergency call centers for seven rural counties within the Alamo Region. These counties include Atascosa, Bandera, Frio, Gillespie, Karnes, Kendall, and Wilson Counties. Monitoring and maintenance of the 9-1-1 equipment and software are also some of the other responsibilities that are a part of AACOG's 9-1-1 Department. The AACOG emergency 9-1-1 call center system serves 74,746 landlines and represents 210,187 residents.

Additionally, this program provides Regional Strategic Planning and goals, working towards a "Next Generation 9-1-1" system. This system is an emergency call delivery and response system that will be able to use information and the latest technologies for better service to our communities. Some of these technologies include text to 9-1-1, short message service (SMS), pictures, and video streaming.





Funding for the 9-1-1 Program are provided through state collected funds from telecommunications taxes, fees, and surcharges which are then distributed to AACOG through the Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC). These funds are then used to purchase equipment and supplies for the seven county public safety answering points (PSAP's).

The AACOG 9-1-1 Program primarily impacts rural communities, ensuring that their counties 9-1-1 facilities are equipped to handle 9-1-1 calls and provide response services to each community. In addition to this impact, the program is working towards providing improvements in the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) throughout the region.

AACOG 911's Program and 911 Datamaster, Inc. are working together to get ready for Next Generation 9-1-1. The partnership includes comprehensive analytics run with 911 Datamaster's SpatialStation technology. Initially to identify all potential errors for downstream systems receiving AACOG's Spatial Data. These systems include: LVF (Location Validation Function, ECRF (Emergency Call Routing Function) and SIF (Spatial Integration Function). All errors are then remediated and data structures modified to improve operation efficiencies looking towards the future. In addition to maintaining data locally, all Spatial Data will be backed up and housed in a SIF (Spatial Integration Function) (SpatialCentral), also built by 911 Datamaster. In a collaborative effort with the Commission on State Emergency Communications, AACOG is developing strategies to leverage and maximize the capabilities of our regional Next Generation 9-1-1 call taking equipment known as NG9-1-1.

The systems serves seven (7) public safety law enforcement agencies in AACOG's eight (8) participating 9-1-1 program counties. The equipment presently enable call takers to log on at any workstation in the region and take their respective agency's 9-1-1 calls should an emergency force evacuations in their area.

The equipment has also been field tested to send and receive text to 9-1-1 (TXT2911) over the existing CSEC Emergency Services Internet Protocol network (ESInet). The routing of the text message is done through a Message Session Relay Protocol (MSRP). This is significant because it represents delivery of emergency communications outside the existing network routes. This IP routing represents the first implementation of NG911 in the great state of Texas.

Regional Services



AACOG's Regional Services serves the members and citizens of the 13 county region in support of a stronger economy, viable communities and informed and trained public officials. The staff coordinates with counties and municipalities on issues related to economic development, GIS mapping, strategic plans, Eagle Ford Shale, grant information and technical assistance. It is also responsible for administering the scoring of the Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) applications and provides staff support to the Regional Review Committee (RRC) responsible for developing the TxCDBG AACOG Guidebook. In 2015, nine communities from the Alamo Region were awarded TxCDBG funds totaling \$2,475,000 for water and sewer improvements.

The program annually hosts a series of training workshops. The Newly Elected Officials (NEO) workshop, now offered twice annually, and the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) workshop inform local government officials about the requirements and duties associated with their respective positions as well as any new legislation that affects local municipal governments or P&Z commissions. Collectively these workshops help improve regional collaboration and promote greater understanding of issues related to infrastructure, planning, zoning and economic development.



The City of Hondo and the South Texas Regional Training Center was awarded a \$1.2 million grant (80/20 match) by the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) for an expansion to include a Vocational and Technical Training Annex. The City of Hondo Economic Development is providing the 20% match or \$240,000. The 8,000 square foot annex will house training for welding, diesel, mechanical and HVAC courses.

During the application process, the AACOG staff provided continuous feedback, answered questions and provided valuable demographic data and supporting research. They provided guidance and helped develop appropriate contacts to ensure regional coordination and alignment with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Staff was also helpful in recruiting partners and support for the project. These efforts by AACOG staff were very important in helping build a collaborative working relationship with Austin EDA regional staff during the entire application process.

This is the first EDA Grant awarded to the City of Hondo. The groundbreaking ceremony was on July 20, 2015, with the opening planned for February 2016.



Resource Recovery

Air, land and water make-up our environment “Waste” impacts all three. Each day every citizen and local government handles solid waste, which includes scraps, brush, bottles and cans, old cell phones, outdated laptops, worn-out appliances, newspapers, and many other items. The Resource Recovery Program provides information on the management of this waste and programs that minimize illegal dumping of the waste on the land and water surfaces, divert it from landfills, and turn much of what was considered useless into resources with a second life. Local governments receive information and grants to implement the projects that protect the environment and rescue the resource value from the waste stream. The funding for the local projects comes from the TCEQ, which had granted AACOG \$758,540 for 2014-2015. This funding supported 12 grants throughout the AACOG Region.

The Resource Recovery Program, in conjunction with one of the grantees, the San Antonio River Authority, offered two free workshops on illegal dumping for peace and code enforcement officers in the Alamo Region. The workshop provided necessary continuing education and TCLOSE credits alleviating the local governments of the attendees from paying fees for the credits. Seventy-two people attended the workshop. The Resource Recovery Program also serves as one of many sponsors of the San Antonio Water System’s MedDrop collections that help to keep pharmaceuticals out of our rivers and lakes. To promote reuse, the Resource Recovery Program has distributed educational and reusable grocery bags at many events throughout the AACOG region. Expansion of existing recycling programs has helped local governments enhance their recycling and diversion from the landfills.

The Resource Recovery Program also maintains a Closed Landfill Inventory for the Alamo Region. This information is useful to realtors, developers, and communities when dealing with vacant land. This information is available on the AACOG website.



Resource Recovery



CASE STUDIES:

Two small grants to the City of New Braunfels helped their recycling program achieve greater waste diversion and a reduction in the visits to the Municipal Recycling Facility in San Antonio. The oil filter crusher permitted draining all the residual oil from the filters which, in turn, allowed the recycling of the filters for metal recovery. The additional drained oil added to the amount of oil recycled as well. The purchase of a foam densifier helped to reduce the volume of foam packaging. This material is light, but bulky. The densifier can reduce a full trailer of packaging to a third or less thereby reducing the number of trips to the MRF.



Oil Filter Crusher

Comal County received a grant for a forklift to move stock and load pallets of recycled electronics and other materials. This equipment has reduced the time and effort needed to store the pallets and load them on the processor's truck. This model provided great safety features for the operator thus preventing workforce injuries.

IMAGES OF PROGRAM AT WORK



The City of San Antonio requested a sign to make the Bitters Road Recycling Center more visible to users of the newly opened Wurzbach Parkway.

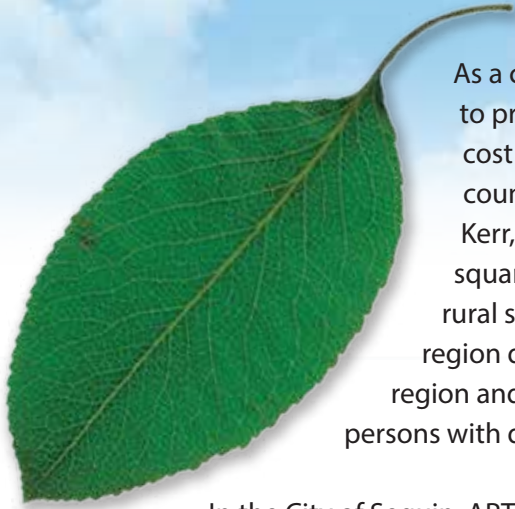


Distributing reusable grocery bags and educational material at Earthday at Woodlawn Park



People carrying our reusable grocery bags.

Alamo Regional Transit



As a critical component of AACOG; the mission of Alamo Regional Transit (ART) is to provide safe, reliable, professional and courteous transportation at the lowest cost to personnel in our service area. The ART service area consists of 12 rural counties (Atascosa, Bandera, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina, McMullen, and Wilson Counties) which encompass over 12,585 square miles. As the sole provider of rural public transportation in the AACOG rural service area; ART provided over 111,145 trips for residents throughout the region driving over 1.3 million miles. Although ART serves all the residents in the region and anyone can ride on an ART bus, we make a priority for: senior citizens, persons with disabilities, low income residents, and veterans.

In the City of Seguin, ART operates a “deviated” fixed-route system that runs an hourly loop around town to designated stops. The “Connect Seguin” route is funded by the City of Seguin and Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) which allows low cost fares.

ART also serves as the lead agency for the Alamo Area Regional Planning Organization (AARPO), which consists of elected officials and district representatives from TxDOT, who identify road and highway needs throughout their areas and work to prioritize and seek funding for these needs.

ART recently partnered with the Area Agencies on Aging along with the Texas Veterans Commission to provide rides for Veterans, their dependents, and sole survivors to meet their transportation needs for medical, grocery shopping, and other necessary trips.



AACOG and ART continue to partner with the Cities of Cibolo, Garden Ridge, New Braunfels, Schertz, Guadalupe County and VIA Metropolitan Transit to provide rides within these areas which are designated as Urban. As these areas transitioned from rural to urban the rural funding was no longer available and the partners listed above all stepped up to provide the necessary funding to continue the availability of low cost transportation provided by Alamo Regional Transit.

Alamo Regional Transit

TESTIMONIALS:

ART has transported Ms. Patricia B. for more than eight years, to numerous medical appointments, shopping, library and other trips. Ms. B. who resides in the Hill County is a senior citizen and veteran who is homebound and requires a motorized wheel chair. "I am extremely pleased with the service I have receive from ART for the last 8 years and don't know what I would do without it," said Ms. B.

Mr. Robert S., a senior citizen, who resides in Fredericksburg receives dialysis treatments three days a week and relies on ART to take him to Kerrville to receive these treatments said, "The ART bus is essential for me to get to my dialysis treatments and they always treat me with respect."

Ms. Janay D., a senior citizen who does not own a vehicle, and has a physical disability, utilizes the "Connect Seguin" fixed bus route and gets on the bus at the Stratton Oaks Public Housing in the City of Seguin and rides several times each week for medical appointments and grocery shopping. She said, "ART has literally saved my life as I would not survive without this service; they are as valuable as my lungs...all the drivers treat me with respect and are very professional. I am thankful the City of Seguin and AACOG provide the funding for this service."



The article below is an excerpt from the Schertz Magazine published on July 30, 2015:

Torrie B. (in wheelchair) and hubby James get ART van ride. Just like everyone else, James and Torrie Boord need to go grocery shopping on a regular basis. But without a car, the Schertz residents can't get necessary household chore done quite as easily as most folks. But thanks to the Alamo Area Council of Governments' (AACOG) transportation service, they can get a ride to go grocery shopping by just making a phone call.

They have been using ART to go grocery shopping twice a month for three years. They found out about the service through Medicaid and can't say enough good things about it. They usually call a couple of weeks in advance to schedule their grocery shopping trips and highly recommend the service to others.

"We don't have transportation so it's a real blessing to us. We're very happy with them. Their drivers are on time almost all the time, and it's just a real good service," James B. said.

Weatherization Assistance Program

Low income households spend a disproportionate percentage of their annual incomes on home energy bills. AACOG Weatherization Assistance Program provides cost-effective, permanent solutions for reducing the heavy energy burden these families endure. The program provides free, grant funded weatherization services including energy efficient home improvements such as insulation, air sealing and replacement of inefficient appliances. Weatherization efforts not only save energy through advanced technologies to improve the energy affordability for low-income families, but also save lives and improve the health and safety of families by identifying carbon monoxide hazards, poor indoor air quality, mold, and other health threats. By the end of current program year we will be completing 208 additional units in the AACOG Region.

- For every \$1 invested, weatherization returns \$2.51 to the household and society
- \$437 or more in annual utility bill savings year after year at current energy prices
- Energy savings average 35% of consumption for the typical low-income home pre-weatherization consumption
- Weatherization decreases national energy consumption by the equivalent of 24.1 million barrels of oil annually
- Reduces residential and power plant emissions of carbon dioxide by 2.65 metric ton per year per home
- Over the life of the corrective measures, saves 53 metric tons of CO2 emissions per house

HOW WEATHERIZATION AFFECTS THE ALAMO REGION

It is important for our community to be aware of a support system that exists to help them overcome their energy challenges. Other agencies in the AACOG Region, like Community Council of South Central Texas and Bexar County CEAP programs, provide utility assistance by paying the customers highest bill. In addition, these partners refer their clients to AACOG Weatherization to connect them with options for long lasting energy saving measures.

The Weatherization Program forms part of this support system by addressing the indoor environment of the house that is sometimes overlooked. The installation of mechanical ventilation to exhaust pollutants from combustion appliances and environmental tobacco smoke to the exterior, assists in maintaining the health of residents. The removal of unvented combustion space heaters and the installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors also contribute to safety and health. By air sealing the house, between 5% and 40% of the space conditioning costs are reduced and it saves energy and increases comfort. With the addition of insulation, we see a reduction in energy demand and enhanced comfort by reducing temperature variations within the conditioned space.

Working together we enhance the quality of life of our community.

SOLAR SCREENS



ATTIC INSULATION



CFL'S



AIR FILTERS



SMOKE DETECTORS



REFRIGERATOR



AIR LEAK TEST



DUCT TEST



2015 Member Governments & Strategic Partnerships

COUNTIES

- Atascosa County
- Bandera County
- Bexar County
- Comal County
- Frio County
- Gillespie County
- Guadalupe County
- Karnes County
- Kendall County
- Kerr County
- McMullen County
- Medina County
- Wilson County

CITIES

- Alamo Heights
- Balcones Heights
- Bandera
- Boerne
- Bulverde
- Castle Hills
- Castroville
- Charlotte
- China Grove
- Christine
- Cibolo
- Converse
- Devine
- Dilley
- Elmendorf
- Fair Oaks Ranch
- Falls City
- Floresville
- Fredericksburg
- Grey Forest
- Helotes
- Hill Country Village
- Hollywood Park
- Hondo
- Ingram
- Jourdanton
- Karnes City
- Kenedy
- Kerrville
- Kirby
- La Coste

- La Vernia
- Leon Valley
- Live Oak
- Lytle
- Marion
- Natalia
- New Berlin
- New Braunfels
- Olmos Park
- Pearsall
- Pleasanton
- Poteet
- Poth
- San Antonio
- Schertz
- Seguin
- Selma
- Shavano Park
- Somerset
- Stockdale
- Terrell Hills
- Universal City
- Von Ormy
- Windcrest

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- Alamo Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.
- Brooks Development Authority
- Build San Antonio Green
- Free Trade Alliance
- Goodwill Industries
- Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce
- LeFleur Transportation
- McKamie Krueger LLP
- Mission Verde Alliance
- Pinnacle Propane
- San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
- San Antonio Mobility Coalition
- Solar San Antonio

HOSPITAL, SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION, AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS

- Alamo Colleges
- Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District
- Bexar County Emergency Services District No. 6
- Bexar County Emergency Services District No. 7
- Edwards Aquifer Authority
- Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
- Kerrville Economic Development Corporation
- San Antonio River Authority
- University Health System
- VIA Metropolitan Transit

PUBLIC UTILITIES

- CPS Energy
- San Antonio Water System

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Boerne Independent School District
- North East Independent School District
- Northside Independent School District
- Pearsall Independent School District
- Southwest Independent School District

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council
- CI: Now
- Eagle Ford Consortium
- International City/County Management Association
- Joint Base San Antonio, and SA 2020
- Lone Star Rail District
- National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- National Association of Regional Councils
- National Association of Development Organizations
- SA 2020
- San Antonio Coalition for Veterans
- San Antonio Food Bank
- South Central Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Consortium
- South Texas Energy & Economic Roundtable
- Texas Association of Regional Councils
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Municipal League
- U.S. Economic Development Administration
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development
- University of Texas San Antonio
- Workforce Solutions Alamo

Alamo Area Council of Governments 2015-2016 Annual Budget

	2015 Forecast 12/31/2015	2016 Budget
REVENUES		
Federal	15,490,307	15,507,668
State	8,784,347	9,193,484
Local / Medicaid / MAC / UHS/UZA	8,721,338	9,606,357
Delegate Agency Match (Inkind,Cash,PI)	5,055,075	7,585,475
Program Income / Interest	447,185	208,876
AACOG Member Dues	323,933	323,133
AACOG Other Financing Sources	18,320	0
Total Revenues	\$38,840,505	\$42,424,993
EXPENDITURES		
Air Quality	392,552	732,076
Alamo AAA	3,834,152	4,584,706
Alamo AAA - MIPPA	32,961	19,809
Alamo Local Authority (ALA)	11,695,068	13,089,298
Austin Energy (DOE)	4,041	
Bexar AAA	11,459,205	11,159,749
Bexar AAA Other-VDHCBS	587,443	493,407
Capital Area Council of Governments - Air Quality	14,500	
Commission on State Emergency Communications	1,261,116	1,548,308
City of San Antonio - Modeling Contract	18,000	
Commute Solutions / Clean Cities	241,949	243,600
Criminal Justice/DWI	1,267,788	1,203,180
Data Center	4,184	3,499
Government Services	77,960	95,713
Homeland Security	230,317	376,496
HUD Section 8	622,217	
Local	59,238	49,658
Metropolitan Planning Org	268,714	259,096
Resource Recovery	537,827	400,127
Reduce Environmental Impact Gas Shale	15,000	
Transportation/Regional Coordination/UZA (ART)	3,952,090	4,342,649
TVC - Rides and Housing for Heroes	502,911	590,220
VIA - New Freedom	749,778	1,575,275
Weatherization	1,708,480	1,603,474
Child Care	485,000	
Total Program Expenditures	\$40,022,493	\$42,370,187
Total Revenues/Expense	(1,181,988)*	54,806
Beginning Fund Balance - AACOG & Programs	6,791,180	5,609,192
Ending Fund Balance - AACOG & Programs	5,609,192	5,663,998

*ALA & ART are utilizing prior year fund balance.



2015 Regional Award Winners - Kimberly Ford (Regional Citizen), Deana Buriil, Deputy Director, Rape Crisis Center (Community Project), Rene Garcia with Zachry Corporation (Corporate Steward), Dr. Kitty Brietzke / SAILS (Community Project), Elaine Stephens (Regional Citizen), and Deputy Chief, Raul S. Banasco, Bexar County MATCH Program (Government Project).

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