

CAPCOG CONNECTIONS



A PUBLICATION OF THE CAPITAL AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

CAPCOG Awarded HUD Sustainable Communities Grant for Capital Area Consortium

The Capital Area Council of Governments, working with a regional consortium of local governments and other regional stakeholders, has been awarded \$3.7 million as one of only 45 HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grants given out across the nation and of two in Texas. The Consortium, which has been named the Capital Area Texas Sustainability Consortium or CATS, includes the Cities of Austin, Round Rock, and San Marcos, CAMPO, Envision Central Texas, and UT's Center for Sustainable Development. IBM is

the only private sector member of the Consortium.

The application submitted in August proposes to select several

demonstration sites coinciding with the Activity Centers described in CAMPO's recently adopted 2035 Plan; the goal for these sites will be to build strategies that support a balance of housing and employment linked to mobility. The application was for \$4.974 million; however, only \$3.7 was

awarded, so the next steps will be shaving the key components of the project which involve development of an analytical tool to assess development strategies, outreach and engagement at a regional level, and technical assistance for the demo sites selected.

CAPCOG, working with the consortium partners, must develop and submit a work plan to HUD before a final grant agreement will be in hand. According to CAPCOG Executive Director Betty Voights, the work plan may be submitted by the first week of January but the holidays are creating challenges for getting stakeholders together to work on it.

Consortium partners also include Capital Metro, ACC and Texas State, HousingWorks, Capital Area Housing Finance Corporation, WorkForce Solutions, Lone Star Rail District, Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council, LCRA, and TxDOT.



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GIS Day is part of the National Geographic Society's Geography Awareness Week. Williamson County Geographic Information Systems Council held its second annual Wilco GIS Day event. Volunteers included members of Williamson County, Williamson Cen-

tral Appraisal District, City of Georgetown, Baker-Aiklen Engineers, City of Leander, City of Cedar Park, City of Hutto, City of Round Rock, and CAPCOG.

GIS Day creates geographic awareness throughout our world. It provides a forum for users of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to demonstrate real-world applications that are making a difference in our society. GIS allows us to view, understand,

interpret, and visualize data in many ways that reveal relationships, patterns, and trends in the form of maps, globes, reports, and charts.

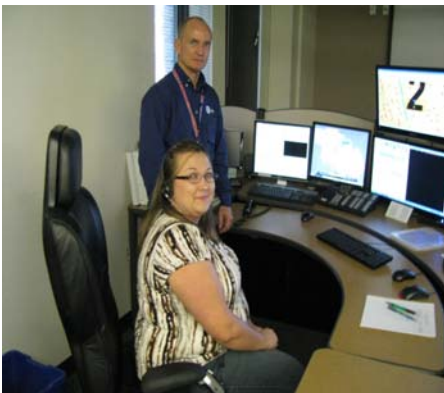
Also among those who attended was the fifth grade class of Cooper Elementary School in Georgetown. The students attended five activities that used GIS: geocaching, hotlinking, Google My Maps, map projections, and demonstrations by first responders. (See *GIS DAY*, p. 4)

question,

CAPCOG TESTS NEW 9-1-1 EQUIPMENT

CAPCOG has been a PlantCML customer since 1992 and recently had the opportunity to participate in the BETA testing of PlantCML's Next Generation 9-1-1 equipment. Three Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) operated by the Hays County Sheriff's Office, San Marcos Police Department, and Georgetown Police Department were selected as test sites.

These CAPCOG PSAPs were the first in the United States to BETA test the updated VESTA Pallas 9-1-1 equipment. The NextGen-ready equipment and software tested provides call takers with integrated voice/data capabilities and the ability to process 9-1-1 calls via an Internet Protocol (IP) based network. The BETA test also introduced a number of new features to the PSAPs. These features included the availability of a private emergency network (PEN) and the high availability framework (HAF). The PEN is available for interconnected PSAPs enabling 9-1-1 calls to be established between an external caller and call takers at more than one location. A transferred 9-1-1 call includes automatic number information (ANI), location information (ALI), call history, supplemental information, call notes and TTY. Each call also includes PEN call information and a unique PEN Call ID improving call history and retention of caller data. HAF provides the functionality to ensure call centers receive the highest level of availability for services and applications. HAF monitors VESTA services and ensures they are operating properly.



AT&T technician Dan Kinny and Georgetown PD 9-1-1 Telecommunicator Vanna Kirk

CAPCOG Honors Our Nation's Family Caregivers

The Capital Area Council of Governments' Area Agency on Aging, along with numerous national organizations, major corporations and community-based groups around the country, will recognize the 10th anniversary of the National Family Caregiver Support Program and celebrate the Year of the Family Caregiver to thank and support our nation's family caregivers.

According to the National Family Caregivers Association (NFCA), in any given year over 65 million people provide some level of caregiving services. Those services are valued at more than \$375 billion dollars a year. Family caregivers provide more than 80% of all home care services. Of today's family care-

givers, 40% provide some level of nursing support. American businesses can lose as much as \$34 billion each year due to employees' needs to care for loved ones 50 years of age or older.

"Our organization is pleased to have this opportunity to formally recognize and celebrate the valuable role these individuals play," said Glenda Rogers, Director of the CAPCOG Area Agency on Aging. "Our agency operates a

Caregiver Support Program designed to support these caregivers. We offer services which range from resource information, education, training and support groups, to assistance in planning for future needs and direct in-home respite services. The stress reduction provided through these support services benefits both the Caregiver and Care Receiver," said Rogers. (See **FAMILY**, p. 4)



Executive Committee Approves Policy Recommendations for Growth and Development

CAPCOG's two-year project to develop an assessment of growth and development related to land use, transportation, water, and economic development was concluded on Nov. 10th when the Executive Committee adopted policy recommendations for each of the four categories. The subcommittee will meet one final time on Dec. 8th to develop legislative priorities which will be considered at the Jan. 12, 2011 meeting of the Executive Committee.

The subcommittee of city and county officials directed CAPCOG staff to first focus on water availability which they felt was the central issue shaping growth in the region. To provide greater understanding of this issue,

CAPCOG staff created the first ever database of water contracts and usage for the ten-county region. This database provided subcommittee members with information on where water resources would allow or constrain future growth. Transportation plans including CAMPO's 2035 Plan were used to allow road networks to be overlaid on maps showing future water availability. Local governments also aided the effort by sending in projected and planned development.

This effort demonstrated the need for better coordination among regional entities to act on issues created by the interrelationship of factors such as water availability, land use regulation, (See **GROWTH**, p. 4)

Region Conducts Annual CBRNE Exercise

The CBRNE Strike Teams in the CAPCOG region conducted the 5th annual joint exercise Nov., 2010, at multiple locations in LaGrange. The exercise brought together personnel from across the CAPCOG region to test their ability to respond to multiple events and to coordinate their activities with each other in the easternmost county in the region.

CBRNE Strike Teams were joined by the LaGrange Fire Department, Fayette County Sheriff's Office, Fayette County EMS, 6th Civil Support Team (CST), Bastrop County SWAT, Bastrop County Incident Command Team, and personnel from other local, state, and federal agencies in a day-long simulation of their response capabilities.

The exercise play began with a call by a county employee to the Fayette County 9-1-1 to report an explosion in a vehicle at the Fayette County Fairgrounds in LaGrange. The vehicle was reported to have contained stolen radioactive materials from a research facility in Austin. When local emergency response personnel arrived on the scene to investigate, they called for regional CBRNE team assistance. The Hays County CBRNE arrived on the scene, searched the buildings on the fairgrounds, and identified several potential hazards.

In one of the buildings, the team discovered members of a local troop of Boy Scouts that had stayed overnight at one of the fairgrounds' buildings as a mock Fayette County Youth Day. As part of the scenario, the scouts and their leaders were overcome with fumes from a hazardous chemical that had been introduced into the building via the ventilation system.

Because the scouts were contaminated with the chemical, the Williamson County CBRNE team was called in to decontaminate them. Following decontamination they were treated by members of the newly-formed regional EMS strike team and transported to St. Mark's Medical Center in

LaGrange. The arrival of this large number of patients allowed the hospital to test its incident command, decontamination processes, and surge capability. This was the first time the regional EMS Strike Team was utilized and tested with mock casualties.

During the initial reconnaissance, the Hays County CBRNE team discovered what appeared to be a clandestine drug



laboratory. The Travis County CBRNE team, accompanied by the Travis County SWAT, was called in to identify the substances involved, gather evidence for possible prosecution, and render the scene safe.

The final scenario of the day centered on the discovery of white powder along with a threatening note in mail delivered to the Fayette County Judge's office at the county courthouse. In the scenario, the white powder was assumed to contain anthrax. The City of Austin CBRNE team responded to gather evidence and stabilize the scene. Evidence was transported to the state's laboratory in Austin for analysis.

This potential anthrax exposure provided the link to an exercise conducted by the Capital Area Public Health and Medical Preparedness Coalition (CAPHMPC) the following week. This exercise was designed to test notification and communication among hospitals and public health during a biological incident. Peer evaluators were used to observe the (See **CBRNE**, p. 4)

FY 2012 Application Process Dates for Funding through the Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division

CAPCOG's Criminal Justice Planning (CJP) department has released the application process benchmark dates (see website) for Plan Year 2012 criminal justice-related funding opportunities through the Governor's Office, Criminal Justice Division (CJD). The CJD Plan Year 2012 covers the period of Sept. 1, 2011 to Aug. 31, 2012.

CAPCOG CJP is designated by the Office of the Governor, CJD, as the responsible entity for regional criminal justice planning efforts for the ten-county area of Region 12. CAPCOG's CJP provides technical assistance to grant applicants applying for funding through CJD and assists communities, local governments, and nonprofit entities in developing and preparing programs and projects that address identified criminal justice, juvenile justice, and

victim services issues. CAPCOG's CJP department is also responsible for coordinating the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) grant application review and prioritization process. The CJAC reviews and scores each application based on its own merit, prioritizes the list of scored applications, and presents a list of funding recommendations to the CAPCOG Executive Committee for approval to submit to the Governor's Office. All funding decisions are made at the sole discretion of the Governor's Office, CJD. For additional information about the CAPCOG CJP application review and prioritization process, go to: <http://www.capcog.org/divisions/regional-services/planning-criminal-justice/>

GIS DAY, (cont'd from p. 1) Each of the students also learned the importance of appropriate use of 9-1-1, how responders locate callers, and the role of GIS in 9-1-1.

The City of Austin also hosted a GIS Day event at Austin City Hall and gave in-school presentations about GIS at 13 area schools and reached over 1,500 students. Keynote speaker, Sean Moran, showcased some of the amazing GIS technologies now available to the public.

FAMILY (cont'd from p. 2)

Organizations such as NFCA and CAPCOG will look ahead to the next 10 years of caregiver support with the goal to keep building on the great successes of the past ten years in improving the quality of life for millions of caregivers and their loved ones.

To learn more about the Area Agency on Aging's Caregiver Support Program, contact John Granado, Intake Coordinator for the Caregiver Support Program, at (512) 916-6067, toll free 1-888-622-9111, Ext. 6067, or email jgranado@capcog.org.

GROWTH (cont'd from p. 2) and transportation planning. Policy recommendations addressed growth related to the location of infrastructure, better use of plans and authority, a more regional approach to project prioritization, linking land use and transportation with economic development, and working toward better job-work commutes, to list a few.

The full report, which includes an explanation of research conducted and data used as well as the policy recommendations, is on the CAPCOG website at www.capcog.org

CBRNE (cont'd from p. 3) various elements of the exercise. Each agency will take its noted areas of improvements and lessons learned and make changes to policies and procedures to be better prepared during an actual emergency.

Based upon existing hazardous materials response teams and law enforcement special operations units, the CBRNE Strike Teams were formed to ensure the capability to respond anywhere in the ten-county CAPCOG region to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive). The teams have worked cooperatively to develop common procedures, ensure common capabilities and training, and obtain compatible equipment. Much of the equipment used by these teams has been purchased with Homeland Security Grant Program funds administered by CAPCOG.

For more information about regional CBRNE Teams or regional exercises, contact Ed Schaefer at (512) 916-6026 or eschaefer@capcog.org.

Capital Area Council of Governments

6800 Burleson Road
Building 310, Suite 165
Austin, Texas 78744

TEL (512) 916-6000

FAX (512) 916-6001

www.capcog.org

CAPCOG Management Staff

Betty Voights, Executive Director

Sheila Jennings, Deputy Director
Mike Jennings, Director of the Regional Law Enforcement Academy
John Rees, Director of Economic Development
James Mikolaichik, Director of Finance

Mark Sweeney, Director of Regional Services
Gregg Obuch, Director of Emergency Communications
Glenda Rogers, Director of Area Agency on Aging
Ed Schaefer, Director of Homeland Security