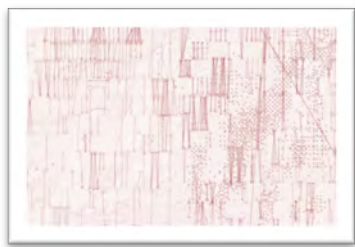
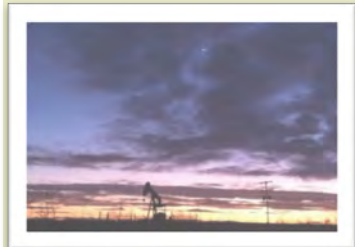


CULBERSON COUNTY

Comprehensive Plan 2020 - 2030



FOREWORD

Planning Process

The Culberson County Comprehensive Plan 2030 provides a guide for the future growth of the county. This document was developed by Kleinman Consultants, in partnership with the County of Culberson, through a Planning and Capacity Building Program/Grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

How to Use It

Culberson County Comprehensive Plan 2030 is a planning document that can provide guidance for a variety of development activities. As such, it may be used to:

- Communicate the overarching vision;
- Guide development approvals by representatives such as elected officials;
- Serve as a basis for regulations such as subdivision regulations, building codes, etc.;
- Inform and support capital improvement plans.

The Development and Structure of the Plan

The guiding principles for this planning process were Culberson County's interest in being proactive and have direction for meeting current needs and future demands. The goals focus on factors of growth and development including: public participation, development considerations, transportation, community facilities, economic development, parks, and housing.

After Chapter 1 presents the background and history of Culberson and its residents and Chapter 2 tells the story of its public engagement, Chapters 3 through 8 of this document outline the goals and objectives for various components of the Comprehensive Plan. Each chapter explores the issues and opportunities of each plan component that will serve as the building blocks for it to be implemented. All the issues and threats are addressed with recommendations and proposed solutions, which are supported with maps and other analytical tools. Finally, in Chapter 9, the policies, timeline of actions, and responsible parties, in addition to funding programs can be found, along with the funding sources for implementing the recommendations of this plan.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

County Officials

Carlos Urias, County Judge

Cornelio Garibay, Precinct 1 Commissioner

Raul Rodriguez, Precinct 2 Commissioner

Gilda Morales, Precinct 3 Commissioner

Adrian Norma, Precinct 4 Commissioner

Special to the following county staff and community members, for volunteering their time to provide comments on this effort

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Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION

COUNTY OVERVIEW

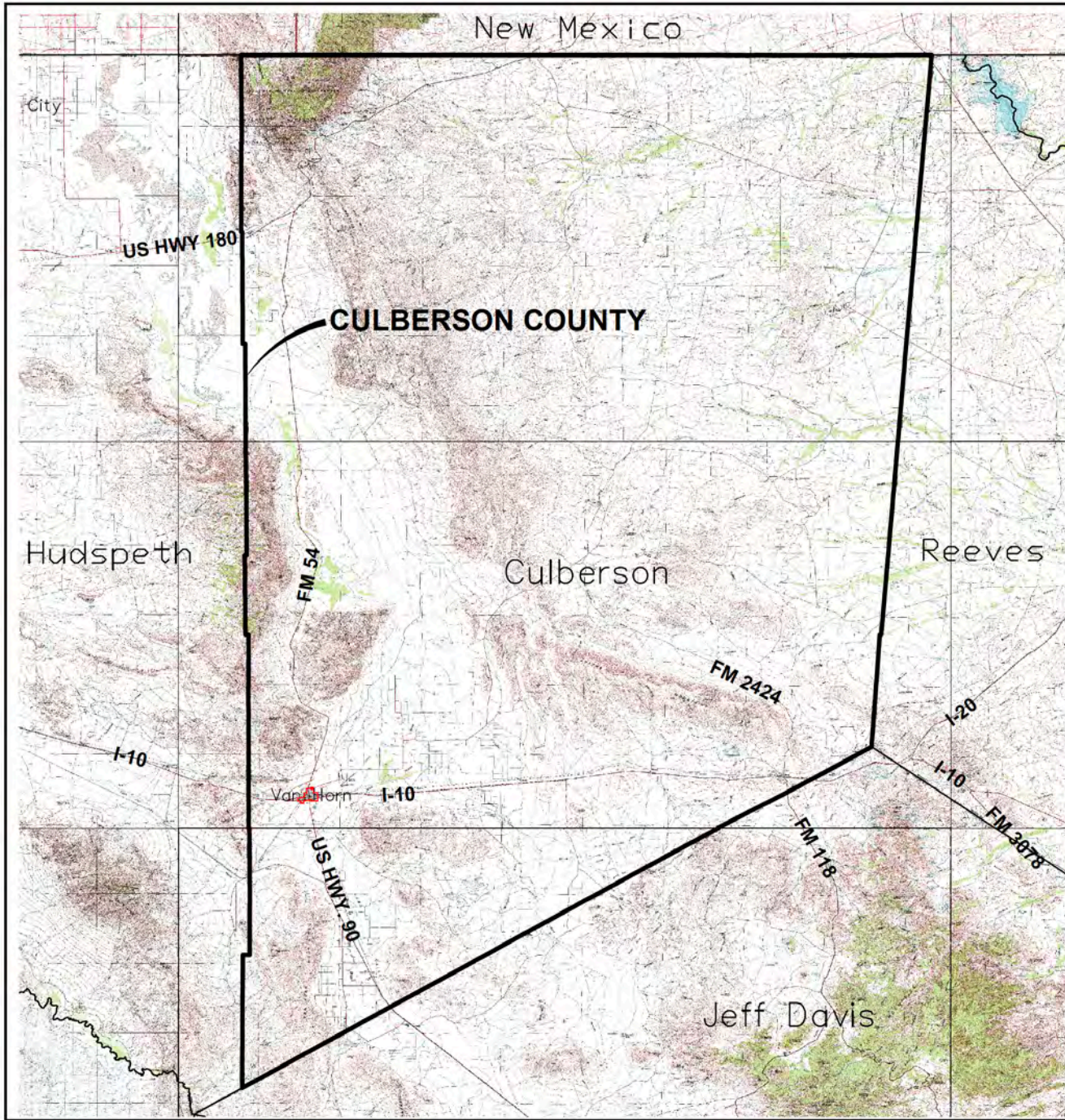
Culberson County is home to one incorporated community in West Texas (the City of Van Horn), home to the tallest mountain in Texas, Guadalupe Peak (8,750 feet elevation) and is part of an interesting dynamic of both oil and gas production and a location of emerging space technology and research. It shares its northern border with New Mexico, it's eastern border with Reeves County, it's Southern border with Jeff Davis County, and it's western border with Hudspeth County. As of 2018, the county population is estimated at 2,204 people, and of that population, the largest town and county seat, City of Van Horn, is about 1,901. Van Horn is approximately 120 miles east of El Paso in the southwestern part of the county. The county's center lies about thirty-six miles northeast of Van Horn at approximately 3227' north latitude and 10429' west longitude. Interstate Highway 10 and U.S. Highway 80 cross southern Culberson County from east to west; U.S. Highway 90 enters the county from the south and terminates at Van Horn; and U.S. highways 62 and 180 cross the county's northwestern corner. The Missouri Pacific Railroad crosses southern Culberson County, paralleling Interstate 10; the Southern Pacific crosses the county's southwestern corner; and a spur of an abandoned Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe rail enters northeastern Culberson County from New Mexico and ends near Rustler Springs.

Culberson County is the fifth-largest county by area in Texas. This rural county in the Trans Pecos region covers an area of 3,813 square miles, of which less than 2% is developed land and 0.01 % is water. In the northwest part of the county, the Guadalupe Mountains National Park stands as a major local attraction. Additionally, along Hudspeth county line, the Sierra Diablo Wildlife Management Area is a sanctuary of the last remaining bighorn sheep in Texas.

In the northeast part of the county, oil and gas development has boomed over the last few years. While this can be deemed as good for the economy and employment, there are concerns about the protection of resources, specifically water.

In the central west part of the county, Blue Origin is a privately funded aerospace company set up by Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos, initially focused on sub-orbital spaceflight. The company has built and flown its New Shepard spacecraft design at their Culberson County, Texas facility.

Culberson County has a rich history of farming, mineral exploration and now research and technology. The county is poised to participate and benefit from economic development in the region, taking advantage of I-10, the growing economies and the natural landscapes of the region.



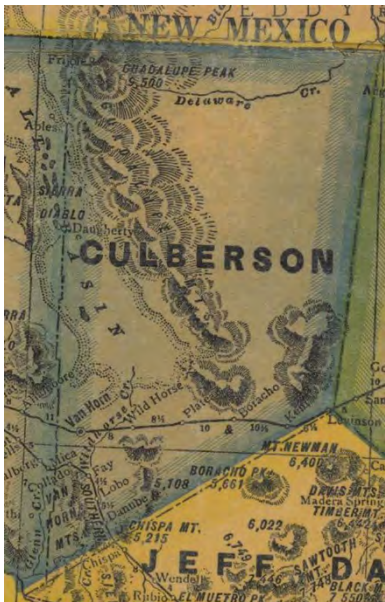
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 Texas Registered Surveyor Firm No. 10194117

CULBERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

**2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
 GENERAL LOCATION MAP**

DESIGN	DRAWN	DATE	PROJECT NO.	SCALE	SHEET #
RVC	RVC	3/26/2017			1

Figure 1.1 Map from 1940 of Culberson County, Courtesy of Texas General Land Office



HISTORY

The area was first inhabited by Native Americans and then Spanish and later Mexican settlement occurred in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Culberson County was founded in 1911 and is named after David B. Culberson a lawyer, a Texas congressman, and a confederate soldier in the American Civil War. The county seat is Van Horn.

The area grew in importance thanks to its transportation links via land and rail. Agriculture was an early industry, and later in the 60s, mineral exploration grew. This area became a big source of sulfur mining, up until the 1990s. The region continues to specialize in farming and natural resource extraction to this day, and retains much of its rural character.

POPULATION DENSITY

The population density in Culberson County is 0.63 people per square mile, versus 96.3 people per square mile in Texas (Census, 2010). The average family size is 4.34 people in Culberson County, versus 2.75 people in Texas (Census, 2010). The 2017 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates the family size is down to 3.82.

The most recent Census 2018 population estimates show the population of Culberson County being 2,204 and Van Horn is at 1,901. The majority of the population of Culberson County is clustered around the City of Van Horn, thus about 86% of the county’s total population reside there, leaving only about 14% (or ~303) of the county’s population being outside of Van Horn. There are additional, small unincorporated communities in the county, such as Lobo, Kent, Boracho, and Pine Springs.

Table 1.1 Population Growth Rate from 2000 to 2010 for Culberson County, Van Horn, and State of Texas.

	Population in 2000	Population in 2010	Growth Rate
Culberson County	2,975	2,398	-19.39%
City of Van Horn	2,403	2,063	-14.15%
Culberson County (RURAL)	572	335	-41.43%
State of Texas	20,851,820	25,145,561	20.59%



Figure 1.2 Barbeque at Old Settler’s Reunion 1919, Courtesy of Clark Hotel Museum, University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History

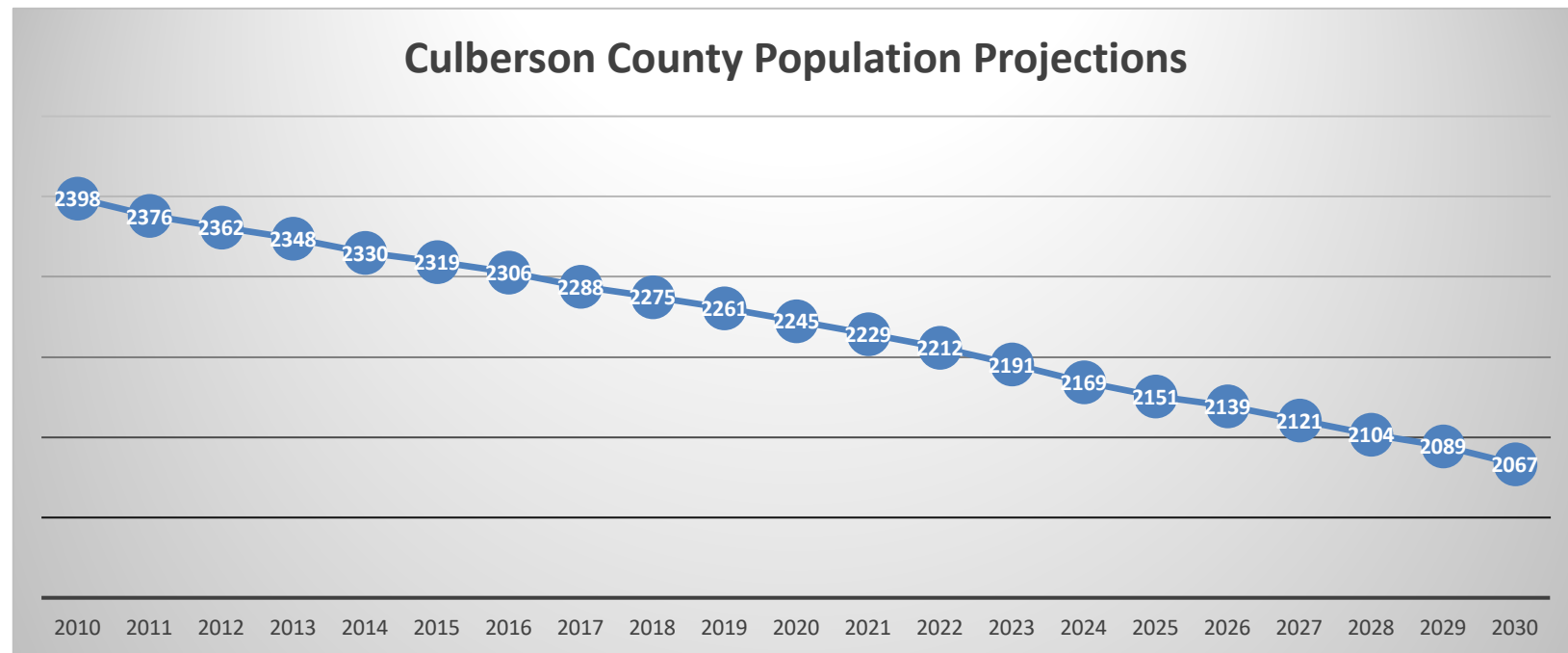
POPULATION GROWTH

The population growth for Culberson County, Van Horn, Rural Culberson County and Texas from 2000 to 2010 is shown in Table 1.1. Compared to entire Culberson County, the population of the state of Texas grew at a higher rate of 20.59%. However, when you take Van Horn's population out, and just compare the growth rate of rural Culberson County, the growth rate is much more dramatic, with a population loss of almost 41%. Table 1.1 shows the population growth rates from the official census 2000 and 2010 differences. At the time of this plan, no official 2020 census numbers were available.

Population Projection

Several sources are used to estimate the expected population growth in Culberson County. In 20 years, a decrease of 331 people is projected in entire Culberson County, which is a 37% population decrease by 2030 (Figure 1.3). By 2030, the population is expected to be 2067. This projections are estimated by the Texas Demographic Center, and their Texas Population Projections Program.

Figure 1.3 Population Projections (2010 – 2030)



Population by Age

The median age in Culberson is 41.2 years of age, compared to the US median age of 37.8. Figure 1.4 shows the percentage of population under age of 5, between the ages of 18 and 65, and the elderly (>65 years old). Planning for the needs of an aging population will be important for Culberson County.

Figure 1.4 Population by Age

Age and Sex

41.2 +/- 8.6

Median age in Culberson County, Texas

37.8 +/- 0.1

Median age in the United States

Table: DP05

Table Survey/Program: 2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Population by Age Range in Culberson County, Texas

Under 5 years - 7.6%

18 years and older - 76.6%

65 years and older - 19.7%

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80

Population by Race

Looking at race and ethnicity characteristics (Figure 1.5), the a large percentage of population is Hispanic/Latino population 80.7%, compared to an average of 17.6% of Hispanic or Latino in entire United States.

Figure 1.5 Population by Race

Race

2,257 +/- *****

Total population in Culberson County, Texas

321,004,407 +/- *****

Total population in the United States

Table: DP05

Table Survey/Program: 2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Population by Race in Culberson County, Texas

White alone - 83.5%

Black or African American alone - 0.4%

American Indian and Alaska Native alone - 0.0%

Asian alone - 0.3%

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone - 0.0%

Some other race alone - 14.5%

Two or more races - 1.3%

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90

Hispanic or Latino

Race and Ethnicity

80.7% +/- 5.8%

Hispanic or Latino in Culberson County, Texas

17.6% +/- 0.1%

Hispanic or Latino in the United States

Figure 1.6 Educational Attainment

Education

Culberson County has an 33.8% education attainment for high school or equivalent degree. Figure 1.6 depicts the relatively low amount of educational attainment. As a whole Culberson County can improve attracting those with higher education levels.

There are no 2-year or 4-year colleges or universities in the county but there are several residents with associates degree or higher . As shown in Figure 1.5, Culberson County has more residents whose highest educational attainment is below the level of an Associate’s degree Correspondingly, fewer county residents hold a college degree of some kind.

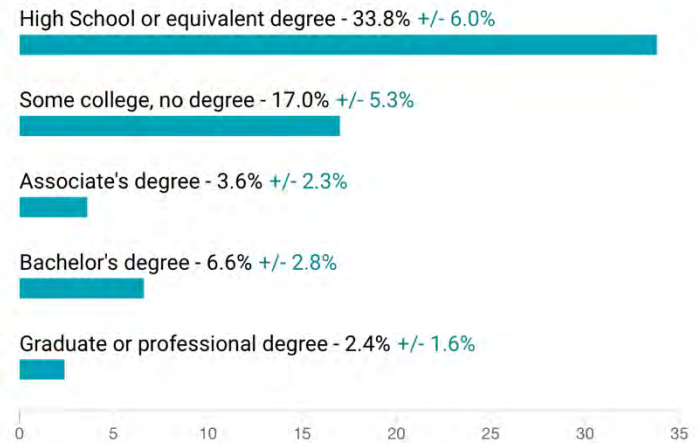
Educational Attainment

63.4% +/- 6.1%
High school graduate or higher
in Culberson County, Texas

87.3% +/- 0.1%
High school graduate or higher
in the United States

Table: DP02
Table Survey/Program: 2017
American Community Survey
5-Year Estimates

Education Attainment in Culberson County, Texas



A close-up photograph of several hands of different skin tones stacked together in a circle, symbolizing unity and public participation. The hands are positioned in a way that they overlap, with fingers pointing outwards. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a natural setting with sunlight filtering through. The text 'Chapter 2' is written in a white, italicized serif font, and 'PUBLIC PARTICIPATION' is written in a white, bold, all-caps serif font, both centered over the hands.

Chapter 2
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

Participatory planning is the mutual learning between planners with more technical expertise and residents with local knowledge and experience.

“We want a place we would be proud for our kids and grandkids to live.”

Figure 2.1 shows the process utilized in the development of the Comprehensive Plan. The following chapter describes the method for gathering public input during the planning process.

Figure 2.1 Comprehensive Planning Process

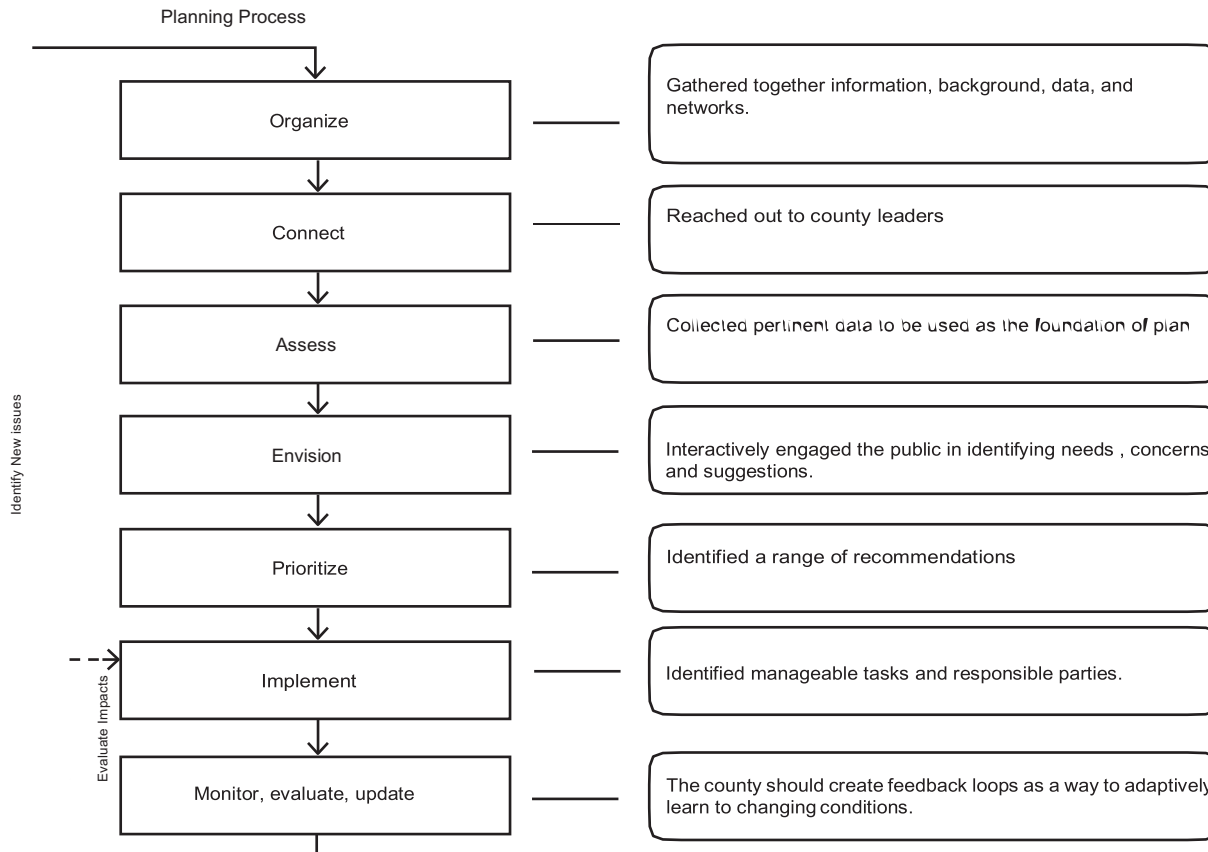


Table 2.1 Plan Meetings

Meeting	Date
Orientation Meeting	14-May-18
County Commissioners Meeting	14-Jan-19
Transportation and Groundwater Conservation District Meeting	15-Jan-19
Survey	On-going
Community Town Hall	19-Sept-19
County and County Roads Tour	28-Oct-19
County Commissioners Presentation	9-Dec-19
Roads & Flood Call/Meetings	18-Dec-19
Final Public Hearing @ County Courthouse	30-Dec-19

Culberson County Planning Process

In 2018, Culberson County received a Planning and Capacity Building Grant, funded by the Texas Department of Agriculture, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Kleinman Consultants, PLLC, was contracted by the county to lead the planning effort for creating the first comprehensive plan for the county. Since the city didn't have previous information compiled in the form of a comprehensive plan, the majority of 2018 was used for data collection, basemap creation and information gathering. Communication with county officials and staff assisted in coordinating data compilation and identifying county issues and needs early on.

In early 2019, discussions began with stakeholders, to address planning issues, future development growth, and community capacities. Meetings were held with county staff and leaders.

Survey

Before and after the townhall meeting, a collaborative survey was conducted to assess information on county issues and needs. The survey was only available online, and while the response was low (only 20), the information collected was invaluable and it validated what had been heard before and during the town hall meeting. The existing vision statement is based on the current conditions, needs, and wishes of the community.

Town Hall Meeting

Representatives from Culberson County and the City of Van Horn were invited to attend an evening town hall/workshop at the Convention Center, on September 19th, 2019 (Figure 2.1). The meeting was organized between both Culberson County and the city of Van Horn's Economic Development Corporation. It created a direct connection and discussion about the needs of the county, the city and the opportunities. During the meeting, citizens from the county and the city provided a lot of input in needs and suggestions. A total of 35 participants attended the meeting. Figure 2.2 shows a list of town hall meeting attendees.

During the town hall meeting, there were three roundtables set up for small group discussion, which were facilitated. Individuals were able to rotate between the three tables and offer their ideas, concerns and suggestions on the following:

1. Issues
2. Needs
3. Visions

There were also several tables set up to capture ideas related to Big Ideas for Culberson County and for Van Horn, and a Vision. Additionally, notecards were spread throughout the room to ensure that comments were received, if they hadn't been expressed in small group discussion. Pictures from notes and meeting are on Figure 2.3

Figure 2.1 Copy of Town Hall Invitation/Flyer.

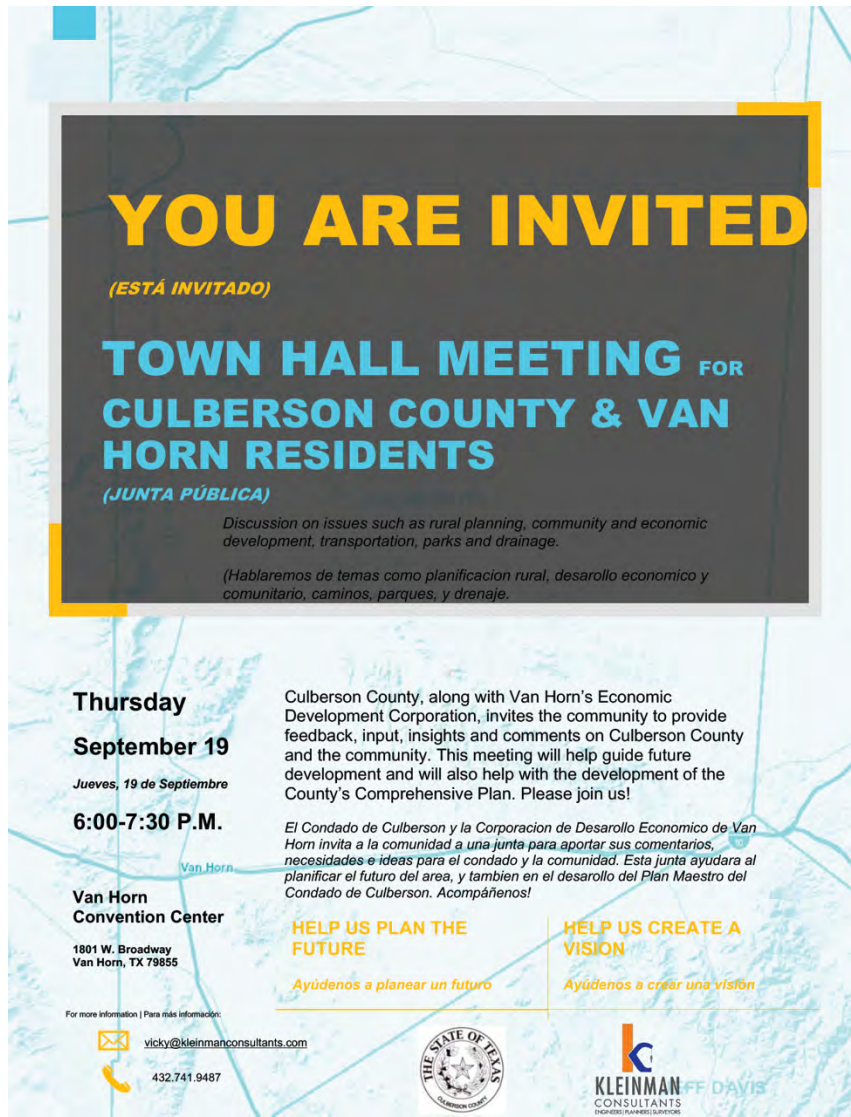


Figure 2.2 List of 9/19/19 Town Hall Meeting Attendees

	Name
1	Florin Ghinet
2	Caitlin BenVau
3	Carlos Urias
4	Pete S. Torres Jr.
5	Ben File
6	Laura Reyes
7	Gerald Marsh
8	Dennis Marsh
9	Sally Carrasco
10	Jerry Denman
11	Krissy Lerdal
12	Rick Gray
13	Joshua Kerlin
14	Rosario Yglecias
15	Donaldo Parker
16	Jeff McCoy
17	Teresa Sandoval
18	Cruz Parada
19	Sibi Aldo
20	Sibi Natalee
21	Larry Simpson
22	Lisa Morton
23	Dan Baeza
24	Lisa Cottrell
25	Jesus Ramirez
26	Nina Ramirez
27	Patricia Golden
28	Sophia Porter
29	Patti Scott
30	Starvanna Cottrell
31	Eddie Seyffert
32	David Scott
33	Karolyn Carlross
34	Vicky Carrasco
35	Ramon Carrasco

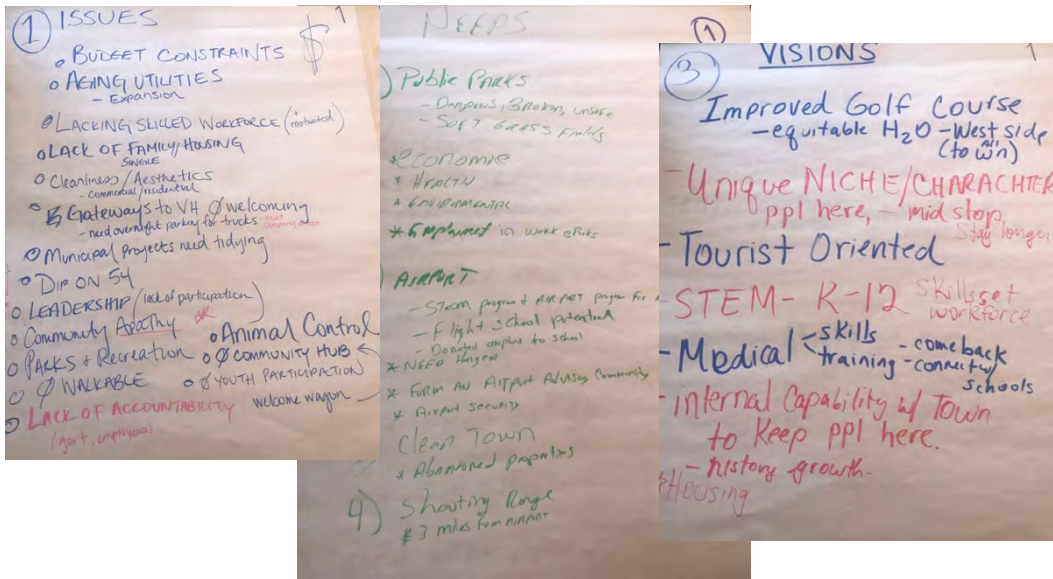


Figure 2.3 Examples of Town Hall Meeting Notes and Community Engagement from 9/19/19 meeting.

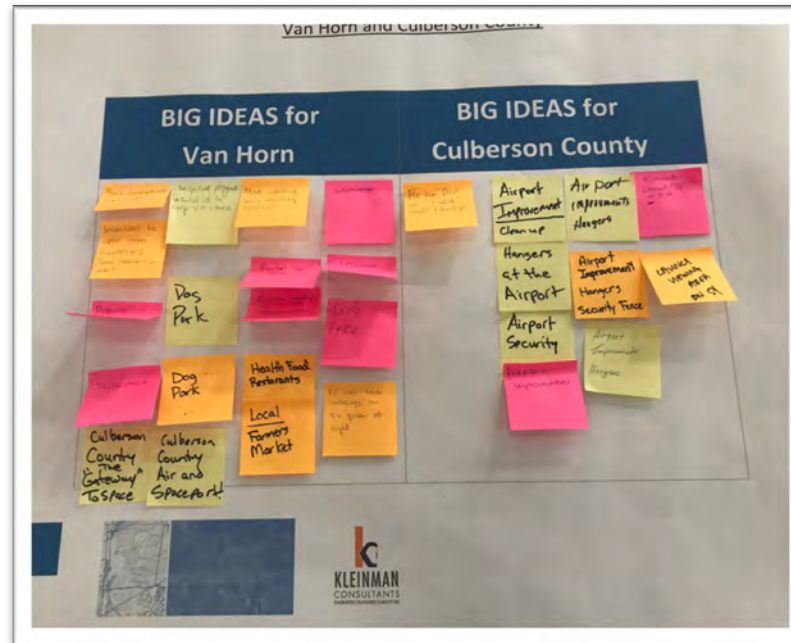
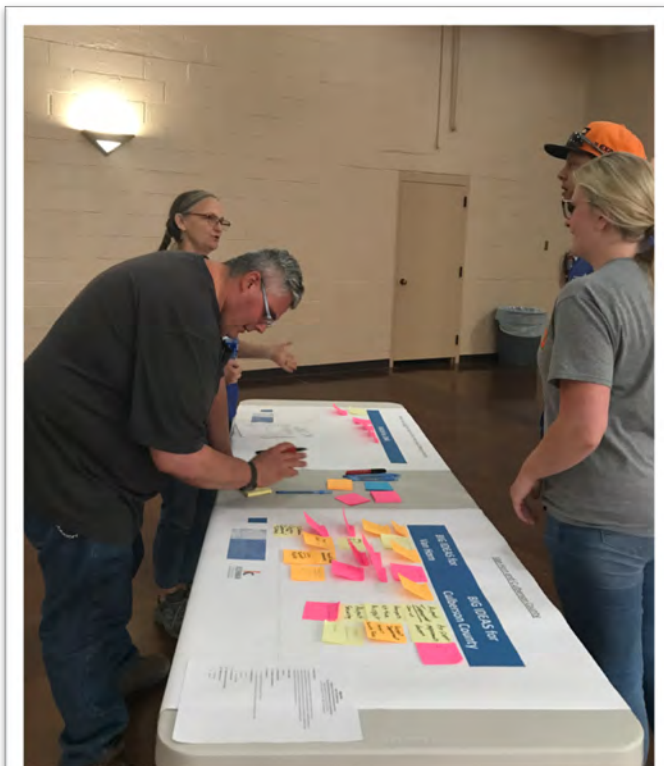


Table 2.1 9/19/19
Roundtable
Discussion Notes

TOWN HALL MEETING-VAN HORN AND CULBERSON COUNTY.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

ISSUES

- Budget constrains \$
- Aging utilities
 - o Expansion
- Lacking skilled workforce (+ motivated)
- Lack of Family Single/housing
- Cleanliness/Aesthetics
 - o Commercial/Residential
- Gateways to VH 0 Welcoming
 - o Need overnights parking for trucks-need company effort
- Municipal projects need tidying
- Dip on 54
- Leadership (lack of participation)
- Community Apathy *
- Parks and Recreation
- 0 Walkable
- Lack of accountability (gov't, employees)
- Animal Control
- 0 Community Hub Welcome Wagon
- 0 Youth Participation
- Unwelcoming to newcomers.
- 0 backflow protector for pesticide planes
- Water issues
 - o Sierra Blanca
 - o Airport water lines
- Customer Service
- Business is decreasing
 - o Regression
- Youth Development
- No support for small business
- Tech infrastructure
 - o Wifi/telecom/power
- Not attracting business
- School facilities 0 open to public (external)
- 0 Collective leadership + Direction
- 0 Organized recycling
 - o Clearly identify bins (glass, plastics, cans)
- No "local proud" mentality.
- 0 local identity
- 0 local pride
- No upcoming workforce
- No preserving historical sites
 - o "Historical Board"
 - o Red School Bldg, castle

TOWN HALL MEETING-VAN HORN AND CULBERSON COUNTY.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

NEEDS

- 1) Public Parks
 - Dangerous, broken, unsafe
 - Soft grass fields
 - Economic
 - Health
 - Environmental
 - Employment in work @ parks
- 2) Airport
 - Start program & airport program for kids
 - Flight and school potential
 - Donated airplane to school
 - Need hangers
 - Form an airport advisory community
 - Airport Security
- 3) Clean Town
 - Abandoned properties
- 4) Shooting Range
 - 3 Miles from airport @ railroad crossing
- 5) Housing
 - Tou house new employees
 - Affordable housing
 - Infrastructure
- 7) Establish main street
 - Better zoning decisions
- 8) Marketing manager
- 9) Rest Area on State 54
 - Viewing Area
- 10) Main Street Lighting
- 11) Social Welfare program
- 12) Advertising to get people to stop and stay a day in Van Horn
- 13) Town entrance mural on both sides
- 14) Accountability on government
- 15) Animal Shelter Control
- 16) Locals to support local business
- 17) Concentrate public places in the center
 - Library
 - Bike Racks
 - + Near El Capitan
 - Museum Area with cazebo and trees
- 18) Open mind
- 19) Sidewalks
 - Shared space
- 20) Traffic lights get rid off
- 21) Fishing pond with park
- 22) Walking trails
- 23) Training seminars, Basic pdf, workshops on basic programs
- 24) Youth activist & development
- 25) Law enforcement
- 26) High speed internet
- 27) Follow up the plans
- 28) Collaboration between County and City
- 29) Vision and care.

TOWN HALL MEETING-VAN HORN AND CULBERSON COUNTY.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

VISIONS

- Improved Golf Course
 - o Equitable H2O- West side (all town)
- Unique NICHE/CHARACTER
 - o Ppl here-mid stop stay longer
- Tourist Oriented
- STEM-K-12 Skills set workforce
- Medical -skills -comeback -training -connect w/schools
- Internal Capability w/town to keep ppl here.
- History growth
 - Housing
- Streets -curbs -maintained and better
- Water System >
- Entertainment opportunities
 - o Eg. Bus tour festivals
- A beautiful V.H.
- Improve quality of life
- Drug free and crime free
- Outdoor oasis -County or city
 - o Water recreation
- Niche -Western -Authentic -Pioneers -Hospitalable
- * ID Phrase Past and future > space Old/new frontier Mural of Diversity
- Historic Preservation – Eg. Delaware sch. Bldg. - Idea historic comn.
- Walking trails-accessible/park -Bike
- Master Plan-Sticking to it.
- Attract Busi. & keep kid here (come back)
- Oil Corp \$ use to get to vision
- Solar Farm-? Nat. gas? What happened?
- Blue Origin- Community Relations
- From end to end-visually – connect everything
 - o H2O attractions
 - o from rest area to rest area
- HUB to parks, Wagon wheel
- o Keep
- Haven of the highways (crossroads)
- State plans for rest areas -Safety area- tie to vision
- Capitalize on strong points
 - Blue origin -oil
 - Parks - Small town
 - Attract others (transients)
 - Stay longer
 - Live in
 - Industry tourism/aerospace
 - Visual on I-10
 - On broadway -impressions @ night *Facades -new bldgs.-health
- Frontier Days-events – back to what is was David Scott -Casino night
- Mainstreet -A clean main street
- CLEAN TOWN- Bus. Responsible
- Vacant- Incentives for bus.
- Repaving airport |Weather -fencing
- Dark skies-
 - stop connect -short stop
- ARMY
 - o Tank @ business?
- Technology park
- Business to capitalize skills/workforce
- E of V.H. Industrial Property
- Accountability for plan, vision, etc.
- Apathy?
- Update website (city) modern-events page
- Shared maker spaces Cuitini BenVau Al Sibi
- creating -3d printers
- Eg.-Mojave collaboration
- New project-across hardware

Table 2.1 9/19/19
Table Post-it Exercise

Big Ideas for Culberson County

- Airport Improvement
- Airport Improvements Hangers
- Airport Improvement Hangers & Security Fence
- Launch Viewing Area on 54
- Eliminate Washout/“DIP” on TX-54
- Airport Improvement Clean Up
- Hangers at The Airport
- Airport Security
- Fix the “DIP” on I-54 Create a Bridge

Big Ideas for Van Horn

- Incentives to Open Local Businesses (Lower Barriers to Enter)
- Public Makers Workspace (With 3D Printers and Machine Shop)
- Skatepark
- Culberson County The “Gateway” To space
- Requiring Program
 - Initiatives to Keep VH clean
- Dog Park
- Culberson County Air and Space Port!
- Local: Farmers Market
- Health Food Restaurants
- Whataburger
- Rental Car Vendor
- AMTRAK Connection/Stop or Inter Urban Train (El Paso)
- More Walking Trails at City Limits
- Fix Train Track Crossings So It’s Quieter at Night
- Ride Shares
- Park Development Public Use

Culberson County's Vision

The following are some key ideas that were summarized and highlighted based on review of public input, to help generate a vision statement.

- Rural and Small Town Identity and Sense of Community
- Wide, Open Spaces, Dark Skies, and Natural Resources
- Accessibility and Connectivity
- Education and Health
- STEM—Focus and Skills
(Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)
- Safety
- Affordable and Quality Housing
- Hospitable, Crossroads

These values were used to create the new vision statement.

New Vision Statement

“Culberson County supports a high quality of life by nurturing a family-friendly, resilient, and safe community, and welcomes sustainable growth while conserving natural assets”.

1) Development Considerations

- Expansion of the tax base
- Developing in a safe and resilient way that will last for generations to come
- Improvement and expansion of infrastructure in an effort to attract businesses and increase the aesthetic appeal of the county and community
- Explore way in which to collaborate with the oil and gas industries to increase production but also balance with county needs and improvements

A goal is the end state that the community is working toward. It's driven by the values of the community.

An objective is a tangible, measurable outcome leading to the achievement of a goal. ^[4]

“Capitalize on strong points”

2) Transportation

- Need for expanded roadway connectivity throughout county
- Need for road improvements in the Northeast part of the county, where energy sector is outpacing county infrastructure improvements
- Need for better, updated equipment and machinery for maintaining county roads

3) Community/County Facilities

- Continue to support hospital and provide greater healthcare access, training
- Meet the social services needs of our community, including domestic violence and foster care
- Provide a quality education system for our children and older generation
- Expand emergency response and safety as population grows/changes

4) Economic Development

- New retail establishments and new basic economy businesses
- Marketing of Culberson County to attract new businesses
- Protection of small businesses

5) Environment and Open Spaces

- Wildlife preservation
- Market assets and promote ecotourism
- Expansion of parks
- Expansion of water recreation
- Regulation of drilling and water use, water recycling
-

6) Housing

- More Housing options
- Quality of Housing

Final Open House

On December 30, 2019, an open house/public hearing was held at the Culberson County Courthouse. County residents were invited to review and provide feedback on all the work of the comprehensive plan.

A photograph of a lush, green field of tall grasses and wildflowers. The field is filled with various plants, including tall grasses with long, thin blades and several yellow flowers with dark centers. There are also some purple flowers scattered throughout. The background shows a clear blue sky and some green trees in the distance. The overall scene is vibrant and natural.

Chapter 3
**DEVELOPMENT
CONSIDERATIONS**

FACILITATING SAFE AND RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT REGIONALLY

Growth might not be entirely anticipated over the next 10 years, but the county knows it's important to be proactive and develop development considerations to attract growth and development. It's important to work with municipalities--jurisdictions, organizations, and other entities throughout Culberson County to come together to create a unified development plan within the County.

With limited development management tools available to the County, there has been community concern about the impacts on roads, schools, infrastructure, community services, etc. This chapter aims to guide thoughtful consideration for how and where development may occur.

Keeping up with the Oil Industry While Maintaining a Safe County

As economic development grows in the oil and gas industry, county resources are being affected. The rapid expansion of the energy sector in the Trans-Pecos region has brought various oil and gas companies to Culberson County, especially in the Northeast portion. While jobs are being created, there is a plethora of housing development that has ensued, mostly as either RV lots or man-camp. The county has also seen an increase in emergency and safety related incidents in this part of the county, that in the past was rarely inhabited.

Concerns:

- *Roads are not keeping up with heavy use. County resources are strained*
- *Safety considerations with temporary and short term increases in population in remote areas that have never had access to emergency and safety county services in the past*
- *The use of natural resources, especially water*

Suggestions:

- 1) *Seek agreements that incentivize the energy sector to provide resources to address infrastructure needs and safety concerns*
- 2) *Create monthly or quarterly dialogues (breakfasts) to share ideas, concerns and solutions to ensure a win-win*
- 3) *Support other Culberson Groundwater Conservation District and their work to expand their management area to include the northern part of county.*

Regional Planning

A unified approach to enhancing the positive impacts of development and lessening the negative impacts of development is key for the County. County officials, city, economic development corporations, and other groups should continue to collaborate to guide development. In particular, a Joint Land Use Management approach may be appropriate. Joint Land Use Management is a cooperative land use planning effort between local governments. While this might be new to counties and the region, it might be worth exploring. Consistency across the county and city will reduce confusion for developers and facilitate smart growth practices. Also, County and City investments should coordinate with the emergency management office and align priorities with action items in a regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 3.1

Unite our entities and actively coordinating regional efforts.

Goal 3.2

Explore development opportunities to ensure a win-win between county and industries and big employers in the county

3.1.1 Create an inter-organizational council, with membership open to all Van Horn, counties, key businesses and organizations in the county for the purpose of holistic management of the county growth prospects and management of resources

3.2.1 Develop a strategy for ensuring that county resources are not strained with new industries in the county

3.1.2 Initiate annual program involving all members in point 3.1.1 to improve interorganizational collaboration for conservation area.



Chapter 4

TRANSPORTATION AND
STORM DRAINAGE

QUALITY CONNECTIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

As Culberson County continues to grow and/or evolve--both in terms of population and economic activity--its transportation network must grow with it. The mobility of both people and goods is vital to the region's success and its citizens' quality of life. Sufficient and strategic infrastructure investments and planning are needed to support this mobility. To that end, this chapter describes the existing condition of the mode networks that span the County--specifically, its road and rail transportation systems. Using this information, along with input and feedback provided by Culberson County residents and elected officials, the chapter proposes extensions and improvements to the transportation network that will best meet local needs. Additionally, plans should be established to address flooding issues in county.

The transportation networks are composed of roads, rails, and an airport. This chapter focuses on the roads, rails, and airport that connect different places across the County and with neighboring counties. Pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure, while important, can be addressed by City of Van Horn officials who are familiar with local active transportation needs and the smaller-scale placemaking that walking and biking activity can support.

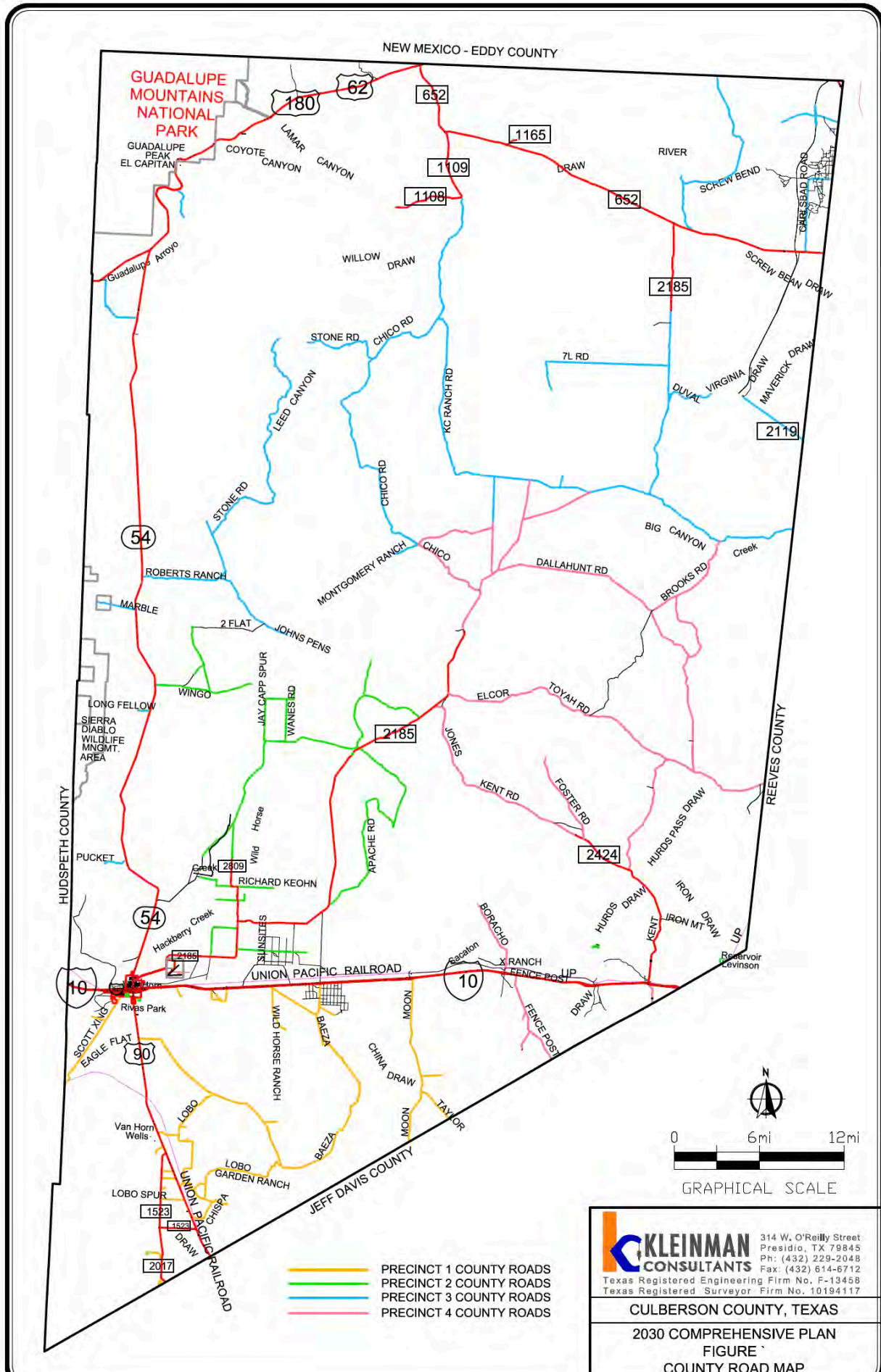
“We should meet regularly with TxDOT, Industry, and others to make sure we are ready and able to handle the growth.”

ROADS

The Culberson County road network includes all roadway types from the Roadway Classification Hierarchy, including interstate highways and free-ways, principal and minor arterials, collectors and local roads. Figure 4.1 shows the existing road network. The only interstate in the County is a portion of I-10, connecting El Paso to San Antonio. Other highways include US 90, 180 and 62. There are also minor arterials (FM 2185, 2809, 2119, and 652). These roads support mobility of passenger and freight vehicles across longer distances within and beyond the County limits.

In terms of the region, I-10 runs east-west on the south of Culberson County. Highway 54, on the western part of the county, connects I-10 and Van Horn, with the norther part of the county, close to Guadalupe Mountains National Park. FM Road 2185 is paved only partially, but it goes thru the entire middle of county, connecting Van Horn to FM 652 in the north. The section of 2185 that aren't paved are maintained by the city. Engineering design work is underway for the segments of 2185 that might be paved, if energy sector in the northeast continues to grow.

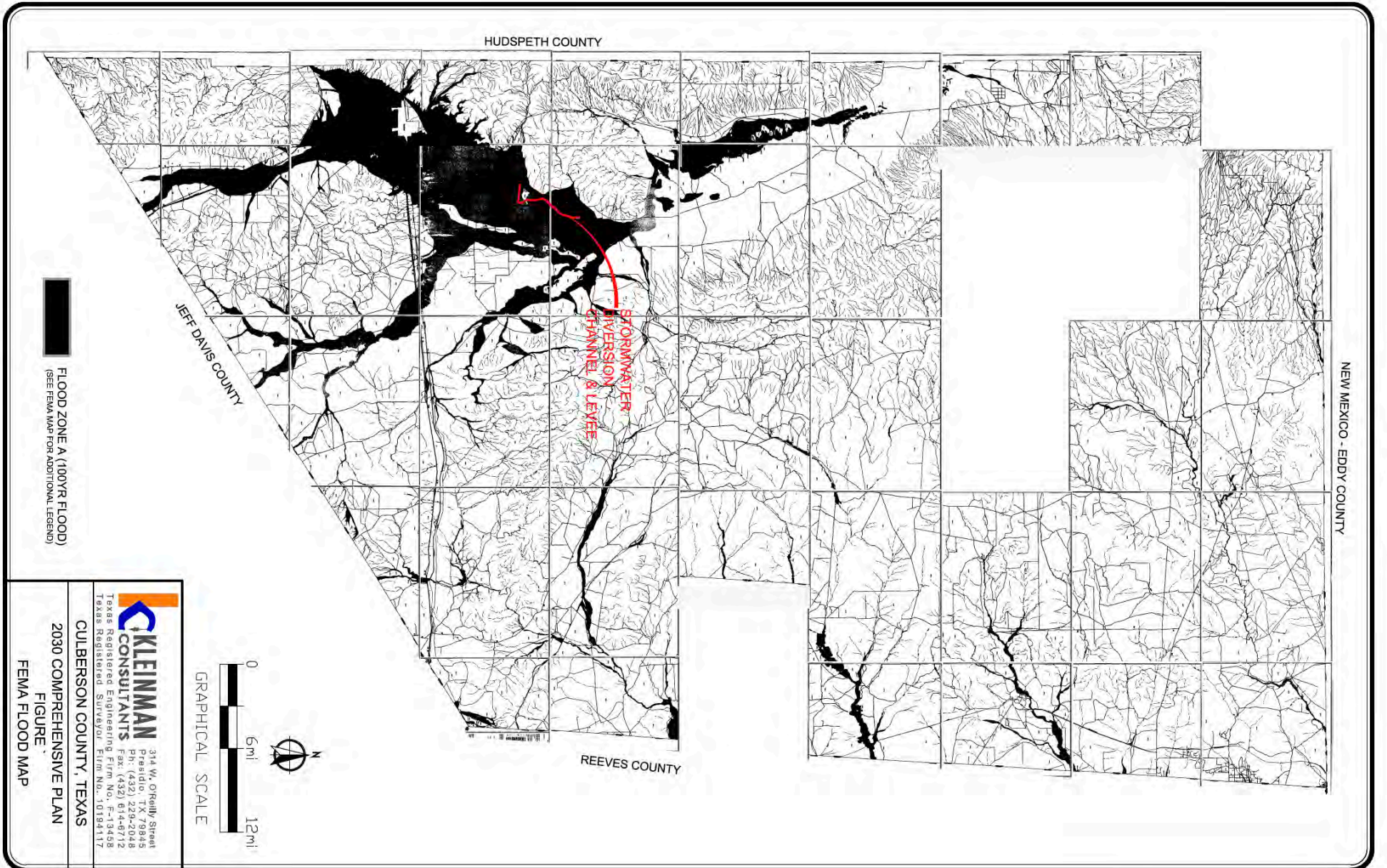
Figure 4.1 Road System



- PRECINCT 1 COUNTY ROADS
- PRECINCT 2 COUNTY ROADS
- PRECINCT 3 COUNTY ROADS
- PRECINCT 4 COUNTY ROADS

KLEINMAN CONSULTANTS
 314 W. O'Reilly Street
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 Texas Registered Engineering Firm No. F-13458
 Texas Registered Surveyor Firm No. 10194117

CULBERSON COUNTY, TEXAS
 2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
 FIGURE 4
 COUNTY ROAD MAP



Proposed Improvements

Based on our analysis of the existing roadways, specifically their usage pattern and classification, and the input provided by Culberson County residents, we propose extensions and improvements to the County thoroughfares, described below.

FM 2185—Pave stretch that is unpaved, so that both section of 2185 can be joined. This is something that should be explored and discussed with TxDOT, oil industry and county officials.

Northeast County Roads—maintain and improve all Northeastern county roads, due to heavy use of these roads. A major study should be conducted for this portion of the county to prioritize and identify potential roadway expansions and reengineering in the context of proposed development in order to resolve some of these issues.

As described above, certain roadways within the County are experiencing heavier use than their current classification and engineering specifications support. Many of the roads in the county are unlikely to be able to cope with the significantly higher traffic volumes induced by a energy sector (oil and gas). This is a substantial risk to human health and safety and should be redressed.

Rail

Rail has historically been an important asset to Culberson County. Two lines belonging to the Union Pacific (UP) Railroad cross the county's southwestern corner. While there are no major issues with the railroad line, there were some comments referenced at the public meeting. Specifically regarding

- RR crossings and them being safer.
- Possible AMTRAK Connection or stop in Van Horn
- Inter-urban train to El Paso
- Quieter train crossings at night

Culberson County also has about 46.5 miles of an abandoned railroad line on the northeast part of the county. This was used in the past for sulfur mining, but it stopped running rail in the late 1990s. The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company (BNSF) sought an exemption because of the abandonment of the line. The majority of the right-of-way is 200 feet wide, and there are 7 public crossings and 12 private crossings. It was constructed to connect rail from Loving, New Mexico, to the Sulphur plant in Culberson County (near Rustler Springs). While the line is not currently used and it has been abandoned for almost 20 years, it is worth noting in this plan, and exploring if it's worth rehabilitating due to potential growth in the region.

Airport

Culberson county owns and manages the Culberson County Airport, located 3.2 miles northeast of Van Horn. The airport covers an area of about 1,000 acres and has two asphalt paved runways. It has about 500 aircraft operations a year, and is 60% used by general aviation and 40% used by military.

Public input generated several needs for the airport.

- Airport Improvements Hangers
- Airport Improvement Security Fence
- Airport Improvement Clean Up
- Airport Security
- Airport program for kids
- Improve water line at airport

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

<p>Goal 4.1</p> <p>Coordinate transportation and future development in the Culberson County.</p>	<p>4.1.1 Ensure connectivity for new development and existing roadway system.</p> <p>4.1.2 Provide adequate county road maintenance in norther part of the county and also for farmers and ranchers.</p>	<p>4.1.3 Improve transportation infrastructure that enhances connectivity to support regional economic development.</p>
<p>Goal 4.2</p> <p>Provide airport improvements</p>	<p>4.2.1 Improve hangers and fencing in airport</p>	<p>4.2.2 Improve safety and in airport.</p>
<p>Goal 4.3</p> <p>Develop a safe and active transportation system of the Culburson County.</p>	<p>4.3.1 Maintain and improve a safe road system.</p>	



Chapter 5
Community Facilities

PROVIDING SERVICES FOR CITIZENS

Planning and preparing for the needs and safety of Culberson County residents is important to ensure a high quality of life. While most community facilities are provided by the city of Van Horn, it's important to the County because they provide services most citizens use regularly, including educational facilities, health centers, water and waste water, police and fire services, and others.

During the community meeting, parks, airport and emergency services were also important to community members. The following identifies priorities for community facilities in the County.

We envision a county with high-quality education and health-care facilities and other infrastructure to accommodate anticipate growth.

“[We need] better response times for emergencies and increased services for those outside the city limits.”

“We are a trashy county. We need to help people dispose of their trash and make sure they know the importance of it. It's really a significant problem and it's important for the County's image.”

Educational Facilities

Culberson County residents seek to provide greater education options. Higher education levels can increase annual household income and economic opportunities.

The County aims to strengthen relationships with existing and future education programs. One strategy is to take advantage of existing structures and facilities. The County can facilitate the use of buildings during ‘off-hours’ to provide professional training or other public service needs. Another strategy is to attract developers and operators of post-secondary education facilities—such as vocational colleges, 2-year institutions, or satellite campuses—to focus on current gaps in the workforce, such as oil and gas, manufacturing, and healthcare services. Additionally, there might be technology and research opportunities for training. These strategies can facilitate an environment of life-long learning in the community.

Support and focus on STEM training and careers is also important. Not only do college-level classes need expansion in the County, but attention toward youth education is also a priority. The County seeks to maintain strong relationships with Allamoore School District to expand capacity and offerings to be competitive. Collaboration with school district should continue to enhance student learning outcomes and school performance.

Health Care Facilities

The County also seeks to increase access to health-care for residents. The county should market and incentivize developers, private institutions, and non-profit organizations to invest in health services. The County should work with the City of Van Horn to facilitate the continued collaboration with hospital. There may also be an opportunity to collaborate with adjacent counties.

Income

\$33,125 +/- \$11,492

Median household income in
Culberson County, Texas

\$57,652 +/- \$138

Median household income in
the United States

Poverty

47.3% +/- 16.6%

Children under 18 in poverty in
Culberson County, Texas

20.3% +/- 0.2%

Children under 18 in poverty in
the United States

Health Insurance

20.2% +/- 5.4%

Uninsured population in
Culberson County, Texas

10.5% +/- 0.1%

Uninsured population in the
United States

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal 5.1

Maintain and add community facilities and services that supports the human capital of Culberson County residents.

5.1.1 Invest more in educational facilities to provide a higher level of educational services, and address the gaps in the higher education system within.

5.1.2 Market, attract, and establish health-care and senior centers facilities increase

5.1.4 Efficiently and strategically place new community facilities, including library, health facilities, and convention centers, near population centers in order to provide a high level of service.

5.1.5 Design new community facilities' buildings to represent the county's historical and cultural character.

Goal 5.2

Enhance emergency response by year 2025.

5.2.1 Review Public Protection Classification (PPC) or Insurance Service Organization (ISO) ratings for Culberson County Fire Departments/ Volunteer Fire Departments.

5.2.2 Add additional police officers and facilities to county and coordinate with municipalities to ensure public safety is met.

Goal 5.3

Adopt environmentally friendly practices that keeps pace with population growth.

5.3.1 Set initiatives for recycling and apply waste management procedures to maintain a sustainable and healthy county

5.3.2 Set initiatives to address groundwater needs and account for municipal water, irrigation water use and energy sector water use.



Chapter 6

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FOSTERING BUSINESSES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Economic development has a huge impact on many other aspects of life. Without robust business activity, it's difficult for area residents to find jobs and earn a living to provide for their families and loved ones. It's important to developing relationships with current business owners and finding opportunities to enhance business activity.

More businesses nearby reduces the cost of acquiring the goods and services that people need in daily life, and having the right businesses nearby can help to cultivate the atmosphere that residents desire. When we support our local businesses, we are supporting our people.

“Work with oil and gas companies. As exploration in the area continues the county needs to leverage any/all resources it can so that as oil/gas companies work here the county benefits in any way it can.”



*Chapter image courtesy of Pecan Grove Farms

CURRENT CONDITIONS

The economy in Culberson County is mainly focused on agriculture, the health system and oil extraction. The mineral/energy sector (oil and gas) has over \$2,000,000,000 of appraised value in the county. Both agriculture and the oil and gas industry are extremely susceptible to price fluctuations in commodity trading and thus can make the County's economy vulnerable to rapid economic downturns. Other areas of specialization are Construction, Transportation, and Public Administration.

At present the fastest-growing industries are mining et al., health, accommodation and food services. Increasing the economic tax base is important because the County administration is committed maintaining the existing tax rate and aligning tax abatement policies with the city in the County.

Business Counts

54

Total employer establishments
in Culberson County, Texas

7,757,807

Total employer establishments
in the United States

Figure 6.1 The economy of Culberson County is mainly focused on agriculture and oil extraction



Table 6.1 Recommended Industry and Businesses

Business Activity Solicited	Location	Justification
Mining and extraction	Industrial Parks, ex-urban	Strong multiplier effect
Manufacturing	Urban periphery	Strong multiplier effect
Retail Trade	Municipal areas, near residential	Strong multiplier effect, reduced transportation cost, convenience

Multiplier Effect is a phenomenon in which an increase in spending or initial cost, produces an increase in final income or consumption leading to greater profit.

At present the fastest-growing industries are mining et al., health, accommodation and food services. Increasing the economic tax base is important because the County administration is committed maintaining the existing tax rate and aligning tax abatement policies with the city in the County.

In mining and extraction, the following are companies that have a presences in Culberson County

- Conoco Phillips
- COG Operating
- Burro Sand Mine
- Capitan Energy
- Cimarex Energy
- Chevron
- Apache Corporation
- APR Operating
- Three Rivers
- Cambrian Management
- Carrizo Permian

“ Oil tax revenue put to good use.....

Work harder to collect taxes from the millionaires and billionaires who own land and ranches in our county

”

Community Feedback

During community meetings in the fall of 2019, participants had a lot to say about what they'd like to see in terms of economic development. Another member suggested involving high school and lower age population in entrepreneurial programs.

In order to attract the desired businesses, meeting participants suggested several strategies:

- Improve the County's marketing campaign and increase coordination between local economic development corporations.
- Improve the infrastructure and aesthetic appeal of the community to make it more enticing, perhaps by creating an industrial district for targeted industries.
- Institute or support programs that provide skills, training, guidance, and mentorship to local residents seeking better job opportunities.
- Partner with Chevron, new housing
- Take advantage of gateway to I-10, welcoming travelers
- Create town entrance with mural on both sides
- Support small businesses

Case Study - Conditional Land Grant

Corsicana & Navarro County, TX offer incentives to businesses that locate within their business parks. They have loans called Conditional Land Grant/Loan which have standard minimums for capital investment and full time jobs created to use. They last about 20 years and over time is forgiven but in the event the investment and/or the number-of-jobs are not retained, the remaining balance of the land grant/loan is due and payable to the city & county.

Business

Charleston County, SC provides incentives for existing businesses that want to expand operations in the county. These incentives include sales tax exemptions for some businesses and property tax abatements for 5 years if the business invests over \$50,000 into their facilities, R&D, or creates 75 new full-time jobs.

Case Study - Healthy Food Financing Initiative

In 2014, The U.S. House passed the yearly Farm Bill, in it was a provision for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative. This would provide start-up grants and affordable loan financing for food retailers, farmers' markets, cooperatives and others who faced obstacles to delivering and selling healthy foods to underserved markets.

Case Study - Type B Sales Tax

Athens, TX has a Type B sales tax that goes to fund industrial development projects, such as business infrastructure, manufacturing, research & development, and job training classes. Texas Local Government Code allows for the creation of this type of corporation by cities after the voters approve additional sales tax.

INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Culberson County residents see a need to increase employment opportunities. The County should continue to diversify the economic base to increase resiliency against economic downturns and commodity price fluctuations. This means Culberson County and Van Horn should focus on industries that are particularly important to the larger region. Mining, extraction, technology, and agriculture, for example.

Attract Businesses

Culberson County should attract new job-creating businesses to support growth and to support a diverse economy. One way to attract businesses is to prepare areas with adequate infrastructure. Culberson County should expand utilities such as water, wastewater, and electricity. Other infrastructure investments include expanding broadband/fiber internet services to unserved areas and working with providers to increase download speeds.

Expanding broadband and internet speeds will also increase the number of home-based workers and telecommuters, providing additional options for businesses and families.

Another strategy is to effectively market the County as an ideal location for new businesses in the Trans-Pecos region, especially in proximity to roads and rail lines and airport. The Local Economic Development Corps and local Chamber's of Commerce can cooperatively work together to produce materials, brochures, a website, etc. that promote Culberson County as a business-friendly environment with a low cost of living. The County and city should

Case Study – Rural Tourism & Eco-Friendly Industrial Parks

Rural tourism is an economic boon for some regions. This case study focuses on wine tasting tours in southern Illinois and how the tourism business is developed and maintained in these rural areas. These host communities can hold festivals or tours that create opportunities for employment or entrepreneurial activity and sources of local tax revenue for the community which could in turn be used to revitalize the community.

Source: <http://www.joe.org/joe/2010october/rb4.php>

Eco-Friendly Industrial Parks (EIP) are highly profitable, competitive, and of course environmentally friendly. These parks are based on principles to be socially responsible, ecologically sensitive, and economically advantageous. Sustainability performance is a top priority for these kind of parks. These parks are generally guided by land use regulations. From this guideline, the case study is the Hinton EIP located in Hinton, Alberta, Canada.

Source: <https://www.planning.org/divisions/environment/guidebook/pdf/Innovistaguidelines.pdf>

An example closer to home in Austin, Texas, will be converting a landfill into an environmentally friendly industrial park. This development is focusing on the recycling and reuse industry for the site's tenants. The city would like to draw in companies that focus on reaching the city's goal of creating a zero waste community. The development is scheduled for completion in 2016 and starts leasing in 2017.

Source: <https://nextcity.org/daily/entry/austin-landfill-turn-into-eco-friendly-industrial-park>

work together to facilitate economic investment by making their regulations predictable and consistent. For instance, permitting processes and requirements call all be in line or the same so developers are assured that wherever they build, they will have a similar streamlined process.

SUPPORT LOCAL ECONOMIC ASSETS

The County should also protect and support local businesses and other economic assets in the County. In particular, the community and the County economic development committee aim to strengthen existing businesses.

Local Businesses

The existing local businesses are the backbone of the County. To properly support their efforts, a thoughtful approach with local businesses should take place. First, County officials, city officials, chambers' of commerce staff should visit with local businesses and listen to their needs. Through this process a better understanding of economic priorities might emerge. The County should develop and maintain an inventory list of all businesses in the County, with needs identified. Annually or semiannually the County, with local newspapers or other media outlets, can produce a brochure which 'spotlights' businesses in the County. Also, to further show appreciation for local businesses, the County can host an annual appreciation event that would become a new and beloved tradition of the community.

Other programs might include partnering with the Chambers' of Commerce to start a campaign to promote "buy local" or "Small Business Saturday." Also, local tax breaks and incentives can apply to "established businesses" for each person they hire that lives in the County, further investing in the people of Culberson County.

Utilizing our Natural Assets

Culberson County has the opportunity to nurture ecotourism as a viable business activity.

First, the County and other entities should work alongside the Texas Parks & Wildlife and other nature based organizations to host annual festivals, bird watching, and/or nature walks along hiking trails. Annual events are a great way to start a tradition of local stewardship as well as promote the County throughout the region as an ecotourism destination.

Ecotourism activities can also include visiting farming and ranching establishments. Farming is a culturally significant part of the County and can be used to teach urban populations about healthy eating, farming practices, and land stewardship.

Local farmer's markets can also play a critical role in supporting local small grower's crop production and healthy eating lifestyles.

A WELL-TRAINED AND COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE

Another recommendation is having a well-trained or educated workforce to increase opportunities for citizens. This can be supported via public programs like Texas Workforce Solutions. The creation of an entrepreneurship mentoring program is also recommended to keep pace with and balance against current trends for growing self-employment and casual or short-term work contracts.

Case Study - The Colonel James Morgan New Washington Prairie Project

City of Morgan's Point, TX is adopting a master plan to convert a previously underutilized 50 -acre of land into a recreational open space for the community. The redevelopment plan proposes recreating the native Texas coastal prairie by restoring the system of native plants and trees. The area is intended to serve as a natural buffer for the residential areas from the busy the commercial areas and the shipping Port of Houston. The open space offers passive recreational opportunity through systems of walking trails, overlooks, play spaces, picnic areas, and ponds. In addition, it symbolizes the story of the settlement and founding of Morgan's Point through historical interpretation provided by the design of the master plan. The City is planning to partner with private companies and community organizations for the development of this proposed project.

Source: <https://oaktrust.library.tamu.edu/handle/1969.1/157549>

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 6.1

Increase employment opportunities for Culberson County.

6.1.1 Create industrial areas with high transportation accessibility and attractive infrastructure and facilities in the northeast

6.1.2 Attract new job-creating businesses to Culberson County to achieve a 15% job increase by 2030.

Goal 6.2

Support the existing economic assets.

6.2.1 Support local businesses in the County to ensure that they remain part of the market and further their growth

6.2.3 Increase eco-tourism and rural scenic tourism activity to boost Park visitor counts by 30% over historical trends.

6.2.2 Promote farmers markets to buy locally grown fruits and vegetables

Goal 6.3

Establish programs to support a robustly skilled and competitive workforce.

6.3.1 Establish partnerships with area vocational and technical training providers to develop coordinated training programs in high-growth fields like technology, healthcare and oil field occupations.

6.3.3 Provide career guidance and assistance to community residents by creating a center that supports job fairs, scholarship search assistance, interviewing skills training, professional attire exchange, etc.

6.3.2 Encourage entrepreneurial talents within the County through a mentorship program to students of all ages.



Chapter 7
— —
**ENVIRONMENT AND
OPEN SPACE**



ABUNDANT IN NATURAL ASSETS

The natural resources of the county are abundant and rich. The natural environment is the county's greatest asset, and improves quality of life through outdoor recreation, ecotourism, and stewardship of the land.

The natural environment also poses threats, through inland flooding, hurricane storm surge, and wildfire risk. Guiding development of people and places away from known hazards will increase quality of life and reduce loss of life and investments in the future.

We envision a county abundant in natural, environmental, and wildlife resources that are protected and carefully managed to ensure the integrity of the ecosystem as the county grows.

“ I would like to see the community cleaned up and have better facilities for outdoor activities ”

“ [Favorite things]
...wide open spaces and views
...the mountains, dark skies
...natural beauty
...clean air ”

“Beautiful scenery and very friendly”

STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL ASSETS

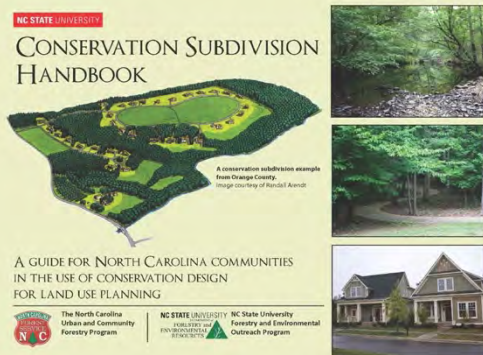
The county and municipalities should develop regulations in coordination with landowners, and state and federal parks authorities to ensure development sensitive to conservation areas.

Education

The history and culture of Culberson County has been tied to the land through farming, ranching, and hunting. To preserve the heritage and connection to the land for future generations, education and awareness of the natural resources is important. Educational programs and awareness of conservation efforts should be in line with federal and state agency’s goals and desired outcomes. Such educational opportunities can be incorporated into schools and as a strategy for ecotourism.

Conservation Subdivision Handbook

North Carolina State University has developed a handbook to help municipalities include conservation in their zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations. There are a host of examples and case studies from Randall Arendt, author of *Rural by Design*. <http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/conservation-subdivision-handbook>.

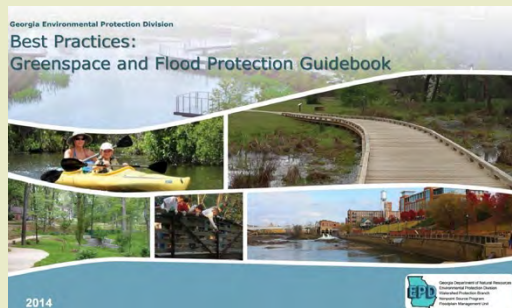




Best Practices: Greenspace and Flood Protection Guidebook

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division has developed a guidebook with best practices for floodplain protection advocating linkages between floodplain preservation and greenspace protection. It guides the user through the process of land acquisition to funding, designing and maintaining the greenspace. The guidebook focuses on best practices with various examples of communities that have adopted preserving floodplain as greenspace with compatible recreational uses.

https://epd.georgia.gov/sites/epd.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/EPDGreenspace-Flood-Guidebook.pdf



PARKS AND RECREATION

Every community should have access to a variety of different park types, which range in size and use.

Culberson County currently owns one park, Veterans park, with fields and a new concession stand. More promotion should be done to use this park, and to beautify it. See Figure 7.1

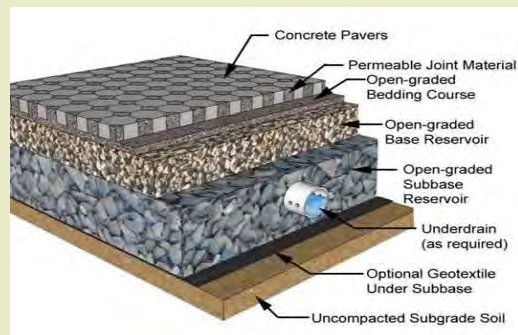
Additional, the county maintains a city/county park.

Rain Gardens are dry, vegetated detention ponds that filter and store excess water temporarily to reduce peak runoff. Targeted areas: parking lots, highway medians, and community parks

Rainwater Tanks Rainwater tanks capture stormwater from rooftops through a gutter system that funnels into a storage tank thus detaining water that would otherwise contribute to sub-watershed peak flow. Targeted areas: large square footage structures, community facilities, residential

Permeable Pavements Permeable pavements allow water to infiltrate through surfaces that would normally be impermeable. Pervious surface treatments reduce the risk of stormwater runoff, retaining the water sub-surface as it gradually infiltrates the soil. Target areas: parking lots, driveways in residential neighborhoods, and even fast food restaurant drive-throughs.

How Permeable Pavement Functions:



Marketing Assets

A key recommendation is to capitalize and market the natural assets that currently exist in the county. Marketing should be coordinated with federal and state agencies to promote outdoor recreation and habitat awareness and align tasks with efforts that are already taking place. Working with partners in Van Horn to promote ecotourism will be an important component to attracting day trips and weekend excursions to the county from the El Paso or other West Texas areas.

Figure 7.3 The marketing the natural assets of the County can promote ecotourism



Low Impact Development

Low Impact Development (LID) techniques is the best management practice to keep the water on site. It is a part of the subdivision ordinance and developers must justify if LID can't be used in designs. The Village of Springbrook Farms in Pennsylvania created a community that infiltrates 100% of stormwater on site without impacting adjacent properties. The main design goal was to distribute stormwater runoff throughout the site by percolation and infiltration. Pervious asphalt, vegetative swales, rain gardens, and detention basins connect across 60 acres in Low Impact Development.

Source: <http://www.stormwaterpa.org/low-impact-development.html>



Table 7.1 Parks and Open Space Classification

Classification	General Description	Size and Service Area
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood parks are the basic units of the parks system and serve a recreational and social purpose. The focus is on informal recreation.	Typically 5 acres or more; 8 to 10 acres preferred with 3 acres the desired minimum size. Service area is one-fourth to one-half mile uninterrupted by major roads and other physical barriers.
Community Park	Serves a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. The focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscape and open spaces.	Varies, depending on function. A minimum of 20 acres is preferred, with 40 or more acres optimal. Service area can be a community wide or several neighborhoods in given area of the community.
Large Urban Park	Large urban parks are generally associated with urban centers with large populations. The focus is on meeting wide-ranging community needs and preserving unique and sometimes extensive landscapes and open space	Varies depending on circumstances. A typical minimum size is 50 acres.
Athletic Complex/Facility	Consolidates programmed youth athletic fields and associated facilities to fewer strategically located sites throughout the community. Also can provide some neighborhood use functions	Varies, with 20 acres or more desirable, but not absolute. Optimal size is 40 to 80 acres.
Greenway	Lands set aside for preserving natural resources, remnant landscapes, and opens pace, and providing visual aesthetics/buffering. Also provides passive-use opportunities. Ecological resource stewardship and wildlife protection are high priorities. Suitable for ecologically sensitive trail corridors.	Varies depending on opportunities
Parkway	Linear park-like transportation corridors between public parks, monuments, institutions, and sometime business centers. Can be maintained green space or natural in character.	Varies
Special Use	Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose uses, such as a nature center, historic sites, plazas, urban squares, aquatic centers, campgrounds and golf courses.	Varies, depending on need
Park-School	School sites that are used in concert with, or in lieu of, other types of parks to meet community park and recreational needs. School sites often provide the majority of indoor recreational facilities within a community.	Varies, depending on specific site
Private Park	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned, yet contribute to the public park and recreation system	Varies
Regional Parks and Reserves	Larger-scale regionally based parks and open spaces that focus on natural resource preservation and stewardship	Typically a minimum of 500 acres and service area is regional generally encompassing several cities.

Source: American Planning Association, Steiner, F., & Butler, K. (2006). Parks and Open Space. In Planning and Urban Design Standards.

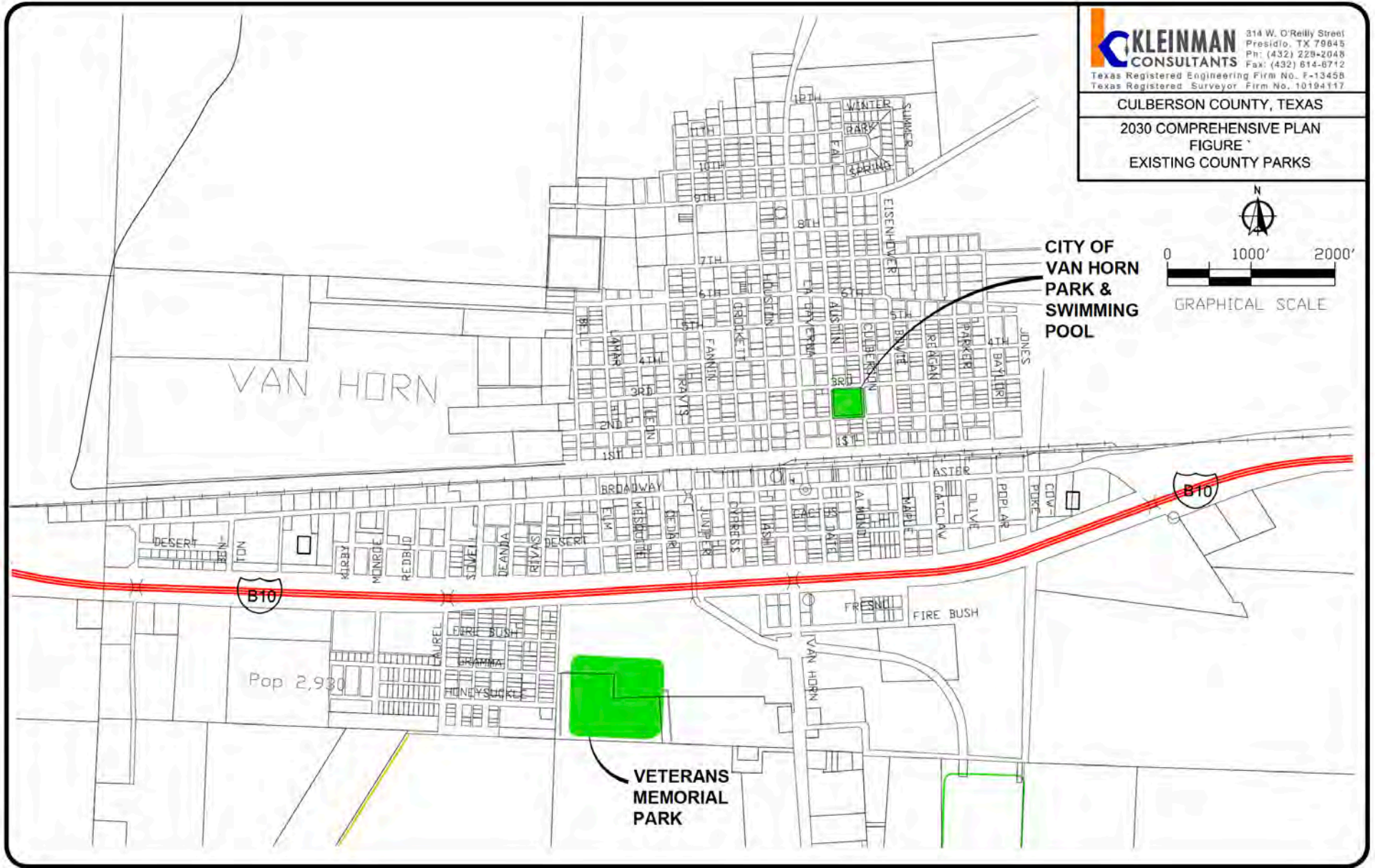


Figure 7.1 County Park, owned, and shared with City.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal 7.1

Protect and preserve natural environment.

7.1.1 Coordinate with municipalities in the County to guide development and protect the environment.

7.1.2 Encourage educational programs on the conservation management, and appropriate use of Culberson County's natural resources for local residents and visitors.

Goal 7.2

Plan for an enhanced park system that serves entire county.

7.2.1 Coordinate with local and regional partners on park land needs assessments, land acquisition costs, and funding to ensure access to recreational opportunities.



Chapter 8 HOUSING

DIVERSE ARRAY OF RESILIENT HOUSING OPTIONS

In accordance with voiced opinions of residents during community outreach meetings, this chapter will ensure that there is equitable access to resilient, high-quality housing to promote an overall increase in the quality of life. Several key housing topics have been identified and include:

- *Greater range of housing options;*
- *High-quality, affordable housing;*

We envision a county with a rich variety of housing options and low cost of living.

“To fix up or tear down condemned buildings and better housing options.”

Table 8.1 Housing Demand Calculations

Households

735 +/- 97

Total households in Culberson County, Texas

118,825,921 +/-

229,026

Total households in the United States

INCREASING THE RANGE OF HOUSING OPTIONS

The County and the City of Van Horn will need to adopt policies to increase the range of available housing options to potential growth. Providing adequate housing options will ensure that high quality and attractive developments are built.

To prepare Culberson County for residential development, the County should work closely with developers to guide them toward areas positioned to accommodate responsible growth. Housing should primarily focus on the current city for services, while lower density housing would be more appropriate in the unincorporated areas of the County. The County could work with the city to establish a streamlined regulatory process that results in faster development permits, while maintaining high quality construction.

INCREASED QUALITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Similarly, another topic identified is the need for increased high-quality, yet still affordable housing. For the purposes of this chapter, “affordable” is defined as rent or mortgage payments that are equivalent to 30% or lower than annual income levels. Building homes within this price point will ensure a low cost of living for residents.

The County should incentivize the development of housing stock with monthly costs equivalent to 30% of household earning between the poverty rate and the median income level. The County and city should seek to provide other alternatives to mobile and manufactured homes.

First, the County can assist residents just out of reach of becoming homeowners. For example, the County could work with other groups that provide stabilization programs to help people gain access to affordable housing, including budget management, access to resources to increase self-sufficiency, home ownership counseling, affordable homes for sale, affordable down-payment loans, and other services that support home ownership. The County can also assist families that are struggling to reach homeownership by establishing a housing trust fund.

Second, for those that are current homeowners who are struggling to maintain the property, there are a number of strategies available. One strategy is to provide rehabilitation programs and grants for existing housing for qualified homeowners, such as low-income and/or elderly populations. The County and city can also support housing repair programs.

Third, there are a variety of ways the County could support rental housing. One way could be to subsidize construction through housing finance authority bonds. Another strategy is to provide rental grants or loans to developers seeking to build multi-family housing. Additionally, to help maintain quality units, the County could support tenant training programs to foster neighborhood stabilization.

Finally, many low- or moderate-income households are elderly or have special needs. The County and city could work with developers to construct housing designed for elderly and disabled populations to meet the need of this growing population.

Housing Value

\$57,000 +/- \$7,382

Median housing value in Culberson County, Texas

\$193,500 +/- \$156

Median housing value in the United States

Renter Costs

\$586 +/- \$121

Median gross rent in Culberson County, Texas

\$982 +/- \$1

Median gross rent in the United States

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goal 8.1

Increase range of available housing options.

8.1.1 Monitor and analyze building permits issued in city in order to identify gaps in housing stock demand. Provide necessary development incentives to assist in the fulfillment of housing demand gaps.

Goal 8.2

Increase high quality, affordable housing.

8.2.1 Incentivize the development of high-quality owner-occupied and renter-occupied housing stock priced at or below 30% of the annual income for mid-low income households.



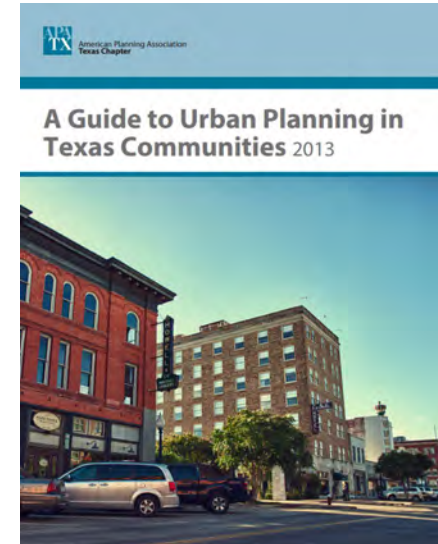
Chapter 9

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

GETTING THINGS DONE

Community. Capital. A community's plan needs a Capital Improvement Plan to ensure that the words and ideas within the plan come to fruition. The Culberson Comprehensive Plan 2020-2030 should be a 'living document' that is regularly visited. It should be used to make decisions in the County and in collaboration with the city within the County. As many in government know, implementation is not just a list of action items, but a challenging process that will require various leaders in coordination to achieve the goals and objectives desired. To better organize the various tasks, the Action Tasks table should be listed, all action steps, broken down by chapter and associated with the goals and objectives identified in each chapter. A table will be developed to provide guidance on the tasks which should be accomplished in the short-term or long-term, as well as the type of action it is. Actions cannot be achieved without 'action leaders', or groups that will be responsible for seeing the implementation of each task. To ease the financial burden of some actions, a list of funding sources and grant opportunities is also provided (Appendix A).

Figure 9.1 The Citizen's Guide to Planning



A Guide to Urban Planning in Texas Communities 2013 is an extension of the training program the Texas APA Short course for Planning Commissioners and Local Officials. It informs the reader the prevailing issues in community planning in Texas and is great tool for citizens seeking to get involved in the planning process. Public officials, as well as city and county staff would also benefit from the ideas and concepts discussed. In other words, the people of the community--or the 'hands' and 'feet'--can use this to better equip themselves for action and implementation.

CHECKING PROGRESS

The County Commissioners Court should set up a Strategic Planning Team to set up subcommittees based on the various action leaders responsible for tasks in this plan. The Commissioners Court, with assistance from the Strategic Planning Team, should prepare an annual progress report. This ensures there is accountability and a consistent compass toward achieving the goals set out in the plan. The Annual Progress Report should include:

- Accomplished actions over the last year, as well as the status of each action item
- Obstacles and problems in implementing the actions
- Proposed amendments to the action items
- Proposed additional action items

INITIATE

To maintain progress toward these goals, implementation must be periodically evaluated. To help evaluate Culberson County's progress, an agreed-upon time frame should be assigned, separated into four categories:

1. Short-term: 0 - 3 years
2. Medium-term: 3 - 7 years
3. Long-term: 7 – 10 years
4. Continuous (“ON-GOING”)

ACTION TYPE

Capital Project

The Capital Project Action Type means there will be a significant investment in order to achieve the action item. Capital projects are part of the capital improvement program (CIP) for the County and should include infrastructure, drainage improvements, parks facilities, public buildings, etc.

Program

The Program Action Type refers to routine activities, special projects, or initiatives taken on by the County, cities, or other organization. This can include community outreach efforts, special training, etc.

Regulation or Standard

The Regulation or Standard Action Type refers to the local government policies that can be adopted as a part of development regulations, and other County and City standards.

Partnership or Collaboration

The Partnership or Collaboration Action Type refers to action steps that require additional partners or coordination with other agencies, organizations, or companies. In many ways this is the most critical action type and developing relationships with other partners will yield a connected and resilient community.

Immediate and Ongoing Management Action Steps

0.1 Establish City/County Land Use Management team.

0.2 Meet at least twice annually

0.3 Consider funding sources

0.3.1 Consider Grant Writer

0.4 Establish Liaison with legislative officials

ACTION LEADERS

Entities are classified as follows: ADM: Staff within (Courts, administration, secretary, human resources, and finance)

AGEX: AgriLife Extension Service

BUS: Businesses and stakeholders

COC: Chambers' of Commerce

EDC: Economic Development Corporations

EM: Emergency Management

ENG: Engineer

FCL: Facilities

FD: Fire Departments

GB: Governing Bodies

HS: Housing

ISD: School Districts

LGL: Legal

MUD: Municipal Utility District

PD: Police Departments

PLAN: Planning, City Management

RAIL: Union Pacific/BNSF

AIR: Airports

SRV: Services

FUNDING

Many funding sources, both internal and external, are available to assist Culberson County in accomplishing goals. Internal resources refer to taxes and fees to support the action item. External resources are numerous, and may also include public-private partnerships with external partners such as developers. The Funding column in the Action Tasks table provides suggestions for funding sources or grants for each of the action items

APPENDIX - A

Funding Sources

Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)

- Grantor: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Purpose: Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to implement agricultural water enhancement activities on agricultural land to conserve surface and ground water and improve water quality.
- Eligibility: Eligible partners include: Federally recognized Indian Tribes, States, units of local government, agricultural or silvicultural associations or other groups of such producers and other nongovernmental organization with experience working with agricultural producers. Agricultural land must be in AWEP approved project areas. Individual producers are not eligible.
- Funding limitations: Eligible entities or organizations form multi-year partnership agreements with NRCS to promote ground and surface water conservation. Financial assistance changes every fiscal year depending upon appropriations and agency priorities.
- More information: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/Awep>

Alternatives Analysis Program - Discretionary Livability Funding Opportunity

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Assist in financing the evaluation of all reasonable modal and multimodal alternatives and general alignment options for identified transportation needs in a particular, broadly defined travel corridor
- Eligibility: MPOs, city agencies, transit agencies, and other local government authorities
- Limitations: \$25 million total fund
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

American Battlefield Protection Program

- Grantor: National Park Service
- Purpose: promotes the preservation of significant historic battlefields on American soil. The program's focus is primarily on land use, cultural resource and site management planning, and public education.
- More information: <http://www.nps.gov/abpp/>

Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG)

- Grantor: FEMA
- Purpose: The primary goal of the AFG is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. Since 2001, the AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders to obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards.
- More information: <https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program>

Aviation Capital Improvement Program

- Grantor: is a federal program operated through the 2010 Texas Airport System Plan (TASP). If all airside needs are met, an airport sponsor may pursue 80 percent grant funding
- Purpose: for the construction of hangars if access pavement is included or 75 percent funding if pavement is in place.
- Eligibility: The sponsor must provide justification in the form of contracts, lease agreements, and show location of the hangar on the latest approved Airport Layout Plan (ALP), a copy of the airport's hangar lease and rate structure, and adopted airport minimum standards.
- Limitation: The only funding available for the hangar construction projects are Non-Primary Entitlements.
- More Information: <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/aviation/capital-improvement.html>

Battlefield Preservation Fund

- Grantor: National Fund for Historic Preservation
- Purpose: for the preservation of battlefields in the United States.
- Eligibility: to those that have limited access to other specialized battlefield funding programs.
- Limitations: require a one-to-one cash match.
- More Information: <http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/find-funding/special-funds/#Battlefield>

Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) Program

- Grantor: League of American Bicyclists.
- Purpose: The program provides a roadmap to communities to improve conditions for bicycling and offers national recognition for communities that actively support bicycling.
- Information on applying to become a recognized Bicycle Friendly Community
- More Information: <http://bikeleague.org/bfa>

Boating Access Grants

- Grantor: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Purpose: For the construction of public boat ramp facilities throughout Texas.
- Eligibility: Local government sponsors must make an application, provide the land, provide access to the proposed boat ramp, supply 25% of the development costs, and accept operation and maintenance responsibilities for a minimum 25-year period.
- Limitations: This grant program provides 75% matching grant funds. These funds are allocated annually through the federal Sport Fish Restoration Act.
- More information: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/boating-access>

Build America Bonds

- Grantor: Treasury/ Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- Purpose: provides state and local governments with a direct federal payment subsidy for a portion of their borrowing costs on taxable bonds.
- Eligibility: States and localities
- More information: <http://www.treasury.gov/initiatives/recovery/Pages/babs.aspx>

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities

- Grantor: Environmental Protection Agency
- Purpose: provide technical assistance to selected communities to implement development approaches that protect the environment, improve public health, create jobs, expand economic opportunity, and improve overall quality of life. Funding will also be given to communities facing community development challenges. Support provided by EPA or through non-profit organizations.
- Eligibility: states, territories, Indian Tribes, interstate organizations, intrastate organizations, and possessions of the U.S., including the District of Columbia; public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, and other public or private nonprofit institutions.
- Limitations: \$2.5 million
- More Information: <http://www2.epa.gov/smartgrowth/building-blocks-sustainable-communities>

Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BCNP)

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: offer training and technical assistance (TTA) to begin or sustain the process of revitalization, guided by comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans, in concert with relevant local and state plans and planning processes.
- Eligibility: Five neighborhoods selected. Nonprofit organizations,

faith-based and community organizations, institutions of higher learning, and for-profit organizations (commercial) with significant experience in supporting neighborhood and community development through training and technical assistance. For-profit organizations must agree to forgo any profit or management fee.

- Limitations: Up to \$2 million
- More Information: <http://www.cssp.org/community/neighborhood-investment/place-based-initiatives/building-neighborhood-capacity>

Bus Livability Initiative

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Provide funding to transit agencies to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment, as well as construct or rehabilitate bus facilities.
- Eligibility: Transit agencies or other public transportation providers, States and Indian Tribes.
- Limitations: \$125 million total fund
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Business & Industry Program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: Create jobs and stimulate rural economies by providing financial backing for rural businesses.
- Eligibility: any area, excluding cities, with a population over 50,000
- Limitations: government or military employees may not own more than 20%, interest rate changes
- More information: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-industry-loan-guarantees>

Business Improvement Districts

- Grantor: Housing and Economic Development

- Purpose: for a range of services and/or programs, including marketing and public relations, improving the downtown marketplace or city/town center, capital improvements, public safety enhancements, and special events
- More Information: <http://www.mass.gov/hed/community/planning/bid.html>

Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Grants

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: for intermediary organizations to assist HUD in providing technical assistance to community development corporations and community housing development organizations to carry out community development and affordable housing activities that benefit low-income families.
- Eligibility: Community development financing institutions (CDFIs)
- Limitations: \$49.4 million
- More Information: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/hud-programs/capacitybuilding>

Capacity Building for Sustainable Communities

- Grantor: Environmental Protection Agency
- Purpose: Funding for intermediary organizations who will assist HUD in providing technical assistance to communities engaged in planning efforts built around integrating housing, land use, transportation, and other issues.
- Eligibility: nonprofit organization, a local or state public agency, a for-profit organization, a nationally recognized and accredited University or College; or any combination of the aforementioned entities as a Capacity Building Team to combine their skills and offer a coordinated program.
- Limitations: \$5.65 million, max amount \$ 1 million. Primary support will be given to recipients of Sustainable Communities and Brownfield Area Wide Planning grants.

- More Information: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/economic_resilience/capacity-building

Capital Fund Education and Training Community Facility Grant

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: for public housing authorities to construct, rehabilitate, or purchase facilities for early childhood education, adult education, and/or job training programs for public housing residents based on an identified need.
- Eligibility: Public housing authorities
- Limitations: \$15 million; max grant \$5 million
- More Information: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/capfund/cfcf

Certified Local Government Grants (CLG)

- Grantor: U.S. Department of the Interior
- Purpose: Support and strengthen local preservation activities by encouraging communities to develop an action plan. CLG are mainly grants for the development of historic preservation programs, but they can also be used for the preparation of architecture drawings, façade studies, and condition assessments.
- More Information: <http://www.nps.gov/history/hpg/local/clg.html>

Chapter 380/381 Economic Development Agreements

- Municipality Agreements: Chapter 380 of the Local Government Code authorizes municipalities to offer incentives designed to promote economic development such as commercial and retail projects. Specifically, it provides for offering loans and grants of city funds or services at little or no cost to promote state and local economic development and to stimulate business and commercial activity.
- County Agreements: Chapter 381 of the Local Government Code allows counties to provide incentives encouraging developers to build in their jurisdictions. A county may administer and develop a pro-

gram to make loans and grants of public money to promote state or local economic development and to stimulate, encourage and develop business location and commercial activity in the county.

- More information: http://texasahead.org/tax_programs/ch380-381/

Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Planning Grant

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: to revitalize severely distressed public and/or HUD-assisted multifamily housing in distressed neighborhoods into viable, mixed-income communities with access to well-functioning services, high quality educational programs, public transportation, and jobs.
- Eligibility: Public housing authorities, local governments, nonprofits, and for-profit developers that apply jointly with a public entity. Preferred Sustainability Applicants receive an additional two bonus points.
- Limitations: \$ 5 million
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

- Grantor: State of Texas
- Purpose: This program provides low-interest loans that can be used for planning, design, and construction of wastewater treatment facilities, wastewater recycling and reuse facilities, collection systems, storm water pollution control, nonpoint source pollution control, and estuary management projects.
- Eligibility: The program is open to a range of borrowers including municipalities, communities of all sizes, farmers, homeowners, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations. Project eligibility varies according to each state's program and priorities. Loans for wastewater treatment plant projects are only given to political subdivisions with the authority to own and operate a wastewater system.
- Funding limitations: The program offers fixed and variable rate loans

at subsidized interest rates. The maximum repayment period for a CWSRF loan is 30 years from the completion of project construction. Mainstream funds offer a net long-term fixed interest rate of 1.30% below market rate for equivalency loans (project adheres to federal requirements) and 0.95% for non-equivalency (project adheres to state requirements) loans. Disadvantaged community funds may be offered to eligible communities with principal forgiveness of 30%, 50%, or 70% based upon the adjusted annual median household income and the household cost factor.

- More information: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/CWSRF/>

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
- Purpose: Provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. The CDBG program provides annual grants on a formula basis to general units of local government and States.
- More Information: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for Rural Texas

- Grantor: Texas Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: develop viable communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities principally for persons of low- to moderate-income.
- Eligibility: non-entitlement cities and counties whose populations are less than 50,000 and 200,000 respectively, and are not participating or designated as eligible to participate in the entitlement portion of the federal Community Development Block Grant Program.
- Limitations: Population 50,000 city and 200,000 county.
- More information: <http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlock->

Grant(CDBG).aspx

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: Formula grants for local governments to carry out community and economic development activities.
- Eligibility: State allocated
- Limitations: Apportioned to States by a formula
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Community Development Fund (Rural)

- Grantor: Texas Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: Grants to rural Texas cities and counties for basic infrastructure projects such as water/wastewater facilities, street improvements and drainage.
- Eligibility: non-entitlement cities and counties whose populations are less than 50,000 and 200,000 respectively, and are not participating or designated as eligible to participate in the entitlement portion of the federal Community Development Block Grant Program.
- Limitations: \$75,000-800,000, biennial basis and competition against 24 planning regions in the state.
- More information: [http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlock-Grant\(CDBG\)/CommunityDevelopment.aspx](http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlock-Grant(CDBG)/CommunityDevelopment.aspx)

Community Facilities Grants

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns.
- Eligibility: public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as non-profit corporations and tribal governments. Towns of up to 20,000 in population.

- Limitations: Development Financing, Construction
- More information: <http://reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) Grants

- Grantor: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Purpose: The CO-OP grant helps to introduce under-served populations to the services, programs, and sites of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.
- Eligibility: Grants are awarded to non-profit organizations, schools, municipalities, counties, cities, and other tax-exempt groups.
- Limitations: This is not a land acquisition or construction grant; this is only for programs.
- More information: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/community-outdoor-outreach-program-co-op-grants>

Community Rating System

- Grantor: FEMA
- Purpose: The National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program which provides discounts on individual homeowner flood insurance when a jurisdiction implements floodplain management activities. Many of the activities within the CRS are already being performed in Navasota. Taking advantage of this program can open the door to various other grant opportunities.
- More information at <http://www.fema.gov/community-rating-system>

Community Transformation Grants (CTG) - Small Communities Program

- Grantor: HHS/Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- Purpose: to reduce the rate of chronic diseases and to make improvements to the built environment in order to promote healthier life-

styles.

- Eligibility: Governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations across a variety of sectors, including transportation, housing, education, and public health
- Limitations: \$70 million
- More Information: <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dch/programs/communitytransformation/>

Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality (CMAQ) Program

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Support for transportation projects or programs that improve air quality and relieve congestion in areas that do not meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Eligibility: Funding distributed to States via a statutory formula based on population and air quality classification designated by EPA.
- Limitations: Includes capital transportation investments and pedestrian/bicycle facilities and programs.
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportations & federal Highway Administration
- Purpose: for either the construction of bicycle transportation facilities and pedestrian walkways, or no construction projects (such as maps, brochures, and public service announcements) related to safe bicycle use.
- More Information: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/overview/bp-broch.cfm#funding

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- Grantor: Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Purpose: This program provides financial assistance to agricultur-

al landowners in establishing approved conservation practices. The goals of the CRP program are to reduce water runoff and sedimentation, protect groundwater and help improve conditions of lakes, rivers, ponds and streams.

- Eligibility: Agricultural landowners
- Funding limitations: Eligible participants can receive annual rental payments based on the agriculture rental value of the land and cost-share assistance for up to 50% of the participant's costs in establishing approved conservation practices.
- More information: <http://www.apfo.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=crp>

Depave

- Grantor: Partnership with Texas Water Alliance Limited (TWA) and/or Gonzales County Underground Water District (GCUWD)
- Purpose: Removing unnecessary pavement, in order to create community green spaces and mitigate storm water runoff.
- More Information: www.depave.org

Disadvantaged business Enterprise Program

- Grantor: Texas Department of transportation
- Purpose: to provide a level playing field for small, minority- and women-owned companies wanting to do business with TxDOT and other agencies receiving federal funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation.
- More Information: <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/office/innovative-finance/pass-finance.html>

Disaster Relief Fund (Rural)

- Grantor: Texas Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: Cities and counties may apply following a disaster declaration or for qualifying urgent infrastructure needs.
- Eligibility: Non-entitlement cities under 50,000 in population and

non-entitlement counties that have a non-metropolitan population under 200,000 and are not eligible for direct CDBG funding from HUD may apply for funding through any of the Texas CDBG programs.

- Limitations: \$50,000-350,000, official disaster status declaration
- More information: [http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant\(CDBG\)/DisasterRelief.aspx](http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant(CDBG)/DisasterRelief.aspx)

Discretionary Bus and Bus Facilities (Section 5309): State of Good Repair Initiative

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Provide funding to rehabilitate bus and bus facilities.
- Eligibility: intermodal facilities must have adjacent connectivity with bus service.
- Limitations: will prioritize the replacement and rehabilitation of intermodal facilities that support the connection of bus service with multiple modes of transportation, including but not limited to: rail, ferry, intercity bus and private transportation providers.
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Economic Development Initiative Grant

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: Provide local governments with additional security for the Section 108 loan, thereby reducing the exposure of its CDBG funds in the event of a default in loans made locally with the 108 funds. Or, make the project more feasible by paying some of the project costs with grant funds or by reducing the interest rate to be paid from a revolving loan fund.
- Eligibility: Only the entities named by Congress in the Committee Print of the Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives, March 2009 are eligible to apply for Economic Development Initiative-Special Project (EDI-SP) grant funds.

- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/re-source-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Economic Development Sales Tax

- Grantor: Economic Development and Analysis Division
- Purpose: to fund industrial development projects, such as business infrastructure, manufacturing and research and development.
- Eligibility: According to the State and Local Economic Development Programs, the city of Gonzales is a Type B EDC (economic development corporation). A type B EDC can fund all projects eligible for Type A EDCs, as well as parks, museums, sports facilities, and affordable housing.
- More information: http://www.texasahead.org/tax_programs/

Economically Distressed Areas Program

- Grantor: Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
- Purpose: This program provides financial assistance for water and wastewater services in economically distressed areas where present facilities are inadequate to meet residents' minimal needs. The program also includes measures to prevent future substandard development.
- Eligibility: Projects must be located in an area that was established as a residential subdivision as of June 1, 2005, has an inadequate water supply or sewer services to meet minimal residential needs and a lack of financial resources to provide water supply or sewer services to satisfy those needs. All political subdivisions, including cities, counties, water districts, and nonprofit water supply corporations, are eligible to apply for funds. The applicant, or its designee, must be capable of maintaining and operating the completed system.
- Funding limitations: Financial support is in the form of grant or combination of a grant and a loan. The program does not fund ongoing operation and maintenance expenses, nor does it fund new development.
- More information: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/>

EDAP/

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Purpose: Provides financial assistance for flood debris removal; stream bank stabilization and restoration; repairing conservation practices.
- More information: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/>

EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

- Grantor: U.S. Environmental protection Agency
- Purpose: For use to upgrade water treatment facilities.
- More information: http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/dwsrf/index.cfm

Episcopal Health Foundation

- Grantor: Episcopal Health Foundation
- Purpose: Research and collaborating to create new coalitions and partnerships
- More information: <http://www.episcopalhealth.org/en/grant-making/how-apply-grant/>

Farm to School Grant Program

- Grantor: USDA
- Purpose: to assist implementation of programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools, particularly farm to school programs.
- Eligibility: Eligible Schools; State and Local Agencies; Indian Tribal Organizations Agricultural Producers or Groups of Agricultural Producers; and Non-Profit Entities
- Limitations: provides at least 25% of funding costs
- More Information: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmtoschool/farm-school-grant-program>

Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP)

- Grantor: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Purpose: Increase domestic consumption of, and access to, locally and regionally produced agricultural products, and to develop new market opportunities for farm and ranch operations serving local markets by developing, improving, expanding, and providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to, or assisting in the development, improvement, and expansion of, domestic farmers markets, roadside stands, community-supported agriculture programs, agritourism activities, and other direct producer-to-consumer market opportunities.
- Eligibility: All applicants under FMPP must be domestic entities owned, operated, and located within the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands to be considered eligible.
- More information: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/grants/fmpp>

Federal Community Development Block Grant funds

- Grantor: Texas department of Agriculture
- Purpose: develop viable communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments, and expanding economic opportunities. Eliminate conditions hazardous to the public health and of an emergency nature.
- Eligibility: 51 percent low- to moderate-income persons, which are defined as those who earn equal to or less than 80% of the area median family income, or earn equal to or less than less than 80% of the statewide non-metropolitan median family income figure.
- More information: [http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant\(CDBG\)/About.aspx](http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant(CDBG)/About.aspx)

Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives program

- Grantor: The National Park Service and the Internal Revenue Service in partnership with State Historic Preservation Offices.
- Purpose: Encourages private sector investment in the rehabilitation and re-use of historic buildings.
- Limitations: over \$62 billion in private investment to preserve 38,000 historic properties since 1976.
- For more information: <http://www.nps.gov/tps/taxincentives.htm>.

Federal Lands Highway Program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportations & federal Highway Administration
- Purpose: Provisions for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Limitations: Priority for funding projects is determined by the appropriate Federal Land Agency or Tribal government
- More Information: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/overview/bp-broch.cfm#funding

Federal-Aid Highway Program, Federal Lands Highway Program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportation
- Purpose: assists state transportation agencies in the planning and development of an integrated, interconnected transportation system important to interstate commerce and travel. To provide aid for the repair of Federal-aid highways following disasters; to foster safe highway design; to replace or rehabilitate deficient or obsolete bridges; and to provide for other special purposes.
- More information: <http://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/>

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grants

- Grantor: Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
- Purpose: The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program provides grants to assist communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufac-

tured homes, and other structures insurable under the NFIP.

- Funding Limitations: The Texas Water Development Fund helps fund wastewater and flood control projects.
- More information at <http://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program>

Foreign Trade Zones (FTZ)

These are adjacent to a United States Port of Entry such as a seaport. These are geographic locations that provide incentives such as withholding tariffs on local businesses conducting international trade that can therefore create and retain employment and capital investment opportunities that result from those.

Formula Grants for Other than Urbanized Areas

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportation
- Purpose: provides funding to states to support public transportation in rural areas.
- Eligibility: population of less than 50,000.
- More information: http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13093_3555.html.

FTA Livable and Sustainable Communities Initiative

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Uses sustainable design concepts such as TOD to strengthen linkages between transportation services and communities. Eligible recipients are transit operators, MPOs, city and county governments, States, planning agencies, and other public bodies with the authority to plan or construct transit projects.
- Limitations: Nonprofit, community, and civic organizations are encouraged to participate in project planning and development as partners with eligible recipients.
- More Information: <http://www.fta.dot.gov/about/13747.html>

FY 2016 Economic Development Sustainable Assistance Program

- Grantor: Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration
- Purpose: to lead the Federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for economic growth and success in the worldwide economy.
- Eligibility: Eligible applicants include: District Organization of a designated Economic Development District; Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes; State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions; institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State. EDA is not authorized to provide grants or cooperative agreements to individuals or to for profit entities.
- More information: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/viewopportunity.html?oppId=279842>

Grants For Transportation of Veterans in Highly Rural Areas

- Grantor: Veterans Affairs
- Purpose: to assist veterans in highly rural areas to provide innovative transportation services to travel to VA medical centers and to other VA and non-VA facilities in connection with the provision of VA medical care.
- Eligibility: Veteran Service Organizations and State Veteran Service Agencies. See NOFA and Full Announcement.
- Limitations: Estimated: \$3 million, Award Ceiling: \$50,000
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/re-source-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Hart Family Fund for Small Towns

- Grantor: National Fund for Historic Preservation
- Purpose: intended to encourage preservation at the local level by providing seed money for preservation projects in small towns.
- Eligibility: Competition.
- Limitations: range from \$2,500 to \$10,000.
- More Information: <http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/find-funding/special-funds/#Hart>

Hazard Elimination and Railway-Highway Crossing programs

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportations & federal Highway Administration
- Purpose: address bicycle and pedestrian safety issues.
- Eligibility: Each State is required to implement a Hazard Elimination Program to identify and correct locations which may constitute a danger to motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.
- Limitations: Funds may be used for activities including a survey of hazardous locations and for projects on any publicly owned bicycle or pedestrian pathway or trail, or any safety-related traffic calming measure. Improvements to railway-highway crossings
- More Information: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/overview/bp-broch.cfm#funding

Health Impact Assessment to Foster Healthy Community Design

- Grantor: HHS/Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- Purpose: to promote an evidence-based approach toward community design decision-making through three major activities: first, improving surveillance related to community design so communities have reliable local data they can use; second, encouraging Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) of policies, programs, and projects that will affect community design; and finally, supporting evaluation within the field.
- Eligibility: Nonprofit, For-profit organizations (other than small

business), Small, minority, and women-owned businesses, Universities, Colleges, Research institutions, Hospitals, Community-based organizations, Faith-based organizations, Federally recognized or state-recognized American Indian/Alaska Native tribal governments, American Indian/Alaska native tribally designated organizations, Alaska Native health corporations, Urban Indian health organizations, Tribal epidemiology centers, State and local governments or their Bona Fide Agents

- Limitations: \$2.8 million, max grant \$180,000
- More Information: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/hia.htm>

High Priority Projects and Designated Transportation Enhancement Activities

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportations & federal Highway Administration
- Purpose: Enhancement of numerous bicycle, pedestrian, trail, and traffic calming projects in communities throughout the country.
- More Information: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/overview/bp-broch.cfm#funding

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration.
- Purpose: The goal is to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.
- Limitations: The HSIP requires states to develop and implement a Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).
- More Information: http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip/gen_info/

HOME Program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: to create affordable housing for low-income households, in the form of direct assistance or loan guarantees.

- Eligibility: Local & State governments
- Limitations: Up to \$2 billion, max state grant \$3 million or formula allocation; local jurisdictions eligible for at least \$500,000 under the formula
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Homeowner's Rehabilitation Assistance Program

- Grantor: Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.
- Purpose: This program provides the following services:
 - Rehabilitation or reconstruction of owner-occupied housing on the same site
 - New construction of site-built housing on the same site to replace an existing owner occupied Manufactured Housing Unit (MHU).
 - Replacement and relocation of existing housing located in a flood plain to a new MHU or new construction of housing on an alternative site.
 - New construction or a new MHU to replace a housing unit that has become uninhabitable as a result of disaster or condemnation by local government
 - If allowable under the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), refinance of existing mortgages meeting federal requirements.
- Eligibility: Organizations must now apply and receive HOME funds under the CHDO set-aside in order to be certified as a CHDO.
- More information: <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/home-division/hra.htm>

HOPE VI Main Street Program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: Small community grants to assist with downtown revitalization of a historic or traditional central business district by replacing unused commercial space with affordable housing units.
- Eligibility: Local governments with populations of 50,000 or less that currently have less than 100 public housing units

- Limitations: \$500,000, max grant \$500,000 (only one awardee)
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Indoor Recreation Grants

- Grantor: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
- Purpose: Provides 50% matching funds or construction of recreation centers, nature centers, and related buildings
- Limitations: Currently suspended.
- More information: <http://www.tpwd.state.Texas.us/business/grants/trpa/>

Innovative Transit Workforce Development Program

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: promote diverse and innovative successful workforce development models and programs.
- Eligibility: public transit agencies; state departments of transportation (DOTs) providing public transportation services; and Indian tribes, non-profit institutions and institutions of higher education.
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Intermediary Relending Program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: Finance business facilities and community development projects in rural areas.
- Eligibility: Rural areas and incorporated places with populations of less than 25,000
- Limitations: Interest rate 1% maximum term is 30 years, \$250,000 maximum loan
- More information: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/intermediary-relending-program>

INVEST 1.0 Implementation Projects

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: to evaluate the sustainability of transportation systems
- Eligibility: State DOTs, MPOs and other transportation agencies
- Limitations: Multiple awards between \$25,000 to \$150,000
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Job Access and Reverse Commute Grants

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportation & federal Highway Administration
- Purpose: to support projects, including bicycle-related services, designed to transport welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals to and from employment.
- More Information: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/overview/bp-broch.cfm#funding

Job Access and Reverse Commute Program (JARC 5316)

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportation
- Purpose: program was established to address the unique transportation challenges faced by welfare recipients and low-income persons seeking to obtain and maintain employment. Many new entry-level jobs are located in suburban areas, and low-income individuals have difficulty accessing these jobs from their inner city, urban, or rural neighborhoods. In addition, many entry level-jobs require working late at night or on weekends when conventional transit services are either reduced or non-existent.
- More information: http://www.fta.dot.gov/grants/13093_3550.html.

Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation

- Grantor: National Fund for Historic Preservation
- Purpose: aims to save historic environments in order to foster an appreciation of our nation's diverse cultural heritage and to preserve

and revitalize the livability of the nation's communities.

- Eligibility: Competition.
- Limitation: range from \$2,500 to \$10,000
- More Information: <http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/find-funding/special-funds/#Favrot>

Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)

- Grantor: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)
- Purpose: The program offers project cost-sharing for projects that positively impact the valuable riparian areas and watershed in Texas. Projects showing the greatest benefit to targeted watersheds will receive priority as do projects offering long-term protection, long-term monitoring and greater than the required minimum landowner contribution.
- Eligibility: Eligible parties include private, non-federal landowners wishing to enact good conservation practices on their lands in targeted eco-regions. Targeted eco-regions may change from year to year.
- Funding limitations: Contracts will require a minimum of 25% landowner contribution (in-kind labor, materials, monetary, etc.).
- More information: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/private/lip/>

Local Historic Property Tax Incentives

- Grantor: U.S. Department of the Interior
- According to the Texas Property Code Section 11.24, "Historic Sites grants the governing body of a taxing unit the authority to exempt from taxation part or all of the assessed value of a structure and the land necessary for access to the structure if the structure is a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark or designated as historically significant and in need of tax relief to encourage its preservation." Thus, communities that do not currently have historic tax incentives programs should consider adopting them as permitted by Texas law.

Lorrie Otto Seeds for Education Grant Program

- Grantor: Donations
- Purpose: gives small monetary grants to schools, nature centers, and other non-profit organizations of
- More Information: <http://www.wildones.org/seeds-for-education/>

Low Income Housing Tax Credit (4%)

- Grantor: HUD
- Purpose: Generate equity capital for the construction and rehabilitation of affordable rental housing.
- Eligibility: Determined by state housing finance agency
- If the projects involve acquisition and substantial rehabilitation expenditures, and are funded with Tax-Exempt Bonds only qualify for 4%.
- Limitations: State allocated
- More information: <http://www.dchfa.org/DCHFAHome/Developers/ProgramDescriptions/4LIHTC/tabid/135/Default.aspx>

Low Income Housing Tax Credit (9%)

- Grantor: Department of the Treasury
- Purpose: Generate equity capital for the construction and rehabilitation of affordable rental housing.
- Eligibility: Determined by state housing finance agency
- 9% LIHTC are possible if the projects are not funded by federal Tax-Exempt Bonds, and meet the other basic qualifications of LI- HTC.
- Limitations: State allocated
- More information: <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/multifamily/housing-tax-credits-9pct/>

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)

- Grantor: U.S. Treasury Department via the Internal Revenue Code
- Purpose: directing private capital toward the development and pres-

ervation of affordable rental housing for low-income households.

- Eligibility: Private for-profit and nonprofit developers. Tenants earning up to 60% of the area median family income (AMFI), which varies by area.
- More information can be found at <http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/lihtc.html>

Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project

- Grantor: Bexar County. Other funding partners included the City of San Antonio, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Antonio Water Systems, private donations, and federal funding reimbursed by the Omnibus Appropriations Act.
- Purpose: transforming an eight-mile stretch of the San Antonio River into a quality riparian ecosystem.
- More information: http://www.sanantonioriver.org/mission_reach/mission_reach.php

Model Blocks Program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: funds rehabilitation of older homes and empowers residents to revitalize their neighborhoods.
- Eligibility: Designated neighborhoods are selected through a competitive process and must meet income and eligibility criteria before being awarded or revitalization projects.
- More information: http://fortworthtexas.gov/uploadedFiles/Planning/Comprehensive_Planning/05Housing_06.pdf

Multi-family (Rental Housing) Development Program

- Grantor: provides funding to units of General Local Governments, Public Housing Authorities, nonprofits, and for-profit entities towards the new construction or rehabilitation of affordable multifamily rental developments.
- Eligibility: Development funds are awarded on a first-come, first-

serve basis through an application process.

- More information: <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/multifamily/home/index.htm>

Multi-Family Housing Loan Guarantees

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: to increase the supply of moderately-priced housing in rural areas
- Eligibility: be a U.S. citizen(s) or legal resident(s), a U.S. owned corporation, a limited liability corporation (LLC) or a partnership in which the principals are U.S. citizens or permanent legal residents.
- Limitations: The maximum loan to value is 90% for for-profit entities and 97% for non-profit entities.
- More Information: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/multi-family-housing-loan-guarantees>

Multifamily Mortgage Revenue Bond Program

- Grantor: Texas Bond Review Board and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)
- Purpose: issues mortgage revenue bonds to finance loans
- Eligibility: qualified nonprofit organizations and for-profit developers.
- Limitations: developers financed through this program are subject to set-aside restrictions for low-income tenants and persons with special needs, tenant services, maximum rent limitations and other requirements.
- More information: <http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/multifamily/bond/index.htm>

Mutual Self-Help Housing

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) & Rural Development
- Purpose: Provides grants to qualified organizations to help them car-

ry out local self-help housing construction projects. Grant recipients supervise groups of very-low- and low-income individuals and families as they construct their own homes in rural areas.

- Eligibility: Government non-profit organization, federally-recognized Tribes, private non-profit organizations
- Limitations: Technical assistance and supervision of group of labors, non-profit
- More information: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/mutual-self-help-housing-technical-assistance-grants>

National Complete Streets Coalition

- Grantor: Smart Growth America
- Purpose: promoting the design and operation of road- ways to provide safe, comfortable, and convenient access for all users, from motorists to bicyclists and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.
- More Information: <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/com-plete-streets>

National Highway System

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportations & federal Highway Administration
- Purpose: to construct bicycle transportation facilities and pedestrian walkways on land adjacent to any highway on the National Highway System, including Interstate highways.
- More Information: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/overview/bp-broch.cfm#funding

National Recreation and Park Association

- More information: www.nrpa.org/fundraising-resources

National Scenic Byways

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: improvement to a scenic byway that will enhance access to

an area for the purpose of recreation; development of tourist information to the public (such as biking info and maps on scenic byways).

- Eligibility: State DOTs and Indian Tribes
- Limitations: Livability is a criteria that will be used in the consideration of projects.
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

National Scenic Byways

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportation & federal Highway Administration
- Purpose: construction along a scenic byway of a facility for pedestrians and bicyclists
- More Information: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/overview/bp-broch.cfm#funding

National Trails Training Partnership

- Grantor: American Trails and NTTP
- Purpose: for planning, building, designing, funding, managing, enhancing, and supporting trails, greenways, and blue ways.
- More information: <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/funding/>

National Trails Training Partnership

- Grantor: Bureau of Land Management's Watchable Wildlife for Youth and Families
- Purpose: offers workshops and webinars on successful trail development and implementation.
- More Information: <http://www.americantrails.org/nttp/>

National Trust for Historic Preservation Grant program

- Grantor: National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Purpose: aims to save America's historic places.

- Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations and public agencies that are members of the National Trust at the Forum or Main Street level.
- Limitations: There are three annual deadlines: February 1, June 1, and October 1.
- More information: <http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/find-funding/?referrer=https://www.google.com/#.Ve9IIhFVhBc>

Neighborhood Initiative Grants

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: Intended to stimulate investment in distressed areas and may be used for the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing and community education programs.
- Eligibility: Only the entity named by Congress in the Conference Report on the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 (H.R. 111-366), is eligible to apply for Neighborhood Initiative (NI) grant funds.
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

New Freedom Program (5317)

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: provide additional tools to overcome existing barriers facing Americans with disabilities seeking integration into the work force and full participation in society.
- Eligibility: States and public bodies are eligible designated recipients. Eligible sub recipients are private non-profit organizations, State or local governments, and operators of public transportation services including private operators of public transportation services.
- Limitations: Apportioned to States by a formula
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Outdoor Recreation Grants

- Grantor: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

- Purpose: This grant provides 50% matching grant funds to acquire and develop parkland or to renovate existing public recreation areas.
- Eligibility: For municipalities, counties, MUDs and other local units of government with populations less than 500,000. Eligible sponsors include cities, counties, MUDs, river authorities, and other special districts.
- Limitations: Projects must be completed within three years of approval. The master plans submission deadline is at least 60 days prior to the application deadline.
- More information: For complete information on this grant, please download the Outdoor Recreation Grant Application; <http://www.nps.gov/lwcf/index.htm>

Outdoor Recreation Grants

- Grantor: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
- Purpose: Provides 50% matching funds to renovate existing public recreation areas
- More Information: <http://www.tpwd.state.Texas.us/business/grants/trpa/>

Outdoor Recreation-Acquisition, Development and Planning (15.916)

- Grantor: Department of the Interior
- Purpose: provide financial assistance to the States and their political subdivisions for the preparation of Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPs) and acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities for the general public, to meet current and future needs.
- Eligibility: For planning grants, only the State agency formally designated by the Governor or State law as responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the SCORP is eligible to apply. For acquisition and development grants, the above designated agency may apply for assistance for itself, or on behalf of other State agencies or political subdivisions, such as cities, counties, and park districts. Indian organized tribes to govern themselves and perform the functions of a

general purpose unit of government qualify for assistance. Individuals, nonprofit organizations, and private organizations are not eligible.

- Limitations: Land acquisition and development grants may be used for a wide range of outdoor recreation projects, Facilities must be open to the general public and not limited to special groups. Every park or outdoor recreation area acquired or developed with assistance under this program must remain available and accessible for public outdoor recreation use forever. Development of basic rather than elaborate facilities is favored. Operation and maintenance of facilities are not eligible expenses for funding.
- More information: <https://www.cfda.gov/index?s=program&mode=-form&tab=core&id=49de7517fcf9e734d2868a40aee748be>

Pass-Through Financing program

- Grantor: Texas Department of transportation
- Purpose: stretch already limited tax highway dollars and to allow local communities to fund upfront costs for constructing a state highway project.
- Eligibility: Projects must be on the state highway system
- More Information: <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/office/innovative-finance/pass-finance.html>

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Conduct research and develop guidelines, tools and safety countermeasures to reduce pedestrian and bicycle fatalities.
- Eligibility: State/MPO allocated
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Planning and Capacity Building Fund

- Grantor: Texas Department of Agriculture

- Purpose: provides grants for local public facilities and housing planning activities.
- Eligibility: Non-entitlement cities under 50,000 in population and non-entitlement counties that have a non-metropolitan population under 200,000 and are not eligible for direct CDBG funding from HUD may apply for funding through any of the Texas CDBG programs.
- Limitations: Maximum grant award: \$55,000, competitive application process, applications accepted biennially, grants provided annually.
- More information: [http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant\(CDBG\)/PlanningandCapacityBuildingFund.aspx](http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant(CDBG)/PlanningandCapacityBuildingFund.aspx)

Planning Capacity Building Fund (Rural)

- Grantor: Texas Department of Agriculture:
- Purpose: Grants for local public facility and housing planning activities.
- Eligibility: non-entitlement cities and counties whose populations are less than 50,000 and 200,000 respectively, and are not participating or designated as eligible to participate in the entitlement portion of the federal Community Development Block Grant Program.
- Limitations: \$55,000 and competitive application process
- More information: [http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant\(CDBG\)/PlanningandCapacityBuildingFund.aspx](http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant(CDBG)/PlanningandCapacityBuildingFund.aspx)

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program

- Grantor: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Purpose: This program assists local governments in implementing cost-effective hazard mitigation activities that complement a comprehensive mitigation program.
- Eligibility: In order to be eligible the city must be in good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Funding Limitations: This grant should be used for hazard plan-

ning activities but cannot be used for major flood control projects, warning systems, engineering designs, feasibility studies not integral to proposed projects, generators not integral to a proposed project, phased or partial projects, flood studies or mapping, or response and communication equipment.

- More information at <http://www.fema.gov/pre-disaster-mitigation-grant-program>

Public Housing Agency's Housing Choice Voucher program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: Allows a very low-income family to receive a housing voucher. The family must pay 30% of its monthly adjusted gross income for rent and utilities.
- Eligibility: very low-income families.
- Limitations: Housing Authorities may establish local preferences for selecting applicants from its waiting list.
- More information: http://www.housingchoiceprogram.com/details/gonzales_housing_authority_78629

Public Lands Highways

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Transportation planning, research, and engineering and construction of, highways, roads, parkways, and transit facilities that are within, adjacent to, or provide access to Indian reservations and Federal public lands, including national parks, refuges, forests, recreation areas, and grasslands.
- Eligibility: State DOTs, Federal Land Management Agencies, State government agencies, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, and tribal governments – must apply through DOTs
- Limitations: Livability is a criteria that will be considered in the selection of projects.
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Public Transportation on Indian Reservations Program; Tribal Transit Program

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: to fund public transportation capital projects, operating costs of equipment and facilities for use in public transportation, planning, and the acquisition of public transportation services, including service agreements with private providers of public transportation services.
- Eligibility: Federally-recognized Indian tribes or Alaska Native villages, groups, or communities as identified by the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).
- Limitations: Approximately \$15 million total fund
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Rail Highway Crossing Hazard Elimination in High Speed Rail Corridors

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Elimination of hazards at railway-highway crossings along 11 designated high-speed rail corridors; could include pedestrian crossing improvements, civil or utility improvements such as improved crossing surfaces, lighting, and improved sight distance.
- Eligibility: States along the 11 designated high-speed rail corridors.
- Limitations: \$21 million for the full fund
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Recreation Grants

- Grantor: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Purpose: This grant was created to meet recreation needs. The grant provides 50% matching grant funds to eligible municipalities and counties. Funds must be used for development or acquisition of parkland.

- Eligibility: Must be a small Texas community with a population of 20,000 and under. Eligible projects include ball fields, boating, fishing, and hunting facilities, picnic facilities, playgrounds, swimming pools, trails, camping facilities, beautification, restoration, gardens, sports courts and support facilities.
- More information: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants>

Recreational Trail Grants

- Grantor: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Purpose: TPWD administers the National Recreational Trails Fund in Texas under the approval of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This federally funded program receives its funding from a portion of federal gas taxes paid on fuel used in non-highway recreational vehicles.
- Eligibility: Funds can be spent on both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail projects such as the construction of new recreational trails, to improve existing trails, to develop trailheads or trailside facilities, and to acquire trail corridors.
- Limitations: The grants can be up to 80% of project cost with a maximum of \$200,000 for non-motorized trail grants and currently there is not a maximum amount for motorized trail grants (call 512-389-8224 for motorized trail grant funding availability).
- More information: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/business/grants/recreation-grants/recreational-trails-grants>

Recreational Trails Grants

- Grantor: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
- Purpose: Can be up to 80% of project cost for new recreational trails, improvements, trailheads, trailside facilities, or acquiring trail corridors
- More Information: <http://www.tpwd.state.Texas.us/business/grants/trpa/>

Recreational Trails Program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportation & federal Highway Administration
- Purpose: for all kinds of trail projects of the funds apportioned to a State
- Limitations: 30 percent must be used for motorized trail uses, 30 percent for no motorized trail uses, and 40 percent for diverse trail uses
- More Information: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/overview/bp-broch.cfm#funding

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Funding for maintenance and new construction of recreational trails and related facilities.
- Eligibility: State/MPO allocated
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Regional Solid Waste Grants Program

- Grantor: Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
- Purpose: Grants are awarded to regional and local governments for municipal solid waste (MSW) management projects. TCEQ allocates the funds to the council of governments that provides technical and financial assistance to municipalities for MSW projects.
- Eligibility: Local and regional governments may apply
- Funding limitations: Funding availability and quantities will vary every fiscal year. Applications must be made through the corresponding council of government.
- More information: www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/waste_permits/waste_planning/wp_grants.html

Regional Water Supply and Wastewater Facilities Planning Program

- Grantor: Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

- Purpose: The program provides funds for studies and analyses to evaluate and determine the most feasible alternatives to meet regional water supply and wastewater facility needs, estimate the costs associated with implementing feasible regional water supply and wastewater facility alternatives, and identify institutional arrangements to provide regional water supply and wastewater services for areas in Texas. All proposed solutions must be consistent with applicable regional or statewide plans and relevant laws and regulations. A water conservation plan must be included in the proposed plan.
- Eligibility: Political subdivisions, such as cities, counties, districts and authorities created under the Texas Constitution with the legal authority to plan, develop, and operate regional facilities are eligible applicants. Additional applicants include any interstate compact commission to which the State is a party and any nonprofit water supply corporation created and operating under Texas Civil Statutes Article 1434a.
- Funding limitations: Funds are in the form of grants. Applicants must provide evidence of local matching funds on or before the date specified for negotiation and execution of a contract. Funds are generally limited to 50% of the total cost of the project, except that the board may supply up to 75% of the total cost to political subdivisions under certain conditions. Funds will be released only as reimbursement of costs actually incurred for approved activities. In-kind services may be substituted for any part of the local share if certain criteria are met.
- More information: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/RFPG/>

Rental Assistance Program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: provides an additional source of support for households with incomes too low to pay the HCFP subsidized (basic) rent from their own resources.
- Eligibility: may be used in both existing and newly constructed HCFP Rural Rental Housing (Section 515) or Farm Labor Housing (Section

514) financed projects. Projects must be established on a nonprofit or limited profit basis.

- Limitations: RA requests are approved by the State Director.
- More Information: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-Direct_Rental_Loans.html

Rental Assistance Sequestration

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: make final determinations of whether the borrower will be impacted and extent of relief needed.
- Eligibility: affected borrowers both the Sequestration and appropriations rescission reductions substantially impacted by the Rental Assistance Program.
- More Information: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/topics/rental_assistance

Routine Airport Maintenance Program (RAMP)

- Grantor: Texas Department of transportation
- Purpose: allows communities that do not have access to necessary resources to perform needed services.
- Eligibility: Airport Sponsors
- Limitations: maximum of \$50,000 in state funds per airport per year.
- More Information: <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/aviation/airport-grants.html>

Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program

- Grantor: USDA
- Purpose: The RBEG program provides grants for rural projects that finance and facilitate development of small and emerging rural businesses help fund distance learning networks, and help fund employment related adult education programs.
- Eligibility: Rural public entities (towns, communities, State agencies, and authorities), Indian tribes and rural private non-profit corpora-

tions are eligible to apply for funding.

- Limitations: Generally grants range \$10,000 up to \$500,000.
- More Information: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants>

Rural Business Opportunity Grants (RBOG)

- Grantor: USDA
- Purpose: promotes sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs through provision of training and technical assistance
- Eligibility: Rural public bodies, rural nonprofit corporations, rural Indian tribes, and cooperatives with primarily rural members.
- Limitations: The maximum grant for a project serving a single state is \$50,000. The maximum grant for a project serving two or more states is \$150,000.
- More Information: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usda-home?contentid=kyf_grants_rd2_content.html

Rural Community Development Initiative

- Grantor: USDA
- Purpose: To develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations, and low income rural communities to improve housing, community facilities, community and economic development projects in rural areas.
- More Information: <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usda-home?contentid=2015/04/0096.xml>

Rural Cooperative Development Program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: Establish and operate centers for cooperative development to improve the economic condition in rural areas.
- Eligibility: Any area excluding cities with populations over 50,000

- Limitations: Funding \$5.8 million, \$200,000 maximum grant and 25% matching funds
- More information: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-cooperative-development-grant-program>

Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG)

- Grantor: USDA
- Purpose: provides grant funds to local utility organizations which use the funding to establish revolving loan funds.
- Eligibility: A not-for-profit utility that is eligible to receive assistance from the Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Program or a current Rural Development Electric or Telecommunication Programs Borrower.
- Limitations: Eligibility restrictions apply.
- More Information: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program>

Rural Economic Development Program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: Finance economic development and job creation in rural areas
- Eligibility: Any area excluding cities with populations over 50,000
- Limitations: up to \$300,000 in grants, up to \$1 million in loans, 10 years at 0%
- More information: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program>

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: Finance the purchase of renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements.
- Eligibility: Any area excluding cities with populations over 50,000
- Limitations: Grants cannot exceed 25% eligible project costs or

\$250,000 for Energy Efficiency and \$500,000 for Renewable Energy. Loans cannot exceed 75% of eligible costs.

- More information: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency>

Rural Rental Housing Loans

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: Rural Rental Housing Loans are direct, competitive mortgage loans made to provide affordable multifamily rental housing for very low-, low-, and moderate-income families
- Eligibility: Ownership - Individuals, partnerships, limited partnerships, for-profit corporations, nonprofit organizations, limited equity cooperatives, Native American tribes, and public agencies are eligible to apply. For-profit borrowers must agree to operate on a limited-profit basis (currently 8 percent on initial investment).
- More Information: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-Direct_Rental_Loans.html

Rural Transit Assistance Program (5311b3)

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: provides a source of funding to assist in the design and implementation of training and technical assistance projects and other support services tailored to meet the needs of transit operators in non-urbanized areas.
- Eligibility: States, local governments, and providers of rural transit services.
- Limitations: Apportioned to States by a formula
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/re-source-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Rural Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- Purpose: Provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas.
- Eligibility: Rural areas, cities, and towns with a population up to 10,000
- Limitations: quarterly interest rates, maximum repayment period 40 years
- More information: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-grant-program>

Rural Water & Waste Disposal Loan Guarantees

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Purpose: private lenders provide affordable financing to qualified borrowers to improve access to clean, reliable water and waste disposal systems for households and businesses in rural areas.
- Eligibility: Rural areas, cities, and towns with a population up to 10,000
- Limitations: 90% private lender
- More information: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-waste-disposal-loan-guarantees>

Safe Riders Traffic Safety Program

- Grantor: Texas Department of Transportation
- Purpose: is a Texas-wide child passenger safety (CPS) program dedicated to preventing deaths and reducing injuries to children due to motor vehicle crashes.
- More information: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/saferiders/>.

Safe Routes to School

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Funding to improve sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle infrastructure, and street improvements near elementary and middle

schools.

- Eligibility: Determined by state DOT
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Section 108 Loan Guarantees

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: Provides CDBG-eligible communities with a source of financing for economic development, public facilities, and other eligible large-scale physical development projects.
- Eligibility: metropolitan cities and urban counties, no entitlement communities that are assisted in the submission of applications by States that administer the CDBG program, and no entitlement communities eligible to receive CDBG funds under the HUD-Administered Small Cities CDBG program (Hawaii). The public entity may be the borrower or it may designate a public agency as the borrower.
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Section 202- Supportive Housing for the Elderly

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: Provide capital advances to finance the construction, rehabilitation or acquisition of properties that will serve as supportive housing for very low-income elderly persons.
- Eligibility: Private nonprofit organizations and nonprofit consumer cooperatives
- Limitations: \$371 million
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Section 221- Mortgage Insurance for Moderate Income

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: Insures mortgage loans to facilitate the new construction or

substantial rehabilitation of multifamily rental or cooperative housing for moderate-income families, elderly, and the handicapped.

- Eligibility: Public, profit-motivated sponsors, limited distribution, nonprofit cooperative, builder-seller, investor-sponsor, and general mortgagors.
- Limitations: (Guaranteed/Insured Loans) FY 10 \$2,899,429,000; FY 11 est. \$4,035,000,000; and FY 12 est. \$4,406,137,561
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Section 542- Risk-Sharing

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: Provides credit enhancement for mortgages of multifamily housing projects whose loans are underwritten, processed, serviced, and disposed of by housing finance authorities.
- Eligibility: (1) carry the designation of “top tier” or its equivalent as evaluated by Standard and Poor’s or another nationally recognized rating agency; (2) receive an overall rating of “A” for the HFA for its general obligation bonds from a nationally recognized rating agency; and (3) otherwise demonstrate its capacity as a sound, well-managed agency that is experienced in financing multifamily housing.
- Limitations: (Guaranteed/Insured Loans) FY 10 \$139,007,526; FY 11 est. \$200,000,000; and FY 12 est. \$233,277,778
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Section 8 (Project Based)

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: Provide capital advances to finance the construction, rehabilitation or acquisition of properties that will serve as supportive housing for very low-income persons.
- Eligibility: No funding is available to new applicants. Funding is currently available only for the owners of record of projects with an existing expiring project-based Section 8 contract. The project must meet

minimum decent, safe, and sanitary standards.

- Limitations: (Direct Payments for Specified Use) FY 10 \$9,574,433,640; FY 11 est. \$9,967,000,000; and FY 12 est. \$10,328,000,000
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Section 811 – Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: Funds to increase the supply of rental housing for persons with disabilities and provide project rental assistance.
- Eligibility: Nonprofit organizations
- Limitations: \$141 million
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Single Family Home Repairs (Section 504)

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) & Rural Development
- Purpose: provide loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve, or modernize their homes or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.
- Eligibility: Rural areas with populations up to 10,000 if located in a MSA or up to 20,000 if not in a MSA.
- Limitations: up to \$7,500-27,500 loans and grants, 20 year repayment, very-low-income applicants or elderly persons age 62 or older.
- More information: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-repair-loans-grants>

Single Family Homes (Section 502 Loan Guarantee)

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) & Rural Development
- Purpose: Assist eligible applicants in buying their homes by guaranteeing loans made by private lenders.

- Eligibility: Rural areas with populations up to 10,000 if located in a MSA or up to 20,000 if not in a MSA.
- Limitations: 30 year fixed loan, max interest rate, market value plus guarantee fee.
- More information: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-guaranteed-loan-program>

Single Family Homes (Section 502)

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) & Rural Development
- Purpose: Safe, well-built, affordable homes for rural Americans. For very low income individuals and households.
- Eligibility: Rural areas with populations up to 10,000 if located in a MSA or up to 20,000 if not in a MSA.
- Limitations: based on market values, loan amortization 33/38
- More information: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/single-family-housing-direct-home-loans>

Small Business Administration Loan programs

- Grantor: U.S. Small Business Administration
- Purpose: General Small Business Loans, Microloan Program, Real Estate & Equipment Loans, and Disaster Loans.
- More information: <http://www.sba.gov/loanprograms>

Small Business Innovation Research Program

- Grantor: US Small Business Administration
- Purpose: funds the critical startup and development stages of Small Business. It targets the entrepreneurial sector.
- Eligibility: Small businesses that are American owned and independently operated, for-profit, principle researcher employed by business and company size limited to 500 employees.
- Limitations: Funding awarded in three phases, up to \$750,000.
- More Information: <https://www.sbir.gov/>

Small Sociology-Disadvantaged Groups Grant

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: Provide technical assistance to small, minority owned producers.
- Eligibility: Any area excluding cities with populations over 50,000
- Limitations: Funding \$3 million, maximum grant \$175,000
- More information: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/socially-disadvantaged-groups-grant>

Small Towns Environment Program Fund (Rural)

- Grantor: Texas Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: Provides assistance to communities for solving water and sewer problems utilizing self-help methods.
- Eligibility: Non-entitlement cities under 50,000 in population and non-entitlement counties that have a non-metropolitan population under 200,000 and are not eligible for direct CDBG funding from HUD may apply for funding through any of the Texas CDBG programs.
- Limitations: up to \$350,000, community participation, biannual applications
- More information: [http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant\(CDBG\)/SmallTownsEnvironmentalProgram.aspx](http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlockGrant(CDBG)/SmallTownsEnvironmentalProgram.aspx)

Smart Growth Technical Assistance grants

- Grantor: Environmental Protection Agency
- Purpose: to incorporate smart growth techniques into their future development.
- Eligibility: Local governments
- Limitations: Competition
- More Information: <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/2014/09/17/applications-now-being-accepted-for-smart-growth-americas-2015-free-technical-assistance-workshops/>

State and Community Highway Safety Grants

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportations & federal Highway Administration
- Purpose: Research, development, demonstrations and training to improve highway safety
- Limitations: Pedestrian and bicyclist safety remain priority areas
- More information about all the above programs can be found at http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/overview/bp-broch.cfm#funding

Strong Cities, Strong Communities Visioning Challenge

- Grantor: EDA & HUD
- Purpose: support the development and implementation of comprehensive economic development strategic plans.
- Eligibility: Cities
- Limitations: \$6 million total; \$1 million will be awarded to six total cities
- More Information: <http://www.eda.gov/challenges/sc2challenge/>

Surface Transportation Program - Transportation Enhancement

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: expand transportation choices and enhance transportation through 12 eligible transportation enhancement surface transportation activities, including pedestrian & bicycle infrastructure and safety programs, landscaping beautification, historic preservation, and environmental mitigation.
- Eligibility: State/MPO allocated
- Limitations: Apportioned to States by a formula
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Surface Transportation Program (STP)

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportations & federal Highway Administration

ministration

- Purpose: for either the construction of bicycle transportation facilities and pedestrian walkways, or no construction projects (such as maps, brochures, and public service announcements) related to safe bicycle use and walking.
- More Information: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/overview/bp-broch.cfm#funding

Sustainable Communities Community Challenge Grants (renamed Integrated Planning and Investment Grants in HUD FY14 budget)

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: Support plans, codes and ordinances that incentivize mixed-use development, affordable housing, re-use of existing buildings and other sustainability goals.
- Eligibility: Local governments, transit agencies, port authorities, MPOs, state governmental agencies
- Limitations: Subject to appropriations; FY10 \$68 million (\$40 million for Challenge, \$28 million for TIGER II); FY11 \$95 million.
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Sustainable Communities Initiative

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: to stimulate integrated regional planning that guides State, metropolitan, and local decisions to link land use, transportation, and housing policy.
- Limitations: Competitive grants in partnership with USDOT and EPA
- More Information: <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/hud-programs/sci>

Sustainable Communities Program

- Grantor: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Purpose: Before (Smart Growth Implementation Assistance) Provides technical assistance to Tribal, State, regional, and local governments, in partnership with HUD and USDOT, for integrating smart growth.
- More Information: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia.htm>

Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants (renamed Investment Planning Grants in HUD FY14 Budget)

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: Supports metropolitan and multijurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments in a manner that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of: (1) economic competitiveness and revitalization; (2) social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; (3) energy use and climate change; and (4) public health and environmental impact in regional plans.
- Eligibility: A consortium of regional partners including the metropolitan planning organization (MPO), principal city of the metropolitan statistical area (MSA), municipalities representing over 50% of the MSA, and any other organizations that represent a diverse group of stakeholders in the region.
- Limitations: Subject to appropriations; FY10 \$100 million; FY11 \$95 million. This program has not been funded by Congress since FY11.
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Sustainable Communities Research Grant Program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Purpose: Research grants to support cutting-edge research on issues related to sustainability, including affordable housing development

and preservation, transportation-related issues, economic development and job creation, land use planning and urban design, etc.

- Eligibility: Academic researchers
- Limitations: \$2.5 million, max grant \$500,000
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Tax Increment Funding (TIF)

Tax increment financing (TIF) is an alluring tool that allows municipalities to promote economic development by earmarking property tax revenue from increases in assessed values within a designated TIF district. Proponents point to evidence that assessed property value within TIF districts generally grows much faster than in the rest of the municipality and infer that TIF benefits the entire municipality.

Texas Online Arts Plan

- Grantor: Texas Commission on the Arts
- Purpose: to lead the Federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for economic growth and success in the worldwide economy.
- Eligibility:
 - Arts Create-1 - Budget between \$50,000 and \$1 million;
 - Arts Create-2 - budget over \$50,000;
 - Arts Create-3 - budget between \$1 million and \$5 million;
 - Arts Create-4 - budget over \$5 million;
 - Arts Create-5 - Government Local Arts Agencies and Local Arts Agencies;
 - Arts Create Subgranting - Local Arts Agencies and Government Local Arts Agencies; Arts Respond Performance Support - All Texas nonprofits, schools, colleges, and units of government;
 - Arts Respond Project - Arts Organizations, College Arts Institutions, Established Arts Organizations, Minority Arts Organizations, Rural Arts Providers, TCA Cultural District;
 - Cultural District Project - TCA Cultural District; VERIFIED Col

lege Arts Institution, Established Arts Organizations, Government Local Arts Agencies, Local Arts Agencies, Rural Arts Providers located within a TCA Designated Cultural District;

- Cultural Districts Designation Program - Established Arts Organizations, Local Arts Agencies, Government Local Arts Agencies Established Minority Arts Organizations, Government Agency or Department, College Arts Institutions Designated Fundi Commission Initiatives - Nonprofits, schools, colleges, individuals, unincorporated /for-profit groups, and units of government.
- Touring Roster Inclusion - Texas-based nonprofits, individuals, universities, and unincorporated/for-profit groups providing arts and performances
- Young Masters - Texas 8th to 11th grade students (or homeschooled students who have achieved a comparable status towards high school graduation) who are legal US and Texas residents

- More information: <https://www2.arts.state.tx.us/tcagrants/TX-ArtsPlan/TAPTOC.asp>

Texas Capital Fund (Rural)

- Grantor: Texas Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: Supports rural business development, retention and expansion by providing funds for public infrastructure, real estate development, or the elimination of deteriorated conditions.
- Eligibility: see program website
- More information: <http://texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/TexasCapitalFund.aspx>

Texas Enterprise Zone Program

- Grantor: Texas Economic Development Division
- Purpose: for local communities to partner with the State of Texas to promote job creation and capital investment in economically distressed areas of the state.
- More information: http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/enterprise_zone/ez_program.html

[prise_zone/ez_program.html](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/enterprise_zone/ez_program.html)

Texas Leverage Fund

- Grantor: Texas Economic Development
- Purpose: provides additional financing help to communities that have adopted an economic development sales tax. The communities may expand economic development through using and collecting future sales tax revenues.
- Limitations: \$25,000 - \$5 million
- More Information: <https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/services/financing>

Texas Paddling Trails (TBT)

- Grantor: The Texas Parks and Wildlife program.
- Purpose: was designed to promote the development of paddling trails throughout the state. It provides assistance to community partners, promotes the trails on the TPWD website, and provides TPT kiosk design options, trail maps, and official marker signs for put-in and take-out locations.
- More Information: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/boat/paddlingtrails/>

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD)

- Also provides an extensive database of grant opportunities for outdoor recreation, indoor recreation, small communities, outdoor outreach programs, and recreational trails.
 - Land Acquisition & Park Development Grants
 - CO-OP grants
 - Trail Grants
 - Boating access grants
 - Boat Sewage Pumpout grants
 - Landowner Incentive Program
 - Section 6 Grants

- Section 6 Competitive Grants
- Education and Technical Assistance Programs
- Sportfish Restoration Program
- More information: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/grants/>

Texas Workforce Commission's Skill Development Program

- Grantor: Texas Workforce Commission through Texas Legislature
- Purpose: provides grants to community and technical colleges to provide customized job training programs for businesses who want to train new workers or upgrade the skills of their existing workforce.
- Eligibility: A business, consortium of businesses, or trade union identifies a training need, and then partners with a public community or technical college.
- Limitations: Texas Administrative Code, Title 40, Part 20, Chapter 803 and Texas Labor Code, Chapter 303.
- More Information: <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/partners/skills-development-fund>

Title I Home Improvement Loans

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: for alterations, repairs and site improvements. Loans on multifamily structures may be used only for building alteration and repairs.
- Eligibility: A property owner may apply at any lender (i.e. bank, mortgage company, savings and loan association, or credit union) that is approved to make Title I loans. Beware of deceptive home improvement contractors.
- Limitations: Single-family house - \$25,000, manufactured house on permanent foundation (classified and taxed as real estate) - \$25,090, manufactured house (classified as personal property) - \$7,500, multifamily structure - an average of \$12,000 per living unit, up to a total of \$60,000.
- More information: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/sfh/title/ti_abou

Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCT) Grant Program

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Labor and Department of Education
- Purpose: provides community colleges and other eligible institutions of higher education with funds to expand and improve their ability to deliver education and career training programs
- Eligibility: are suited for workers who are eligible for training under the TAA for Workers program, and prepare program participants for employment in high-wage, high-skill occupations.
- Limitations: have to be completed in two years or less
- More Information: <http://www.doleta.gov/taacct/>

Transit Cooperative Research Program (5313)

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: develops near-term, practical solutions to problems facing transit agencies.
- Eligibility: Funds for projects are allocated by transit industry consensus through the Transportation Research Board (TRB).
- Limitations: Funds are allocated on an annual basis
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Transit Investment in Greenhouse Gas and Energy Reduction (TIGGER)

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Provides funding for (1) capital investments that assist in reducing the energy consumption of a transit system and (2) capital investments that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions of a public transportation system.
- Eligibility: Transit agencies or state DOTs
- Limitations: \$49.9 million
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Transit Oriented Development Planning Pilot

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Provides funding to advance planning efforts that support transit-oriented development associated with new fixed-guideway and core capacity improvement projects.
- Eligibility: State and local government agencies
- Limitations: \$10 million for FY 2013 and 2014
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEAs)

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportation & federal Highway Administration
- Purpose: provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists, and the preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian and bicycle trails)
- More Information: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/overview/bp-broch.cfm#funding

Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: provides formula funding to States for the purpose of assisting private nonprofit groups in meeting the transportation needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities when the service provided is unavailable, insufficient/inappropriate to meeting these needs.
- Eligibility: States are direct recipients. Eligible sub recipients are private non-profit organizations, governmental authorities where no non-profit organizations are available to provide service and governmental authorities approve to coordinate services.
- Limitations: State allocated
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Provides Federal credit assistance in the form of direct loans, loans guarantees, and standby lines of credit to finance surface transportation projects of national and regional significance.
- Limitations: TIFIA can help advance qualifies large-scale projects that otherwise might be delayed or deferred because of size, complexity, or uncertainty over timing of venues. TIFIA funding is available to State DOT's, transit operators, special transportation authorities, local governments, and private investors.
- More Information: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/ipd/tifia/>

Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA)

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Provides federal credit assistance in the form of direct loans, loan guarantees, and standby lines of credit to finance surface transportation projects of national and regional significance.
- Eligibility: State departments of transportation; local governments; transit agencies; special authorities; special districts; railroad companies; and private firms or consortia
- Limitations: \$200 million as part of TIGER III; companies specializing in engineering, construction, materials, and/or the operation of transportation facilities.
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER)

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Competitive grant program funding infrastructure projects that promote economic competitiveness, improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve safety, quality-of-life and working environments in communities.
- Eligibility: State, local, and tribal governments, including U.S. terri-

tories, tribal governments, transit agencies, port authorities, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), other political subdivisions of State or local governments, and multi-State or multijurisdictional groups applying through a single lead applicant.

- Limitations: Unlike last year, no planning grants will be awarded this year and all the funding will be for project implementation.
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/re-source-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program (TPCB)

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Provides training, technical assistance, and support to help decision makers, transportation officials, and staff resolve complex transportation needs in their communities.
- Eligibility: State, metropolitan, rural and small communities, tribal and public lands planning opportunities are available.
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/re-source-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Transportation, Community & System Preservation

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Planning grants, implementation grants, and research, could include transit projects, complete streets, streetscaping, ped/bike improvements or plans, implementation of transit-oriented development plans, traffic calming measures, and much more.
- Eligibility: States, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, and tribal governments
- Limitations: \$61 million; Livability is a criterion that will be used to evaluate candidate projects. Projects must improve relationships among transportation, community, and system preservation plans.
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/re-source-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Urbanized Area Formula Program

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: Provide transit capital and operating assistance in urbanized areas and for transportation related planning.
- Eligibility: Funding is made available to designated recipients that must be public bodies with the legal authority to receive and dispense Federal funds.
- Limitations: Apportioned to States by a formula
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/re-source-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Urgent Need Fund (Rural)

- Grantor: Texas Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: Grants that will restore rural infrastructure whose sudden failure poses an imminent threat to life or health.
- Eligibility: Non-entitlement cities under 50,000 in population and non-entitlement counties that have a non-metropolitan population under 200,000 and are not eligible for direct CDBG funding from HUD may apply for funding through any of the Texas CDBG programs.
- Limitations: \$25,000-250,000, requires assessment, accepted by invitation.
- More information: [http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlock-Grant\(CDBG\)/UrgentNeedFund.aspx](http://www.texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/RuralCommunityDevelopmentBlock-Grant(CDBG)/UrgentNeedFund.aspx)

USDA Rural Development Funds

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: For use towards water treatment, waste treatment, electric power, and telecommunications services improvements
- More information: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/Utilities_Assistance.html

Value Added Producer Grants

- Grantor: U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Purpose: Assist independent agricultural producers enter into activities that add value to their commodities.
- Eligibility: no restrictions
- Limitations: Funding \$30 million, maximum grant \$75,000 planning grants and \$250,000 working capital grants, fund matching 50%
- More information: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants>

Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative Grant Program

- Grantor: Department of Transportation
- Purpose: make it easier for U.S. veterans, active service members, military families, and others to learn about and arrange for locally available transportation services that connect them with work, education, health care, and other vital services in their communities.
- Eligibility: existing Direct Recipients under FTA's Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula program, as well as local governments, States, and Indian Tribes.
- Limitations: \$25 million in capital funding; \$5 million in research funding
- More Information: <http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/>

Water and Environmental Programs

- Grantor: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Purpose: This program provides financial assistance for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less. Technical assistance and training is also available to assist rural communities with their water, wastewater, and solid waste problems.
- Eligibility: Public bodies, non-profit organizations and recognized Indian Tribes

- Funding limitations: Financial assistance is provided in various ways including direct or guaranteed loans, grants, technical assistance, research and educational materials. Different amounts of assistance exist depending on the project type and financial tool the participant is seeking.
- More information: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWEP_HomePage.html

Wetlands Reserve Program

- Grantor: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Purpose: Provides technical and financial support to landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. The programs aims to offer landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.
- Eligibility: Lands that are eligible under this program include: wetlands farmed under natural conditions; farmed wetlands; prior converted cropland, farmed wetland pasture; certain lands that have the potential to become a wetland as a result of flooding; rangeland, pasture, or forest production lands where the hydrology has been significantly degraded and can be restored; riparian areas which link protected wetlands; lands adjacent to protected wetlands that contribute significantly to wetland functions and values; and wetlands previously restored under a local, state, or federal Program that need long-term protection.
- Funding limitations: For permanent easements, 100% of easement value and 100% of the restoration costs will be funded. For 30-year easements, 75% of the easement value and up to 75% of the restoration costs are funded. For an agreement to restore wetlands without an easement, up to 75% of the restoration costs will be funded. A 30-year contract is available for tribal land and funding allocation is up to 75% of the restoration costs.
- More information: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/wetlands>