



Texas Association of Regional Councils

Programmatic Committee + Staff Association Meeting Agendas (Draft)

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Texas Association
of Regional Councils

Bi-Annual Staff Training & Board of Directors Meeting

Cambria Austin Downtown | Austin, TX

February 3-6, 2026

**All TARC Meeting events located on the 6th floor*

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

9:00 am – 5:00 pm **Texas Regional Broadband Program Kickoff Meeting** (Moon Tower)
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm **HHSC Office of Area Agencies on Aging Training** (Waterloo)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2026

8:00 am – 5:00 pm **TARC Staff Association Trainings & Meetings**
Joint Public Safety Training & Meeting (Waterloo B)
9:00 am – 5:00 pm **TARC Staff Association Trainings & Meetings**
Community & Economic Development Staff Association (Waterloo A)
Finance and Personnel Association (Moon Tower A)
Texas Association of Area Agencies on Aging (Moon Tower B)
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm **TARC Staff Association Trainings & Meetings**
Solid Waste Planners' Association (Whiskey River)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026

9:00 am – 9:50 am **Committee Meetings**
Environmental Quality Committee (Whiskey River)
Transportation Committee (Moon Tower A)
10:00 am – 10:50 am **Committee Meetings**
Public Safety Committee (Whiskey River)
Community & Economic Development Committee (Moon Tower A)
11:00 am – 11:50 am **Committee Meetings**
Health & Human Services Committee (Whiskey River)
Emergency Communications Committee (Moon Tower A)
12:00 pm – 3:00 pm **Executive Directors' Council Meeting** (Waterloo)
3:30 pm – 5:30 pm **Legislative Committee Meeting & Collaboration Forum** (Moon Tower)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026

8:00 am – 9:00 am **Budget & Bylaws Committee Meeting** (Whiskey River)

9:00 am – 9:30 am [Coffee & Conversation](#) (Moon Tower)
9:30 am – 12:00 pm [Board of Directors Meeting](#) (Moon Tower)

EVENT NOTES

REGISTRATION

Please be sure to register for this meeting. There is no need to provide proof of registration but if you're a fan of coffee, registration tells us how much we should order.

[Click here to Register.](#)

The meeting rooms can get chilly. We recommend dressing in layers to ensure your comfort, easily adjust to the varying temperatures, and stay focused on the fantastic content we have lined up.

HOTEL INFORMATION

We will be gathering once again in the vibrant [Rainy Street area of Austin](#)! The [Cambria Hotel Austin Downtown](#) is located at 67 East, right on the southbound access road of I-35 in the Rainey Street District. (Please be aware, there is construction along 35 through downtown Austin so pack your patience.) All TARC meetings will take place on the 6th floor of the hotel.

The room block has closed but if you need assistance with making, amending or cancelling a reservation, please email kliledowty@txregionalcouncil.org.

PARKING

TARC has negotiated a 50% discount (\$25/night) on parking for overnight guests at the hotel. Please let the valet attendant know you are with the Texas Association of Regional Councils. [We encourage guests to tip accordingly if you're pleased with the service.](#)

The hotel does not have a self-park garage option. Due to the volume of attendees, please expect a **brief wait for parking**, especially during peak times. The hotel will be fully staffed and prepared and will utilize a **secondary overflow garage** located approximately 7 minutes from the hotel.

You may receive automated texts from the hotel noting a different parking rate. The language in the message includes the hotel's standard rate but when you arrive, be sure to let the parking attendant and/or hotel staff know you're there for TARC and they will ensure you receive the negotiated parking rate.

Meeting information subject to change.

Tuesday,
February 3, 2026



COG Kickoff Meeting

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Cambria Austin Downtown | Moon Tower

AGENDA

9:00 am	Welcome & Introductions	John Austin Stokes Executive Director, TARC
9:20 am	Overview of the Texas Regional Broadband Program	Idali Reyes Digital Opportunity Specialist Texas Broadband Development Office
10:00 am	COG Participation & Application Overview	Alex Guerrero Director of Regional Initiatives Texas Association of Regional Councils
10:30 am	Program Roles & Responsibilities	Idali Reyes & Alex Guerrero
11:15 am	Program Templates & Planning Tools Overview	Idali Reyes & Alex Guerrero
12:00 pm	Lunch (on your own)	
1:30 pm	Reporting, Monitoring & Compliance Overview	Idali Reyes & Alex Guerrero
2:00 pm	Budget, Reimbursement & Financial Tracking	Alex Guerrero
2:30 pm	KPMG Session: Onboarding, SmartGrants & Compliance	Cody Bowles Senior Associate, Grants Management KPMG
3:00 pm	Program Timeline, Office Hours & Ongoing Support	Alex Guerrero
3:30 pm	Open Discussion & Q&A	Alex Guerrero
4:30 pm	Closing Remarks & Next Steps	
5:00 pm	Adjourn	

*Meeting information subject to change

Please register to attend at: [TARC February 2026 Meeting Registration](#)

AGENDA

	Discussion Item	Presenters	Time Allocated
1	Welcome	Katlyn Le, OAAA Director	1:00 PM
2	General Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grants Management System• Fiscal Updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Fiscal Year 2025 Closeout Progress◦ Request for Adjustment Process Discussion• MIPPA & SHIP• State Performance Report	Katlyn Le, OAAA Director Lori Conner, OAAA Manager Trina Cortez, OAAA Manager Eric DeJong, OAAA Data Analyst	1:00 – 1:30 PM
3	PeerPlace System Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data Migration• Training Plan• IAMOnline/PeerPlace User Access	Betty Flores, OAAA Manager	1:30 – 1:45 PM
4	BREAK (Set-up for Virtual Sessions)		1:45 – 2:00 PM
5	State Plan on Aging Goals & Objectives (Virtual)	Melissa Meadows, OAAA Program Specialist	2:00 – 2:30 PM
6	PeerPlace System Demonstration (Virtual) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PeerPlace Overview<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ User Login◦ Portal Page Overview◦ Client Search Function◦ Client Profile Overview• Client Intake/ Profile Form• Other Forms and Assessments	Ola Adisa, OAAA Systems Analyst	2:30 – 4:00 PM

Wednesday,
February 4, 2026



Texas Association of
Regional Councils

Joint Public Safety Training & Meeting

Joint training of the TARC Homeland Security Association of Texas
(HSAT) & the TARC Criminal Justice Planners' Association (CJPA)

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Cambria Austin Downtown | Waterloo B

AGENDA

8:00 am	Welcome & Introductions	Mike Claude Deep East Texas Council of Governments HSAT Chair
8:05 am	Homeland Security Association of Texas (HSAT) Business Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treasurer's Report• Approval of Minutes• New Business<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Officer election-Secretary	Mike Claude
8:30 am	Preparedness in Practice: A Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Overview	Randy Meshell Preparedness Division Chief Texas Division of Emergency Management
9:15 am	Stronger Plans, Stronger Regions: Navigating TDEM's New Local Planning Process with COG Support	Vanessa Medina Unit Chief Preparedness Division Texas Division of Emergency Management
10:15 am	Reggie: Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Overview	Dan Borgeson Unit Chief Preparedness Division Texas Division of Emergency Management
10:45 am	Statewide LEPC Engagement & the COG Role	Chris Earp Section Chief Preparedness Division Texas Division of Emergency Management
11:30 pm	Lunch on your own	
1:00 pm	From Pasture to Plains: How New World Screwworms Shape Texas's Agricultural Future	Holli Tietjen-Hale Director of Emergency Management Texas Animal Health

Please join us on Thursday, February 5, 2026, for the Public Safety Committee meeting from 10:00 am – 10:50 am
in Whiskey River

2:00 pm	Texas Crisis Intervention Update: Enhancing Support When It Matters Most	Marisa Quintanilla Regional Services Director Rio Grande Council of Governments
2:45 pm	Powering Progress: Inside the Research & Statewide Movement to Strengthen Texas SARTs (Sexual Assault Response Team)	Angela Moya Public Safety Director Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission Deepika Modali SART Lead Analyst Texas Association Against Sexual Assault
3:30 pm	From Big Picture to Local Impact: A Strategic Planning Primer	Brandon Gentry Preparedness Program Manager Homeland Security Division Texas Department of Public Safety
4:30 pm	Criminal Justice Planners' Association Business Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer's Report • Approval of Minutes • New Business 	Kaylan Arendale South East Texas Regional Planning Commission CJPA Chair
5:00 pm	Adjourn	<i>*Meeting information subject to change. Please register to attend: Click here</i>

Please join us on Thursday, February 5, 2026, for the Public Safety Committee meeting from 10:00 am – 10:50 am in Whiskey River



Community & Economic Development Staff Association Training & Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2026
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Cambria Austin Downtown | Waterloo A

AGENDA

9:00 AM	Call to Order & Welcome	Toni Lindsey, Chair Ark-Tex Council of Governments
9:05 AM	Staff Association Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Old Business• New Business	Toni Lindsey
9:30 AM	Financial Assistance Programs for Drinking Water, Waste Water and Flood Mitigation	Scott Galaway Outreach Specialist Texas Water Development Board
10:30 AM	Turning Data Into Action: Energy Efficient Strategies	Shaun Auckland Senior Manager, Government and Community Engagement SPEER
12:00 PM	Lunch on your own	
1:30 PM	Innovating Urban Mobility: Real-World Strategies for Safer, Smarter, and More Connected Cities	Sarah Coulter Senior Assistant Director, Strategic Initiatives, Houston Public Works City of Houston, TX
2:30 PM	Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE): The Texas Toolkit for Local Governments	Teresa Smith Director of PACE Transactions TX PACE Authority
3:30 PM	TDHCA Single Family and Homeownership Programs	Matthew Lovitt Senior Legislative Affairs Advisor Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
4:30 PM	Adjourn	

Please join us Thursday, February 5, 2026, for the TARC Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting from 10:00 am – 10:50 am in Moon Tower A.



Finance and Personnel Association Training & Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Cambria Austin Downtown | Moon Tower A

AGENDA

9:00 am	Call to Order & Welcome	Jeff King, Chair SETRPC
9:05 am	Finance Management Updates for State 9-1-1 Programs	Lorraine Meek Deputy for Finance Management Commission on State Emergency Communication
10:00 am	New + Notable for Texas Employers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Separation of Employment• Labor Law Poster Changes• Updates to I-9 & E-Verify Requirements	Laura Ingram Principal Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend, P.C.
11:00 am	Using AI to Optimize COG Human Resources	Brandy Brannon, CPM Assistant Executive Director ETCOG
12:00 pm	Lunch on your own.	
1:30 pm	FAPA Business Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of Minutes• Treasurer's Report• Old Business<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ State Procurement Threshold Discussion• New Business<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Indirect Cost Rate Negotiation Status○ Virtual Meeting Opportunities	Jeff King
2:00 pm	Grants Management Intensive <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internal Controls• Indirect Cost Approaches• Subrecipient Monitoring	Rachel Werner Principle MyFedTrainer
5:00 pm	Adjourn	

*Meeting information subject to change

Please register to attend at: <https://forms.office.com/r/e66VB6wbHj>

(TARC is pleased to offer up to 6 hours CPE credit for CPAs -- ID-008190)



Texas Association of Area Agencies on Aging Training & Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2026
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Cambria Austin Downtown| Moon Tower A

AGENDA

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| 9:00 am | Welcome and Introductions | Paula Johnson
T4A President Harris
County AAA |
| 9:05 am | The CATCH Program in Partnership with Texas
Health at Home | Dr. Janice Sparks
Executive Director
CATCH Community Care Hub
Christina Bartha
Texas Healthy at Home |
| 10:00 am | Updates on Federal Aging Policy | Amy Gotwals
Chief, Policy & External Affairs
USAgings |
| 11:30am | T4A Business Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Approval of Minutes○ Treasures Report○ Old Business○ New Business | Paula Johnson |
| 11:30 am | Lunch on your own | |
| 1:00 pm | Strengthening Statewide Support for Veterans:
Partnership Opportunities With the Texas
Veterans Land Board | Jimmy Smaragdis
Director of Marketing and Outreach
Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) |
| 2:00 pm | AARP Strategic Insights: Progress and Priority
Focus Areas | Andrea Earl
Associate State Director
AARP |
| 3:00 pm | Disability Community Coordinator Initiative | Alexandra Venegas
Central Region Disability Community Coordinator
Olu Motoni
East Region Disability Community Coordinator |
| 4:00 pm | Adjourn | |

Please join us Thursday, February 5, 2026, for the TARC Health and Human Services Committee
Meeting from 11:00 am – 11:50 am in Whiskey River.



Texas Association of
Regional Councils

Solid Waste Planners' Association Training & Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

1:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Cambria Austin Downtown | Whiskey River

AGENDA

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|---------|---|--|
| 1:30 PM | Welcome & Roll Call | Ken May
Chair
Capital Area Council of
Governments |
| 1:35 PM | Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Training & Updates | Jessica Uramkin & Anju Chalise
Waste Permits Division
TCEQ |
| 2:30 PM | COG Spotlight: Vermiculture in Schools | Melisa Gonzales-Rosas
Lower Rio Grande Valley
Development Council |
| 3:30 PM | Opportunities to Enhance Recycling Infrastructure
for Local Economic Development: A presentation
of the findings from the Texas Recycling
Infrastructure Economic Development – Initiative
Team (TRIED-IT) Summit | Steve Shannon
Member, STAR & MSWRRAC
Lecturer, Texas State University |
| 4:30 PM | Solid Waste Planners' Association Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of Minutes• Treasurer's Report<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Annual Dues Discussion• Old Business• New Business | Ken May |
| 5:00 PM | Adjourn | |

Meeting information subject to change

Please register to attend at: <https://forms.office.com/r/e66VB6wbHj>.

Please join us Thursday, February 5, 2026, for the Environmental Quality Committee Meeting from
9:00 am - 9:50 am at the Cambria Austin Downtown in Whiskey River.

Thursday,
February 5, 2026



Texas Association of
Regional Councils

Environmental Quality Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 5, 2026

9:00 AM – 9:50 AM

Cambria Downtown Austin | Moon Tower A

AGENDA

I. Call to Order, Introductions & Welcome

Mary Beth Rudel, Chair
Executive Director
Ark-Tex Council of Governments

**II. Regional Roundtable: Emerging Energy
Infrastructure Planning & Engagement**

Mary Beth Rudel

III. Solid Waste Planners' Association Update

Ken May, Chair
Capital Area Council of Governments

IV. Adjourn



Texas Association of
Regional Councils

Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 5, 2026

9:00 AM – 9:50 AM

Cambria Austin Downtown | Moon Tower A

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order & Introductions Jim Reed, Chair
- II. What's New in Regional Rural Transit **Michael Ada**
Executive Director
Golden Crescent Regional
Planning Commission
- III. Update of Metropolitan Planning
Organization Activities Jim Reed
- IV. Additional Business Jim Reed
- V. Adjourn



Texas Association of
Regional Councils

Public Safety Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 5, 2026

10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

Cambria Hotel Austin Downtown | Whiskey River

AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions**
Manny Cruz, Chair
Lower Rio Grande Valley
Development Council
- II. **Supporting Local Resilience: Texas Public
Utility Commission (PUC) Energy
Outreach Initiatives**
Shawn Hazard
Emergency Management Coordinator
PUC
Olivia Hemby
Critical Infrastructure Planner
Critical Infrastructure Security and Risk
Management
PUC
- III. **Staff Association Updates**
 - a. TARC Homeland Security Association of Texas, Mike Claude, HSAT Chair
 - b. TARC Criminal Justice Planners' Association, Kaylan Arendale, CJPAC Chair
- IV. **New Business**
Manny Cruz
 - Consideration of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Community Preparedness Planning Project Resolution 1/1/2025 - 2/28/2026 (Action Item)
 - Consideration of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Community Preparedness Planning Project Resolution 1/1/2026 - 12/31/2026 (Action Item)
 - Consideration of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Community Preparedness Planning Project Resolution 1/1/2027 - 12/31/2027 (Action Item)
- V. **Adjourn**



Texas Association of
Regional Councils

Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting

Thursday February 5, 2026
10:00 AM – 10:50 AM
Cambria Downton Austin | Moon Tower A

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order, Introductions & Welcome
David Cleveland, Chair
East Texas Council of Governments
- II. Community & Economic Development Updates from US
Department of Agriculture: Rural Development
James Redfield
State Director, Texas
USDA Rural Development
- III. Texas Rural Broadband Program Update
a. Consideration & Approval of Authorizing TARC Executive
Director to Negotiate and Contract with Digital Opportunity
Planning & Technical Assistance Consultant (*Action Item*)
Alex Guerrero
Director, Regional Initiatives
TARC
- IV. Update on Community & Economic Development Staff
Association Activities
Toni Lindsey, Chair
Ark-Tex Council of Governments
- V. New Business
David Cleveland
- VI. Adjourn



Texas Association of
Regional Councils

Health and Human Services Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 5, 2026

11:00 AM - 11:50 AM

Cambria Austin Downtown | Whiskey River

AGENDA

I. Call to Order & Introductions

Shanna Burke, Chair
South East Texas Regional Planning
Commission

II. Federal Funding & Legislative Update

Dana McGrath
Associate Commissioner
Local Access & Support
Texas Health and Human Services

III. Update on T4A Activities

Paula Johnson
T4A President
Harris County Area Agency on Aging

IV. New Business

Shanna Burke

V. Adjourn



Texas Association of
Regional Councils

Emergency Communications Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 5, 2026

11:00 AM – 11:50 AM

Cambria Hotel Austin Downtown | Moon Tower A

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Introductions
Russell Devorsky, Chair
Executive Director, Heart of Texas
Council of Governments
(HOTCOG)
- II. Regional Emergency Communication
District Updates
Jim Reed
Executive Director, Central Texas
Council of Governments (CTCOG)
- III. Commission on State Emergency
Communications Updates
Andrew Friedrichs
Executive Director
CSEC
- IV. Update on 9-1-1 Coordinators'
Association Activities
Charlesetta Malone, Chair
9-1-1 Coordinators' Association
- V. New Business
Russell Devorsky
- VI. Adjourn