

Workshop to Assess Innovative Solutions to Transportation Needs in the Colonias

Workshop Summary

SWUTC/04/167151-1

Texas Transportation Institute
Texas A&M University System
College Station, Texas 77843-3135



**WORKSHOP TO ASSESS INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO
TRANSPORTATION NEEDS IN THE COLONIAS:**

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

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The research team also wishes to acknowledge the cooperation and input of the individuals who attended the workshop. Their input was critical to the success of this event and their time and participation was greatly appreciated.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

A dream of nearly every American, whether native-born or immigrant, is that one day they will own land, a place to call their own. It is an integral part of the American dream of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Those individuals living in the colonias along the Texas-Mexico border are no exception. However, because of their living conditions, they must struggle to pursue their dreams often without the basic needs of adequate potable water, sewer, electricity, natural gas, storm drainage, paved roads, and safe sanitary housing. Originally established during the latter half of the 20th century, these unincorporated areas outside city limits or in isolated areas of Texas counties were established by developers who sold land with little or no infrastructure under contract for deed agreements at high interest rates. The appeal to the new owners was minimal up front costs and affordable monthly payments.



Figure 1. Colonias Residence – Laredo, TX

Since many of the residents are of either low or very low income, they slowly improve their property as funds are available. The result is an estimate of nearly 500,000 Texas residents, most of whom are legal citizens of the United States, who live under poor conditions and are

challenged daily with the simple tasks of seeing their children off to school, going to work, obtaining water for daily use, buying groceries, obtaining quality health care, and having their trash removed. A major link in all of these basic needs is sufficient and affordable transportation. While many areas are gradually working to provide desperately needed infrastructure to these communities, the process is slow and expensive. Innovative and cost-effective solutions are needed to solve immediate transportation needs to help support these Texans in daily life.

BACKGROUND

A recent status report prepared by the Community Transportation Association of America, Institute for Economic and Social Measurement, for the Rural Transit Assistance Program, Federal Highway Administration, reported that more than one-third of America's population lives outside of urbanized areas. Based on the 1990 Census, this figure is nearly 91 million people. Of these rural Americans, 32 percent are considered transit dependent, mostly senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and low-income residents. They have no personal means of transportation and must rely on public transit to meet their daily transportation needs.



Figure 2. Colonias Roadway – Laredo, TX.

In these prosperous times of the early 21st century, it is difficult for some to fathom that such situations exist. However, Texas is no exception to this rule, especially in the colonias along the Texas-Mexico border. What complicates the matter in these impoverished areas is that they lack the basic infrastructure that can adequately support transit service were it available, that of storm drainage and paved streets. Rural counties are diligently working to resolve the infrastructure problem, but they are still faced with providing basic transportation services for these citizens. Innovative, affordable, and cost effective methods of providing transportation services for these citizens are critical to their basic survival and necessary for the future prosperity of Texas and her people.

OBJECTIVES OF WORKSHOP

The goal of this workshop was to gather advocates for the colonias and other individuals that work with these communities to work with the research team to assess and document innovative, affordable, and cost-effective methods for meeting some of the unique transportation challenges facing residents of the colonias. The research team led the workshop with the intent to identify critical needs of these communities, discuss potential short- and long-term solutions to their transportation-related problems, and examine successful endeavors to meet these needs.



Figure 3. Colonias Residents and Advocates at Workshop – Laredo, TX.

This information will be used to develop case studies to highlight unique programs that have potential applicability to the colonias and to identify potential funding sources for these programs that will serve the needs of the colonias and provide financial relief to the counties in which they are located. Finally, the results will be used to produce a handbook that can be made available to counties, local governments, transit agencies, and other agencies that serve colonias and similar areas. The overall goal is to provide the citizens of Texas who reside in colonias with transportation alternatives or services to circumvent the lack of transportation to improve their quality of life and increase their potential success toward living the American dream.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER RESEARCH

Since 1997, the Southwest University Transportation Center (SWUTC) has teamed with the Texas A&M University Center for Housing and Urban Development (CHUD) to look at transportation issues and possible solutions for those impoverished people living in colonias along the Texas border. Through this project, SWUTC developed a demonstration project to supply a 15-passenger van for transportation service for a community center in El Cenizo, a Webb County colonia.



Figure 4. CHUD Van Program.

Because of the projects success, a multi-year State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) contract has replicated the initial pilot project, and the program has approved the purchase of 31 vans. Through the course of this workshop and its related overall project, it is anticipated that the researchers will build upon and complement the success of this program and document similar successful programs from around the country that can be modeled to benefit the citizens living in Texas colonias.

RESEARCH BENEFITS

The results of this research will be useful to any public or private agency that works with, supports, and seeks to improve the quality of life for Texas citizens living in colonias. It will also be beneficial to those outside of Texas who have communities with similar transportation challenges their residents face on a daily basis. Potential benefits of the research include: (1) an increase in the general awareness of the transportation needs of colonias residents; (2) an increase in the availability and variety of transportation services available to those residents living in colonias; and (3) an improvement in the quality of life for these residents to secure the future for themselves and generations to come.

CHAPTER 2: WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION

COORDINATION

The workshop was the collaborative effort of a number of entities. All of them were critical to the overall success of the workshop. The following sections highlight the participating entities and the manner in which their contribution impacted the research effort.

Southwest University Transportation Center

Primarily, the workshop was funded through the Southwest University Transportation Center (SWUTC) at the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI). SWUTC was established at Texas A&M University System in October 1988 and is comprised of a consortium of three universities within the Federal Highway Administration's Region 6: the Texas A&M University System (Texas Transportation Institute), the University of Texas at Austin (Center for Transportation Research), and Texas Southern University (Center for Transportation Training and Research). The Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University serves as the lead institution. The SWUTC is headquartered in College Station on the main Texas A&M University campus.



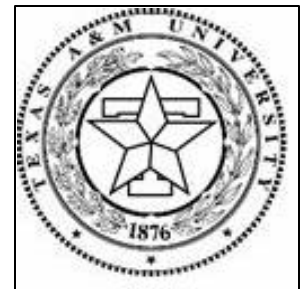
The SWUTC has developed a stable, consistent program that is maturing in its role as a center of excellence for transportation research and education in Region 6. The theme for the SWUTC is *Transportation Solutions to Enhance Prosperity and the Quality of Life*. To put this theme into operation, the Center's scientists, engineers, and students focus their research expertise upon advancing four strategic thrusts. The specific thrust that this workshop advanced is the improvement of transportation activities along the Texas-Mexico border. The SWUTC funds supported the preparation of the workshop including the planning and preparation of advance materials, the mailing of registration brochures, all materials necessary to hold the event, the travel expenses incurred by attendees, and the development, publication, and dissemination of this document.

Texas Transportation Institute



The research team for this study was comprised of individuals from the System Management Division of the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI). TTI is a national leader in transportation research whose mission is to facilitate innovations in transportation system operations through leadership in research, education, and technology transfer. TTI is a state agency and part of the Texas A&M University System and is the largest university-based transportation research agency in the United States.

Center for Housing and Urban Development



The workshop was coordinated with the support of Texas A&M University's Colonias Program. The Center for Housing and Urban Development (CHUD), which is located in the College of Architecture, Texas A&M University, is a research and outreach center dedicated towards improving the quality of life of Texas residents. The Colonias Program, which is housed in the CHUD, is designed to assist residents of low-income settlements, called colonias, in improving the quality of their lives. The program works in partnership with local government, state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and promotes the active involvement of residents to strengthen the social infrastructure of the community. The program helps colonia residents access education, health, human services, job training, youth and elderly programs available in their areas, as well as those located at Texas A&M International University (TAMIU).

Mr. Oscar J. Munoz, Regional Coordinator for the Center for Housing and Urban Development Colonias Program, worked with the research team to organize and host the meeting. He identified the potential attendees for the meeting and served as an initial liaison with TAMIU. He also acted as a contact for the workshop, providing background and registration information to those contacting him in that capacity. Moreover, he served as an advisor on the development of the workshop, helping to ensure that the research team could glean the most appropriate and relevant information from attendees.

Texas A&M International University



Finally, TAMIU was an integral part of the workshop coordination. Texas A&M International University, a member of the Texas A&M University System, is committed to the preparation of students for leadership roles in their chosen profession and in an increasingly complex, culturally diverse state, national, and global society. Located in Laredo, Texas, the University provides students with a learning environment anchored by the highest quality programs built on a solid academic foundation in the liberal arts and natural sciences. TAMIU was gracious to provide meeting space and all audio-visual needs for the workshop.

PROMOTION AND REGISTRATION

The research team initially developed a promotional flyer to notify the potential attendees of workshop. This flyer is provided in Appendix A. The list of potential attendees numbered over 40 and included key decision-makers in cities and counties along the Texas-Mexico border and other individuals both involved with and long-time advocates for or residents of the colonias. Agencies, organizations, and communities invited to the workshop included the following:

- Asocacion Pro Servicios Sociales, Inc.,
- Bruni Community Center,
- El Cenizo Community Center,
- Del Rio/Eagle Pass Community Center,
- El Aguila Rural Transportation,
- Gateway Medical Clinic,
- Laredo Community Center,
- Laredo/Webb County Community Action Agency,
- Larga Vista Community Center,
- Maverick County,
- Penitas Community Center,
- Quad City Community Center,

- Rio Bravo Community Center,
- Secretary of State Office,
- South Texas Development Council,
- South Texas Work Force Development Board,
- Southwest Region University Transportation Center,
- South Texas Environmental Education and Research,
- Texas A&M International University,
- Texas A&M University Colonias Program,
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs,
- Texas Department of Transportation,
- Texas Transportation Institute,
- United Independent School District,
- Val Verde County,
- Webb County,
- Webb County Economic Development, and
- Webb Road/Bridge.

The research team developed a two-page registration brochure that discussed the goals and objectives of the workshop and provided specific information regarding the date, time, and location of the meeting. These brochures were mailed to the list of potential attendees and registrations were accepted until the day of the meeting. Attendees incurred no registration fees for the meeting itself and travel expenses were reimbursed per State of Texas travel guidelines. A copy of the registration brochure is provided in Appendix B.

MEETING AGENDA

The research team developed a 1-day agenda that was split into two ½ day events. The intent was to facilitate participation from individuals in the region and minimize the amount of time attendees would have to be away from home or work. Activities undertaken during the meeting included a general open discussion, breakout sessions for more detailed discussions, and

a general consensus-building effort targeted at identifying potential solutions to transportation needs in the colonias. A copy of the meeting agenda is located in Appendix C.

CHAPTER 3: WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Twenty key decision-makers in cities and counties along the Texas-Mexico border and other individuals either involved with or long-time advocates for or residents of the colonias assembled on the TAMIU campus on Tuesday, 24 August 2004, to discuss transportation problems in the colonias along the Texas-Mexico border. The list of attendees is provided in Appendix D. Those attending the workshop represented a variety of public agencies along with representatives from numerous colonias in the Laredo, Eagle Pass, and Del Rio regions. Their enthusiasm and insight into the challenges that come with living in the colonias ensured a successful workshop.



Figure 5. TAMIU Campus in Laredo.

ISSUES IN THE COLONIAS

After a short welcome by Dr. Beverly Kuhn and initial self-introductions by the workshop attendees, a group discussion followed regarding an assessment of general needs of Colonias residents. These needs were then discussed to determine what transportation aspects were parts of the problem. The workshop general session provided the following non-prioritized list of issues:

- The lack of water in colonias, which results in residents having to haul water for their households.
- Drop-out problems and other educational issues for children in colonias.
- Cost of transportation and transit including:
 - Per person fees for riding transit,
 - Vehicle upkeep and maintenance,

- Requirement for riders to purchase tokens elsewhere rather than when boarding the bus,
- Insurance and licensing for privately owned vehicles,
- Families with children whose transportation needs, whether via transit or privately owned vehicle, are complicated due to multiple riders, and
- Vehicle upkeep and maintenance.
- Personal responsibility of residents and choices with respect to transportation.



Figure 6. Colonia Resident Hauling Water – Laredo, TX.

- Colonias access program.
 - Paved roads on school bus routes.
 - Provide access to service providers.
- Cycle of service by transit that is available versus service that fulfills residents needs, desires, and usage.
- Never enough representation from all concerned when discussing issues with transportation.

- Disconnect between urban and rural bus systems:
 - Rural service provided by Webb county;
 - Municipal service provided by the city;
 - Transit to Medicaid-related appointments privately funded and provided only to patients and not dependents.
- Fire protection.
 - Currently, no fire hydrants in the colonias.
 - Water needs for adequate protection.
- EMS is provided by a contract between city and county but road access is a challenge.
- Residents who are illegal immigrants create risks that could be incurred by service providers and legal residents who may provide transportation services to those individuals. They may be considered aiding and abetting the transport of illegal immigrants and expose themselves to potential felony arrest.
- Communications issues compound the problem for residents accessing currently available transportation services.
 - Many residents have no phone.
 - Outlying colonias residents are a long distance call away from services, resulting in toll calls, limited services, long waits, etc.
- Water co-op was attempted in one colonia with mixed results. Lessons learned from the attempt included:
 - Logistics of hauling and delivery of large amounts of water are massive and complex.
 - Poor roads resulting on increased wear and tear on the vehicle amplify vehicle maintenance.
 - Transportation of water is illegal except when performed by individuals.
 - All government entities must take water out of lines
- Construction companies and businesses are using water intended and reserved for colonias, causing additional queues for residents
- Residents cannot dig wells in region to provide their own water because well water is non potable.
- There are disputes between city and county over water and water service.



Figure 7. Colonia Residents Filling Tanks at Water Dispenser – Laredo, TX.

- Solid waste removal is an issue for residents as well.
 - No solid waste removal services to the colonias.
 - There is illegal dumping in colonias by non-colonias residents.
 - There is no county dump and the rural fee for dumping at the city dump is higher for non-residents.
- Old vehicles stored in yards and on acreage in and surrounding colonias are often used as play areas by children.
- There is variability in working hours and employment centers which hinder car pools and primary wage earners wind up using the only family vehicle.
- Residents are underemployed, often working 2 or 3 jobs. They are also underinsured.
- Multi-job families are the norm
- Programs for federal welfare support require recipients to attend classes or programs but residents do not get paid to do so.
 - May receive tokens for transportation to the program.

- Program may pay for vehicle repairs for participants.
- Current assistance funding does not allow for flexibility.
- Car-sharing possibilities.



Figure 8. Accumulation of Residential Solid Waste – Laredo, TX.

After discussions in the general session about the above-enumerated issues, workshop members divided into three breakout groups. Each group was charged with defining critical issues pertaining to the transportation aspects of the colonias issues. They were also charged with providing uses for potential funding to alleviate short-term problems. The following sections provide the results of the breakout sessions.

BREAKOUT GROUP 1

Critical Issues

- Disconnect: between those that are affected and those who can affect change.
 - Groups are not communicating or working together for solutions.

- Services and efforts are splintered. There is a lack of overall leadership for planning, etc.
- Protectionism abounds between local and state or federal decision-makers.
- Numerous obstacles to navigating any/all of the systems.
- Agencies discouraged to think out of the box.
- Lack of various forms/means of transportation.
 - Lack of transportation.
 - No vehicles, funds to support a system.
 - Inadequate systems.
 - School bus transportation.
 - Inclement weather is a problem. When it rains, the children do not attend school.
 - Bus driver cannot go into colonias after rains because of safety issues due to lack of paved roads. This forces children to walk through muddy roads to reach bus.
 - Extracurricular activities are not available. Children cannot participate because of lack of transportation.
 - Students cannot take remedial classes, etc. due to lack of late bus for colonias residents.
 - No / few rural routes.
 - Residents are stranded.
 - Medical transportation service is limited in scope and availability.
 - Need more medical routes.
 - Get water to colonias.
 - How to get to a school or college for classes.
- Lack of potable water / city services of water
 - Creates major health problems
 - Financial burdens, etc.



Figure 9. Breakout Group Discussion.

- Education
 - Drop-out rate 90% for colonias children.
 - Underemployment.
 - Hope for improvement in quality of life.
 - Numerous obstacles to having kids stay in school go to college, etc.
 - Health education / information for families.
 - The need to know about social and health services.
 - Need more resources to get this information to families.

Potential Solutions – Use of Funding

1. Hire a bus driver and use promotoras for the skills they have to work with families.
2. Need more vans for resolving the lack of transportation issues.
3. Develop working groups to address the disconnect. Write a white paper that describes this problem and possible solutions. Get key people involved to foster communication links between city and county. Formulate possible solutions to various problems instead of ignoring the colonias. Gather together representatives

from stakeholders – educators, colonia residents, economic development, health providers, workforce development, promotoras / colonias program, etc. Partnerships over the years are now providing the relationships needed to start these working groups. Goal – to prevent the splintering and coalesce those who want to be involved in a more organized and fruitful fashion.

BREAK-OUT GROUP 2

Critical Issues

- Hauling water.
- Private roads vs. county owned.
 - No legal plat for property. There are no public roads without a plat.
 - Educating residents on benefits of deeding right-of-way to county.
 - Roads can only be maintained with an emergency order from the county attorney / most often only in case of heavy storm or other event that has made the road impassable.
- Health (primary services).
- Domestic violence.
- Drug abuse.
- Child abuse.

Potential Solutions – Use of Funding

1. Use for new self-help center in Laredo or to provide additional services to current self-help centers.
2. Find sources to assist residents in paying for plats and educating residents about the benefits of deeding ROW.



Figure 10. Sharing Priorities and Issues.

BREAK-OUT GROUP 3

Critical Issues

- Availability of water.
- Water / roadway and infrastructure in colonias.
- Road program for colonias is a good start. This program provides state funding for paving roads. However colonias need to be platted before the program can be implemented.
- Identify / coordinate ALL transportation.
 - Resources and services available to colonias residents.
- Accessibility to educational programs.
- Solid waste disposal services and costs.



Figure 11. Discussing Potential Solutions.

Potential Solutions – Use of Funding

1. Inventory and document all of the available services and service providers that can assist the colonias residents. Create a forum to establish communications between the providers and the residents. Also create a forum to educate the residents about the various services.
2. Create an incentive program, perhaps in the form of bus tokens or other tangible rewards, that encourages children to stay in school and get good grades.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

After a presentation of critical issues and potential funding usage by each breakout group, workshop members reconvened as a whole to discuss general recommendations and findings.

The following issues were set

- There is a general disconnect between involved entities – overall message has to do with those making the decisions and those impacted by them
 - All people need to come to the table.

- Need all stakeholders and key players.
- The regions have different needs and different agencies have specialties and different roles.
- Getting people to the table is the challenge.
- How to organize and be successful.
- Service provider luncheons:
 - Once a month,
 - 50+ people each month,
 - Past/current/future partners,
 - Took turns giving presentations,
 - Use it to recruit partners,
 - Providing lunch was the key to success,
 - Opportunities to share commonalities,
 - Invite folks wanting to share programs and efforts,
 - People causing effect and those being effected,
 - Learn to partner with others and share resources with common goal to help underserved, and
 - Make more connections with other agencies that can provide available services to Colonias residents.
- Promotoras:
 - Outreach to agencies,
 - Educators and trainers,
 - Leaders in own community,
 - Build capacity in colonias,
 - Drivers are needed,
 - Centers bring residents and service providers together, and
 - Residents want educational programs / training / computer skills.



Figure 12. Webb County Self-Help Center.



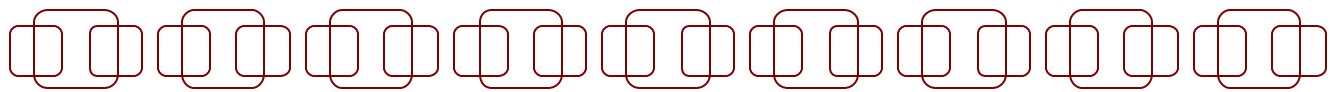
Figure 13. Promotoras from Various Colonias.

- The key to solving many problems that colonias residents face is water.
 - Contract for deed conversion program only available if you have water and sewer.
 - 58 colonias in the Laredo area (Webb County); only 3 have water.
 - Bringing water and sewer to property adds value to the property.
 - County doesn't want to make the necessary investment in providing water because.
 - Seen as helping the developer.
 - Matter of economics.
 - Politics.
 - Short-term water line is feasible. The colonias would like a 2" water line.
 - Long-term solution is what the county wants to provide is very expensive: 6"-8" line which would be needed for fire service and future development.
- The second key is communications and the need to promote successful programs.
- Involvement of politicians and policy-makers in process of finding solutions to the problems of the colonias is crucial. In order for this to happen the top administration and higher political groups must be involved for the issue to be seen as a priority.

SUMMARY

As evidenced by the sections noted above, there was an overall consensus that the lack of water and sewer services is the primary obstacle to efficient transportation. However, the innovative advocates in the region have found ways to provide transportation in this challenging environment. The workshop attendees provided critical insight into the challenges residents face and highlighted potential solutions to help them face those challenges on a daily basis. The research team will utilize the information provided during this workshop to develop a handbook to help local agencies and advocate groups meet the transportation needs of the residents or provide services that can be accessed within the communities without the need for transportation. The ultimate objective is to help these residents improve their quality of life within the State of Texas.

APPENDIX A: WORKSHOP FLYER



Workshop to Assess Innovative Solutions to Transportation Needs in the Colonias

**August 24-25, 2004
Texas A&M International University
5201 University Blvd
Student Center Room 120
Laredo, TX**

Sponsored by the Texas Transportation Institute and the Southwest Region University Transportation Center, this workshop is intended to gather advocates for the colonias and other individuals who work with these communities to help assess and document innovative, affordable, and cost-effective methods for meeting some of the unique transportation challenges facing residents of the colonias.

Travel expenses and lodging will be covered for all attendees and space is limited. For more information, contact Oscar Munoz in Laredo at 956-728-0210, omunoz@bizlaredo.rr.com or Beverly Kuhn in College Station at 979-862-3558, b-kuhn@tamu.edu. We look forward to your attendance.



APPENDIX B: REGISTRATION BROCHURE

Transportation and The Colonias

An estimated 500,000 Texas residents, most of whom are legal citizens of the United States, currently live under poor conditions in colonias along the Texas-Mexico border.

They are challenged daily with the simple tasks of seeing their children off to school, going to work, obtaining water for daily use, buying groceries, obtaining quality health care, and having their trash removed.

A major link in all of these basic needs is sufficient and affordable transportation. While many areas are gradually working to provide desperately needed infrastructure to these communities, the process is slow and expensive.

Innovative and cost-effective solutions are needed to solve immediate transportation needs to help support these Texans in daily life.



Local Hotels

For those of you traveling from out of town, we have assembled a list of local hotels that should be able to meet your needs. Please contact them directly to make reservations.

Hampton Inn Laredo
7903 San Dario Avenue
Laredo, TX
(956) 717-8888

Courtyard by Marriot
2410 Santa Ursula Avenue
Laredo, TX 78040
(956) 725-5555 or 800-321-2211

Fairfield Inn & Suites
700 W Hillside Road
Laredo, TX 78041
(956) 722-4533

Holiday Inn-Civic Center
800 Garden Street
Laredo, TX 78040
(956) 727-5800 or 800-465-4329

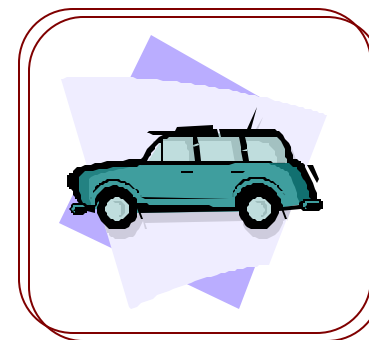
La Posada Hotel/Suites
1005 Zaragoza Street
Laredo, TX 78040
(956) 722-1701 or 800-444-2099

Travel expenses and lodging will be covered for all for attendees based on State of Texas Travel Laws. The maximum nightly hotel rate allowed is \$80 exclusive of taxes, and the maximum daily meal allowance is \$30. Mileage is reimbursed at 35¢ per mile.



Workshop to Assess Innovative Solutions to Transportation Needs in the Colonias

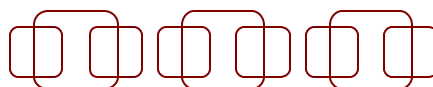
August 24-25, 2004
Texas A&M International University
5201 University Blvd
Student Center Room 120
Laredo, TX



Sponsored By:

Texas Transportation Institute
Southwest Region University
Transportation Center
Texas A&M University Center for
HUD's Colonias Program
Texas A&M International University

Phone: 956-728-0210 (Laredo)
Phone: 979-862-3558 (College Station)





Innovative Solutions

This workshop will gather numerous individuals from across Texas who are key decision-makers in cities and counties along the Texas-Mexico border and others involved in working with the colonias for a 1 day meeting to discuss the issue at hand.

The intent will be to work with the TTI research team to assess and document innovative, affordable, and cost-effective methods for meeting some of the unique transportation challenges facing residents of the colonias.

The results will be used to help develop a handbook that is both informative and useful which documents potential innovative transportation solutions that can assist local decisions makers.

The overall approach is to provide resources to help improve the quality of life for these citizens by meeting their transportation needs on a daily basis.



Event Sponsors

A number of organizations are responsible for bringing this workshop to Laredo. We appreciate their support for this endeavor.



Southwest Region
University Transportation
Center



Center for HUD's Colonias Program



Registration

Name _____
Organization _____
Address _____

City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Fax _____
E-mail _____
? I am an employee of the State of Texas. _____

Send registration forms to:

Beverly Kuhn
Texas Transportation Institute
The Texas A&M University System
3135 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-3135
Phone: (979) 862-3558
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APPENDIX C: MEETING AGENDA



Workshop to Assess Innovative Solutions to Transportation Needs in the Colonias

Workshop Agenda

Tuesday - August 24, 2004	
1:00 pm to 1:30 pm	Welcome and Introductions Oscar Munoz, Center for HUD's Colonias Program Beverly Kuhn, Texas Transportation Institute
1:30 pm to 3:00 pm	Group Discussion - Assessment of Transportation Needs
3:00 pm to 3:15 pm	Break
3:15 pm to 5:00 pm	Break-out Sessions - Identification of Potential Solutions Debbie Jasek, Texas Transportation Institute Beverly Kuhn, Texas Transportation Institute Oscar Munoz, Center for HUD's Colonias Program
6:00 pm	Dinner on Own
Wednesday - August 25, 2004	
8:00 am to 10:00 am	Break-out Session Reports Debbie Jasek, Texas Transportation Institute Beverly Kuhn, Texas Transportation Institute Oscar Munoz, Center for HUD's Colonias Program
10:00 am to 10:15 am	Break
10:15 pm to 12:00 pm	Development of Recommendations
12:00 pm	Adjourn



APPENDIX D: WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

Workshop to Assess Innovative Solutions to Transportation Needs in the Colonias

Workshop Attendees

Mr. Jose Adame
Los Altos Colonia Resident
Larga Vista Community Center
5401 Larga Vista Dr.
Laredo, TX 78043

Mr. Peter Arredondo
Planning Officer
South Texas Workforce Development Board
1701 E. Hillside Rd.
P.O. Box 1705
Laredo, TX 78044

Ms. Sara Buentello
Texas A&M University Colonias Program
601 Concord Hills Blvd.
Laredo, TX 78046

Mr. Dock Burke
Director
Southwest University Transportation Center
Texas Transportation Institute
College Station, TX 77843-3135

Mr. Omar Cantu
Public Transportation Coordinator
Texas Department of Transportation
1817 Bob Bullock Loop
Laredo, TX 78043

Ms. Norma Cruz
Texas A&M University Colonias Program
5401 Larga Vista Dr.
Laredo, TX 78043

Ms. Liz Elizalde
Program Coordinator
Texas A&M University Colonias Program
Del Rio/Eagle Pass Community Center
P.O. Box 1705
Del Rio, TX 77841

Ms. Joan Engelhardt
South Texas Environmental Education and
Research Program
UTHSCSA-Laredo Campus Extension
1937 E. Bustamante
Laredo, TX 78401

Ms. Sylvia Garcia
Rio Bravo Community Center
1600 Orquedia
Rio Bravo, TX 78046

Ms. Rosalia Guerrero
Asociacion Pro Servicios Sociales, Inc.
406 Scott
Laredo, TX 78040

Ms. San Juanita Gutierrez
Texas A&M University Colonias Program
601 Concord Hills Blvd.
Laredo, TX 78040

Ms. Debbie Jasek
Associate Research Specialist
Texas Transportation Institute
3135 TAMU
College Station, TX 77845-3135

Workshop to Assess Innovative Solutions to Transportation Needs in the Colonias

Workshop Attendees (Continued)

Dr. Beverly Kuhn
Division Head
Texas Transportation Institute
3135 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-3135

Mr. Paul Martinez, III
Program Performance Administrator
Webb County Economic Development
1000 Houston St.
Laredo, TX 78040

Mr. Oscar Munoz
Regional Coordinator
Texas A&M University Colonias Program
Center for Housing and Urban Development
601 Concord Hills Blvd.
Laredo, TX 78046

Mr. Javier Murillo, P.E.
Project Engineer
Texas Department of Transportation
1817 Bob Bullock Loop
Laredo, TX 78046

Mr. Jorge Negrete
Coordinator, Colonias Initiatives Program
Office of the Secretary of State
1110 Washington, Suite 305
Laredo, TX 78040

Ms. Maria Ramirez
Texas A&M University Colonias Program
Quad City Community Center
917 N. Main Ave.
Mirando City, TX 78369

Ms. Valarie Rivera-Soto
Border Field Officer
Texas Department of Housing and
Community Affairs
Office of Colonia Initiatives
1110 Washington, Suite 305
Laredo, TX 78040

Ms. Hilda Soliz
Texas A&M University Colonias Program
Bruni Community Center
303 12th Street
Bruni, TX 78344

Ms. Patricia Torres
Texas A&M University Colonias Program
Cenizo Community Center
3519 Cecilia Lane
El Cenizo, TX 78046

Ms. Elvira Torres
Texas A&M University Colonias Program
Penitas Community Center
5401 Larga Vista Dr.
Laredo, TX 78043