



Executive Committee Meeting

2180 North Main Street, Belton, Texas

February 26, 2026

Hybrid Meeting: 12:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES:

The February 26 2026, Central Texas Council of Governments Annual Executive Committee Meeting was called to order by the Commissioner Russell Schneider, Bell County, President at 12:05 P.M.

Executive Committee Officers in Attendance:

President	Commissioner Russell Schneider	Bell County
1 st Vice President	City Manager Ryan Haverlah	City of Copperas Cove
2 nd Vice President	Judge Jody Fauley	San Saba County
Secretary/Treasurer	Commissioner Bobby Whitson	Bell County
Parliamentarian	Judge James Yates	Hamilton County
Immediate Past President	Councilman Jose Segarra	City of Killeen

Executive Committee Members in Attendance:

Mayor Michael Blomquist, City of Harker Heights	Commissioner Dickie Clary, Hamilton County	Keith Sledd, Heart of Texas Defense Alliance
Dr. Michelle Carter, Central Texas College	Mayor Riakos Adams, City Of Killeen*	Major Nathan Fuchs, City of Cameron
Commissioner Kyle Matthews, Coryell County	Judge Jett Johnson, Mills County	City Manager Ricky Tow, City of Cameron
Judge David Blackburn, Bell County	City Manager Brad Hunt, City of Gatesville	

CTCOG Staff Members and Guests in Attendance:

Jim Reed, CTCOG	Michael Irvine, CTCOG	Hank Roraback, CTCOG
Vorakarn Saipornchai, CTCOG	Dr. Linda Angel, WFCT	Jesse Hennage, CTCOG
Kylee Young, CTCOG	Louis LeDoux, WFCT	Dr. Arnold Vedlitz, TAMU
Alissa Bright, CTCOG	Jared Porritt, WFCT	
Helen Hill Yancey, CTCOG	Anita Janke, CTCOG	
Cyndy Wells, CTCOG	Ashlynn Uschek, CTCOG	

Oath of Office

No Oath of Office was administered.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Judge James Yates, Hamilton County, to accept the Consent Agenda, which included the January 2026 Expenditure Report, January 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes, and Approval of Central Texas Regional Transportation Advisory Group Bylaws. Mayor Michael Blomquist, City of Harker Heights, seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed.

Presentation

Dr. Arnold Vedlitz of Texas A&M University presented to the Board regarding the GLO Flood Reduction Project, a GLO-funded initiative aimed at reducing flood risk and damage within the Leon River and Cowhouse Creek watersheds. The presentation outlined a comprehensive approach that integrates engineering, policy, and community-based strategies to strengthen regional flood resilience. Findings from stakeholder interviews indicated that while local governments recognize existing flood vulnerabilities, many particularly smaller counties, face limitations related to staffing, funding, and infrastructure. Federal funding processes were noted as complex and largely reimbursement-based, creating challenges for proactive mitigation efforts. Recommended actions include streamlining access to funding, increasing consistent state-level support, enhancing cross-jurisdictional coordination, and investing in

modern technology and early warning systems. Input and recommendations provided by the Board will be incorporated into the project proposal moving forward.

Action Items

- A motion was made by Mayor Adams Riakos, City of Killeen, to approve Resolution 02-26-PRS001, which sought to Resolution Authorizing Application to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for CTCOG Regional Solid Waste Grant Program. Kieth Slead, Heart of Texas Defense Alliance, seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed.
- A motion was made by Judge Jett Johnson, Mills County, to approve Resolution 02-26-PRS002, which sought to Resolution Authorizing FY27 Central Texas Council of Governments Regional Emergency Radio Infrastructure Project. City Manager Brad Hunt, City of Gatesville, seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed.
- A motion was made by Judge James Yates, Hamilton County, to approve Resolution 02-26-PRS003, which sought to Resolution Authorizing FY27 Central Texas Council of Governments State Homeland Security Program Planning Grant. Mayor Michael Blomquist, City of Harker Heights, seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed.
- A motion was made by City Manager Brad Hunt, City of Gatesville, to approve Resolution 02-26-PRS004, which sought to Resolution Authorizing FY27 Central Texas Council of Governments Regional Emergency Notification System. Judge Jett Johnson, Mills County, seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed.
- A motion was made by Major Nathan Fuchs, City of Cameron, to approve Resolution 02-26-PRS005, which sought to Resolution Authorizing FY27 Central Texas Council of Governments Physical Protection Project. Mayor Riakos, City of Killeen, seconded the motion. All were in favor; none opposed.

Reports

Area Agency on Aging: Jim Reed, AICP, Executive Director of the Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG), provided the Area Agency on Aging/ADVRC update in place of George Losoya, who was out due to a family emergency. The FY25 closeout has been completed, and implementation of the new client management system is underway. A State Ombudsman audit was conducted on February 10, 2026. The 2026–2029 Senior Survey remains outstanding. The

Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) grant closed on December 31, 2026, and 25 active veterans were transitioned to Aging Transportation funding to ensure continued services. Under the Home for Texas Heroes program, 11 applications are pending approval, four have been approved for repair, and four projects have been completed. Upcoming events include the Alzheimer's Expo on March 4 in Belton, the Parkinson's Symposium on March 28 in Belton, the Connect the Dots – Community Health Summit on April 9 in Belton, and the DEA National Take Back Event for expired medications on April 25 in Gatesville.

Housing: Hank Roraback, Director of Housing, provided an update to the Board regarding current Housing activities and program operations. Staff are in the process of updating the Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan, which was last revised in 2019. Efforts are underway to clear approximately 700 remaining applicants from the waiting list by March in preparation for reopening the list. A staff retreat was held in January, providing an opportunity for team building, collaboration, and strategic planning. Each housing case manager currently oversees approximately 200–300 clients, and plans are being developed to expand staffing levels to improve service delivery and better manage caseloads. In February 2026, a total of 1,608 clients were served, with no current clients in Hamilton, Mills, or San Saba Counties; outreach efforts are planned to expand participation in those counties. Total housing assistance payments for February amounted to \$1,712,302. Mr. Roraback also reviewed several key provisions of the Administrative Plan, including Item 4 (Documentation Requirements), which requires the same documentation for all applicants without exception; Item 11 (Maintenance Responsibility), clarifying that CTCOG does not perform unit maintenance or repairs; Item 21 (Behavior Standards), outlining a warning system for inappropriate or threatening behavior that may result in program removal; and Item 22 (Appointment Conduct), emphasizing that disruptive behavior may lead to denial or termination of assistance, with a focus on ensuring staff safety.

Planning and Regional Services: Jim Reed, AICP, Executive Director of the Central Texas Council of Governments (CTCOG), provided the Planning and Regional Services update in place of Uryan Nelson, who was in Saint Petersburg, Florida, for a meeting. The next HSAC meeting is scheduled for March 5 in Coryell County. The Statewide Emergency Radio Infrastructure (SERI) grant has been awarded. The Criminal Justice Department is developing a policy for the grant prioritization process, with the next meeting anticipated in April (date to be determined). Law enforcement training efforts continue, with five classes conducted in February, three scheduled in March, and two planned for April. A DDCT special meeting was held on January 29, during which a CEDS

committee was formed. Staff have also begun work on the Texas Regional Broadband Program in partnership with TARC and BDO to expand broadband access and opportunity. Additionally, the Belton Rockwool EDA Grant was awarded to support redevelopment of the former Rockwool Insulation site for future industrial use, and Rockdale ISD was awarded \$5.2 million through an EDA grant to construct a College and Career Academy.

Workforce Development Board: Dr. Linda Angel, Executive Director of CTWB, provided the Board with updates regarding current initiatives and upcoming events. CTWB is reorganizing staff, including front-line positions, to address increased customer demand and improve service delivery. The Texas Conference for Employers is scheduled for August 6–7 in Waco and is designed primarily for human resources professionals and individuals in roles involving personnel management, focusing on workforce regulations, best practices, and compliance. All 28 Executive Directors from Workforce locations across the state will convene in Central Texas on May 3–6 to learn about regional production industry needs and workforce training initiatives in Temple; the second day will include a visit to Fort Hood to highlight the value of military personnel and their skills, with the goal of retaining talent within Central Texas. The Know Your Path Expo will be held on May 1 and is seeking volunteers to showcase career paths to students exploring future opportunities. Additionally, a Teacher Expo is scheduled for July 17, providing employers an opportunity to engage with educators regarding workforce expectations and student preparation needs.

Workforce Solution Central Texas: Louis LeDoux, Chief Operating Officer of WFSCT, provided the Committee with an update on regional unemployment and workforce activity. Due to the recent government shutdown, February unemployment data was not updated; two reporting periods are expected to be presented at the March meeting. The statewide unemployment rate is currently 4.3%, consistent across the seven-county region. In January, five job fairs were conducted, with 22 job orders represented at hiring events, 180 total job openings posted, 938 job seekers in attendance, and 43 individuals reporting employment at the events. WFSCT recorded 27,401 total visits in January, serving 10,756 individuals. For 2025 to date, WFSCT has documented 308,012 total visit reasons and a grand total of 120,852 individuals served.

Executive Directors Report: Jim Reed, AICP, Executive Director of CTCOG, provided an overview of Chapter 391 Commissions, as outlined in Chapter 391 of the Texas Local Government Code. The presentation explained that the 24 Councils of Governments (COGs) were originally established under Chapter 391 and are designated by the Governor as the official planning

regions covering 100% of the State of Texas. While statute allows for the creation of additional “sub-regional” 391 commissions by two or more counties or municipalities through formal action, such bodies must meet statutory requirements, have no taxing or regulatory authority, and serve in an advisory and planning capacity. Historically, sub-regional 391 commissions have been formed on an issue specific basis, such as transportation, high-speed rail, or energy projects, and are often reactionary rather than comprehensive regional planning entities. The presentation emphasized that COGs already fulfill the intended purpose of Chapter 391 at a full regional scale and are recognized by state and federal partners. The overall conclusion was that creating new sub-regional 391 commissions is unnecessary and may undermine coordinated regional solutions, and that strengthening existing COG structures remains the most effective approach.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 01:10 P.M. by Commissioner Russell Schneider, President.

Commissioner Russell Schneider, President

Commissioner Bobby Whitson,
Secretary/Treasurer