UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Northwest Louisiana
METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA

FISCAL YEAR 2013

Prepared by:
Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments
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NLCOG Executive Committee Adoption June 18, 2012
MPO Transportation Policy Committee Adoption June 18, 2012

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Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration,
Local governments and agencies of Northwest Louisiana,
and the State of Louisiana
Sherri LeBas, Secretary
Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
PO Box 94245
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9245

Dear Secretary LaBas:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Fiscal Year 2013 Unified Planning Work Program for the Shreveport-Bossier Metropolitan Planning Organization. This document represents the annual planning elements for the metropolitan area as required by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

SAFETEA-LU focused on developing regional solutions to transportation problems. Specifically the metropolitan planning process is to promote the consistency between transportation improvements, planned growth, and economic development patterns. In order to meet these principles NLCOG has established close cooperation between all to insure that the growth and development of the entire metropolitan area is well planned and coordinated to provide the most desirable living environment for the citizens of Northwest Louisiana.

This UPWP represents the planning priorities established by the Council of Governments. Elements included in this years work program include, Metropolitan Planning, GIS, Environmental, Public Involvement, and Data Access.

Should the Department have any questions or concerns regarding this UPWP or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. J. Kent Rogers, Executive Director of NLCOG at (318) 673-5950.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

Chairman
Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments
Executive Committee

Chairman
Metropolitan Planning Organization
Transportation Policy Committee
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Map of MPO Area
Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments

The Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments shall have the purpose and duty to make studies, maps, plans, recommendations, and reports concerning the physical, environmental, social, economic and governmental characteristics and other aspects which affect the development and welfare of the area as a whole.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall have general oversight of the operations of the Council of Governments and is authorized to make executive decisions on behalf of the Full Board concerning the day to day operations of the Council of Governments and serves as an advisory committee to the Executive Director.

Metropolitan Planning Organization - Transportation Policy Committee

The Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee serves as the decision making body for the Shreveport Bossier City Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Transportation Management Area (TMA).

Project Steering Committees

The Project Steering Committees are broad based advisory committees for major project undertaken by NLCOG. These committees includes technical advisors specific to the type project, representatives from the local school boards and universities, hospitals, neighborhood associations, construction industry, developers and real estate, inner city faith based council, and general public. Each steering committee is developed to guide a specific project and to provide input on the development scope and policy for the specific project.
Planning Prospectus

The Unified Planning Work Program for fiscal year 2013 is directed towards meeting the evolving requirements set forth in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), and their impacts on regional planning. “The policy for the metropolitan planning process is to promote consistency between transportation improvements, local planned growth, and economic development patterns.” These legislative measures place increased attention to efficiency measures designed to advance the movement of regional, national and international commerce on the nation’s major highway, rail, water and air transportation infrastructure. Greater reliance on transit and implementation of innovative traffic management measures to relieve traffic congestion without the need for major capacity improvements in the highway system are also emphasized. In addition, importance is placed on cooperation and inclusion of local and regional officials, transportation and development entities, and citizens. This year work program strives towards the implementation on these areas.

SAFETEA-LU focused on developing regional solutions to transportation problems. Specifically the metropolitan planning process is to promote the consistency between transportation improvements, planned growth, and economic development patterns. A properly developed regional comprehensive plan, implemented and sustained, will deliver a metropolitan area that is and can be developed in an orderly manner and is consistent with the public values and goals. In order to meet these demands NLCOG has established close cooperation between all to insure that the growth and development of the entire metropolitan area is well planned and coordinated to provide the most desirable living environment for the citizens of Northwest Louisiana.

In keeping with this spirit of coordination and cooperation NLCOG has been awarded a HUD Choice Neighborhood grant to examine the neighborhoods of Allandale and Ledbetter Heights. This is also the area affected by the I-49 Inner City Corridor. As part of both of these efforts NLCOG will be pulling all parties together to best examine the area and plan for its overall development.

I-49 North continues to be a high priority for the entire region. As construction continues and the anticipated opening of sections from the Arkansas state line approaches every community north of Shreveport will have reasonably convenient connections to interstate travel. With this improved access comes the responsibility to protect and enhance the investments made. In order to properly achieve this NLCOG will be undertaking a land use study along the entire I-49 corridor. This process will include a series of community meetings to discuss, shape, and communicate the issues relative to land use and I-49. The resulting effort will produce a preferred future land use plan for the corridor with practical control mechanisms to help achieve the desired results.

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development has developed a new and streamlined project development and delivery process. This new process relies heavily on the principles of project management and defines seven stages in the project development process. The process starts by doing a feasibility study for a proposed project and ends by putting a completed project into service. Stage 0 and Stage 1 of this process involves the feasibility and environmental analysis of the project. NLCOG will continue to develop Stage 0 Feasibility
Studies and Stage 1 Planning and Environmental Studies for projects identified in the Long Range Plan. Specific focus will be given to those projects identified and/or earmarked in the Federal Transportation Reauthorization Bill and those projects receiving Urban Area greater than 200k funding.

A recommended strategy from the Regional Job Access – Extended Service Transportation Strategic Plan was to examine the coordination between the many human resource agencies and the services provided. There appears to be limited coordination between these two factors. The purpose of the JARC/Humans Services task is to monitor and implement the coordinated human services transportation plan for the ten parishes of Northwest Louisiana. The plan was developed by representatives of public, private, and nonprofit transportation and human services providers and members of the public working together to create not only a one time plan for improved coordination of human services transportation in the region, but also to establish an on-going process for continual coordination and improvement. NLCOG will work with the regions human service transportation providers, non-profits, those providing human services, and those in need of human services to ensure accessibility to transportation. We will also begin development of a web based mapping application to link those in need of human services with those providing services and transportation.

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program was established in August 2005 as part of the most recent federal transportation re-authorization legislation--SAFETEA-LU. Section 1404 of this legislation provides funding (for the first time) for State Departments of Transportation to create and administer SRTS programs which allow communities to compete for funding for local SRTS projects.

NLCOG has been awarded, by LADOTD Bicycle/Pedestrian Section, a grant to fund their SRTS project titled “Kids on the Move!” for the last three consecutive years. The Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments (NLCOG) identified neighborhood candidate schools in both Bossier and Caddo Parishes that already have the needed infrastructure to facilitate education on pedestrian and bicycle safety.

“Kids on the Move!” seeks to teach children from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade pedestrian and bicycle safety through the use of innovative classroom materials, school-wide events and incentives, and personal achievements. Through the cooperation of the Parent Teacher Organizations/Associations and neighbors, children will move safely through the neighborhoods to reach school by walking and bicycling.

A major part of NLCOG’s daily operations and support for its planning process is the development of ReGIS (Regional Geographic Information System). This coordinated effort will ensure that data sharing efforts are increased and compatible formats are used in the development and use of information systems. NLCOG will continue to assist in the management of regional GIS efforts and to coordinate the development of GIS systems of the member governments/agencies and to provide technical support for the development of GIS and database developments. In order to assist in the use of GIS data NLCOG will continue the development of custom user applications. This includes user Interfaces, network development, and Census Data Inter/Intra net Application. In addition, NLCOG will work towards the development of a regional data-sharing network between public entities. NLCOG will provide or sponsor training.
in the use of ESRI’s ArcGIS software, Intranet web applications, Internet web applications, data access, and Meta data development.

Transportation equity, environmental justice and air quality are issues, which TEA-21, The 1990 Clean Air Act and Executive Order 12898 have placed upon the planning process. In order to address these issues NLCOG will continue with its Environmental Planning element. In addition, NLCOG will begin to review issues associated with the new EPA Air Quality Regulations. NLCOG will also reexamine our Public Involvement and Public Inclusion procedures taking great care to include the public in the development of new processes and procedures. NLCOG will also monitor and assist in the development of those corridors in our area designated as High Priority Corridors in our recent Long Range Plan update and/or those projects receiving Congressional earmarks and designations.

Seeking meaningful public involvement is important for sharing the concerns of the community. NLCOG is committed to actively involving the public in identifying and addressing quality of life issues. NLCOG will strive to proactively inform and involve the public and improve public involvement through creative and interactive approaches. In order to continue to fulfill its federal mandates, NLCOG has developed several specific and functional goals and objectives for the Public Involvement Policy.

Public participation in the planning process and public access to data have become major elements in the federal certification process. The dissemination of information and the participation of citizens in government will increase the integrity in local government agencies and ultimately enhance the livability of our community. A wide variety of strategies will be assessed and revised formal public involvement procedures will be developed. Different strategies may be employed for different projects and activities, depending on specific project needs, available time, and project budgets. In support of this NLCOG is continuing to develop an Information Center. User-friendly Internet web sites, development of custom data applications and training in the use of GIS and Transportation Programs will be the focus of the Information Center.

NLCOG and its member agencies have entered into agreements for the development and administration of the budget, program of work, and contracts to fulfill the UPWP and MPO roles and responsibilities. However, many of the elements of these agreements are based on census numbers and boundaries. Due to the release of the 2010 census data, NLCOG will begin the process of reviewing the existing agreements and to make adjustments as necessary. In addition to the 2010 census data it is anticipated that our region will be designated as Non-Attainment for Air Quality based on the proposed rules of EPA.

NLCOG will continue to provide for inter-agency cooperation and coordination of the planning process; provide for the overall management of NLCOG and development of the staff in carrying out the work program. Included in this effort will be the coordination of the various technical, steering and citizen committees, policy and executive committee activities, and coordination with DOTD, FHWA, FTA, EPA, HUD, and other governmental agencies.
SAFETEA-LU PLANNING FACTORS

SAFETEA-LU has strengthened the responsibility of the MPO in preparing and maintaining the long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program and the Unified Planning Work Program. This work program represents a continuation of the strategic planning process begun in previous years. The focus continues to be on maintaining, improving, and utilizing the information resources in the day-today transportation decision-making process. In addition the planning process will provide for consideration of projects and strategies that will

(A) support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;

(B) increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users;

(C) increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users;

(D) increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight;

(E) protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;

(F) enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;

(G) promote efficient system management and operation; and

(H) emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.
Unified Planning Work Program

Objective
To discuss the planning programs priorities facing the metropolitan planning area and describe all metropolitan planning, transportation and transportation related air quality planning activities in accordance with the requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), and the mission and goals of NLCOG.

Task A-1 Transportation Project Funding, Financing & Development
Task B-1 Metropolitan Planning Programs:
Task B-2 Project Development Stage 0 and Stage 1
Task B-3 JARC / New Freedom/ Human Services Transportation Coordination
Task B-4 Safe Routes to School Program
Task B-5 I-49 Inner City Connector Stage 1
Task B-6 HUD Choice Neighborhood Planning
Task B-8 I-49 Corridor Land Use Study
Task C-1 Geographic Information Systems Data Development and Maintenance
Task C-2 Socio-Economic Variables / Census Demographics
Task D Environmental Programs
Task E Public Involvement & Outreach
Task F Administrative Programs
**Task A-1 Transportation Project Funding, Financing & Development**

Project costs have escalated over the past few years. NLCOG will examine the existing and proposed new transportation bill, traditional funding and financing mechanisms as well as exploring new and innovative means for development of transportation projects.

**Goal:** To ensure adequate funding for the development and implementation of regional transportation projects and to assist in finding funding and financing mechanisms that may be appropriate for the development of projects within Northwest Louisiana.

**Objectives:**

- To gain an understanding of the multiple funding and financing mechanisms used across the country and in Louisiana for transportation project development.

- To promote the use of alternative funding and financing through educating the local officials on what mechanisms are available and how they can work on various projects in our area.

- To work with our Federal, State, and local delegation to insure all possible funding measures are available to Northwest Louisiana.

- To assist in the development of legislation and policy that is needed for alternative financing mechanisms.

**Previous Work:**

- I-49 Funding and Feasibility Task Force report on project financing

  - I-49 Inner City Comprehensive Stage 0 and Environmental Study - Financial Report

- Comprehensive listing of current funding and financing programs.

**Methodologies:**

- Review funding and financing reports and to evaluate any updates needed

  - To review current federal, state, and local legislation to ensure that Northwest Louisiana has access to alternative funding and financing mechanisms for the implementation of current and future transportation projects

**Products:**

- Updated comprehensive report on alternative funding and financing mechanisms for implementation of transportation projects. This report will include a listing of currently available mechanisms, those currently used by other areas, and what legislation may be needed to provide other funding and financing mechanisms to Northwest Louisiana.

**Milestones:**

- 1st Quarter – Review current state and federal legislation as it relates to implementation of transportation infrastructure.

  - Begin to review historical project listings and funding sources as they relate to the Long Range Plan
2nd Quarter – Draft report of potential funding and financing mechanisms

3rd Quarter – Provide a report on funding and financing mechanisms previously utilized for the implementation of transportation projects.

4th Quarter – Work with Federal, State, and Local legislators to identify and draft legislation needed to ensure all possible funding mechanisms are available to Northwest Louisiana
**Task B-1 Metropolitan Planning Programs**

A properly developed regional comprehensive plan, implemented and sustained, will deliver a metropolitan area that is and can be developed in an orderly manner and is consistent with the public values and goals. In order to meet these demands NLCOG has established close cooperation between all to insure that the growth and development of the entire metropolitan area is well-planned and coordinated to provide the most desirable living environment for the citizens of Northwest Louisiana.

**Goal:** To implement, monitor and maintain the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the transportation model and the Transportation Management System Plan for Shreveport - Bossier City. To continue coordinated Public Transit Planning and Management for the Shreveport Bossier City Metropolitan area.

**Objectives:**

To update and maintain the Regional Transportation Plan for Caddo and Bossier Parishes.

To continue to refine the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program for the region so that it can support sustainable community goals and function as an element of regional comprehensive planning.

To review of the status of ongoing projects, review of project priorities, and an intensive review of project costing.

To continue to implement, update and revise the Management Systems including the Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems Plan, the Congestion Management Process and the Traffic Incident Management Systems Plan for the Shreveport Bossier City area.

To provide a broader vision and analysis of transit and transportation services in the region.

**Previous Work:**

- 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan - "Mapping the Way"
- Northwest Louisiana Metropolitan Planning Area Transportation Improvement Program TIP 2008 – 2011
- Northwest Louisiana Incident Management Alternative Route Plan
- Northwest Louisiana Congestion Management Process and Plan
- Northwest Louisiana Regional ITS Plan and Architecture
- Northwest Louisiana Job Access – Extended Service Transportation Strategy Plan
- Coordination with Shreveport Caddo MPC and the Bossier City/Parish MPC on their comprehensive planning effort
Project SB – Urban Land Institute planning effort

**Methodologies:** Direct data collection on existing generalized land use, travel demands through and within the planning area including distribution of traffic, pedestrian movements, parking, transit facilities and demand centers.

Identify zones within planning area where development is proposed or likely to occur within a provided timeline (5-10 years), and the potential impact on traffic, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic demands.

Work to analyze the major issues including, but not limited to, connectivity between transportation modes (vehicle to transit, transit to pedestrian, etc.), safety of non-vehicular transportation alternatives, crash data history of area, accessibility of existing land uses/developed areas by vehicular and non-vehicular means, and accessibility opportunities as part of future development.

Coordinate IM/ITS activities with those of LADOTD, FHWA, motorist assistance patrol, law enforcement, emergency response, homeland security local public works and traffic departments, local transit agencies, and other relevant entities in order to deploy and utilize ITS measures effectively.

Continue work on Travel Time and Delay Studies along the region’s major and minor arterial street system. The data will be utilized to profile existing travel corridors with regard to operating speeds, travel time, and length of delay to identify significant problem locations on major arterials that can be addressed through geometric or operational improvements to reduce delay. This data will also be used to evaluate the effectiveness of congestion mitigation projects implemented in the region.

Review recommendations of the Congestion Management Process Plan, Consolidated Human Services Transportation Plan, ITS/Incident Management Strategic Plans, and, transit mobility planning, Safety initiatives, and other corridor and systems planning activities and evaluate them for consistency with the Regional Transportation Plan and the TIP.

**Products:** A comprehensive, continuing and coordinated process for updating the region’s metropolitan transportation plan (MTP) while maintaining consistent required management systems, air quality conformity, the NEPA process and environmental justice requirements.

Updated and revised Management Systems including the Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems Plan, the Congestion Management Process and the Traffic Incident Management Systems Plan for the Shreveport Bossier City area.

A continuously coordinated planning process between NLCOG, the Planning and Zoning Commissions of Shreveport and Bossier, the local governments, and LaDOTD.
Milestones: 1st – 4th Quarters
- Traffic Counts at selected locations within Northwest Louisiana.
- Identification of selected corridors for travel time and delay studies.
- Development of a comprehensive land use gis layer based on ownership parcel layer.
- Coordination with planning and zoning, and local governments on land use and development issues
- Review of the Regional ITS plan and architecture
- Continuous review of the current Long Range Transportation Plan
**Task B-2 Project Development - Stage 0 and Stage 1**

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development has developed a new and streamlined project development and delivery process. This new process relies heavily on the principles of project management and defines seven stages in the project development process. The process starts by doing a feasibility study for a proposed project and ends by putting a completed project into service. Stage 0 and Stage 1 of this process involves the feasibility and environmental analysis of the project.

**Goal:** To develop Stage 0 Feasibility Studies and Stage 1 Planning and Environmental Studies for projects identified in the Long Range Plan. Specific focus will be given to those projects identified and/or earmarked in the Federal Transportation Reauthorization Bill and those projects receiving Urban Area greater than 200k funding.

**Objectives:**
- Complete Stage 0 Feasibility Studies for earmark, 200k, and selected projects within the Long Range Transportation Plan
- Complete Stage 1 Environmental Studies for earmark, 200k, and selected projects within the Long Range Transportation Plan
- To assist local governments in moving projects forward through the project development process.

**Previous Work:**
- Stage 0 Feasibility Studies for projects identified through the Bossier Parish Congestion Relief Program
- Completed Stage 1 Environmental Study for the Bossier Parish North-South Corridor
- Completed Stage 1 Environmental Studies for the Bossier Parish East West Corridor and the Wafer Road project
- Draft Stage 1 Environmental Studies for the Bossier Parish East Winfield Road project
- Comprehensive Stage 0 and Environmental Studies for the I-49 Inner City Connector Project
- Revised Interchange Justification Report for I-220 @ I-20 for access to Barksdale Air Force Base and the Cyber Research Park

**Methodologies:**
- GIS Data analysis of project corridors for both Stage 0 and Stage 1 analysis.
- Stage 0 Feasibility Studies will be developed in accordance to the DOTD Project Development manual
- GIS and TranPlan analysis of corridors for Stage 0, Stage 1, and Interchange Justification Reports where needed
- Extensive public involvement for all projects to ensure public opportunities for input, comments, and support
**Products:**
Stage 1 Environmental Assessment for the Inner Loop (LA 3132) Extension.
Stage 1 Environmental Assessments for the projects identified in the Bossier Parish Congestion Relief Program
Stage 1 Environmental Impact Statements for the I-69 Corridor in Louisiana including SIU 15
Stage 0 studies for selected projects within the Long Range Transportation Plan

**Mile Stones:**
1st Quarter - Competed Stage 1 Environmental Assessment for the projects identified in the Bossier Parish Congestion Relief Program

- Continue local coordination of Stage 1 Environmental Impact Study I-69 SIU 15.
- Initiate the Stage 1 Environmental Assessment for the Inner Loop (LA 3132) Extension.

2nd Quarter - Continue Stage 1 Environmental Assessment for the Inner Loop (LA 3132) Extension.

- Identify and select projects within the TIP and Long Range Plan for the development of Stage 0 and Stage 1 Environmental Assessments.

3rd Quarter - Continue Stage 1 Environmental Assessment for the Inner Loop (LA 3132) Extension.

- Continue development of Stage 0 and Stage 1 Environmental Assessments for selected projects within the TIP and Long Range Plan

4th Quarter - Continue Stage 1 Environmental Assessment for the Inner Loop (LA 3132) Extension.

- Continue development of Stage 0 and Stage 1 Environmental Assessments for selected projects within the TIP and Long Range Plan
Task B-3 JARC / New Freedom / Human Services Transportation Coordination

A recommended strategy from the Regional Job Access – Extended Service Transportation Strategic Plan was to examine the coordination between the many human resource agencies and the services provided. There appears to be limited coordination between these two factors.

Goal: The goal of this task is to implement the recommendations of the Regional Job Access – Extended Service Transportation Strategic Plan for the Shreveport – Bossier City region.

Objectives:

To evaluate the overall effects of the Night Owl transit service through tracking its effects to address the gap in transportation services between the “at-need” populations, particularly those who work non-standard work shifts, and major employment centers.

To monitor and implement the coordinated human services transportation plan for the ten parishes of Northwest Louisiana.

To develop a web application that links those providing Human Services Transportation with those providing Human Services and those in need of both.

To develop a comprehensive GIS data set of the regions existing transit system, including routes, stops, stations, facilities, etc.

To continue to improved coordination of human services transportation in the region, and the on-going process for continual coordination and improvement.

To work with public and private sector organizations to address the transportation needs of individuals who may have difficulty accessing education and employment.

Previous Work:

Regional Job Access – Extended Service Transportation Strategic Plan for the Shreveport – Bossier City region.

Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan For Northwest Louisiana

Extensive employment and education analysis using GIS as part of the Regional Job Access.

Assistance to the Louisiana Department of Economic Development in the location of businesses to northwest Louisiana through GIS data.

Initial development of a web based mapping application for connecting those in need of human services to those providing human services.

Methodologies:

To work with SporTran to evaluate the effectiveness of the Night-Owl service by looking at ridership, routes and employment centers.

To work with the regions employers to understand their work force, scheduling and transportation needs. Provide technical assistance through the Job Access planning effort in meeting those needs.
To work with the regions human service transportation providers, non-profits, those providing human services, and those in need of human services to ensure accessibility to transportation.

Development of a web based mapping application to link those in need of human services with those providing services and transportation.

To continue to provide a venue for those involved in Human Service both from the transportation standpoint and those providing service to contribute to updates of the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan For Northwest Louisiana.

To work with transit providers to create a policy of regularly collecting measures of transit system performance in order to determine the effects of improvements to the transportation system network. Such measures may include general readership, disabled and elderly ridership, bicycle transfers ridership, headway performance, and travel times, among others. Effects of major transit improvements on the regional air quality may also be estimated through use of transportation demand models.

**products:**

A systemic strategy toward developing a seamless regional transportation system that optimizes mobility throughout the region and delivers safe, efficient, comfortable service.

A GIS web mapping application to link those in need of human services, those providing human services, and transportation providers throughout the region.

**Milestones:**

1st Quarter - Continued building communication linkages those in need of human services, those providing human services, and transportation providers throughout the region.

Implementation of version one of Human Services Web application
Quarterly Human Services Transportation Coordination meeting

2nd Quarter - Update of transit gis database for use in analysis of systems
Quarterly Human Services Transportation Coordination meeting

3rd Quarter - A review of SporTran Night Owl service over the past few years and its level of ridership.
Quarterly Human Services Transportation Coordination meeting

4th Quarter - Continued provision of support services to user groups and transportation provider agencies.
Quarterly Human Services Transportation Coordination meeting
Task B-4 Safe Routes To School (SRTS) Program

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program was established in August 2005 as part of the most recent federal transportation re-authorization legislation--SAFETEA-LU. Section 1404 of this legislation provides funding (for the first time) for State Departments of Transportation to create and administer SRTS programs which allow communities to compete for funding for local SRTS projects.

NLCOG has been awarded, by the LADOTD Bicycle/Pedestrian Section, a grant to fund their SRTS project titled “Kids on the Move!” for the last four consecutive years. The Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments (NLCOG) identified neighborhood candidate schools in both Bossier and Caddo Parishes that already have the needed infrastructure to facilitate education on pedestrian and bicycle safety.

“Kids on the Move!” seeks to teach children from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade pedestrian and bicycle safety through the use of innovative classroom materials, school-wide events and incentives, and personal achievements. Through the cooperation of the Parent Teacher Organizations/Associations and neighbors, children will move safely through the neighborhoods to reach school by walking and bicycling.

Goal: To provide a safe environment that encourages and enables children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school as a more appealing transportation choice.

Objectives: To teach children about the safe way to walk and bicycle not only to school but in and around their neighborhoods through implementation of the “Kids on the Move” curriculum.

To identify infrastructure needs around participating schools in order to provide a safe environment for those walking and biking.

To implement the identified infrastructure needs in and around the participating schools.

Previous Work: In fiscal year 2008, NLCOG was awarded by the LADOTD Bicycle/Pedestrian Section a grant to fund their SRTS project titled “Kids on the Move!” The Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments (NLCOG) identified two elementary schools in both Bossier and Caddo Parishes that already have the needed infrastructure to facilitate education on pedestrian and bicycle safety. These schools are Bellaire Elementary and Central Park Elementary (Bossier Parish) and Cherokee Park Elementary and Arthur Circle (Caddo Parish).

In fiscal year 2009, NLCOG was awarded a grant to continue with the “Kids on the Move!” program and to implement the identified infrastructure projects at the four schools from the 2008 grant and to add Bossier Elementary to the program.

In fiscal year 2010, NLCOG was awarded a grant to continue with the “Kids on the Move!” program at Bossier Elementary and to add Plantation Park
Elementary. In addition this grant includes infrastructure improvements for both schools.

In fiscal year 2011, NLCOG was awarded a grant to continue with the “Kids on the Move!” program at South Highlands Elementary Magnet School to implement the non-infrastructure education and encouragement program.

**Methodologies:**
- Continue with implementation of the previous grants
- Review the “Kids on the Move” curriculum and coordinate better with state education requirements.
- Purchase portable signs and items included in the infrastructure portion of grants.
- Work with DOTD to implement as quickly as possible all infrastructure improvements.
- Work with the administrations of Caddo and Bossier Parish Schools to identify and solicit participation of additional schools.

**Products:**
- Task order issued for implementation of the non-infrastructure improvements at the four schools included in the 2008, 2009 and 2010 grants.
- Task order issued for implementation of the infrastructure improvements at the four schools included in the 2009 grant.
- Implementation of portable signs, bicycle racks, and other items included in the infrastructure program that do not require construction plans.
- A revised “Kids on the Move!” curriculum that is coordinated with state educational requirements.
- Curriculum Kits for each school based on the revised “Kids on the Move!” curriculum.
- Coordinated grant application with an additional school for fiscal year 2011.

**Milestones:**
1st Quarter – Begin implementation of infrastructure improvements at schools.
- Continue to review and refine the “Kids on the Move!” curriculum to better meet the state education requirements.
2nd Quarter – Begin implementation of “Kids on the Move!” curriculum in the 2011 cycle schools.
- Hold the annual fall Northwest Louisiana Walk to School Day in conjunction with International Walk to School day and Walk to School Month (October).
Identify infrastructure needs at new schools.

Continue implementation of infrastructure improvements at school in the 2009 and 2010 cycles.

Identify schools for next year’s grant application.

3rd Quarter – Implement weekly Walk to School Days as part of the “Kids on the Move!” curriculum.

Submit new grant for fiscal year 2013.

4th Quarter – Conduct Bike Rodeos at participating schools.

Continue with incentives program portion of “Kids on the Move!” curriculum.

Hold the annual spring Northwest Louisiana Walk & Bike to School Day in conjunction with the national Bike to School Day and Bike to School Month (May).

Finalize implementation of current infrastructure projects and begin work on task items for 2010 infrastructure projects.
**Task B-5 I-49 Inner City Connector Stage 1**

Stage 1 Planning and Environmental Study for the I-49 Inner City Connector project. Following the Stage 0 Feasibility Study, the Stage 1 study will result in the preparation of NEPA documentation to allow for the construction of the preferred alternative.

**Goal:** Stage 1 of the I-49 Inner City Connector is to obtain environmental clearance consistent with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for a controlled access highway to connect the existing Interstate 49 (I-49)/Interstate 20 (I-20) interchange to the proposed I-49/Interstate-220 (I-220) interchange within the city of Shreveport in Caddo Parish, Louisiana. This corridor is approximately 3.8 miles long.

**Objectives:**
- Complete Stage 1 Environmental Study for the I-49 Inner City Connector
- Completion of Interchange Justification Report and Interchange Modification Report as related to the I-49 Inner City Connector

**Previous Work:** Construction of I-49 from I-20 south to I-10 in Lafayette Louisiana
- Completed Stage 1 Environmental Study for I-49 North from I-220 to the Louisiana/Arkansas state line.
- Comprehensive Stage 0 and Environmental Studies for the I-49 Inner City Connector Project

**Methodologies:**
- Project Kick-off Meeting with NLCOG at their offices
- Development of a plan for coordinating with public and agencies and agency scoping meeting
- The preparation of an Interchange Justification Report and Interchange Modification Report
- Confirmation of the logical termini with the FHWA as existing I-49 at I-20 and future I-49 at I-220
- Engineering studies necessary to develop alternatives considered to the extent necessary to complete the NEPA process
- Technical studies to determine social, economic and environmental impacts at a level of detail consistent with the requirements of NEPA and other applicable laws and regulations
- Preparation of a preliminary EA
- Preparation of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
Preparation of a Mitigation Plan

Preparation of an Implementation Plan with cost estimates in the year of expenditure

Preparation of a Project Management Plan in accordance with Federal guidelines

**Products:** Stage 1 Environmental Assessments for the I-49 Inner City Connector Interchange Justification Report and Interchange Modification Report

Mitigation Plan, Implementation Plan with cost estimates in the year of expenditure, and Project Management Plan in accordance with Federal guidelines

**Mile Stones:** 1st Quarter – Continue with Interchange Justification Report and Interchange Modification Report as required through the NEPA process

Implementation of the plan for coordinating with public and agencies as required through NEPA and Environmental Justice

2nd Quarter – Continue with Engineering and Technical studies as required through the NEPA process

Continue with Environmental Justice plan implementation.

3rd Quarter – Continue with Engineering and Technical studies as required through the NEPA process

Continue with Environmental Justice plan implementation.

4th Quarter – Continue with Engineering and Technical studies as required through the NEPA process

Finalize the Draft EIS in cooperation with FHWA / LaDOTD / EPA / HUD

Continue with Environmental Justice plan implementation.
**Task B-6 HUD Choice Neighborhood Planning**

NLCOG and the City of Shreveport have been awarded a HUD Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant for the Allendale Ledbetter Heights area. Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments will receive $250,000 under the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative to implement a comprehensive approach to transforming distressed areas of poverty into viable and sustainable mixed-income neighborhoods.

**Goal:** The NLCOG Choice Neighborhood Partnership’s vision is for two inner-city neighborhoods marked by high abandonment, urban decay, severe poverty, elevated crime, high unemployment and low educational attainment: Allendale and Ledbetter Heights in Shreveport.

**Objectives:** This project will culminate in a transformation plan for revitalized housing through an infill strategy, creating a mixed-income, multi-family, sustainable neighborhood. NLCOG partnered with the City of Shreveport, and Morgan, Hill, Sutton and Mitchell Architects, to develop this collaborative strategy to ensure the successful growth and development of communities.

**Previous Work:** Allendale First Plan (City of Shreveport)

- Comprehensive Stage 0 and Environmental Studies for the I-49 Inner City Connector Project

**Methodologies:**

- **STEP 1:** Assess, Gather, Understand: To chart new pathways for transformation, we must know where we want to go (outcomes) and how we will get there (strategies and actions). We must also know where we are today (baseline), and how we got here (history). Historical information and baseline data will be collected, field investigations performed, national best-practice models researched, and strategies and opportunities for transformation identified. Existing assets, needs, and resources will be assessed, and action plans developed.

- **STEP 2:** Concepts Framework Plan and Development Scenarios: This step involves identifying gaps between existing assets and desired outcomes, and potential barriers to success. At the core of the Concept Framework Plan is determining what to do (actions), how and when to do it (methods), and defining the framework for understanding the relationship of the parts to the whole, including all viable development scenarios.

- **STEP 3:** Test Options and Prioritize Projects: During this phase, the Concept Framework Plan's options, scenarios and evaluations will facilitate decision-making. Options will be tested against environmental, social, economic, and cultural criteria. Resident groups, partner groups and the public will set priorities for projects and phasing development strategies.

- **STEP 4:** Connect/Employ Networks and Resources: A collaborative approach is necessary to link our public, non-profit and private network assets and
leverage our programmatic and financial capacity to enact change. Success depends on a balance of open public participation and leadership direction. A Consortium of Community Partners will develop shared goals, objectives, initiatives and transformation action plans.

STEP 5: Act and Implement: Implementation results from targeting opportunities and committing to initiatives identified through the planning process. The capacity to enact and sustain implementation efforts will escalate throughout the planning process. The final Transformation Plan document will prioritize and recommend actions and collaborative structures.

Products: This project will culminate in a transformation plan for revitalized housing through an infill strategy, creating a mixed-income, multi-family, sustainable neighborhood.

**Milestones:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year(s)/Month(s)</th>
<th>Project Milestones</th>
<th>Program Activity</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July – Nov 2011</td>
<td>Calendar of Meetings</td>
<td>Organize Project Team and plan calendar of bi-weekly meetings (Project Team: Lead Applicant, Co-Applicant, Planning Coordinator/Manager, Principal Team Members, Leadership Team)</td>
<td>Nov 30, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July – Dec 2011</td>
<td>Contract Finalization</td>
<td>Meet with Project Team to review responsibilities and finalize contracts</td>
<td>Dec 31, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July – Dec 2011</td>
<td>Engage Stakeholders</td>
<td>Meet with core Consortium of Committee Partners, identify other key community partners to engage</td>
<td>Dec 31, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July – Dec 2011</td>
<td>Engage Stakeholders</td>
<td>Meet with local elected officials, held every six months thereafter</td>
<td>Dec 31, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2011 - Jan 2012</td>
<td>Resident/Community Involvement</td>
<td>Host public meeting with neighborhood residents and larger community, quarterly thereafter; Farm Resident Advisory/Steering Committee, meets bi-monthly</td>
<td>Jan 31, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2011 - Jan 2012</td>
<td>Site Investigation and Basic Data Research (Demographic data, mapping, property ownership, land use, building condition, vacancies, historic properties, rental rates, land values, past plans, planned initiatives, development incentives, etc. Site investigation should also include a walk thru with Consortium)</td>
<td>Jan 31, 2012</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July – Dec 2011</td>
<td>Engage Stakeholders/Capacity Building/Knowledge Sharing</td>
<td>Develop informational literature, website (provide information about the project, interactive mapping, a forum area for dialogue, user friendly - include the scope of the project, Consortium and Project Team members, maps of area, calendars, time line, etc.)</td>
<td>Dec 31, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2011 - Jan 2012</td>
<td>Housing Market Analysis</td>
<td>Market Analysis – finalize contract and begin work on housing market analysis for Allendale/Ledbetter Heights</td>
<td>Jan 31, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb – Apr 2012</td>
<td>Telephone, Internet and Household Level Surveys</td>
<td>Needs and Assets Field Research – conduct round one of surveys of respondents, schools, businesses, churches, nonprofits, and greater community</td>
<td>Apr 30, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2011 – Feb 2012</td>
<td>Educational Opportunities Planning</td>
<td>Meet with public school system, neighborhood schools, higher education and early education partners - engage in development of action plans and strategies to promote a neighborhood of educational opportunity (in partnership with Promise Neighborhood planning team)</td>
<td>Feb 28, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2012</td>
<td>Resident/Community Involvement</td>
<td>Series of open house forums to develop and refine purpose and need and public engagement procedures and to get input on base data. (Community at large, Area of Impact, One on one meetings if necessary/requested)</td>
<td>Mar 31, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2011</td>
<td>Trends and Opportunities Report</td>
<td>Trends &amp; Opportunities Report compiled from info received from first series of open houses, site investigation and basic data research and best practices. Present to steering committee</td>
<td>Mar 31, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr – May 2012</td>
<td>Data Analysis and Reporting</td>
<td>Data Analysis – Statistical analysis of surveys, pre-measurement DDRG data</td>
<td>May 31, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2012</td>
<td>Community Involvement</td>
<td>Series of open house public Planning Charrettes to develop conceptual design criteria, types, strategies, context sensitive solutions, etc.</td>
<td>May 31, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2012</td>
<td>Concept Framework Plan</td>
<td>Concept Framework Plan/Outline of Transformation Plan - Compile info from planning charrettes and develop basic concept framework plan and development scenarios</td>
<td>June 29, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2012</td>
<td>Plan Outline Due</td>
<td>Outline of Transformation Plan</td>
<td>June 29, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2012</td>
<td>Planning Activity</td>
<td>Present to Consortium for recommendation on basic framework and development scenarios for test options</td>
<td>July 31, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2012</td>
<td>Transformation Plan Outline w/ content</td>
<td>Submittal of Transformation Plan Outline with Content to HUD</td>
<td>Sept 29, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 2012</td>
<td>Prioritization of Plan</td>
<td>Test Options - expand on key project concepts with programs, design concepts, costs, financing, phasing, link/leverage strategies including the development of a matrix of costs, benefits, and impacts</td>
<td>Dec 29, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2013</td>
<td>Final Draft Transformation Plan</td>
<td>Final Draft Transformation Plan submittal - Prepare final plan based on input from open house public meetings and steering committee review and comments. Develop project implementation plan based on feedback from open houses.</td>
<td>March 29, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2013</td>
<td>Community Involvement</td>
<td>Series of open house forums to present Final Plan</td>
<td>June 26, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>Engage Stakeholders, Action the Plan</td>
<td>Plan of Action (convene implementing partners, structure/package projects &amp; programs, pursue funding/financing, grow organizational capacity, present to governmental bodies for formal adoption)</td>
<td>June 29, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>Final Transformation Plan</td>
<td>Final Transformation Plan submittal – Final plan based on input from HUD, open house public meetings, steering committee review and comments.</td>
<td>June 29, 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Task B-8 I-49 Corridor Land Use Study

I-49 North continues to be a high priority for the entire region. As construction continues and the anticipated opening of sections from the Arkansas state line approaches every community north of Shreveport will have reasonably convenient connections to interstate travel. With this improved access comes the responsibility to protect and enhance the investments made. In order to properly achieve this NLCOG will be undertaking a land use study along the entire I-49 corridor. This process will include a series of community meetings to discuss, shape, and communicate the issues relative to land use and I-49. The resulting effort will produce a preferred future land use plan for the corridor with practical control mechanisms to help achieve the desired results.

Goal: A preferred future land use plan for the I-49 corridor with practical control mechanisms to help achieve the desired results.

A Transportation Improvement Plan for the HUD Choice Neighborhood area.

Objectives:

To promote a comprehensive, continuing and coordinated approach to land use and economic development along the entire I-49 Corridor in Caddo Parish

To develop an Implementable series of Transportation Projects within the HUD Choice Neighborhood area surrounding the I-49 Inner City Corridor.

Previous Work: Construction of I-49 from I-20 south to I-10 in Lafayette Louisiana

Completed Stage 1 Environmental Study for I-49 North from I-220 to the Louisiana/Arkansas state line.

Comprehensive Stage 0 and Environmental Studies for the I-49 Inner City Connector Project

Methodologies: Through a series of community meetings the community will discuss, shape and articulate the issues relative to land use and economic development along the I-49 Corridor in order to develop a preferred future land use plan for the corridor. Five basic task areas have been identified to achieve this goal:

Task 1 - Formulation of Issues
Task 2 - Identification of Opportunities and Constraints
Task 3 - Development of Land Use Plans and Regulations Mechanisms
Task 4 - Community Input and Review (continuous throughout the process)
Task 5 - Adoption and Implementation

Products: A recommended Land Use and Development Plan for the I-49 Corridor including regulatory mechanisms

A Transportation Improvement Plan for the HUD Choice Neighborhood area
Task C-1 Geographic Information Systems Data Development and Maintenance

NLCOG and its member agencies have entered into agreements for the development and maintenance of a Regional Geographic Information System. This system is housed by NLCOG and administered by its staff. An Intergovernmental Agreement has been established for the ongoing maintenance of this system.

Goal: To promote regional compatibility in geographic information systems processes, procedures, and products among the NLCOG member agencies, state and federal sponsors, and local jurisdictions in Northwest Louisiana. This includes aiding in the development of or to provide high quality GIS products and resources for use in UPWP related corridor and systems planning as well as to support local parish and municipal transportation and land use planning, 911 emergency services, economic development and environmental planning efforts in Northwest Louisiana.

Objectives: Promote regional compatibility and sharing in GIS processes, procedures, and products among the member agencies of NLCOG, state and federal sponsors, and local agencies in Northwest Louisiana by housing, developing and distributing data.

Ensure that outcomes of local and regional planning efforts are compatible with the regional GIS products to support improved integration of regional transportation planning with land use decision-making processes.

Provide GIS/Imagery and database development support to local entities as needed for the development of coordinated GIS data products.

Work with member agencies to increase data quality in terms of detail and accuracy improving existing data, while promoting the integration of planning data development across agencies and across data development initiatives.

Previous Work: Implementation of the local ReGIS Intergovernmental agreement and coordination with local governments and agencies has developed into a regional GIS housing highly accurate imagery and vector data including transportation systems, topographical data, environmental inventories and economic databases for use in the UPWP program.

The contracting of high resolution imagery since 1995 including contract management of non-traditional partners in coordination of federal, state, regional and local raster data initiatives.

Implementation of GPS Community Base Station and management of GPS data collection efforts utilizing COG GPS equipment. In addition to maintaining the FCC license for GPS Real-Time Data Broadcasting.

Begun ArcGIS Server implementation to better provide imagery and data products to both member agencies and the general public through web mapping applications.
Methodologies: Five basic task areas have been established to manage the Regis System:

**ReGIS Administration**
To continue maintaining and developing a regional geographic information. To assist in the management of regional GIS efforts and to coordinate the development of GIS systems of the member government's/agencies. To provide technical support for the development of GIS and database developments.

**Basemap Maintenance**
To continue to update and expand the project basemap based on new photography this includes building features, hydrology features, transportation features, etc. To review and update of quasi-political boundaries such as neighborhoods, school attendance zones, Delphi Planning zones, etc.

**Aerial Photography**
The purpose of this task is to assist our member agencies in obtaining aerial photography for the area. This photography is vital to the maintenance of existing and development of new data sets for GIS. This year's objective is to develop a web based image service to provide current and historical imagery to both member agencies and general public.

**Application Development**
To continue the development of custom user applications for access to GIS, Census and planning data. This includes user Interfaces, network development, and Census Data Inter/Intra net Application. In addition, NLCOG will work towards the development of a regional data-sharing network between public entities.

**GPS Base Station Management**
NLCOG will continue to maintain the GPS Community Base Station and to provide scheduling and management of GPS data collection efforts utilizing COG GPS equipment. In addition, NLCOG will maintain the FCC license for GPS Real-Time Data Broadcasting.

**Products:** A regional geographic information system incorporating best available data to support local parish and municipal transportation and land use planning, 911 emergency services, economic development and environmental planning efforts in Northwest Louisiana. Special attention to creating web based applications for serving data to both member agencies and the general public.

**Mile Stones:**
1st - 4th Qtrs:
- Training and Expanded Utilization of ReGIS System
- Update Selected Transportation and Landuse GIS products
- GIS Support for UPWP Work Efforts
- GIS architecture development and systems support
- GPS Community Base Station management
- Web based access to ReGIS data
Task C-2 Socio-Economic Variables / Census Demography

NLCOG has once again been designated Census Data Affiliate. The dissemination of Census data to local agencies and the public in a format that is easily understood is a primary goal for the NLCOG Data Affiliation.

Goal: To compile, organize, and analyze socio-economic and environmental data for the region in order to supplement planning efforts within the region and to provide useful demographic data to the public and local agencies

Objectives: To compile and analyze socioeconomic data to support RPC program initiatives including but not limited to:

- Transportation modeling and forecasting activities
- Land use modeling activities
- Economic development activities as they relate to the eight planning factors
- Review and analysis of 2010 Decennial Census data and associated data sets
- Title VI/Environmental Justice analysis activities
- Data integration with other planning activities and with recovery coordination
- Specific projects requiring data to track change over time

To develop a custom user application for access to GIS, Census and planning data. This includes user interfaces, network development, and Census Data Inter/Intranet Application.

To develop a series of basic reports on Census 2010 data that is relevant to the area and includes the most common statistics.

Previous Work: Development of a series of reports based on the 2000 census including but not limited to:

- Population, Housing and Income Statics for 2000 Census Tract
- Population, Housing and Income Statics for Neighborhoods
- Census Transportation Planning data for Traffic Analysis Zones
- Demographic Reports for Council Districts within Shreveport and Bossier City
- Demographic Reports for Commission and Police Jury Districts within Caddo and Bossier Parishes

Methodologies: The compilation of social, economic and environmental data will be undertaken with specific emphasis on the relevance of the data to SAFETEA-LU’s eight planning policies, as well as the guiding principles of livability, safety, and environmental sustainability. Four basic task areas have been established to manage this effort:

Database Development
In order to adequately evaluate population trends with current emphasis upon the 2010 NLCOG will compile and organize these data into “user-friendly”, accessible products for internal research and for assistance to other agencies and the public. Particular emphasis will be on the basic Census geography of Tracts, Block Groups, and Blocks, along with political subdivisions, neighborhoods and traffic analysis zones.
Socio-Economic Data
Economic and environmental data will be gathered from the US Department of Commerce, the Louisiana Dept. of Labor, the Louisiana Department of Social Services, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, as well as other state and federal agencies and private sources.

Employment Data
Data from private sources on employment by number of employees and NAICS/SIC code provided by street address will be purchased and geocoded. This enables us to monitor the distribution of employment destinations on an ongoing basis. This data set can also enhance and supplement land use data for quality control purposes.

Analysis of 2010 Census Data
Datasets from the 2010 Census will be analyzed and incorporated into the NLCOG’s metropolitan planning process, including map production, modeling efforts, environmental justice analyses, corridor/neighborhood studies, and traffic/transit analyses. Socio-economic characteristics revealed by the 2010 census will be analyzed alongside 2000 census data to better understand growth patterns within the region.

Application Development
NLCOG will develop custom user applications for access to GIS, Census and planning data including both an intranet and internet mapping applications.

Products:
Compilation, analysis and mapping of social, economic, and environmental trends in the region, including forecasts of the transportation planning variables, with particular emphasis on the 2010 census data.

A custom user applications for access to GIS, Census and planning data including both an intranet and internet mapping applications.

Mile Stones:
1st Quarter
Integrate the 2010 Census data into the ReGIS database.
Obtain updated Employment data sets and incorporate into ReGIS database.
Begin development of web based mapping applications

2nd - 4th Quarters
Update Selected Demographic data reports for the region
Integrate new data with Transportation Planning Variables for forecasting models.
Refine web based applications
**Task D-1 Environmental Programs**

NLCOG will continue to implement programs to better the environment including air, water, and land through various federal programs to ensure a safe livable environment for the citizens of Northwest Louisiana.

**Goal:** NLCOG will continue to implement programs under the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act and to address environmental and air quality are issues, which SAFETEA-LU, the 1990 Clean Air Act and Executive Order 12898 have placed upon the planning process. In addition NLCOG will administer programs and projects which may develop through earmark funds in the 2007 Senate Water Resources Bill.

**Objectives:**

- To provide Quality Assurance assistance regional Brownfields grant recipients
- Work cooperatively with LaDOTD and DEQ on the transportation portion of the State Implementation Plan and to establish procedures for monitoring and maintaining ambient air quality standards in the region.
- To begin to establish a regional air quality model for the region in order to estimate region wide emissions of Nox and PM10 in order to measure the performance of various air quality improvement measures.
- To take appropriate measures to make mandated programmatic changes should the region be designated as non-attainment with the newly revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- To assist various regional entities in the development of water resources, including consumption, waste, and drainage.

**Previous Work:** NLCOG has continued to provide Quality Assurance assistance to Biomedical Research Foundation for their clean-up grants. This work is in effort to implant the Intertech Science Park master plan developed through a TCSP grant administered through NLCOG.

- Shreveport-Bossier City Metropolitan Statistical Area Early Action Compact DRAFT Air Quality Improvement Plan March 31, 2004
- Application to the Clean Cities Program by the US Department of Energy

**Methodologies:** To provide Quality Assurance assistance to regional Brownfields grant recipients and to continue to maintain EPA QA/QC certification and training of NLCOG planning staff.
To develop analytical tools for the evaluation of various transportation measures and alternatives that may reduce Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT).

A coordination mechanism will be utilized for discussing regional air quality issues, policy options, maintenance of air quality standard, and strategies related to various transportation demand measures.

To review the early action compact set in place in 2004 for modification based on new standards.

To provide training on current air quality transportation planning models for use in developing a regional solution to potential non-attainment status.

To continue to provide technical assistance to state, local, and regional agencies on the development of a comprehensive water management plan for Northwest Louisiana.

**Products:**
- Quarterly Quality Assurance Reports of regional recipients of EPA Brownfields grants.
- Coordination with state, local, and regional agencies for the development of a Northwest Louisiana Air Quality Improvement Program to reduce mobile source emissions.
- TranPlan and Air Quality model development, refinement, and training.
- Continued data assistance for regional water and waste water planning efforts.

**Milestones:**

1st – 4th Quarter
- Quality Assurance for EPA Brownfields grants
- TranPlan and Air Quality model training
- Revision of planning variables for TranPlan Model
- Technical assistance to regional water planning efforts.
**Task E-1 Public Involvement and Outreach**

Seeking meaningful public involvement is important for sharing the concerns of the community. NLCOG is committed to actively involving the public in identifying and addressing quality of life issues. NLCOG will strive to proactively inform and involve the public and improve public involvement through creative and interactive approaches. In order to continue to fulfill its federal mandates, NLCOG has developed several specific and functional goals and objectives for the Public Involvement Policy.

**Goal:** The purpose and goal of this element is to develop an effective, aggressive Public Involvement / Community Outreach program to promote the involvement of citizen’s groups, business organizations, minority groups, and the public at-large in the transportation policy and planning process.

**Objectives:** To work to expand public involvement and community outreach efforts to a broader section of the region’s population ensuring that all citizens have opportunity for input, comment, and information.

To solicit and encourage public participation in identifying and addressing quality of life issues including the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Programs, as well as the projects and programs of the UPWP.

To proactively inform and involve the public, and increase public involvement through creative and interactive approaches.

**Previous Work:** Development of a Public Involvement Plan and Process for use in NLCOG activities.

Development of a Title VI Plan that addresses ADA requirements of a sub recipient, and procedures to consider and encourage DBE participation in federally-funded contracts

Development of Planning 101 brochure and PowerPoint presentation for use at various public outreach meetings

NLCOG Newsletters and NLCOG.ORG website

Establishment of various citizen committees for the development of projects and programs outlined in the UPWP.

**Methodologies:** Three basic task areas have been established to implement and further develop public outreach and inclusion in the planning process:

Public Involvement and Citizen Participation

NLCOG will re-examine our Public Involvement and Public Inclusion process taking great care to include the public in the development of new processes and procedures.
NLCOG will continue to maintain and expand its database of stakeholders, including neighborhood groups, environmental organizations, the business community, non-profit organizations, etc.

NLCOG will continue to foster the citizen committees established for projects and programs of the UPWP and work to develop additional committees as needed.

Environmental Justice & Title VI Review

In adherence with Certification Review NLCOG will continue to review Title VI programs and revise the Title VI Plan, plans and procedures as needed.

Education and Outreach

NLCOG will continue to publish a series of newsletters to help keep not only our member agencies and traditional partners informed, but also for the public at-large. Newsletters will be developed in both traditional print media and also through the use of the World Wide Web with e-newsletters.

NLCOG will develop a series of citizens’ guides to provide community agencies and residents of with information about the transportation planning process, smart growth, the basics of GIS, environmental planning and Brownfields. Interactive materials, PowerPoint presentations, and printed materials will be created for the various topics in order to develop a comprehensive Education 101 series.

Products:
- Fiscal Year 2012 Newsletters
- Updated Title VI Policy
- Copies of PowerPoint and printed materials for Education 101 series
- Press Releases as needed for implementation of projects and programs of the UPWP
- Maps and data as requested through the ReGIS program
- Continuously updated web site NLCOG.org
- Facebook page with various announcements and notices

Milestones:
- 1st – 4th Qtrs:
  - Publication and distribution of newsletter both in print and through electronic media
  - Updated Title VI report for DOTD/FHWA/FTA
  - Expanded data access through web site
  - Distribution of annual report and financial audit.
Task F-1 Administrative Programs

NLCOG and its member agencies have entered into agreements for the development and administration of the budget, program of work, and contracts to fulfill the UPWP and MPO roles and responsibilities.

Goal: Provide for inter-agency cooperation and coordination of the planning process; provide for the overall management of NLCOG and development of the staff in carrying out the work program. Included in this effort will be the coordination of the various technical, steering and citizen committees, policy and executive committee activities, and coordination with DOTD, FHWA, FTA, EPA, and other governmental agencies.

Objectives: To provide for implementation of the UPWP

To provide for review and implantation of the Transportation Improvement Program

To provide for accounting and grant implementation

Previous Work: Fiscal Year 2011 UPWP implementation

Fiscal Year 2011 Financial Audit

Fiscal Year 2012 UPWP implementation

Fiscal Year 2008 – 2011 TIP

Amendments to Fiscal Year 2008 – 2011 TIP

Contracts with DOTD for implementation of FY 2011 PL funds

Contracts with DOTD for implementation of FY 2012 PL funds

Methodologies: Three basic task areas have been established to implement administrative functions of NLCOG

UPWP Administration

This task includes development of annual report reviewing of previous year work program, (FY 2012), implementation of Fiscal Year 2013 Work Program and development of Fiscal Year 2014 Work Program

TIP Administration

This task includes the continual refinement and update to the Financial Plan of projects for the region and to continue to coordinate and advance implementation of the region’s TIP. This includes the development of annual elements for the Transportation Improvement Program, project development for inclusion in future year TIP, monitoring projects within Northwest Louisiana and to provide for inter-agency cooperation and coordination for project development

Accounting and Grant Administration
This task provides for the Administration of the budget and grants of the Fiscal Year 2013 Work Program, the financial audit of Fiscal Year 2012 Work Program and Budget and the development of Grant Applications as needed for work program implementation. Also included in this task are the preparation and dissemination of monthly, quarterly, and annual progress reports.

**General Organizational Administration**

This task will provide for working with our legal counsel on the update of general by-laws and policies and procedures of the NLCOG. The goal is to develop an updated organization structure compliant with current federal, state, and local directives.

**Products:**
- Fiscal Year 2013 UPWP
- Draft Fiscal Year 2014 UPWP
- Fiscal Year 2012 Financial Audit
- Contracts and Agreements for Implementation of FY 2013 UPWP
- TIP Amendments and Updates
- Updated By-Laws and Organizational Structure

**Milestones:**

1st Quarter – Implementation of Fiscal Year 2013 UPWP
- Monthly and Quarterly reports to accompany invoicing
- Agreement for Fiscal Year 2012 Financial Audit
- Agreements and contracts as need for implementation of FY 2013 UPWP
- Development of Draft Fiscal Year 2012 – 2016 TIP
- Review Current structures with legal counsel and member agencies
- Review best practices on MPO’s / Regional Planning Agency’s

2nd Quarter – Continued Implementation of Fiscal Year 2013 UPWP
- Monthly and Quarterly reports to accompany invoicing
- Completion of Fiscal Year 2012 Financial Audit
- Adoption of Draft Fiscal Year 2012 – 2016 TIP
- Develop draft organizational structure

3rd Quarter – Continued Implementation of Fiscal Year 2013 UPWP
- Monthly and Quarterly reports to accompany invoicing
- Development of Draft Fiscal Year 2014 UPWP
- TIP Amendments as need
- Present develop draft organizational structure to members

4th Quarter – Continued Implementation of Fiscal Year 2013 UPWP
- Monthly and Quarterly reports to accompany invoicing
- Submission of Draft Fiscal Year 2014 UPWP
- TIP Amendments as need
- Adopt new organizational structure.
# Itemized Budget of Income and Expenses

## Objective
To outline the anticipated income and expenses for administering and implementing the Fiscal Year 2012 Unified Planning Work Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>% of Category</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEDERAL FUNDS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Highway</td>
<td>$410,760.00</td>
<td>77.15%</td>
<td>44.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Transit (Planning)</td>
<td>$81,677.00</td>
<td>15.34%</td>
<td>8.85%</td>
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## EXPENSES

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<td>FICA</td>
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### OVERHEAD

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<td>Building Rent/Parking</td>
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<td>Computer Software</td>
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<td>Dues &amp; publications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment Maintenance</td>
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<td>Furniture</td>
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<td>Office Systems</td>
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<td>Non Project/Public Relations</td>
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### GRAND TOTAL

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## DETAIL EXPENSES

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<td>ORACLE</td>
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<td>Microsoft</td>
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## Cost by Task

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<td>$0.00</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>Federal Transit (SpotTrans)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>0.00%</td>
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<td>Local Funds</td>
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### Cost by Task (cont.)

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<th>Environmental Programs</th>
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<th>Public Involvement &amp; Outreach</th>
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Public Notice

CADDO BOSSIER METROPOLITAN AREA
UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM
FISCAL YEARS 2013

The Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments, the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is submitting for Public Review and Comment the UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) for the CADDO BOSSIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA, FISCAL YEAR 2013. In order to meet the requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) this document is now available for review and comment. Interested citizens may view the document at the following locations:

Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments
401 Market St., Suite 460
Shreveport, Louisiana 71101
http://www.nlcog.org

For further locations, contact NLCOG at 318-841-5950. Any questions, comments or suggestions concerning the UPWP should be directed to the office of the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments, 401 Market Street, Suite 460, Shreveport, Louisiana 71101, Attention J. Kent Rogers or by e-mail at nlcog@nlcog.org

-End-
NORTHWEST LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

At a meeting of the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments (NLCOG) held on **June 18, 2012** pursuant to due notice, a quorum being present, the following resolution was duly adopted:

WHEREAS, The NLCOG has determined that the requirements of the Urban Transportation Planning process are being carried out utilizing the “3-C Planning Process” (continuous, comprehensive and coordinated); and

WHEREAS, The NLCOG has determined that the **UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM for the CADDO BOSSIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA, FISCAL YEAR 2013** was developed in accordance with the requirements of the **Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)**.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments does hereby approve and adopt the **UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM for the CADDO BOSSIER METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA, FISCAL YEAR 2013** and directs the staff of the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments to submit said program to the appropriate federal state and local agencies and to comply with any minor revisions necessary to facilitate submission and adoption requirements including all resolutions, certifications and assurances.

CERTIFICATION

I, J. Kent Rogers, Secretary to the Council of Governments, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted at a regular meeting of said Committee on **June 18, 2012**.

Shreveport, Louisiana, this **18th** day of **June, 2012**

[Signature]

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary
Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE

NORTHWEST LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

At a meeting of the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments (NLCOG) held on June 18, 2012 pursuant to due notice, a quorum being present, the following resolution was duly adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that J. Kent Rogers, Executive Director of the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments, be authorized to execute a contract between NLCOG and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for Metropolitan Planning (FHWA) in the amount of $410,760.00 in federal funds for Fiscal Year 2013.

CERTIFICATION

I, J. Kent Rogers, Secretary to the Council of Governments, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted at a regular meeting of said Committee on June 18, 2012.

Shreveport, Louisiana, this 18th day of June 2012

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary
Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE

NORTHWEST LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

At a meeting of the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments (NLCOG) held on June 18, 2012 pursuant to due notice, a quorum being present, the following resolution was duly adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that J. Kent Rogers, Executive Director of the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments, be authorized to execute a contract between NLCOG and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for Metropolitan Planning (FTA) in the amount of for Fiscal Year 2013 which requires a 20% local match and $81,677.00 in federal funds and $10,000.00 in federal funds at 100% federal funding.

CERTIFICATION

I, J. Kent Rogers, Secretary to the Council of Governments, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted at a regular meeting of said Committee on June 18, 2012.

Shreveport, Louisiana, this 18th day of June 2012

[Signature]

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary
Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE
NORTHWEST LOUISIANA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

At a meeting of the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments (NLCOG) held on June 18, 2012 pursuant to due notice, a quorum being present, the following resolution was duly adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that J. Kent Rogers, Executive Director of the Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments be authorized to execute all contracts and agreements pursuant to completion of those programs and projects for completion of the Fiscal Year 2013 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget as adopted.

CERTIFICATION

I, J. Kent Rogers, Secretary to the Council of Governments, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution adopted at a regular meeting of said Committee on June 18, 2012.

Shreveport, Louisiana, this 18th day of June 2012

J. Kent Rogers, Secretary
Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments
AFFIRMATION OF APPLICANT

Name of Applicant: Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments

Name and Relationship of Authorized Representative: J. Kent Rogers, Executive Director

BY SIGNING BELOW, on behalf of the Applicant, I declare that the Applicant has duly authorized me to make these certifications and assurances and bind the Applicant’s compliance. Thus, the Applicant agrees to comply with all Federal statutes and regulations, and follow applicable Federal directives, and comply with the certifications and assurances as indicated on the foregoing page applicable to each application it makes to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in Federal Fiscal Year 2013.

FTA intends that the certifications and assurances the Applicant selects on the other side of this document, as representative of the certifications and assurances in this document, should apply, as provided, to each project for which the Applicant seeks now, or may later, seek FTA assistance during Federal Fiscal Year 2013.

The Applicant affirms the truthfulness and accuracy of the certifications and assurances it has made in the statements submitted herein with this document and any other submission made to FTA, and acknowledges that the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986, 31 U.S.C. 3801 et seq., and implementing U.S. DOT regulations, “Program Fraud Civil Remedies,” 49 CFR part 31 apply to any certification, assurance, or submission made to FTA. The criminal provisions of 18 U.S.C. 1001 apply to any certification, assurance, or submission made in connection with a Federal public transportation program authorized in 49 U.S.C. chapter 53 or any other statute.

In signing this document, I declare under penalties of perjury that the foregoing certifications and assurances, and any other statements made by me on behalf of the Applicant are true and correct.

Signature _______________________________ Date: June 18, 2012

Name __________ J. Kent Rogers
Authorized Representative of Applicant

AFFIRMATION OF APPLICANT’S ATTORNEY

For (Name of Applicant): Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments

As the undersigned Attorney for the above named Applicant, I hereby affirm to the Applicant that it has authority under State, local, or tribal government law, as applicable, to make and comply with the certifications and assurances as indicated on the foregoing pages. I further affirm that, in my opinion, the certifications and assurances have been legally made and constitute legal and binding obligations on the Applicant.

I further affirm to the Applicant that, to the best of my knowledge, there is no legislation or litigation pending or imminent that might adversely affect the validity of these certifications and assurances, or of the performance of the project.

Signature _______________________________ Date: June 18, 2012

Name __________ Jerald N. Jones
Attorney for Applicant

Each Applicant for FTA financial assistance and each FTA Grantee with an active capital or formula project must provide an Affirmation of Applicant’s Attorney pertaining to the Applicant’s legal capacity. The Applicant may enter its signature in lieu of the Attorney’s signature, provided the Applicant has on file this Affirmation, signed by the attorney and dated this Federal fiscal year.
FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2013 CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES FOR FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
(Signature page alternative to providing Certifications and Assurances in TEAM-Web)

Name of Applicant:  Northwest Louisiana Council of Governments

The Applicant agrees to comply with applicable provisions of Categories 01 – 24.  
OR
The Applicant agrees to comply with applicable provisions of the Categories it has selected:

01. Assurances Required For Each Applicant.
02. Lobbying.
03. Procurement Compliance.
04. Protections for Private Providers of Public Transportation.
05. Public Hearing.
06. Acquisition of Rolling Stock for Use in Revenue Service.
07. Acquisition of Capital Assets by Lease.
08. Bus Testing.
09. Charter Service Agreement.
10. School Transportation Agreement.
11. Demand Responsive Service.
12. Alcohol Misuse and Prohibited Drug Use.
13. Interest and Other Financing Costs.
15. Urbanized Area Formula Program.
16. Clean Fuels Grant Program.
17. Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Formula Program and Pilot Program.
18. Nonurbanized Area Formula Program for States.
22. Tribal Transit Program.
23. Infrastructure Finance Projects.