

# Texas Department of Transportation Travel Survey Program



# Travel Survey Program

- Overview and Administration
  - Background and history
  - Program overview
  - Types of surveys
  - Study procurement and contracts
  - Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)/Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) responsibilities

# Travel Survey Program

- Travel Surveys and Survey Procedures
  - Survey objectives
  - Surveys in program
  - Purpose and design of each survey
  - Evaluation of surveys
- Travel Survey Research
  - Research issues

# Background and History

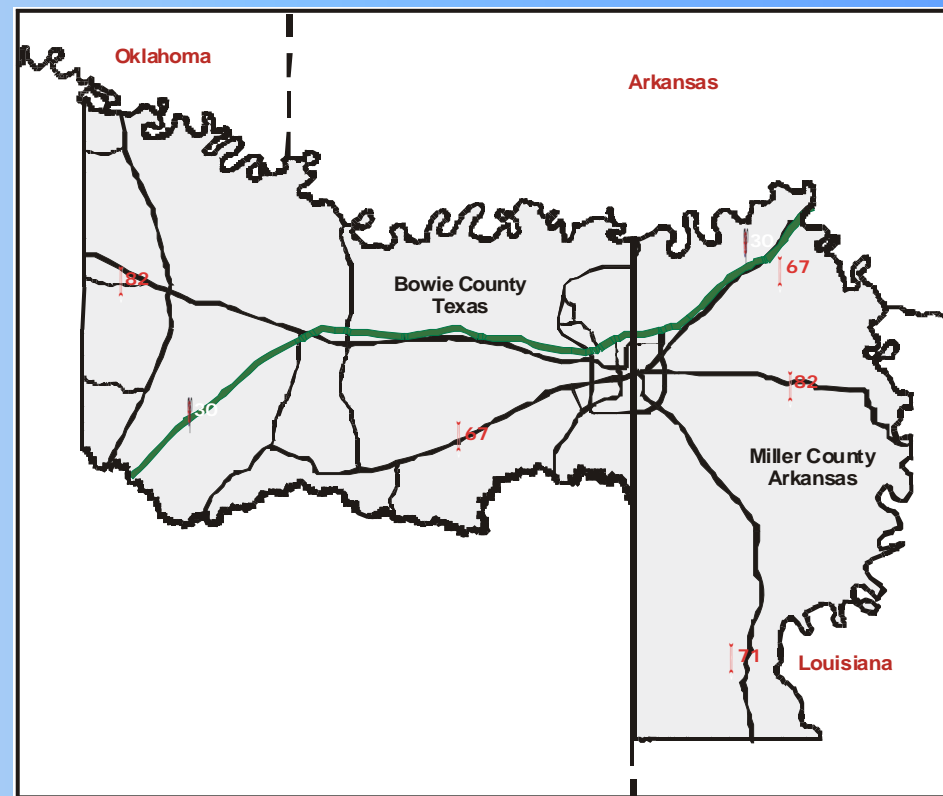


# 1985

- Dallas/Ft. Worth – North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)
- Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments (HGAC)
  - Conducted first household surveys in Texas since 1970

# 1989

- Texas Department of Transportation
  - Funded household, work place, and external surveys in Texarkana



# 1990

- TxDOT funded comprehensive set of travel surveys in five urban areas in Texas
  - Household
  - Work Place
  - Special Generator
  - Commercial Vehicle
  - External Station

# 1992 Through 1997

- TxDOT Continued Funding Travel Surveys
  - Four more urban areas





# 2000

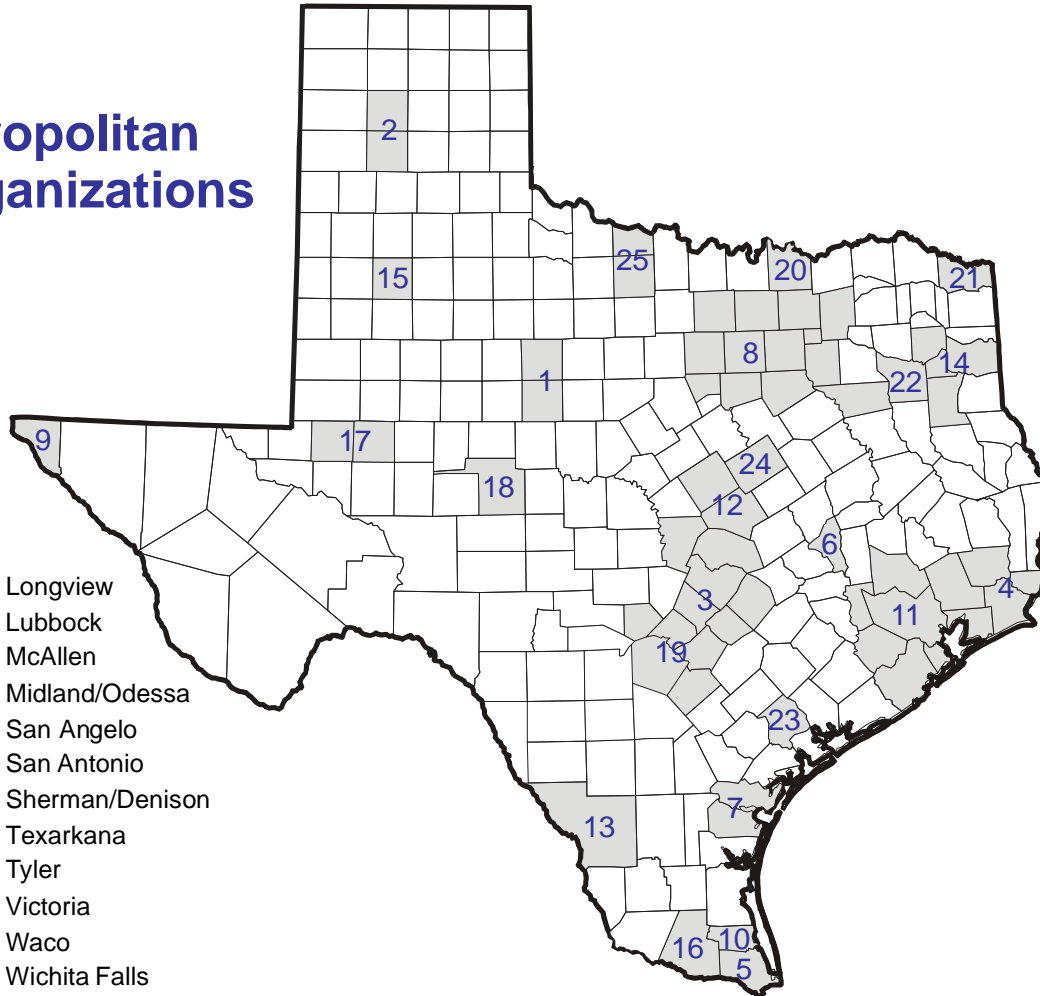
- Proposed Formal 10-Year Survey Program
  - Insure every MPO would have survey
  - Provide estimates of funding needs
  - Monitor trends over time
  - Establish comprehensive strategy and plan for data collection
  - Consistent comparable data

# Texas MPOs

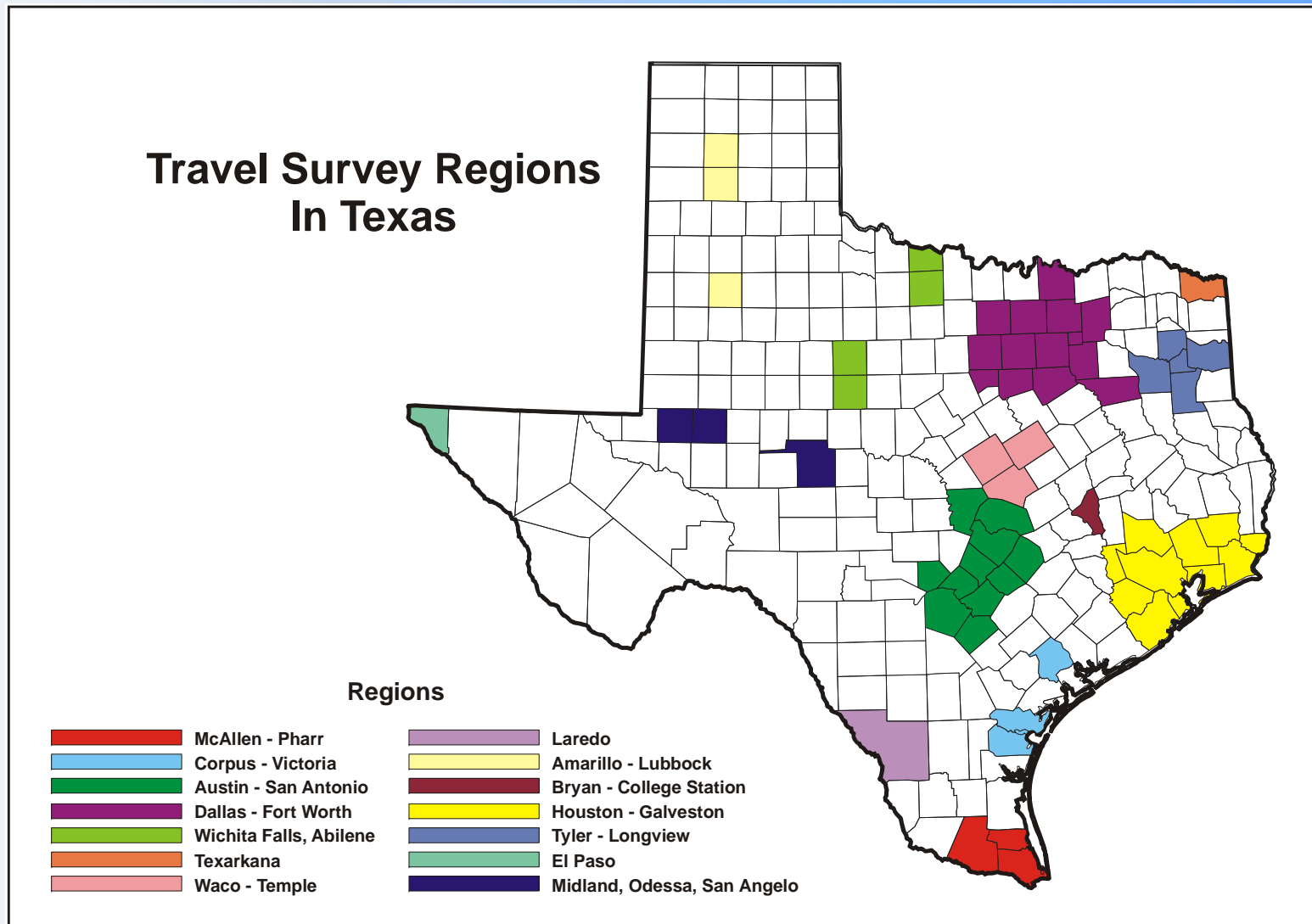
## Texas Metropolitan Planning Organizations

### Texas MPOs

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 – Abilene               | 14 – Longview        |
| 2 – Amarillo              | 15 – Lubbock         |
| 3 – Austin                | 16 – McAllen         |
| 4 – Beaumont              | 17 – Midland/Odessa  |
| 5 – Brownsville           | 18 – San Angelo      |
| 6 – Bryan/College Station | 19 – San Antonio     |
| 7 – Corpus Christi        | 20 – Sherman/Denison |
| 8 – Dallas/Ft. Worth      | 21 – Texarkana       |
| 9 – El Paso               | 22 – Tyler           |
| 10 – Harlingen/San Benito | 23 – Victoria        |
| 11 – Houston              | 24 – Waco            |
| 12 – Killeen/Temple       | 25 – Wichita Falls   |
| 13 – Laredo               |                      |



# Travel Survey Regions



# Survey Regions

- Cost Benefits
- Adjacent MPOs Surveyed Together but Data Analyzed Separately
- Sample Size not a Consideration

# Survey Program

- Schedule of Surveys
- Every Region to be Surveyed on a 10-Year Cycle
- Intermediate 5-Year Cycle for External Survey in Each Region
- Program Coordinated with
  - Saturation count program
  - Travel model update

# Types of Surveys

- Household Survey
- Work Place Survey (Includes Special Generators)
- Commercial Vehicle Survey
- External Station Survey
- Statewide Border Crossing Survey
- Supporting Data Collection Efforts
  - Vehicle classification counts
  - Travel time and delay

# Survey Procurement

- Surveys Put Out for Bid – Not a Request for Proposal
- Bid Process Conducted by TxDOT General Services Division (GSD)
- Bids Developed by GSD with Technical Input From:
  - Transportation Planning and Programming Division (TPP)
  - TTI

# Survey Contract

- Managed by TPP (TTI Provides Technical Support)
- Contracts are Deliverables Based (i.e., Data is Delivered, Checked, Accepted, and then Vendor is Paid)
- TTI is Responsible for Checking Data as Submitted by Vendor
  - Edit programs and manual review
  - Data found unacceptable is returned for correction



# Survey Results

- TTI is Responsible for Analyzing Data and Preparing Data for use in Travel Demand Models
- Key Point
  - Division of responsibility between data collection and data analysis
  - The two functions are conducted by separate entities



# Bid specifications

- Main Body
  - Covers requirements applicable to all areas, i.e., travel, subcontracting, deliverables, payment, etc.
  - Scope of work is general
- Attachments
  - Covers specific details applicable for survey and area, i.e., coverage area, sample size and stratifications, etc.
  - Data formats
  - Draft survey forms

# TxDOT Responsibilities

- Bid Specifications
- Contracting and Funding
- Coordination with MPOs
- Management of Survey Performance by Vendor
- Develops and Calibrates Travel Demand Models (Some Exceptions)

# TTI Responsibilities

- Survey Design
  - Sample size and stratification
  - Data formats
  - Draft survey forms
  - Methodology

# TTI Responsibilities

- Technical Assistance in Managing Vendors
- Data Checking
- Data Analysis and Preparation of Inputs for Travel Demand Models
- Ensure Survey Conduct and Data Submission Comply with Bid Specifications

# Vendor Responsibilities

- Survey instruments
- Data collection
- Geo-coding



# Coordination Efforts

- Pre-Bid
  - Meeting(s) with prospective bidders to review bid and answer technical or procedural questions
  - Meeting(s) held with MPO and TxDOT District personnel
  - Discuss upcoming survey and responsibilities/expectations
  - If requested, presentation given to MPO technical or policy committee

# Coordination Efforts

- Post Award
  - Meeting with vendor to discuss instruments, sampling plan, and vendor implementation plan
  - Meeting held with MPO and TxDOT district personnel
  - Introduce vendor that will perform survey
  - Present schedule and discuss what will happen
  - Draft news release given to MPO and TxDOT PIO



# How It Works - Example

- Abilene-Wichita Falls Household Survey Schedule to Begin in FY 2010
  - Early 2009, meeting held to inform MPO and district personnel of the survey
  - GSD prepares bid specification – Summer 2009
  - TTI prepares bid attachments – Summer 2009
    - Study area boundaries
    - Sample sizes and stratifications
    - Data file formats
    - Draft survey instruments

# Example Continued

- Bid Advertised – August 2009
- Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting Conducted – September 2009
- Bids Received – Awarded October 2009
  - Lowest responsive bidder awarded the contract
- Post Award Meeting Held with Vendor – December 2009

# Example Continued

- Meetings Scheduled with MPO and District to Introduce Vendor – December 2009
- Vendor Goes to Work – January 2010



# Advantages

- Data to be Collected is Clearly Defined
- Data Collection and Analysis Segregated
- Work is Paid For on a Deliverable Basis
- Cost Effective
- Neutral Party Review of Data
- Coordination with Modelers
- Coordination with MPOs
- Provides Technical Expertise to Smaller MPOs

# Disadvantages

- Discourages Innovation
- Many Firms do not like Bidding Process and Prefer a Request for Proposal



# QUESTIONS

