



2016 Strategic Plan

The North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority (NET RMA) was officially approved as a Regional Mobility Authority (RMA) by the Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) on October 28, 2004. This was initiated by the Texas State Legislature authorizing the creation of RMAs in January 2001. On June 24, 2004, Smith and Gregg (Texas) counties applied to the TTC for formation of the NET RMA. After public hearings in September 2004, the County Commissioners' Courts appointed NET RMA Board Members in February 2005. Governor Rick Perry appointed the first NET RMA Board Chairman in March 2005, and the first meeting of the NET RMA Board of Directors was held in April 2005.

The NET RMA was founded by Smith and Gregg Counties. In June, 2006, Cherokee, Rusk, Harrison, and Upshur Counties joined the NET RMA. In July of 2007, the Texas Transportation Commission approved the addition of six new counties to the NET RMA: Bowie, Cass, Panola, Titus, Van Zandt and Wood. These additions created the current twelve-county partnership. The move marked the second time the NET RMA had grown; the NET RMA is the only RMA in the State that has grown to include counties outside of its original founding sponsors. In 2013, Cass County withdrew and Kaufman County joined the NET RMA.

As stated in the Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 370.261, "An authority shall make a strategic plan for its operations. A majority of the commissioners courts of the counties shall by concurrent resolution determine the types of information required to be included in the strategic plan." Each five years, the NET RMA will establish a strategic plan. It will be reviewed at least annually to assure proper operations and success of the regional mobility authority for all citizens' benefit.

The NET RMA is guided by its Board of Directors:

- A. One (1) Presiding Officer Appointed by the Governor of Texas.
- B. Three (3) Members Appointed by the Smith County Commissioners' Court, one specifically representing the City of Tyler's interests.
- C. Three (3) Members Appointed by the Gregg County Commissioners' Court, one specifically representing the City of Longview's interests.
- D. All other board members are appointed by their respective County Judges to make up the total of 19 Board Members.

Current Board Members are:

Officers

Chair – Linda Ryan Thomas – Gregg County
Vice-Chair -Gary Halbrooks – Smith County
Secretary – Dr. James Harris – Harrison County
Treasurer – Robert R. Messer – Kaufman County

Executive Committee

NET RMA Board Chair – Linda Ryan Thomas – Gregg County
Vice-Chair -Gary Halbrooks – Smith County
Secretary – Dr. James Harris – Harrison County
Treasurer – Robert R. Messer – Kaufman County
Chair, Long Range Planning Committee – John Cloutier – Rusk County
Chair, East Texas Hour Glass – Dave Spurrier – Gregg County

Members

Robert Murray – Bowie County
Vacant – Bowie County
Jack Traylor – Cherokee County
Keith Honey – Gregg County
Linda Ryan Thomas – Gregg County
Dave Spurrier – Gregg County
Vacant – Gregg County
Dr. James Harris – Harrison County
Pat McGill – Harrison County
Robert Messer – Kaufman County
Walta Cooke – Panola County
John Cloutier – Rusk County
Barham Fulmer – Smith County
Gary Halbrooks – Smith County
Mike Thomas – Smith County
Hudson Old – Titus County
Larry Morse – Upshur County
Robert Moore – Van Zandt County
Jason Ray – Wood County

MISSION STATEMENT

The NET RMA, in cooperation with its regional partners, will provide solutions to expedite transportation and mobility projects that will improve the quality of life, enhance the regional economy and assure efficient mobility in the North East Texas Region.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2016

Goal #1: Address and provide direction within the NET RMA.

By Objectives:

1. Maintain and reevaluate the 5-year Strategic Plan and Mission Statement in accordance with the NET RMA's Bylaws.
2. Evaluate the needs and resources for staff and specialized expertise in order to efficiently and effectively operate the NET RMA.
3. Follow Bylaws, policies and procedures for operations including Conflict of Interest; Procurement; Transfer and Conversion; and Environmental Review for efficient and effective operation of the NET RMA.
4. Board Committees as established will continue to search and pursue future projects to meet the transportation needs in the NET RMA region. The established committees are: Executive, Project Development and Implementation, Long-range Planning, East Texas East Texas Hour Glass and the Audit Committee.

Executive Committee – The NET RMA is required to establish an Executive Committee pursuant to Section 15 of the NET RMA bylaws. The Executive Committee Consists of the NET RMA Chair, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, and the Chair of the East Texas Hourglass Committee.

Project Development and Implementation Committee - The Project Development and implementation Committee is a standing committee intended to have a continuing existence. The Project Development and Implementation Committee is tasked with considering right-of-way acquisition and other issues related to the development and operation of NET RMA projects and making appropriate recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Project Development and Implementation Committee is composed of Barham Fulmer (Chair), Jack Traylor, Larry Morse and Robert Murray.

Long-Range Planning Committee – The Long-Range Planning Committee is a standing committee intended to have a continuing existence. The Long-Range Planning

Committee is tasked with outreach efforts to the counties in the regions for utilization of discretionary funds and resources. The Long-Range Planning Committee is composed of John Cloutier (Chair), Hudson Old, Dave Spurrier and Walta Phippen Cooke.

East Texas Hourglass Committee – The East Texas Hourglass Committee is a standing committee intended to have a continuing existence. The East Texas Hourglass Committee is tasked with addressing issues related to the development of the East Texas Hourglass Project. The East Texas Hourglass Committee is composed of Dave Spurrier (Chair), Linda Ryan Thomas, Gary Halbrooks, Barham Fulmer, Keith Honey, Larry Morse, James Harris, and Pat McGill.

Audit Committee – The Audit Committee is a standing committee intended to have a continuing existence. The Audit Committee is tasked with reviewing the draft annual audit report and presenting a final audit report to the full Board for approval. The Audit Committee is composed of Keith Honey (Chair), Linda Ryan Thomas, and Barham Fulmer.

The NET RMA also has the following partnerships:

- East Texas Corridor Council
- Texas-Louisiana Rail Coalition
- I-69 Alliance Committee
- I-30 Corridor Committee

5. Annually develop, monitor, review and amend Annual Fiscal Operational Budget.
6. Assure that the ethical and proper authority reporting through open meetings and annual reports takes place as required by agencies, financial agreements and for the public.

Goal #2: Continue to advance Toll 49, including the East Texas Hour Glass Project, as well as other existing projects undertaken by the NET RMA.

By Objectives:

1. Continue to advance Toll 49, the flagship project of the NET RMA. Short term objectives include the construction of Toll 49 Segment 4, identifying funding sources for the environmental studies of Toll 49 Segment 6 and continue the development of Segment 7 and 8.
2. Continue to cooperate with other agencies, where applicable, to advance other projects already undertaken by the NET RMA, including but not necessarily limited to: Loop 571 in

Rusk County; US 80 Corridor Study in Kaufman County; acquisition of abandoned Union Pacific ROW between Whitehouse and Troup, the East Texas Regional Partners for Transit Technology Upgrades.

Goal #3: Continue to identify potential transportation projects in the region that the NET RMA will support through partnerships.

By Objectives:

1. Rely on the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the counties, Rural Planning Organization (RPO) of the East Texas Council of Governments and the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to establish the majority of long range transportation projects within the RMA boundaries.
2. Request on an annual basis from each County through its Board Member(s) and County Judge the identification of the County's top priority project that they desire the NET RMA to support. The support can take the form of political, technical or financial support. Develop procedures to evaluate these priority projects and determine the type and level of support the RMA can provide.
3. Provide recommendations to the Board based on that evaluation on the type of support to be provided by the NET RMA for the priority projects including possible financial funding as provided by the NET RMA's Budget for that fiscal year.

Goal #4: Maintain the parameters for which toll facilities under the NET RMA's ownership are operated.

By Objectives:

1. Oversee the operations and delivery methods of the essential toll operational elements including the toll system operation and maintenance, customer service center operation and maintenance, enforcement and violation processing and/or court system processing.
2. Market toll tag products (TxTAG, Easy Tag, Toll Tag) for the NET RMA, as well as the program for toll tag marketing/system interoperability and distribution.
3. Maintain the procedures for the operations and maintenance of roadway, as well as the providers of these services.

4. Develop and implement reliable and efficient maintenance strategies that continue to protect the initial investment.

Goal #5: Leverage Support from other Regional Mobility Authorities (RMAs), Tolling Agencies and Industry Experts.

By Objectives:

1. Utilize information and support from other RMAs, tolling agencies and industry experts to support the NET RMA's overall operations including:
 - o Review of "Best Practices" of existing RMAs statewide.
 - o Toll System Development and Implementation (Toll System Integrator).
 - o Develop marketing plan to direct customers for toll tag purchase and account maintenance
 - o Third party retail marketing and distribution of tags.