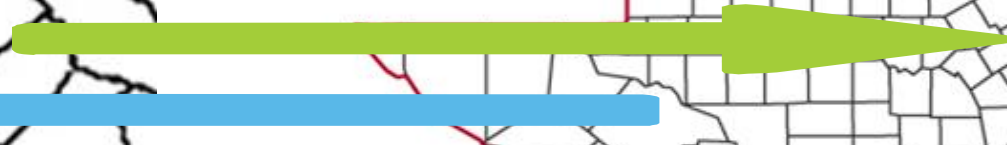
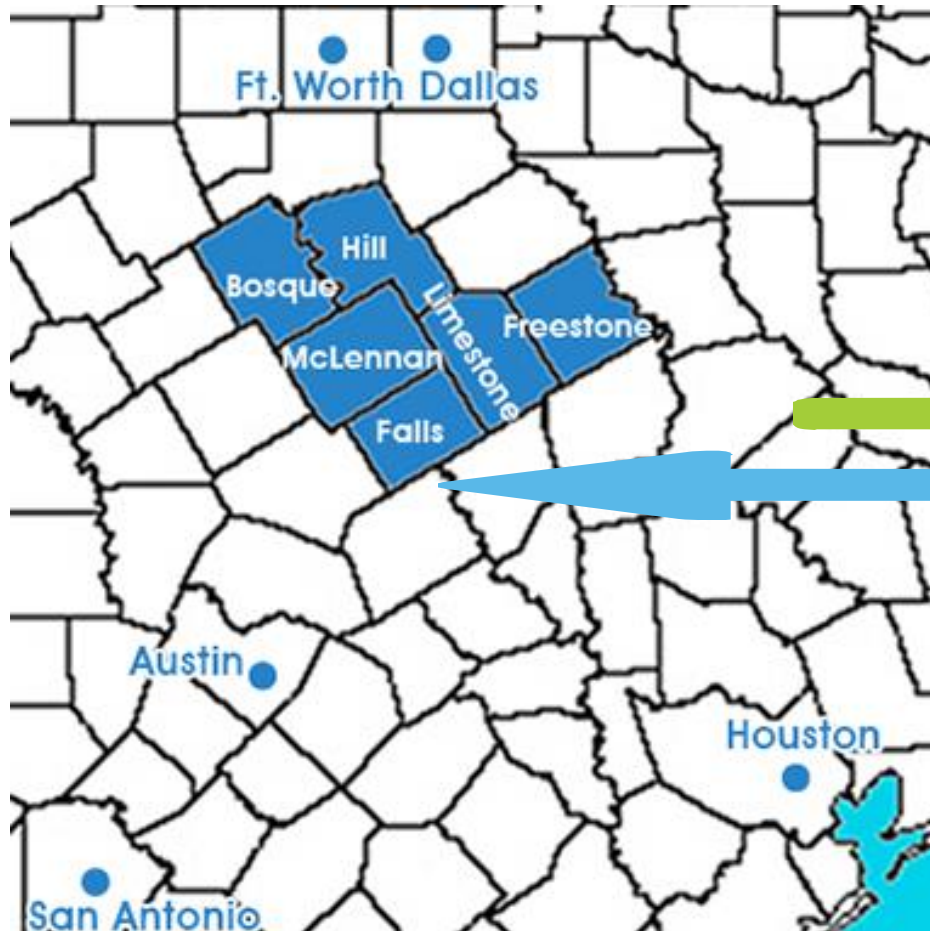


DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS:
The Heart of Texas Efficient Towns & Counties Co-Op
Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill and Limestone Counties



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HOTETC's Greatest Project Successes!

SECRETS TO SUCCESS:
Partnerships with Capacity Builders/Experts

SECRETS TO SUCCESS:
Appropriate level of funding



1. **Infrastructure:** Seeing & securing the future through GIS mapping project;
2. **Hope:** Elected officials, community leaders and citizens no longer feel alone in the struggle to survive as geographic entities. Our rural towns are making a transition and growing in both self-esteem and behavior as they begin to believe that they can go from *surviving* to *thriving*;
3. **Community of Practice:** *Co-op members are hungry for collegiality, connection, information and success and they are committed to this new community of practice. Consortium members voted on April 10, 2015 to continue and meet quarterly for implementation and new projects.*

Will Lowrance, Chair--Hillsboro Historic Preservation Commission

"Thanks for all your efforts to provide the candid, insightful report for the City of Hillsboro....and we appreciate your working with the City to host the two public meetings for input and discussion. I was pleased to see the **Reporter** give the report and meeting front page billing in today's edition.

It was encouraging to see Mayor Omberg and Councilmembers Smith and Zarate in attendance, and from my conversation with City Manager Frank Johnson, I believe the City Council will be working to put this information to effective use.

This report for the City of Hillsboro could, in fact, prove to be the turning point for Hillsboro's future...and the instrument to find a system for public dialogue and conversation that will restore public confidence in the future of Hillsboro.

As in the wake of any study or report, the question before the house is "What next?" How do we take this information and develop workable strategies to move Hillsboro forward?

HOTETC's Greatest Challenges



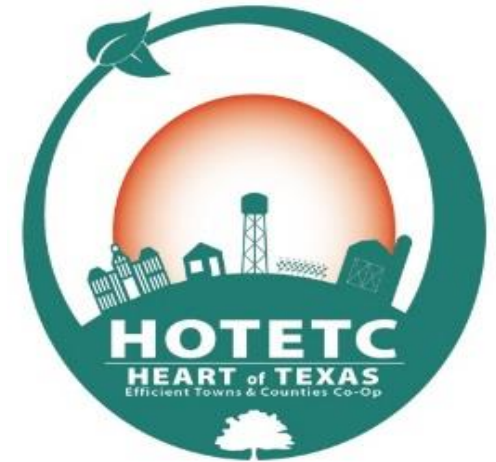
1. The **urban assumptions** that were built in to the project.
2. The Communication Conundrum...
Communicating and staying connected with all consortium members and citizens throughout the region ensuring that consistent and complete information was:
 - a) Shared/disseminated well/thoroughly;
 - b) Received;
 - c) Understood;
 - d) Impactful (created and maintained: interest, focus, momentum; and ultimately behavior change).

HOTETC's Greatest Need/Resource to Support Implementation



1. Funding

2. Capacity/Staff



The Heart of Texas 20 years from now?



This project has moved us light years into the future. Our rural communities actually stand a fighting chance because they have had the opportunity to--and the experience of--working together. True, some may still dry up and blow away--especially if their elected officials and citizenry selfishly cling to the past. But now many more will survive... and many more of those communities will thrive! That is thanks to HOTCOG and HOTEDD's commitment to—and vision of--regionalism COMBINED WITH the ability to help the counties and counties to actually believe in it, invest in it, and keep us engaged long enough to see it actually start working. --Tommy Tucker, Immediate Past President, Heart of Texas Economic Development District & Economic Developer for the City of Mexia, Limestone County, Texas



A rising tide lifts all ships. Unless your ship has a hole... The HUD HOTETC grant has laid a foundation and created a framework for our communities and counties in the Heart of Texas Region to be ready for, and take advantage of, the growth that is coming. We have a much better sense now of where our holes, how big they are, and how to fix them.

--Dorothy Jackson, City Manager--City of Hubbard, Hill County, Texas



For more information, please contact:



HEART OF TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

A Voluntary Association of Local Governments

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