

SUMMARY

TSI Technical Advisory Group Meeting
Monday, February 5, 2024
2 PM – 3 PM, Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams



I. Introductions

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson (NCTCOG) welcomed the Technical Advisory group and new attendees. A brief overview of the agenda and presenters was given before starting the updates.

II. Recap of October 23rd Meeting

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson reviewed the meeting notes from the October 23rd meeting and the associated action items.

III. Update on Current Project Progress

a. Updates since Last Meeting

A progress report of work completed since the last meeting was presented. Since the October meeting the project team has met with the Urban Land Institute, held a kickoff with the Transportation Subject Matter Expert, submitted the scope of work to the Texas General Land Office for funding, completed work on the Equity Engagement Plan, and has completed the literature review and H&H pilot study.

IV. Technical Advisory Group Discussion Items

a. Education and Outreach

i. TSI Project Value for Communities Discussion (Kate Zielke)

Kate Zielke (NCTCOG) gave an overview of the stakeholder engagement plan currently being drafted. The goal is for this plan to be used as a checklist for site visits with communities and staff. The study team is working on identifying all possible stakeholders. NCTCOG's Environment and Development, Transportation, Emergency Preparedness, and Economic Development departments have given input into identifying these stakeholders and audiences. Kate Zielke requested input from the Technical Advisory Group on additional audiences that the project team should be engaging and reaching out to. No comment from the group.

Kate Zielke described the footprint of the study area and the communities based on size. There are 85 cities that span over 8 counties within the study area. We have started prioritizing which communities to reach out to first. The larger cities within the study area are already addressing the issues we are talking about and have the resources dedicated to addressing these issues. The

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smaller cities and cities that have fewer resources are the communities that we want the most input and engagement from. The study team wants to work with smaller cities to add robust language to mitigate flooding.

Blake Alldredge (UTRWD) asked if outreach would include Chambers of Commerce.

Kate Zielke confirmed that Chambers of Commerce would be included in our outreach to business stakeholders.

The project team wants to make sure that we are reaching community staff members and understanding the best ways to meet with them. The team does not want to rely on virtual meetings and wants to visit the communities to really see what is happening. We will develop custom presentations and follow up questions for each of the visits. Kate Zielke asks the group for suggestions on how to best prepare for these types of visits with these types of visits. No comment from the group.

Jeff Neal (NCTCOG) states it might be useful to visit the communities during severe weather season to see what is happening during storm events.

Michelle Wood-Ramirez (TRWD) asks whether the team will visit cities that have used the Map Your Watershed! tool.

Kate Zielke confirms that the tool will be used to get useful information.

After the project team meets with the staff members, the team will follow up with elected officials. The team will meet with them regularly and provide quarterly updates. After each site visit, the project team will develop factsheets or summaries taking the feedback received into consideration.

Kate Zielke addressed the team's effort on equity in this project. NCTCOG received funding from FEMA to carry out equity-based outreach to ensure that communities are not being overlooked. Members of the study team identified about communities of color and limited English proficiency as the most vulnerable populations

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during flooding events. The team will seek out more participation from these populations.

Sue Alvarez (NCTCOG) states we should identify people in these communities that live in those areas.

Jeff Neal adds that critical vulnerability analyses should help us identify these communities with disproportional impacts from flooding.

Sue Alvarez suggests contacting neighborhood associations in the study area.

Kate Zielke asks Jeff Neal if the Transportation Department has contact information for neighborhood associations.

Jeff Neal will look into what information they have and what areas they cover.

Sue Alvarez also suggests crime watch groups and churches as potential community contacts.

Jeff Neal agrees, stating that churches help with recovery after a disaster.

Maribel Martinez (NCTCOG) informs the group that emergency managers in the communities may have contacts and this data is available.

Kate briefly discusses our plans to reach out to rural and agricultural audiences including groups like Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and soil and water conservation districts. We want to make sure we are going to them when they meet rather than have them come to us.

Blake Alldredge adds that the Texas Farm Bureau as a potential group to involve.

Maribel Martinez adds that the USDA Farm Service Agency should be contacted as well.

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Kate Zielke lists the business audiences that the project team intends to engage including real estate councils, chambers of commerce, and independent flood insurance providers. Kate asks Maribel Martinez if the Emergency Preparedness Department has any contacts for flood insurance providers.

Maribel Martinez states that the department does not have any flood insurance provider contacts, but the emergency managers might.

Sue Alvarez adds we should speak with FEMA watershed managers and TFMA to get a list of current managers.

Jeff Neal would like to evaluate the current Hazard Mitigation Plans and asks Maribel Martinez whether these plans list out the public and private partners of the planning group.

Maribel Martinez shares that the plans have a list of the groups and people who participated on the committee.

Sue Alvarez asks if the Hazard Mitigation Plans are only county level or do communities have their own.

Maribel Martinez states that it is transitioning. Plans used to be at the county level. Some communities have plans under the state hazard mitigation plan. Some communities may have to do jurisdictional plans because they are receiving funding.

Kate thanks the group for their input. The goal is to finish a draft of the Stakeholder engagement plan by the end of February.

b. Funding

i. Transportation Grant and Funding Primer Discussion (Jeff Neal)

Jeff Neal gave an overview on how the primer for funding opportunities will help communities. The team wants to make sure funding is talked about. There are various grants that are available, and the primer will cover the ways to look for funding and receive it. Jeff Neal listed ways that these funding sources have been used. Jeff Neal would like the Technical Advisory Group to provide examples of funding that they have used for their projects as the project team thinks it will be beneficial to communicate this

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information with examples. The project team will also look at philanthropic contributions to these projects and predicts that Public Private Partnerships will most likely increase. The team does not yet have an exhaustive list.

Jeff Neal describes the federal opportunities because of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The team is also looking outside of just transportation and public works to find ways to get funds to take care of flood mitigation such as Climate Pollution Reduction Grants. The goal is to bust siloes to understand how these plans affect each other. There are opportunities to indirectly address flooding, such as bridge and healthy streets programs. There are technological pursuits that can be followed as well. With the SMART program, NCTCOG is looking to expand a comprehensive flood warning system. The agency wants to make sure it is accounting for different communities and communicating how funding is acquired.

c. Policy

i. Water Rights Webinar Update (Erin Blackman)

Erin Blackman (NCTCOG) informed the group that NCTCOG is meeting with potential speakers for the water rights webinar. Topics that will be discussed are applications to TSI strategies and Certificates of Convenience and Necessity. She asked the group if they have any additional stormwater flooding water rights suggestions. No comment from the group.

d. Data and Technical Topics

i. Update on H&H Pilot Study and Storm Shifting Study (Matt Lepinski)

Matt Lepinski (USACE) provided an update on the H&H Pilot Study. The project team has completed the literature review and findings report for the Bridgeport Pilot Study and has shifted to two other pilot study areas (Eagle Mountain Lake and Mary's Creek). The team will apply lessons learned to complete a more comprehensive study that includes an area with projected population increase.

The optimization study takes this information and identifies the sizing and type of different mitigation recommendations. The InFRM Watershed Hydrology Assessments give comprehensive

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analysis for the hydrology. The scale of the subbasins is so large the team cannot break out individuals branches and creeks, so team members are breaking subbasins down to further delineate them to create additional detail and calculate parameters.

For the hydraulics data, the technical team added structures and details to determine how it affects current and future conditions and flows. The team also wants to leveraging existing BLE data. The data from FEMA's push for 2D hydraulics everywhere and data from the Future of Flood Risk Data pilot study in the region will also be leveraged.

The project's goal is to make it as easy for communities to leverage and enhance existing data. The project will try to make the information and tools as user friendly as possible to use and be replicable. Matt Lepinski requests more data for riverine modeling, downstream releases, streams data and urban drainage data.

- e. Environmental
 - i. TWDB Trinity RFPG Maps for Agricultural Stakeholders Demonstration (Aaron Hoff)

Aaron Hoff (TRWD) gave an overview of the Region 3 Regional Flood Planning Group online map as well as the NCTCOG Map Your Watershed! tool. A demonstration of both tools was given. Aaron Hoff shares the similarities between the Watershed tool and the RFPG maps. Both can map places that would be ideal for structures and identify problem areas. Users can add information on flooding or environmental features that exist in their communities and both give users the opportunity for public comments. Unlike the Map Your Watershed! tool, the RFPG Map includes a layer for the 500-year floodplains.

V. Next Steps

- a. Technical Advisory Group Assignment
 - i. Survey

Jai-W Hayes-Jackson shares that the project team is seeking input on best practices to demonstrate the value of the TSI project to study area communities. The team also is seeking input on

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stakeholder engagement strategies. A survey will be sent to the group prior to the next meeting, which will likely be in May.

Attendance List	
Name	Organization
Jai-W Hayes-Jackson	NCTCOG
Michelle Wood-Ramirez	TRWD
Stephanie Griffin	Half Associates
Maribel Martinez	NCTCOG
Kate Zielke	NCTCOG
Erin Blackman	NCTCOG
Samuel Morrall	NCTCOG
Larissa Knapp-Scott	LJA Engineering
Craig Ottman	TRWD
Ashley Lowrie	TRWD
Elizabeth Rophael	NCTCOG
Heather Firn	TRA
Joan Flowers	LJA Engineering
Liv Haselbach	Lamar University
Susan Alvarez	NCTCOG
Kyle Honnerlaw	TxDOT
Aaron Hoff	TRWD
Matt Lepinski	USACE
Juliana Behrens	City of Fort Worth
Bill Smith	City of Weatherford
Justin Kozak	The Nature Conservancy
Chad Marbut	City of Weatherford
Eduardo Tovar	DFW Airport
Jody Loza	NCTCOG
Daniel Li	University of Arlington
Jeffrey Neal	NCTCOG
Malcolm Hamilton	TWDB
Blake Alldredge	UTRWD
Saumya Sarkar	Half Associates
Christina Derr	City of Springtown
Michelle McCullough	City of Burleson
Eric Fladager	City of Fort Worth