



Infrastructure

An area's infrastructure — its water and energy supplies, parks and transportation systems — can determine its economic viability.

Water is essential for life, but it is also necessary for electricity generation, commerce and recreation. Manufacturers require reliable and adequate supplies of electricity to make their products. A reliable transportation system helps ensure that businesses can sell their products in national and world markets, and that residents can receive the goods and services they need. And recreational facilities such as state parks and lakes help improve the area's overall quality of life.

Employers locate in areas with reliable sources of water, power, roads and recreational activities, attracting talented workers and providing residents with a high quality of life. The Upper East Texas region, like the rest of the state, faces several challenges in maintaining its infrastructure and expanding it to serve the needs of its growing population.

With its proximity to the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, borders shared with three neighboring states, abundant natural resources and productive rural communities, the Upper East Texas region is positioned to continue its economic growth and development. A robust infrastructure will provide the area with a solid basis for that growth.



PHOTO: Emmitte Hall

Texas State Railroad traveling from Rusk to Palestine

Climate

Upper East Texas' climate supports a landscape of forested, rolling hills watered by generous rainfall. According to the *Texas Almanac*, the region enjoys latitude-appropriate temperatures; its first freeze typically occurs between November 16 and December 1, with the last freeze occurring between March 1 and March 16. Average lows in January range from 29.3°F in Titus County to 38.0°F in Smith County; average highs in July range from 92.2°F in Red River County to 95.0°F in Morris County.

Water

The Upper East Texas region is water-wealthy, containing portions of six major river basins with numerous tributaries and nearly three dozen major reservoirs and lakes. In addition to the surface water resources, the region sits above parts of two major aquifers. Average annual rainfall in the Upper East Texas region ranges from 45 to 55 inches, with rainfall increasing as one travels from the northwestern to southeastern corners of the region. (Statewide rainfall averages range from 10 inches annually in westernmost Texas to 55 inches in the far Southeast.)¹

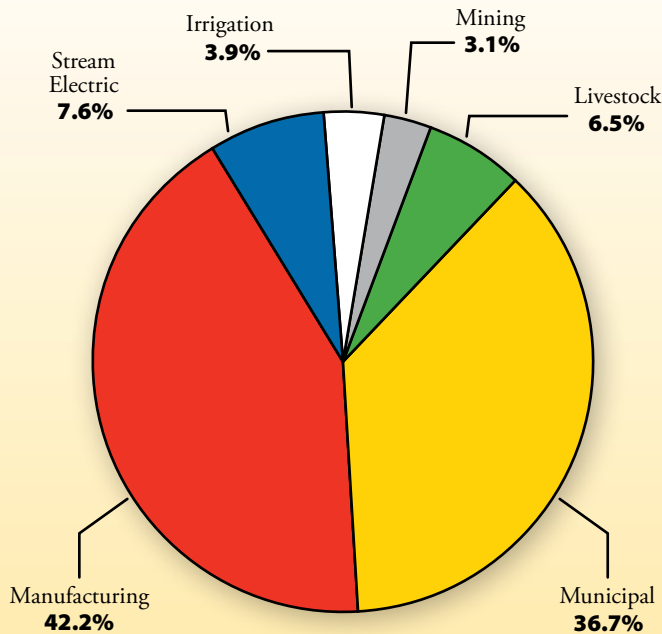
In 2004 (most recent data available), manufacturing and municipal water systems each accounted for large portions of the water used in Upper East Texas (**Exhibit 18**). The region also uses water for electricity generation, livestock, irrigation and mining.²

Upper East Texas contains parts of three water planning regions designated by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The region includes most of Region D and half of Region I; half of Henderson County is in Region C (**Exhibit 19**).

Under state law, water planners must estimate water supply and use over a 50-year period; the current planning cycle covers the years 2010 through 2060. Based on data from 2000, these planners project that annual water use in the Upper East Texas region will increase by 66.8 percent to 988,834 acre-feet in 2060. (One acre-foot of water equals 325,851 gallons, roughly the annual consumption of two to three households in Texas. A regulation Olympic-sized swimming pool holds about two acre-feet.)

Exhibit 18

**Total Water Use
Upper East Texas Region, 2004**



Sources: Texas Water Development Board and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.



Within that increase, changes are expected in shares used by each sector of the economy (Exhibit 20). Manufacturing is projected to continue to account for about 43 percent of the region’s water use in 2060. Electricity’s share, however, is projected to grow significantly, while the share devoted to municipal uses will decrease somewhat; each sector is expected to account for about a quarter of the total in 2060. Other sectors’ shares may shrink. For instance, the amount of water devoted to irrigation in Upper East Texas is expected to decrease by almost 4 percent by 2060 (Exhibit 20).³

Surface Water

A number of rivers and creeks wind through Upper East Texas; each of the region’s 23 counties has a waterway as some part of its border (Exhibit 21).

These streams, and the reservoirs built into them, provide four-fifths of all the region’s water. Rains County, one of the smallest counties in the region, has more than 10 percent of its land area under parts of two large

Exhibit 19

Regional Water Planning Groups Upper East Texas Region

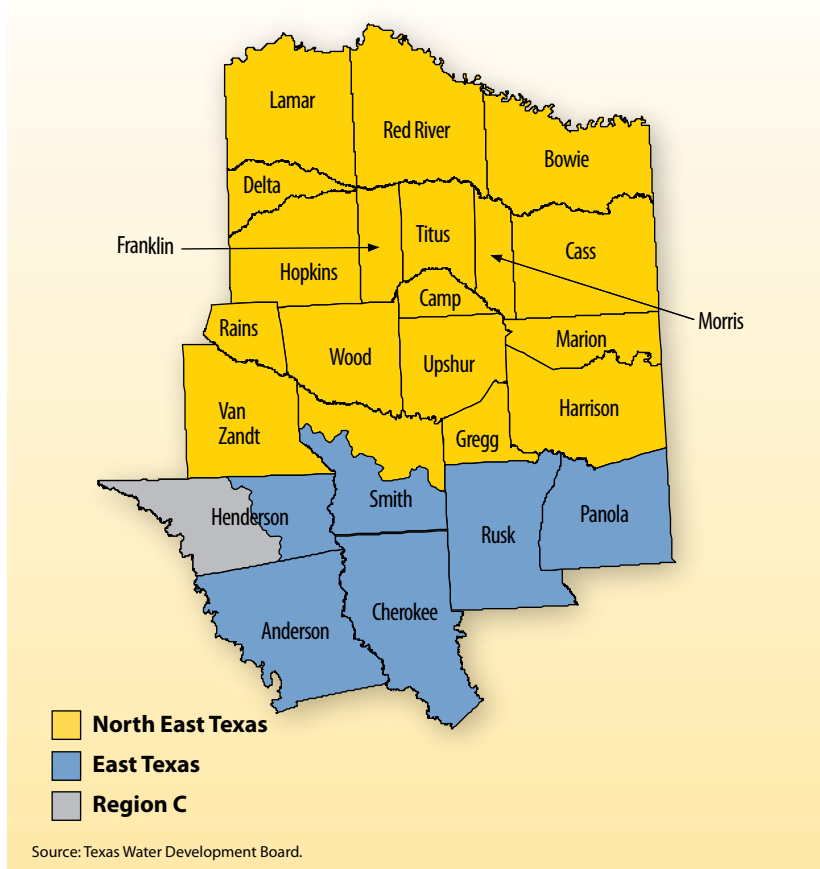


Exhibit 20

Upper East Actual and Projected Total Water Use by Sector, 2000-2060 (In acre-feet)

Sector	2000	2020	2040	2060
Irrigation	14,757	14,741	14,570	14,182
Livestock	37,289	37,480	37,485	37,280
Manufacturing	257,566	334,076	379,596	428,295
Mining	12,476	16,732	18,714	20,705
Municipal	173,453	198,511	217,241	244,697
Steam Electric	97,447	126,988	173,928	243,675
Total	592,988	728,528	841,534	988,834

Sources: Texas Water Development Board and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Exhibit 21

Upper East Texas Streams, Major Rivers and River Basins



The Upper East Texas region relies less heavily on groundwater than many other areas of the state.

reservoirs.⁴ The region has 34 major water bodies, including Caddo Lake, the state’s only natural lake (Exhibit 22).

The region contains parts of the territories of four river authorities that manage intra-state surface waters. The Red River Authority manages the river from its origin in the Panhandle across the top of the state to the Louisiana border, while the Trinity River Authority has jurisdiction over its river from Tarrant and Dallas counties down to the top of Galveston Bay, including the western halves of Henderson and Anderson coun-

ties. The Sulphur River Authority’s territory, like the river’s basin, lies almost entirely within the Upper East Texas region, while the Sabine River Authority manages the river that bisects the region, forming part of the boundaries of eight of its counties.

Groundwater

With all its rainfall and rivers, the Upper East Texas region relies less heavily on groundwater than many other areas of the state. In 2004, groundwater supplied only 20 percent of the region’s total water use



Exhibit 22

**Major Water Supply Reservoirs
Upper East Texas Region**

Reservoir Name	River Basin	Year 2010 Projected Yield (acre-feet)	Conservation Storage Capacity (acre-feet)
Lake Athens	Neches	6,064	29,435
Lake Bob Sandlin	Cypress	60,430	200,579
Brandy Branch Reservoir	Sabine	11,000	29,513
Caddo Lake	Cypress	10,000	59,800
Cedar Creek Reservoir (part)	Trinity	175,000	644,686
Lake Cherokee	Sabine	28,885	39,023
Lake Crook	Red	1,000	9,195
Lake Cypress Springs	Cypress	10,737	67,689
Ellison Creek Reservoir	Cypress	13,857	24,700
Forest Grove Reservoir	Trinity	8,583	20,038
Lake Fork Reservoir	Sabine	173,035	604,927
Lake Gilmer	Cypress	6,180	12,720
Lake Jacksonville	Neches	6,200	30,300
Jim Chapman Lake	Sulphur	127,983	310,019
Johnson Creek Reservoir	Cypress	1,785	10,100
Martin Creek Lake	Sabine	25,000	75,116
Monticello Reservoir	Cypress	6,098	34,740
Lake Murvaul	Sabine	21,792	38,284
Lake O' the Pines	Cypress	181,869	238,933
Lake Palestine	Neches	220,933	370,908
Pat Mayse Lake	Red	59,750	118,110
Peacock Site 1A Tailings Reservoir	Cypress	NA	7,100
River Crest Lake	Sulphur	8,635	7,000
Lake Striker	Neches	20,183	16,934
Lake Sulphur Springs	Sulphur	9,800	17,838
Lake Tawakoni (part)	Sabine	229,807	888,126
Trinidad Lake	Trinity	3,067	6,200
Lake Tyler	Neches	35,458	73,256
Welsh Reservoir	Cypress	3,739	18,431
Wright Patman Lake	Sulphur	180,000	110,853
TOTAL		1,646,870	4,149,973

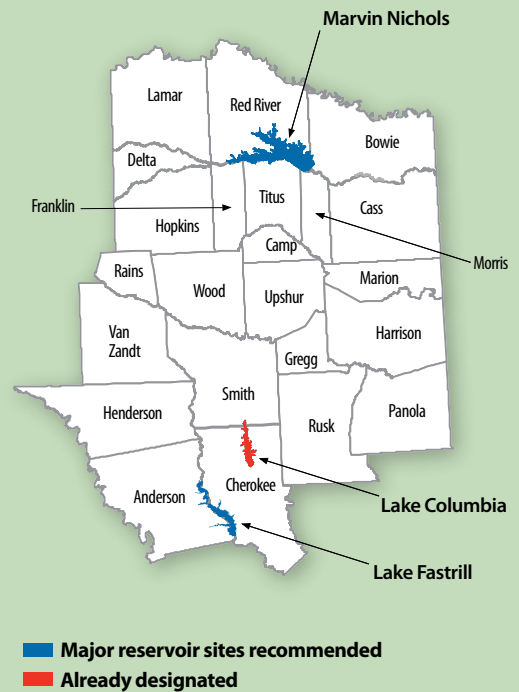
Note: Peacock Site 1A Tailings reservoir operated as part of a system, no individual yield total available.
Source: Texas Water Development Board.

Reservoir Tug-of-War: Marvin Nichols

Upper East Texas encompasses almost all of the Regional Water Planning Group D, also called the North East Region. The North East Region includes the Sulphur River. Lying to the west of the North East Region is Region C, which includes the Dallas and Fort Worth metropolitan areas. Region C already accounts for roughly a quarter of the state's population, and that population is projected to nearly double by 2060 (the state's current water planning horizon). Planners expect the region's municipal water demand to increase by 92 percent by that year. Existing water supplies in Region C are expected to decrease by about 9 percent over the same time period, due to sediment build-up in the region's reservoirs.

Consequently, Region C's proposed water management strategies in the *2007 Texas Water Plan* include the creation of four new reservoirs, two lying outside the region. One of the two is Marvin Nichols, which would be built inside the North East Region (Region D) on the Sulphur River, along much of the southern edge of Red River County. Both regions acknowledge that the reservoir proposal is controversial, due to opposition from the North East Region related to the resulting land loss and environmental impact. Region C maintains it is facing "the possibility of water shortages in the future." The North East's regional plan says that the Marvin Nichols Reservoir should "not be included in any regional water plan or the State Water Plan." Finding a resolution to this conflict, the result of the uneven distribution of population and natural resources, remains a challenge for this area.⁵

The other recommended reservoir, Lake Fastrill, is involved in a separate controversy because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has designated the area as a National Wildlife Refuge. The City of Dallas and the Texas Water Development Board sued FWS to prevent the refuge from being established; although a federal judge ruled for FWS in July 2008, issuing an injunction against the agency accepting land donations for the refuge while the city and the water board appeals the ruling.



Source: Texas Water Development Board.



(Exhibit 23). A few counties in the region actually consume more groundwater than surface water, although their overall water use is relatively low, and the region uses groundwater for almost 40 percent of its municipal water supplies.

Mining is the only sector that used more groundwater than surface water in 2004 (mostly in oil and gas exploration and production), but the mining sector accounted for only 3.1 percent of the region’s total water use in that year.⁶

Groundwater comes from aquifers, water-bearing layers of permeable rock, sand or gravel within the earth. The Upper East

Texas region sits above the northeastern ends of two major aquifers and two minor aquifers (Exhibits 24 and 25).⁷

State laws approved in 1999 and 2001 encourage the use of groundwater conservation districts (GCDs), led by locally elected or appointed officials, to manage groundwater sources. The Upper East Texas region has four GCDs, including the only district entirely contained within another, the Anderson County Underground Water Conservation District, which is surrounded by the three-county Neches and Trinity Valleys GCD. The other two GCDs are single-county districts, Rusk County GCD and Panola

The Upper East Texas region’s manufacturing base is projected to remain strong, and its associated water consumption will increase along with the sector’s growth.

Exhibit 23

Upper East Texas Region Water Sources, by Sector, 2004

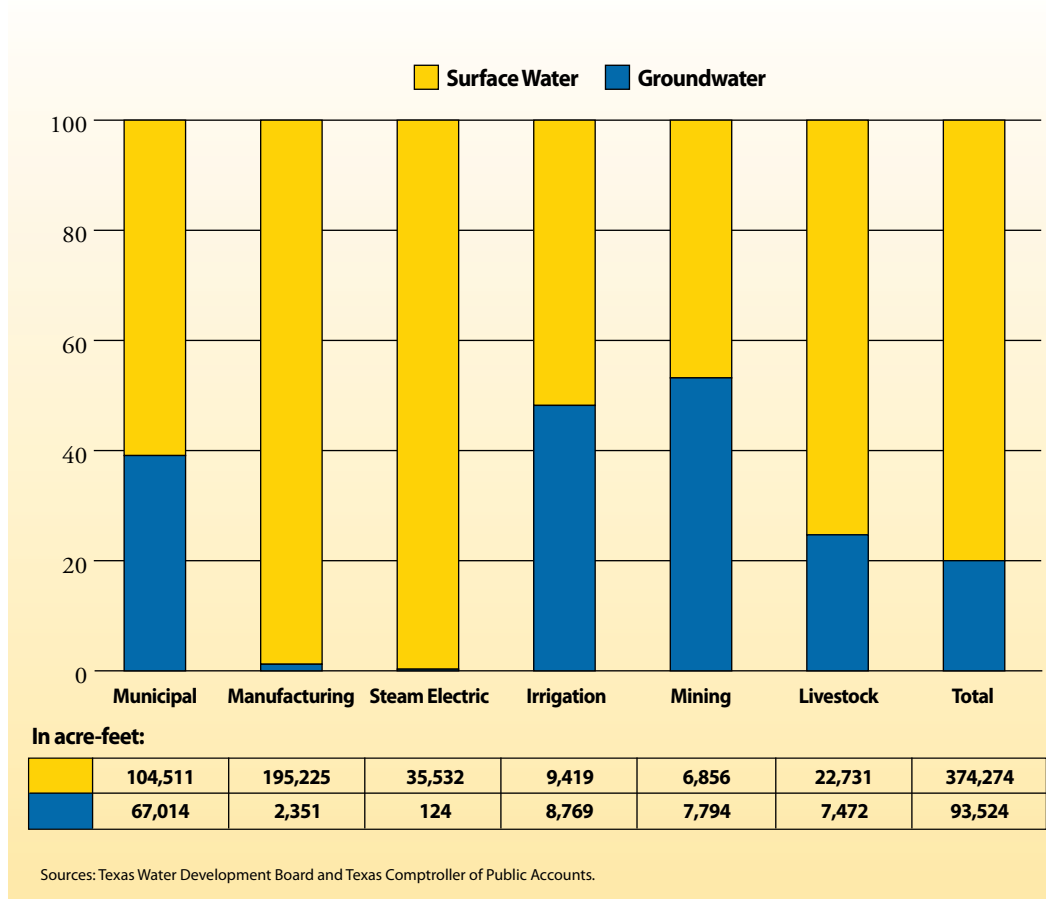
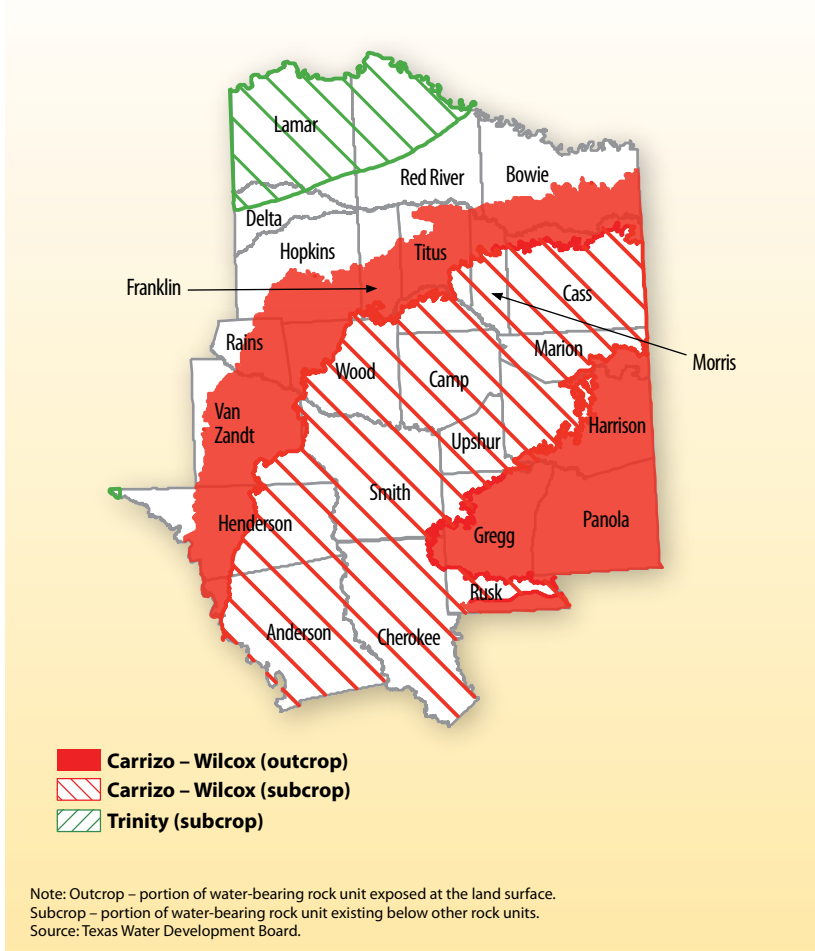


Exhibit 24

Major Upper East Texas Aquifers



County GCD (the latter is one of the most recently approved districts in the state).⁸

Groundwater conservation districts have some options to restrict groundwater pumping to maintain aquifer sustainability. One of the Upper East Texas districts, Rusk County GCD, has ad valorem taxing authority, while the others do not. State law generally allows districts to receive revenue through bond proceeds, fees, investments, grants and loans, depending on the statute creating the district.

As noted earlier, the Upper East Texas region’s manufacturing base is projected to remain strong, and its associated water consumption will increase along with the sector’s growth. Being an area with ample water resources in a mostly semi-arid state is a boon to the region’s economic development. The possibility of communities with large water demands from outside the area trying to access the region’s supplies, however, is likely to continue to require the attention of local and state officials.

Parks and Recreational Opportunities

The Upper East Texas region has abundant recreational facilities and provides unique opportunities for the public to enjoy nature. From the natural beauty and abundant wildlife of the bayous at Caddo Lake State Park to rides on the Texas State Railroad, Upper East Texas has something for every outdoor enthusiast.

State Parks

Upper East Texas offers a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities at its state parks and recreational lakes. Caddo Lake, Martin Creek and Tyler state parks have the largest economic impacts on the region.

Exhibit 25

Aquifers in the Upper East Texas Region

Aquifer Name	Availability (acre-feet in 2010)
Carrizo-Wilcox	1,014,753
Trinity	205,799
Queen City	295,791
Sparta	50,511

Note: Queen City and Sparta are designated as minor aquifers by TWDB.
 Source: Texas Water Development Board.



Caddo Lake State Park, 15 miles northeast of Marshall, is one of the crown jewels of the state park system. The park is situated on the western side of Caddo Lake, a collection of bayous and sloughs consisting of about 26,800 acres of cypress swamp. Caddo Lake was named after the Caddo Indians that have inhabited the area for more than a thousand years. Caddo Lake actually sits on the border of Texas and Louisiana, and several Louisiana parishes operate parks on the eastern end of the lake. In addition, the Army Corps of Engineers operates a park just south of Caddo Lake Dam.

Caddo Lake is the only geologically natural lake in Texas. It was artificially dammed in 1914 to help control flooding and to make its flood plain more accessible to oil drilling. A more modern dam built by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1971 replaced the old dam. The current dam was constructed to provide a water supply and additional recreational opportunities to the people of both Texas and Louisiana.

As Caddo Indian legend has it, the lake formed because of a giant flood. According to scientists, the lake formed when floodwaters blocked by massive log jam on the Red River backed up into the Cypress Bayou watershed. Recreation opportunities at the state park and the lake itself are numerous, thanks to many privately owned recreational businesses such as restaurants, nature sightseeing tours, steamboat, canoe and paddleboat tours and marinas. And the lake is an angler's delight, with 71 different species of fish. Park visitors can also enjoy stately cypress trees, American lotus and lily pads, waterfowl, alligators, turtles, frogs, snakes, raccoons, minks, nutrias, beavers, squirrels, armadillos and white-tailed deer.⁹

In fiscal 2007, Caddo Lake State Park had more than 75,500 visitors. In fiscal 2006, the latest data available, park visitors spent nearly \$1 million in the area and the park had a total economic impact on sales in Harrison and Marion counties of more than \$1.8 million.¹⁰

Martin Creek Lake State Park, 20 miles southeast of Longview in Rusk County, consists of about 287 land acres as well as 5,000 acres of water in the form of Martin Creek Lake, which was constructed to provide cooling water for a coal-fired power plant. The creek was named for Daniel Martin, who in 1833 settled with his family nearby in what was called Hogan's Bayou. He and his neighbors eventually built a small fort and, later, a town called Harmony Hill. The town reached its peak shortly after the Civil War and was completely deserted by 1900.

The area has been inhabited since at least 200 BCE, and was home to Native Americans of the Choctaw, Cherokee and Kickapoo tribes. Visitors can still see the old Trammel's Trace road bed, a Native American trail, near the fishing pier at the park; the road served as a major route for settlers moving to Texas from Arkansas.

The park, located in the Piney Woods, serves as a shelter for wildlife including gophers, swamp rabbits, nutria, white-tailed deer, raccoons, armadillos and squirrels. The park has excellent year-round fishing due to the warm water generated by the power plant. Fish include large-mouth bass, crappie, channel catfish, perch, ball and sunfish. In addition, the park enchants visitors every fall when the season changes and the various hardwoods display their colorful foliage.¹¹

Caddo Lake is an angler's delight, with 71 different species of fish.



In fiscal 2006, visitors to Martin Creek Lake State Park spent more than \$1 million in the area and the park had a total economic impact on sales in Rusk County exceeding \$1.8 million. Martin Creek had nearly 72,000 visitors in fiscal 2007.¹²

Tyler State Park, located two miles north of the city of Tyler in Smith County, consists of about 986 acres including a 64-acre lake. The state acquired land for the park in 1934 and 1935 and opened it in 1939. The park's woods, steep hillsides and lake provide excellent habitat for various wildlife including deer, squirrels, raccoons, possums and numerous species of birds. In addition, the lake provides anglers with an opportunity to catch crappie, perch, catfish and bass. The park also has a nature trail, a hiking trail, a 13-mile mountain bike trail and an amphitheater that can be used for outdoor performances and functions on the lakeshore.¹³

In fiscal 2007, Tyler State Park had more than 104,500 visitors. The park's total economic impact in fiscal 2006 on sales in Smith County was more than \$1.8 million, with visitors spending more than \$1 million in the area.¹⁴

Exhibit 26 summarizes the economic impact of state parks in the Upper East Texas region.

In addition to the parks listed above, the region is also home to Atlanta State Park, and Doctor's Creek and South Sulphur State Parks, both on Cooper Lake. These state parks had a combined 2007 visitation of more than 141,400 people.¹⁵

Recreational Lakes and Reservoirs

The region's numerous lakes and reservoirs offer recreational activities including boating and fishing.¹⁶ **Exhibit 27** lists the region's lakes and reservoirs, their location and approximate size and average depth.

Fishing and Hunting

Upper East Texas offers a variety of freshwater fishing opportunities. The region's lakes and bayous support several types of bass; all types of catfish; common carp; both types of crappie (Black and White); all types of gar; and several types of sunfish, in addition to the American eel, bowfin, chain pickerel, paddlefish, gizzard shad and threadfin shad.¹⁷

Exhibit 26

State Parks Upper East Texas Region

Name	Number of Visitors 2007	2006 Total Economic Impact on Sales	2006 Spending by Visitors
Caddo Lake State Park	75,583	\$1.8 million	\$1 million
Martin Creek Lake State Park	71,911	\$1.8 million	\$1 million
Tyler State Park	104,644	\$1.8 million	\$1 million
Lake Bob Sandlin State Park	66,427	\$1.5 million	\$700,000
Purtis Creek State Park	104,855	\$1.2 million	\$700,000
Daingerfield State Park	55,734	\$800,000	\$400,000

Sources: Texas Coalition for Conservation and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.



Exhibit 27

Recreational Lakes and Reservoirs Upper East Texas Region

Name	Location	Size	Average/ Maximum Depth
Big Creek Reservoir	1 mile north of Cooper	520 acres	27 feet/31 feet
Brandy Branch Reservoir	10 miles east of Longview	1,242 acres	47 feet/50 feet
Caddo Lake	Northeast of Marshall on the TX-LA state line	26,800 acres	10 feet/20feet
Cedar Creek Reservoir	15 miles west of Athens	32,623 acres	49 feet/53 feet
Cooper Lake	Northwest of Sulphur Springs	19,305 acres	50 feet/55 feet
Gladewater City Lake	In the city of Gladewater	481 acres	27 feet/30 feet
Lake Athens	5 miles east of Athens	1,799 acres	48 feet/50 feet
Lake Bob Sandlin	5 miles southwest of Mount Pleasant	9,004 acres	63 feet/66 feet
Lake Crook	5 miles north of Paris	1,060 acres	20 feet/24 feet
Lake Cypress Springs	15 miles northwest of Pittsburg	3,461 acres	53 feet/56 feet
Lake Fork	5 miles northwest of Quitman	27,265 acres	66 feet/70 feet
Lake Gilmer	4 miles west of Gilmer	1,010 acres	25 feet/28 feet
Lake Hawkins	4 miles northwest of Hawkins	776 acres	26 feet/30 feet
Lake Holbrook	3 miles northwest of Mineola	653 acres	26 feet/30 feet
Lake Jacksonville	3 miles southwest of Jacksonville	1,320 acres	59 feet/62 feet
Lake Murvaul	15 miles west of Carthage	3,397 acres	33 feet/36 feet
Lake O' the Pines	25 miles northeast of Longview	16,919 acres	45 feet/50 feet
Lake Palestine	15 miles southwest of Tyler	25,560 acres	56 feet/58 feet
Lake Quitman	5 miles north of Quitman	814 acres	21 feet/25 feet
Lake Striker	20 miles east of Jacksonville	1,863 acres	33 feet/35 feet
Lake Sulphur Springs	2 miles northwest of Sulphur Springs	1,340 acres	24 feet/28 feet
Lake Tawakoni	15 miles southeast of Greenville	37,879 acres	66 feet/70 feet
Lake Tyler (East)	Southeast of Tyler	2,276 acres	38 feet/40 feet
Lake Tyler (West)	Southeast of Tyler	2,224 acres	38 feet/40 feet
Lake Winnsboro	5 miles southwest of Winnsboro	806 acres	19 feet/23 feet
Lone Star Lake	On the west side of the city of Lone Star	1,516 acres	37feet/40 feet
Martin Creek Lake	3 miles southwest of Tatum	4,981 acres	31 feet/35 feet
Mill Creek Reservoir	In Van Zandt and Canton counties	237 acres	21 feet/25 feet
Monticello Reservoir	10 miles southwest of Mount Pleasant	2,001 acres	37feet/40 feet
Pat Mayse Lake	12 miles north of Paris	5,940 acres	51 feet/55 feet
Purtis Creek State Park Lake	12 miles northwest of Athens	349 acres	28 feet/30 feet
Welsh Reservoir	10 miles southeast of Mount Pleasant	1,269 acres	47 feet/50 feet
Wright Patman Lake	10 miles southwest of Texarkana	18,994 acres	34 feet/40 feet

Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.



Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) near Athens opened in 1996. TFFC provides an educational experience for visitors, promoting freshwater sport fishing and the enhancement and conservation of the state's aquatic resources.

TFFC is an \$18 million facility run by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The center covers 106 acres and includes a fish hatchery with 45 ponds covering 37 acres; a 24,000-square-foot laboratory; a 300,000 gallon aquarium; a 23,000-square-foot education center; a public fishing pond covering just over an acre; a wetland nature trail; a 26,000-gallon dive tank; 10,000 square feet of wildflowers; and 45,000 square feet of bedded plants. The center displays 56 species of fish, reptiles, and mammals in their natural habitats and 162 species of plants, shrubs and trees. TFFC also serves as the home of the Budweiser ShareLunker program, which invites anglers to donate trophy-sized largemouth bass for research and breeding purposes. TFFC receives more than 60,000 visitors each year.

TFFC was built entirely through public and private donations and grants. Much of the money came from the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Fund, a federal program funded by a tax on purchases made by hunters and anglers. The city of Athens provided a financial package worth more than \$4 million, the largest single gift ever made to a Texas conservation project. Additional support came from the ShareLunker Foundation Inc., the Athens Municipal Water Authority, the Athens Economic Development Commission and a number of private corporations and conservation organizations.¹⁸

According to TPWD, about 1.8 million freshwater anglers contributed nearly \$4.3 billion to the Texas economy in 2006.¹⁹ This level of activity puts tremendous pressure on the freshwater fish population. Fish stocking and harvest regulations are TPWD's primary strategies in maintaining and improving the quality and quantity of fish in Texas lakes and rivers.

Hatcheries play a vital role in this effort. Stocking hatchery-reared fingerlings helps keep the quality of fishing high. TPWD annually produces more than 7.5 million bass, 1.2 million catfish, 5.8 million striped bass and hybrid striped bass and 1 million other fish of various types for stocking in Texas reservoirs. TFFC houses one of five state fish hatcheries. The center focuses on largemouth bass production, although other fish also are raised there. TFFC produces about 4 million largemouth bass annually.²⁰

Every county in the region offers some sort of legal hunting. There are, however, some differences regarding dove hunting depending on whether the county is in the Central or North Dove Hunting Zone. Central Dove Zone counties include Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur and Wood. North Dove Zone counties include Bowie, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River and Titus.

In addition, Anderson, Henderson and Van Zandt counties have the same hunting seasons as counties in the Central Dove Zone, except that no turkey hunting is allowed; antlerless deer can be hunted by permit only; and bag

limits for white-tail deer are set at three, including no more than one buck and no more than two antlerless deer (**Exhibit 28**).²¹

In 2007, hunting and fishing enthusiasts in the Upper East Texas region purchased nearly 218,000 licenses from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, at a cost of about \$6.2 million. All revenues collected from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses go to a dedicated state fund set up for the protection, regulation and conservation of the state's fish and wildlife.²²

Energy

Affordable and reliable energy is vital to the prosperity and economic development of



Exhibit 28

**Bag Limits and Other Applicable Hunting Regulations
Upper East Texas Region, 2007-2008**

Animal	Season
White-tailed Deer	<p>Open season lasts from November 3 until January 6. From Thanksgiving Day through the Sunday immediately following Thanksgiving Day, antler-less deer may be taken without permit, except in areas where a special permit is required. The limit is four deer with no more than two bucks having an inside spread of thirteen inches or greater.</p> <p>Archery season lasts from September 29 until November 2. The limit is four deer with no more than two bucks having an inside spread of thirteen inches or greater. Antler-less deer may be hunted without a permit unless TPWD has issued antler-less managed land deer permits (MLDP) to help control the deer population.</p> <p>A special youth-only season occurs twice a year on October 27 and 28, and January 19 and 20.</p>
Squirrel	Open season lasts from October 1 until February 3 and May 1-31. The daily limit is ten.
Turkey	<p>Open season runs from April 1-30. The annual bag limit for Rio Grande and Eastern turkey is four, no more than one of which may be an Eastern turkey.</p> <p>Archery only: September 29 – November 2.</p> <p>Special youth-only season: March 8-9 and May 3-4.</p>
Quail	October 27 – February 24. Daily bag limit: 15; possession limit: 45.
Dove	<p>Central Zone: September 1 – October 30 and December 26 – January 4 with no limit.</p> <p>North Zone: September 1 – October 30 with no limit.</p>

Source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

the Upper East Texas region. Fortunately, the region has been blessed with abundant natural resources that are being used to provide energy for the area’s businesses and residents.

Oil and Natural Gas

The Upper East Texas region contains two of the top 25 producing oil fields in the state — the East Texas Field located in Cherokee, Gregg, Rusk, Smith and Upshur counties, and the Hawkins Field in Van Zandt and Wood counties.²³ The East Texas oil field is the largest and most prolific oil reservoir in the contiguous U.S. Since its discovery in October 1930, more than 30,000 wells have been drilled within its 140,000 acres, yielding nearly 5.2 billion barrels of oil. The formation

is still active today and is estimated to have more than 2 billion barrels of oil remaining.

There are active wells (oil-producing or enhanced-recovery wells) in every county in the region except for Delta, Lamar and Rains counties. The region has a total of 9,384 active oil wells, with the largest concentrations being in Gregg County (3,271 wells), Rusk County (1,915 wells), Wood County (701 wells) and Van Zandt County (615 wells).²⁴

Upper East Texas is also home to two of the state’s top 25 producing natural gas fields — the Oak Hill and Carthage (Cotton Valley) fields located in Gregg, Panola and Rusk counties.²⁵ The Carthage Field was the largest natural gas producing field in the state until the Barnett Shale Field overtook it in 2004.²⁶



The Upper East Texas region contains two of the top 25 producing oil fields and two of the top 25 producing natural gas fields in the state.



The region has 12,264 active natural gas producing or enhanced recovery wells, with the greatest concentrations of wells in Panola County (4,884 wells), Rusk County (2,151 wells) and Harrison County (2,027 wells).²⁷

The Upper East Texas region's oil and natural gas industry accounted for more than 15,000 jobs and more than \$970 million in total earnings in 2007.²⁸

Air Quality

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) monitors the Air Quality Index for the Tyler-Longview-Marshall area on a daily basis. In addition, Gregg, Harrison, Rusk, Smith and Upshur counties formed the Northeast Texas Air Care Association (NETAC) in 1996 to address air quality issues in the area. These five counties were facing designation as a non-attainment area by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) due to ozone levels periodically exceeding federal clean air standards. NETAC worked with EPA and TCEQ and in 2002 entered into an Early Action Compact with the two agencies to develop and implement an action plan to reduce emissions in their region.

The plan's goal was to ensure that the five-county region met federal ozone standards by the end of 2007. Thanks to effective collaboration with industries, businesses and the general public, as well as TCEQ funding for data collection and monitoring, EPA designated all five counties as in attainment of the standard as of 2004. Because the Tyler-Longview-Marshall area is still classified as near non-attainment, efforts to maintain and improve the region's air quality continue.²⁹

Coal

The Upper East Texas region, particularly Franklin, Harrison, Hopkins, Panola, Rusk and Titus counties, has abundant lignite coal reserves. Lignite, the lowest-quality coal, is used almost entirely for electricity generation or to create heat for industrial processes such as smelting. The region contains six of Texas' 13 operating mines and produced more than 21 million tons of coal in 2007, about 52 percent of the state total (**Exhibit 29**).

Three mines in the region, Martin Lake, South Hallsville and Monticello Winfield, are among the 50 top producing U.S. mines. All of the region's mines support nearby coal-fired electricity generation plants or industrial facilities. The Darco Mine is currently listed as active but has not produced coal since 2001; it will change to reclamation

Exhibit 29

Active Coal Mines Upper East Texas Region, 2007

Name	Location	Company	Production
Martin Lake Mine	Rusk and Panola counties	Luminant Power	7,677,112
South Hallsville No. 1 Mine	Harrison County	Sabine Mining Company	4,153,485
Oak Hill Mine	Rusk County	Luminant Power	3,761,434
Monticello Winfield Mine	Franklin and Titus counties	Luminant Power	3,502,720
Monticello Thermo Mine	Hopkins County	Luminant Power	2,090,370
Darco Mine	Harrison County	Norit Americas Inc.	0
Upper East Total	–	–	21,185,121
Texas Total	–	–	40,785,403

Source: Texas Railroad Commission.



status in a few years.³⁰ In 2007, coal mining in the region accounted for more than 1,200 jobs and more than \$21 million in earnings.³¹

Utility Rates and Services

Upper East Texas is served by two different electric grids and several different electric companies. All or most of Anderson, Cherokee, Delta, Henderson, Hopkins, Lamar, Red River, Smith and Van Zandt counties are in the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) electric grid. All or most of Bowie, Camp, Cass, Franklin, Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Morris, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Titus, Upshur and Wood counties are in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) electric grid.

Exhibit 30 shows how the Upper East Texas region is divided between the ERCOT and SPP electric grids.

Exhibit 31 shows the fuel sources used to provide power in the Upper East Texas region.³²

Texas began deregulating its retail electricity market in 2002. This deregulation, however, applies only to investor-owned utilities within the ERCOT region. Utilities owned by cities and rural cooperatives are not required to join the deregulated market. The Upper East Texas region has no municipally owned utilities and none of its rural cooperatives have joined the deregulated market.

Exhibit 32 lists the region's member-owned cooperatives and their service areas.

Residential electricity rates charged by the region's member-owned cooperatives ranged from 8.6 cents to 10.3 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for residential electricity service in May 2008.³³

Exhibit 30

Areas in the ERCOT and SPP Electric Grids Upper East Texas Region

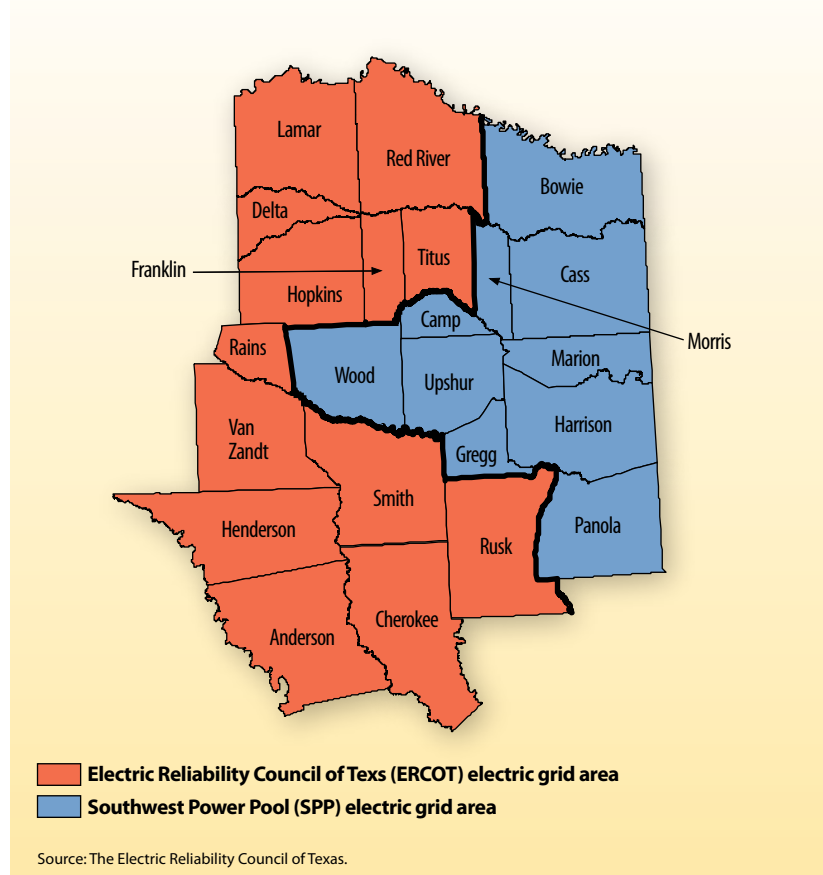


Exhibit 31

Percentage of Electricity Generated by Fuel Type ERCOT and SPP, 2007

Fuel Source	ERCOT	SPP
Natural Gas	46%	46%
Coal	37	42
Nuclear	13	1
Wind	3	2
Oil	0.5	5
Hydroelectric	0.5	4
Total	100%	100%

Note: Fuel Source totals have been rounded.
Sources: Electric Reliability Council of Texas and Southwest Power Pool.



Exhibit 32

**Member-Owned Cooperatives
Upper East Texas Region**

Entity Name	Service Area
Bowie – Cass Electric Cooperative	Bowie, Cass, Titus, Morris, Red River and Franklin counties
Cherokee County Electric Cooperative	Cherokee, Smith and Rusk counties
Deep East Texas Electric Cooperative	Panola and Rusk counties
Lamar County Electric Cooperative	Lamar and Red River counties
Panola – Harrison County Electric Cooperative	Panola and Harrison counties
Rusk County Electric Cooperative	Gregg, Panola and Rusk counties
Upshur – Rural Electric Cooperative	Camp, Cass, Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Morris, Rusk, Smith, Upshur and Wood counties
Wood County Electric Cooperative	Camp, Franklin, Hopkins, Rains, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood counties

Sources: Public Utility Commission of Texas and Texas Electric Cooperatives.

The Upper East Texas region's roads are its primary means of moving goods and materials from agricultural and forestry areas to manufacturing, processing and warehouses, and eventually to urban markets inside the state and beyond.

Areas involved in the deregulated ERCOT market include parts of Anderson, Cherokee, Delta, Henderson, Hopkins, Lamar, Red River, Rusk, Smith and Van Zandt counties. In these areas, as many as 40 private companies provide retail electric service to customers. The residential price per kWh in July 2008, based on a 1,000 kWh per month service plan, ranged from 15.2 cents to 20.2 cents in these areas.³⁴

Transportation

Transportation is essential to the economic health and prosperity of any area. The Upper East Texas region's roads are its primary means of moving goods and materials from agricultural and forestry areas to manufacturing, processing and warehouses, and eventually to urban markets inside the state and beyond. While the region has a vast network of roads, roadway concerns and spending tend to center on a few roads:

- Interstate Highway 20, running west from Louisiana through Harrison, Gregg, Smith and Van Zandt counties towards Dallas/Fort Worth area;
- Interstate Highway 30, running west from Arkansas through Bowie, Morris, Titus, Franklin and Hopkins counties towards Dallas/Fort Worth area;
- U.S. Highway 59, running north from Carthage through Panola, Harrison, Marion, Cass and Bowie counties to Texarkana;
- U.S. Highway 69, running north and then west from Lufkin through Cherokee, Smith, Wood and Rains counties towards Commerce;
- U.S. Highway 84, running east from Waco through Anderson, Cherokee, Rusk and Panola counties to Louisiana; and
- State Highway 31, running northeast from Waco through Henderson, Smith, and Gregg counties to Longview.³⁵



Highways

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) builds and maintains the Texas state highway system through local offices and contractors located around the state. Three TxDOT district offices serve Upper East Texas from locations in Atlanta, Paris and Tyler.

The region has 8,086 centerline miles (miles traveled in a single direction regardless of the number of lanes) and 18,782 total lane miles of state highways. It has about 1.1 million registered vehicles that travel just under 32 million miles daily. The state as a whole contains 79,696 centerline miles,

Exhibit 33

Highway Miles, Vehicle Miles Driven and Registered Vehicles Upper East Texas Region, 2006

County Name	Centerline Miles	Lane Miles	Daily Vehicle Miles	Registered Vehicles
Anderson	445	967	1,273,121	47,730
Bowie	491	1,201	2,918,274	90,295
Camp	118	265	306,090	13,515
Cass	439	985	1,059,381	32,386
Cherokee	509	1,148	1,260,669	41,814
Delta	167	363	192,700	6,580
Franklin	157	336	458,049	10,562
Gregg	261	786	2,731,184	125,254
Harrison	475	1,185	2,717,086	65,589
Henderson	415	992	1,824,391	81,624
Hopkins	439	953	1,535,197	36,489
Lamar	444	992	1,200,028	50,441
Marion	150	323	345,395	11,217
Morris	136	356	482,663	13,707
Panola	322	771	1,098,960	27,052
Rains	134	268	325,163	13,890
Red River	374	748	436,522	14,131
Rusk	520	1,172	1,404,492	49,177
Smith	596	1,587	5,212,275	199,709
Titus	225	541	1,085,666	32,691
Upshur	333	783	1,004,525	39,226
Van Zandt	520	1,166	2,204,182	58,772
Wood	416	894	917,346	48,284
Upper East Texas Total	8,086	18,782	31,993,359	1,110,135
Statewide Total	79,696	190,764	477,769,968	20,084,036

Source: Texas Department of Transportation.

190,764 total lane miles and more than 20 million registered vehicles that travel nearly 477.7 million miles each day (**Exhibit 33**).³⁶

Road construction, engineering and maintenance for state, local and private sources in the region accounted for more than 5,000 jobs and nearly \$187 million in earnings in 2007.³⁷

Trade Corridors

To facilitate trade, promote economic development and relieve traffic congestion on our roads, TxDOT is developing the Interstate 69/Trans-Texas Corridor, or TTC (**Exhibit 34**).

First proposed in the early 1990s, Interstate 69 — or “Super Highway 69” — was

initially envisioned as a multi-state trade corridor linking the trade areas of South Texas and Houston with markets in Chicago.³⁸

Over the years, the route through Texas has been debated, but recently TxDOT recommended that I-69/TTC use existing highway facilities where possible and proposed two routes out of Texas using U.S. Highway 84 into Louisiana and U.S. Highway 59 into Arkansas. In the Upper East Texas region, the proposed I-69/TTC route would include what is currently U.S. Highway 59, running through Panola, Harrison, Marion, Cass and Bowie counties.

As with other Trans-Texas Corridor projects, TxDOT plans on using state, federal and private toll dollars to build I-69/TTC. At this time, TxDOT has not established the need for additional rights of way from land-owners.³⁹ Depending on the final size of I-69/TTC and the need for potential bypass routes around urban areas, parts of Panola, Harrison, Marion, Cass and Bowie counties could be affected by the corridor.⁴⁰

Public Transportation

Entities that provide public transportation and special transit services to most of the Upper East Texas region, excluding the urban areas of Gilmer, Longview, Texarkana and Tyler, are the East Texas Council of Governments-East Texas Rural Transit District (ETRTD) and the Arkansas-Texas Council of Governments. In the urban areas, services are provided by Citizen Services Enterprise in Gilmer, Longview Transit in Longview, Texarkana Urban Transit District in Texarkana and Tyler Transit Service in Tyler (**Exhibit 35**).⁴¹

Recently TxDOT recommended that I-69/TTC use existing highway facilities where possible.

Exhibit 34

Upper East Texas Trade Corridors



Proposed Interstate 69/Trans-Texas Corridor (TTC), route follows the existing US 59 route
Interstate 20 and 30.

Source: Texas Department of Transportation.



Railways

The Upper East Texas region has five railroad companies operating within its area, including two Class I railroads, one regional railroad and two local railroads.⁴²

Union Pacific Railroad Company and Kansas City Southern Railway operate the majority of tracks in the Upper East Texas region; Blacklands Railroad, Texas Northeastern Railroad Company and Burlington Northern

Exhibit 35

**Public Transportation Resources
Upper East Texas Region**

County Name	City Name	Public Transit Authorities
Anderson	Kilgore	East Texas Council of Governments-East Texas Rural Transit District
Bowie	Texarkana	Arkansas-Texas Council of Governments
Bowie	Texarkana	Texarkana Urban Transit District
Camp	Kilgore	East Texas Council of Governments-East Texas Rural Transit District
Cass	Texarkana	Arkansas-Texas Council of Governments
Cherokee	Kilgore	East Texas Council of Governments-East Texas Rural Transit District
Delta	Texarkana	Arkansas-Texas Council of Governments
Franklin	Texarkana	Arkansas-Texas Council of Governments
Gregg	Kilgore	East Texas Council of Governments-East Texas Rural Transit District
Gregg	Longview	Longview Transit
Harrison	Kilgore	East Texas Council of Governments-East Texas Rural Transit District
Henderson	Kilgore	East Texas Council of Governments-East Texas Rural Transit District
Hopkins	Texarkana	Arkansas-Texas Council of Governments
Lamar	Texarkana	Arkansas-Texas Council of Governments
Marion	Kilgore	East Texas Council of Governments-East Texas Rural Transit District
Morris	Texarkana	Arkansas-Texas Council of Governments
Panola	Kilgore	East Texas Council of Governments-East Texas Rural Transit District
Rains	Kilgore	East Texas Council of Governments-East Texas Rural Transit District
Red River	Texarkana	Arkansas-Texas Council of Governments
Rusk	Kilgore	East Texas Council of Governments-East Texas Rural Transit District
Smith	Kilgore	East Texas Council of Governments-East Texas Rural Transit District
Smith	Tyler	Tyler Transit Service
Titus	Texarkana	Arkansas-Texas Council of Governments
Upshur	Kilgore	East Texas Council of Governments-East Texas Rural Transit District
Upshur	Gilmer	Citizen Services Enterprise
Van Zandt	Kilgore	East Texas Council of Governments-East Texas Rural Transit District
Wood	Kilgore	East Texas Council of Governments-East Texas Rural Transit District

Source: American Public Transportation Association.

Rail Company also operate in the area. The majority of the region's rail lines run along or parallel to Interstate Highways 20 and 30, from the Texas border near Texarkana and Marshall to the Dallas/Fort Worth area (**Exhibit 36**).

The region's coal, timber and manufacturing industries use rail lines as a primary shipping and distribution method because it is typically the least expensive and most efficient.

Airports

The Upper East Texas region contains 26 public airports, including commercial airports in Tyler and Texarkana.⁴³

Texas State Railroad

The Texas State Railroad, originally built by inmates in the Texas prison system, dates back to 1881. The Texas prison system used the 25-mile railroad to transport lumber used for fuel to a prison-operated iron smelter at the Rusk Penitentiary. This facility supplied Texas with all types of iron products including the columns and dome structure at the state capitol. The prison ceased operating the iron furnace when it was converted into the state mental hospital in 1913. The rail line, meanwhile, was leased to private companies until 1972.

In 1972, TPWD assumed control of the railroad; prison inmates were brought in to help create state historical parks around its depots in Rusk and Palestine. The railroad and its parks were opened to the public on July 4, 1976, as part of the nation's Bicentennial celebration. In 2003, the Texas Legislature designated the Texas State Railroad as the "Official Railroad of Texas." TPWD operated the railroad until its management was privatized in September 2007.⁴⁴

Round-trip excursions through the piney woods of East Texas start at either the Rusk or Palestine depot and are offered year-round on weekends. An expanded schedule is available in the spring, summer and fall. A trip takes one and a half hours each way, with a 90-minute layover at each depot. Tickets cost \$17 for children and \$34 for adults.

In fiscal 2006, the Texas State Railroad attracted more than 51,000 non-local visitors who spent more than \$6.6 million in the area. The park had an overall positive economic impact on San Patricio, Jim Wells and Live Oak counties of more than \$4.4 million.⁴⁵

Exhibit 36

Upper East Texas Rail Lines, 2005



Source: Amtrak (National Railroad Passenger Corporation).



Tyler Pounds Regional Airport Named 2007 Airport of the Year

On March 12, 2008, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recognized Tyler Pounds Regional Airport as its 2007 Airport of the Year in Texas. The FAA award recognizes airports for their outstanding contributions to improving aviation. According to Teri Bruner, FAA Southwest Region administrator, "The Tyler airport has contributed significantly to assuring the future growth, safety and efficiency of the national air transportation system." A new terminal added in 2002 has enhanced passenger flow and traffic movement. More recently, in 2007, the airport increased security and safety measures.⁴⁶

Two airlines, American Eagle and Colgan Air, serve the airport, each offering as many as 11 daily flights that serve about 150,000 travelers per year. Davis Dixon, the airport director, says, "the airport is a tremendous asset to the community. Travelers can get to their destination quicker and forgo the commute to Dallas. The airport also is an important economic development tool to lure new businesses and industries to Tyler."⁴⁷

Tyler Pounds Regional Airport is the region's busiest, with more than 79,076 passenger boardings in 2006, down approximately 8 percent from 2005 totals.⁴⁸ American Eagle and Continental's Colgan Air serve the Tyler airport.⁴⁹

Texarkana Regional Airport recorded 36,348 boardings in 2006, 5 percent more than in 2005.⁵⁰ This airport is also served by American Eagle and Continental's Colgan Air.⁵¹

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