

## Appendix F: County Officials Survey

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### County Officials Survey Summary

In an effort to gain insight into transportation services within the Panhandle study area, county judges were asked to respond to a short telephone survey concerning existing transit resources and area transit needs in their respective counties. Of the 26 judges on the call list, 14 offices responded to the requests for information. See Table F1.

Table F1: Survey Response from County Judges

County	Name	Response Received (X)
Armstrong	Judge Reed	
Briscoe	Judge Nance	X
Carson	Judge Powers	
Castro	Judge Sava	X
Childress	Judge Mayden	
Collingsworth	Judge James	X
Dallam	Judge Field	
Deaf Smith	Judge Simons	X
Donley	Judge Hall	X
Gray	Judge Peet	X
Hall	Judge Martin	
Hansford	Judge Wilson	X
Hartley	Judge Gordon	
Hemphill	Judge Gober	
Hutchinson	Judge Worsham	X
Lipscomb	Judge Smith	X
Moore	Judge Campbell	X
Ochiltree	Judge Donahue	X
Oldham	Judge Allred	X
Parmer	Judge Heald	
Potter	Judge Ware	X
Randall	Judge Houdashell	
Roberts	Judge Cook	
Sherman	Judge Carter	X
Swisher	Judge Keeter	
Wheeler	Judge Hefley	

Note: Judge Peet (Gray County), Judge Cook (Roberts County), Judge Campbell (Moore County), Judge Mayden (Childress County), and Judge Keeter (Swisher County) are members of the study's advisory group and have provided input and guidance throughout the coordination process.

The survey consisted of 10 questions. The following provides a summary of the responses generated from the survey questions:

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### ***What transportation services are currently available?***

With exception to one survey, each county judge named Panhandle Transit as their area transportation service provider.

### ***What is the opinion of this level of service?***

The majority of respondents viewed Panhandle Transit's service as adequate and are unaware of any complaints about the service from area residents. However, several surveys suggest that more marketing may create greater interest in Panhandle Transit or at a minimum provide some knowledge of the services offered by the agency.

### ***Does your office support or fund transportation services for any programs in your county?***

Four of the 14 respondents do not support or fund transportation services, while the remaining respondents typically provide monetary donations of \$1,000 to \$5,000 to Panhandle Transit annually. In one example, a county provides in-kind services through the donation of office space and personnel in exchange for support transportation services.

### ***What are the biggest transportation issues residents in your county face? What are the largest transportation needs for your county?***

The need for affordable transportation to medical facilities for area seniors and low-income households is a common concern shared by all counties. Currently, medical trips are the leading trip purpose for those utilizing existing transportation services. According to one survey, seniors rely on church volunteers or family members for transportation to medical appointments. In another county the need for transportation to medical facilities is extremely critical given there are no medical facilities within that county. As a result, residents are subject to lengthy commutes for medical treatment.

### ***Are you aware of any current efforts to coordinate transit among health and human services providers and/or transportation providers in your county?***

Only one respondent was aware of transportation coordination efforts between a local nursing home and hospital. All other respondents were not aware of any transit coordination efforts within their county.

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*Are you aware of any past efforts to coordinate transit among health and human services providers and/or transportation providers in your county?*

No respondents were aware of past transit coordination efforts within their county.

*What do you think are the biggest barriers to coordination?*

No responses or opinions were provided due to the lack of knowledge regarding current or past transit coordination efforts.

*How do you think these barriers can be overcome?*

No responses or opinions were provided due to the lack of knowledge regarding current or past transit coordination efforts.

*Who are key stakeholders in your county that we should contact?*

Recommendations from respondents varied from contacting local commissioners, hospitals, senior citizen groups, Panhandle Transit, and City Council members for additional information regarding transportation issues.

*What would you like to see come out of this regional planning effort? In other words, what would your goal for the study be?*

More marketing of existing transportation services and affordable transportation were repeated as goals for this regional planning effort. Some respondents also suggested an increase in services to meet demand. In addition, centrally located transportation centers throughout the region were also recommended by a respondent.

### **Survey Summary**

Based on survey results, each of the County judges interviewed believe there is a strong need for affordable transportation, with an emphasis on providing access to medical facilities for their senior citizen population. The majority also was unfamiliar with any current or past transit coordination efforts. Additionally, many would like to see more marketing of all existing transportation resources as a result of this study.