

#### TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION





## RIGHT-OF-WAY & UTILITIES

Best Practices for Coordination with LPAs







#### Definition of "Local Government Projects"

At least one phase of project development\* or the program is managed by a local government agency for which it is being reimbursed with federal (FHWA) and/or state (TxDOT) funding, or

A locally-funded project managed by a local government on the State Highway System

<sup>\*</sup> Environmental, design, ROW, utility relocation, construction

# Local Government Program FY 2014



More than 700 active LG projects



More than 200 LGs

• Cities, counties, regional toll authorities, RMAs, MPOs, etc.



All 25 districts have active projects



Estimated more than \$1 billion/year in total project costs

### **Funding Program Types FY 2014**



Transportation Enhancement/Alternatives



Surface Transportation Program – Metropolitan Mobility



Congestion, Mitigation, Air Quality



Safe Routes to Schools, Traffic Signals



Pass-Through Finance



Border Colonias, County Transp. Infrastructure Fund, etc.

#### **Districts**

- Primary point of contact with LGs
- Monitor LG performance

#### **LGPO**

- Develop policy and standardized LG processes
- Provide training to TxDOT and LGs
- Provide guidance, advice and support to districts
- Monitor district performance of overseeing LGs
- Primary point of contact with FHWA on LG projects

## Divisions/ Offices

- Provide technical resources
- Provide subject matter experts
- Process distribution of ROW funds to LGs

# LG Projects

## Successful execution of local government projects are a key component of TxDOT's mission



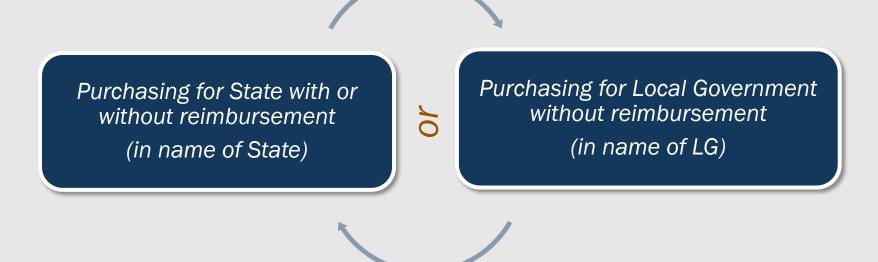
Work with others to provide safe and reliable transportation solutions for Texas

And a vital element of the Department achieving its goals



#### **Local Government Projects ROW Acquisition**

Potential LG Responsibilities:



- In either case:
  - The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act must be adhered to <a href="http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/real\_estate/uniform\_act/">http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/real\_estate/uniform\_act/</a>

#### **Local Government Projects ROW Acquisition**

Failure to comply with the provisions of the Uniform Act may result in a denial of State/Federal participation in project costs



#### **Local Government Projects ROW Acquisition & Utilities**

Requires Agreement between LG and TxDOT

Contractual Agreement for Right of Way Procurement (Local Government) ROW-RM-37

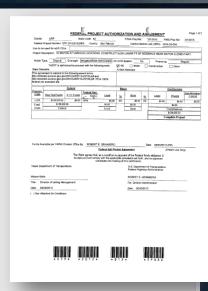
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Master Agreement Governing Local Transportation Project Advance Funding Agreement (MAFA), and

Local Project Advance Funding Agreement (LPAFA)

- Defines:
  - Roles and responsibilities for LG and TxDOT
  - Payment/reimbursement terms
  - Procedures

#### **Local Government Projects ROW Acquisition & Utilities**



If ROW acquisition and utility relocation are eligible costs:

- TxDOT must have an executed Federal Project Authorization and Agreement (FPAA) from FHWA
- ROW Division must receive a copy of the FPAA

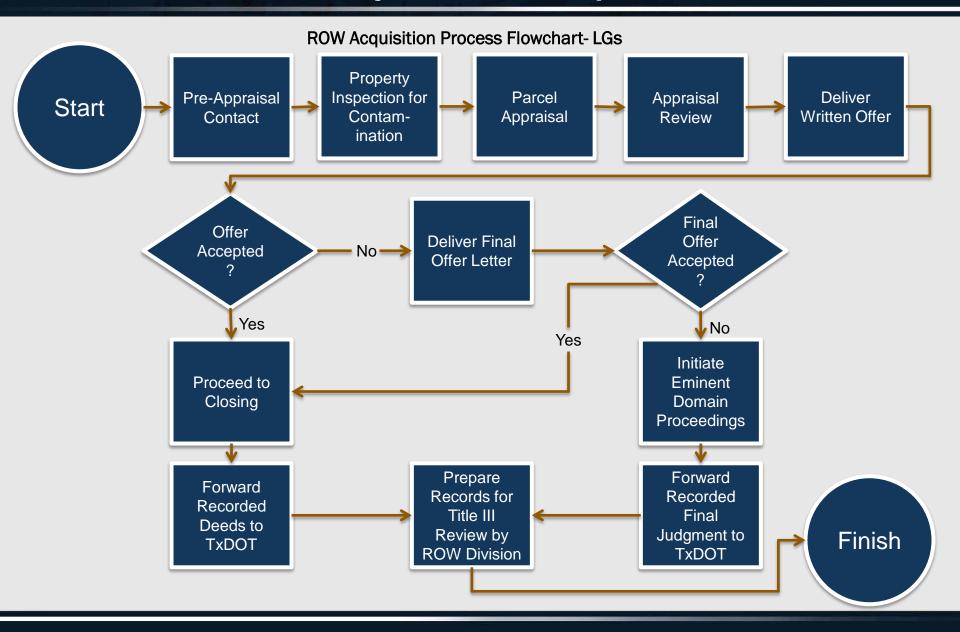
#### **Local Government Projects ROW Acquisition**

Developed Real Estate Acquisition Guide

http://onlinemanuals.txdot.gov/txdotmanuals/lpa/index.htm.

- Purpose of Guide is to:
  - provide practical understanding of the right of way acquisition process
  - serve as reference for persons involved in the acquisition of private property for public purposes
  - identify pertinent state regulations that must be followed in the acquisition process
  - identify various federal laws and regulations applicable to federally assisted projects

#### **Local Government Projects ROW Acquisition**



#### **Local Government Projects ROW Acquisition & Utilities**

#### Survey must comply with TxDOT's Survey Manual and ROW Manuals

- All surveying necessary for ROW acquisition must be performed under the supervision of a Registered Professional Land Surveyor (RPLS)
- All surveying must conform to applicable surveying laws and the Professional Land Surveying Practices Act
- Must follow the General Rules of Procedures and Practices of the Texas Board of Professional Land Surveying
- All projects must be tied to the Texas State Plane Coordinate system and GIS files must be provided
- Mapping and property descriptions must be reviewed by TxDOT prior to acquisition

#### **Local Government Projects ROW Acquisition & Utilities**

The need for ROW maps on <u>off-system</u> projects will be determined by the complexity of the project and will be at the District's discretion

- LPA must maintain a map with sufficient data to allow for review and oversight
- Submission to the ROW Division is not required since parcels will not be added to the State highway system

 Relocate all utilities in conformance with TxDOT's Right of Way Division Utility Manual

http://gsd-ultraseek/txdotmanuals/utl/index.htm

- TxDOT will participate in costs associated with utility adjustments:
  - When highway right of way encroaches on a utility's right of way
  - When utilities are located on an Interstate or Toll highway project

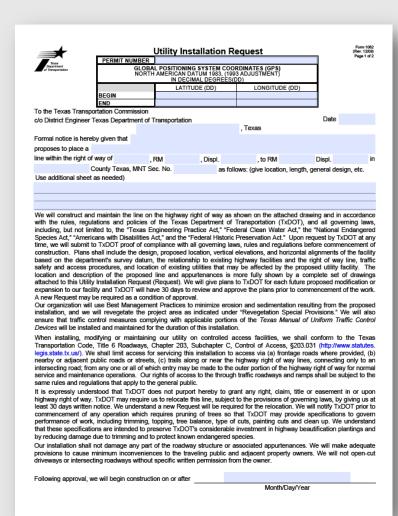
#### Utility Accommodation Procedures

- Review list of all utilities on project
- Assure all utility owners are informed of their rights of reimbursement and the determination of eligibility is documented
- Assure all <u>impacted</u> utilities are accommodated in conformance with appropriate federal and state rules
- Assure utility owners are compensated for their eligible cost

- TxDOT's participation in the utility adjustment will be limited to the cost of making the adjustment, after deductions for the following:
  - Elective betterments
  - Accrued depreciation
  - Salvage or scrap value
  - Ineligible costs (e.g., loss of revenue, interest expense, entertainment, allowance for funds during construction)

Joint Use or Form 1082 (permit form) are in place for all utilities

\*Monitor adjustment for Buy America compliance



#### **Local Government Projects ROW Acquisition & Utilities**

- Submit to TxDOT:
  - Project Right of Way Acquisition Certification Form
  - Project Relocation Assistance Certification Form
  - Utility Certification Forms
- May be reasons to proceed with project letting even if ROW acquisition and utility relocation are incomplete
  - Specific commitments on legal access to all property and completion of all utility relocations must be specified within contract documents to inform bidders/contractor of limitations



#### **Right of Way Division**

Online Resources

- 49 Code of Federal Regulations
   (http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/real\_estate/uniform\_act/)
- Real Estate Acquisition Guide for Local Public Agencies
   (http://onlinemanuals.txdot.gov/txdotmanuals/lpa/index.htm)
- <u>Landowner's Bill of Rights</u> (<a href="http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/library/pubs/cit/conspro/landowners\_bill\_of\_rights.pdf">http://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/library/pubs/cit/conspro/landowners\_bill\_of\_rights.pdf</a>)
- Title III Checklist

(<a href="http://www.txdot.gov/txdoteforms/GetForm?formName=/LPAIIIPR.xdp&appID=/">http://www.txdot.gov/txdoteforms/GetForm?formName=/LPAIIIPR.xdp&appID=/</a> ROW&status=/reportError.jsp&configFile=WFServletConfig.xml)

#### **Right of Way Division**

#### **Contact Information & Tools**

#### **ROW Division**

- Online
   <u>www.txdot.gov/inside-</u>
   <u>txdot/division/right-of-way.html</u>
- Email
   <u>www.txdot.gov/contact-</u>
   <u>us/form.html?id=row-or-email</u>
- Phone
  John Campbell, PE, SR/WA, CTCM
  Director (512) 416-2918





#### **FHWA Resource**

"Federal-Aid Essentials for Local Public Agencies" website

- <u>www.fhwa.dot.gov/federal-aidessentials</u>
- Informational videos and resources designed specifically for local public agencies





#### **TxDOT Resources**

Local Government Projects Office website

- www.txdot.gov
  - Inside TxDOT
    - » TxDOT Structure
    - » Offices
    - » Local Government Projects
    - <u>www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/office/local-government-projects.html</u>

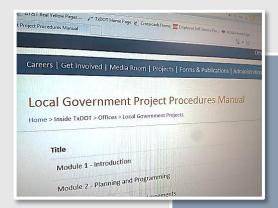






#### **TxDOT Resources** (cont'd)

- Local Government Responsibilities for FHWA and TxDOT Funded Projects flyer
- Local Government Project Procedures
- Summary of Best Practices Local Government Projects
- LGPP training
  - Registration available through website



#### **Current LGPP**

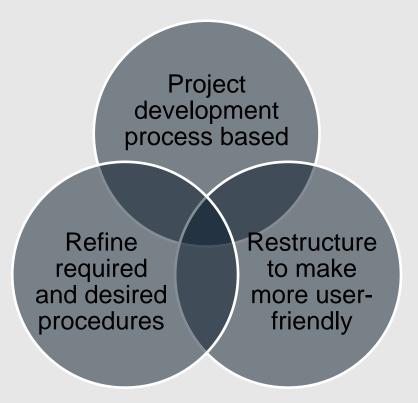
- "Control document" approved by FHWA
- Written February 2009
- Most recent update September 2014
- Available online
  - <u>www.txdot.gov/government/processes-procedures/lgpp-manual.html</u>
- 16 modules
- 325+ pages

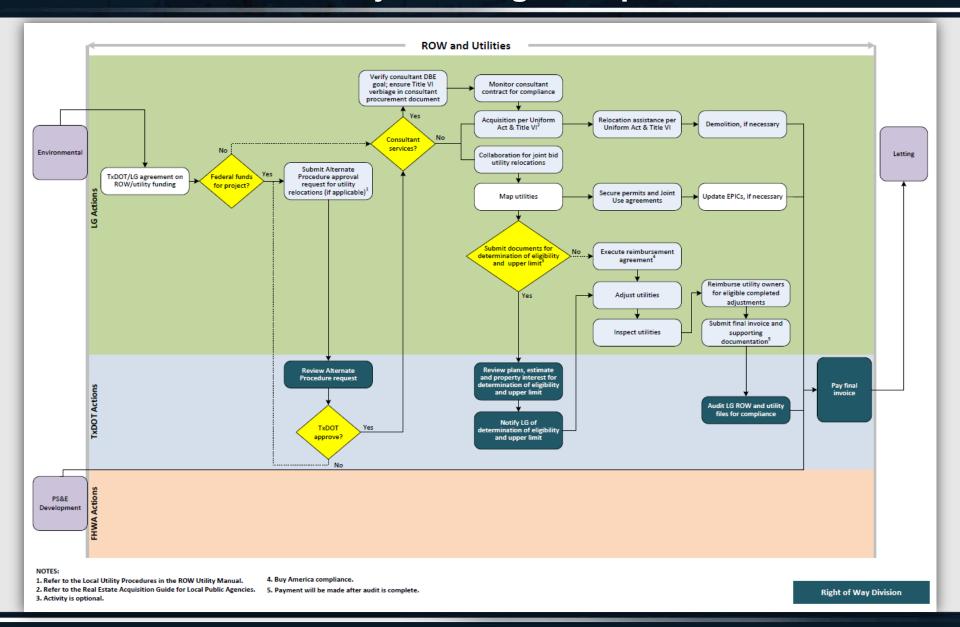


## **Summary of Best Practices – LGP**

- Provides guidance
- Released in September 2012
- Most recent update in September 2014
- Available on CD or online
  - <u>ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/lgp/summary-best-practices.zip</u>
- Includes checklists and sample forms







#### **Contact Information & Tools**

#### Local Govt. Projects Office

- Online
   <u>www.txdot.gov/inside-</u>
   <u>txdot/office/local-government-projects.html</u>
- Email
   <u>www.txdot.gov/contact-</u>
   <u>us/form.html?id=lgp-or-email</u>
- Phone
   David M.Y. Millikan, P.E. Director
   (512) 416-2122



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#### **Local Government ROW Acquisition & Utilities**

