

Uvalde County Solar Eclipse Meeting

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

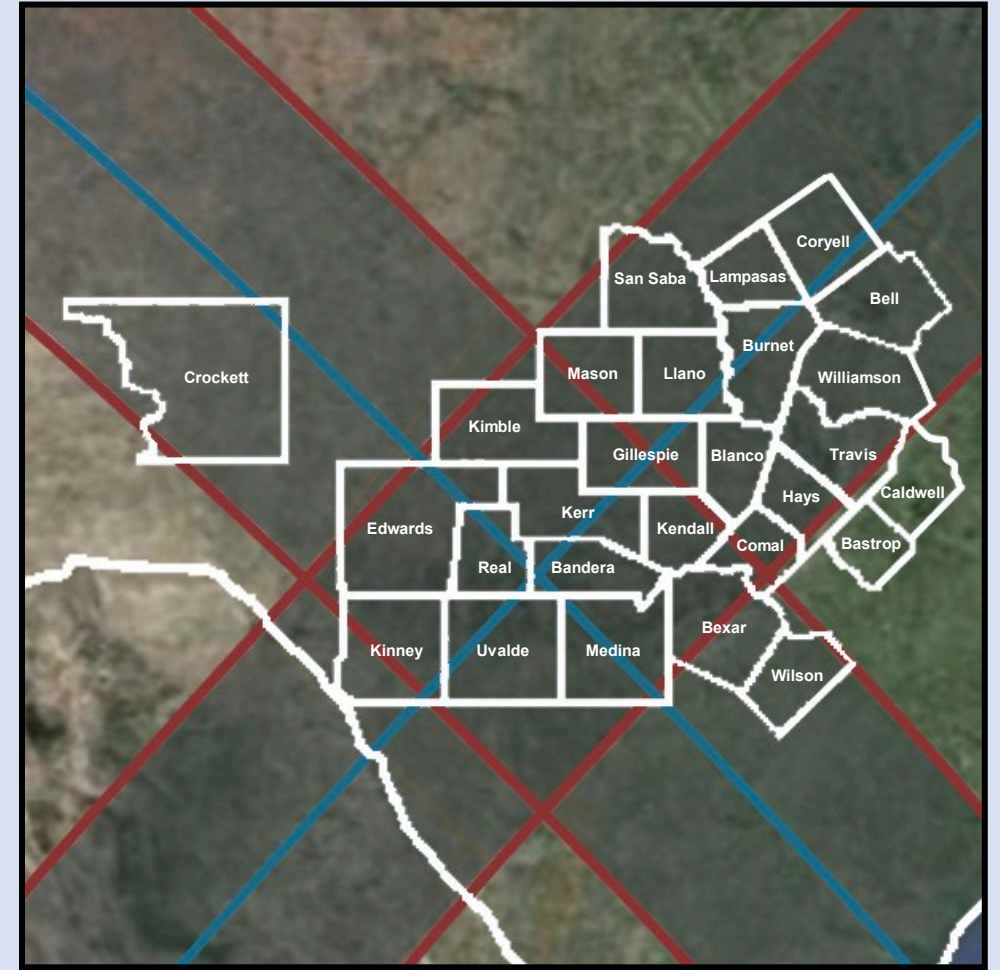
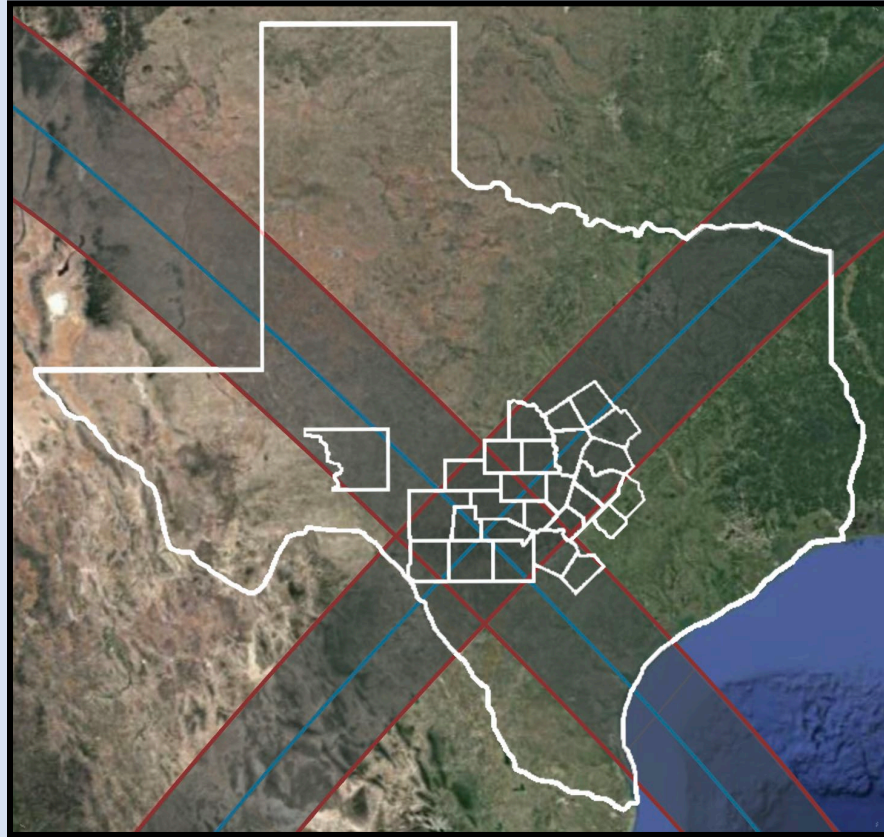
3PM Neal's Dining Room

Concan, TX

Introduction

- Sign In
- Brief introductions of participants
- What is a solar eclipse? (video)
- When is the eclipse and why is it significant for Uvalde County?
 - October 2023 & April 2024
 - Unprecedented surge in visitors
 - Economic (immediate and long term) impact
 - Educational opportunities
- THCRR's role
 - Support Uvalde County with resources (coordination, budgetary)
 - Support businesses in preparation

Hill Country Eclipse Team Regional Representation



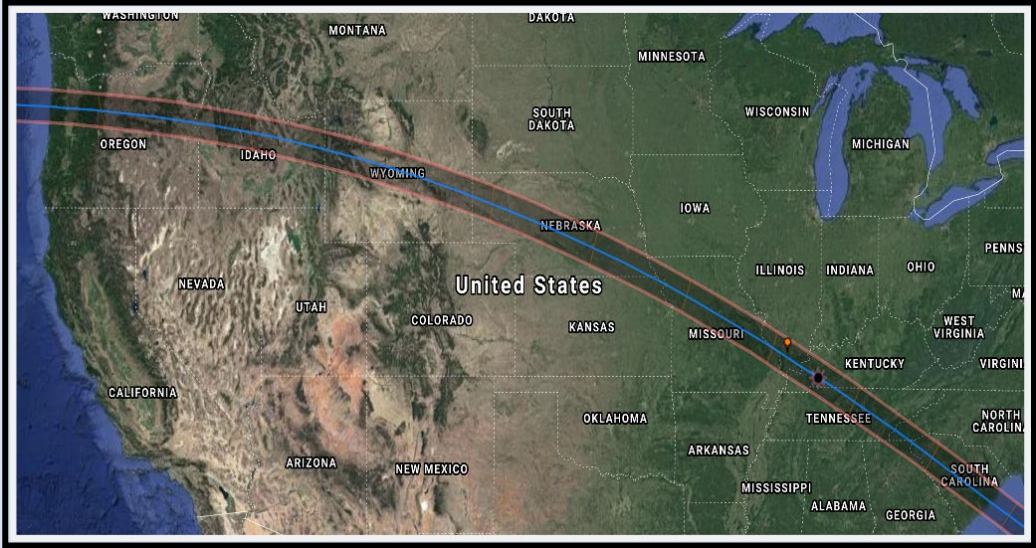
Hill Country in the Path of Totality
Meeting/Event Name – Meeting/Event Date

Total Solar Eclipse

August 21, 2017

CITY/COUNTY	STATE	POPULATION	VISITOR EST.
City of Madras	OR	7,456	100,000
Cook County	OR	21,580	30,000
City of Fruitland	ID	6,027	70,000
Jefferson County	ID	26,139	130,000
City of Beatrice	NE	12,270	12,000+
City of Athens	TN	14,084	25,500

County of Uvalde Population	24,729
City of Concan Population	200
City of Utopia Population	227
City of Uvalde Population	15,312



Map data ©2022 Google, INEGI Imagery ©2022 NASA, TerraMetrics,
http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site_pages/solar_eclipses/TSE_2017_GoogleMapFull.html

Hill Country in the Path of Totality
Meeting/Event Name – Meeting/Event Date

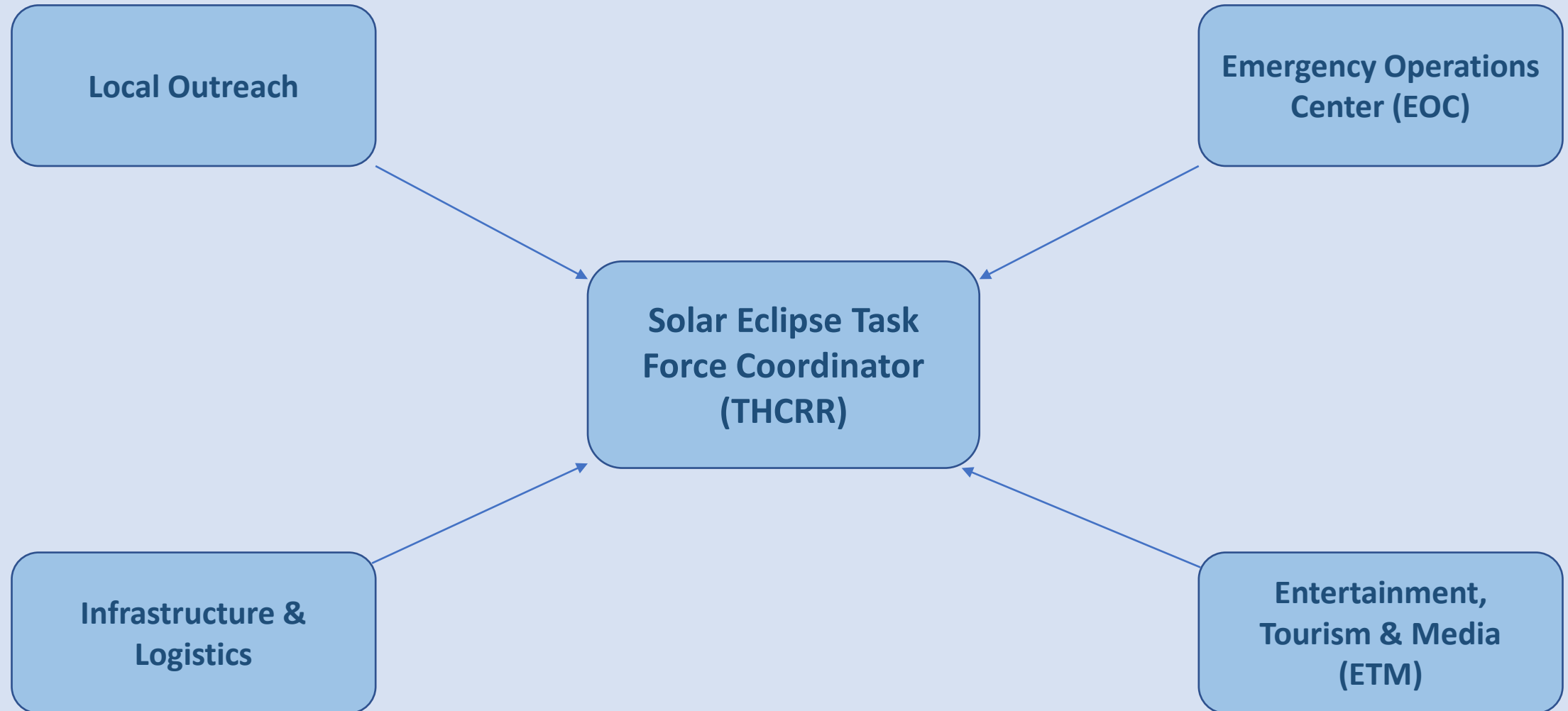
What to expect:

- A surge of visitors at least 50,000, creating strain on:
 - Short term accommodations
 - Fuel supplies
 - Rental car inventories, airports and transportation
 - Local stores and restaurants
 - Emergency response and law enforcement resources
 - Sanitation facilities (e.g., Porta Potties)
- Safety issues, traffic patterns, tourist behavior and eclipse timing to drive key decisions:
 - Schools to close or close early the day of the eclipse.
 - Certain businesses to close to allow employees to return home prior to eclipse and/or to avoid traffic.
 - Education of residents in advance of eclipse is critical.
 - During the moments immediately before total eclipse, use of eye protection meeting ISO safety standards is critical to the safety of residents and guests. Expect shortage of solar glasses.
- Areas in the 'path of totality' to have significantly more concentration.

Task Force Overview

- The structure of the task force and the associated teams is designed to:
 - Obtain required 'buy-in' by city and county leadership, as well as to facilitate effective communication with State agencies.
 - Promote effective communication, education and support from key stake holders.
 - Accelerate planning.
- Team Leaders will be responsible for leading the team, scheduling meetings and maintaining communication with key stake holders, the task force, as well as the Eclipse Coordinator.
- Teams should plan to meet at least once every two months for 2022 and monthly for 2023.
- THCRR is an available location for meetings.

Uvalde County Solar Eclipse Task Force 2022



Local Outreach

Goal: Educate and engage local groups so that the community is appropriately prepared AND supported for this historic event for Uvalde County.

Major Stakeholders / Possible Leadership: UCISD, Sabinal ISD, Knippa ISD, Utopia ISD, City(s) Management, County Leadership, Uvalde/Sabinal COC, THCRR, Church groups and other non-profits

Infrastructure & Logistics

Goal: Maintain organized group of city, county and state resources and decision makers to assure Uvalde County is prepared for the influx of tourists, and can safely operate before, during and after the eclipses.

Major Stakeholders / Possible Leadership: UCISD, City Management, County Leadership/Road Commissioner, TxDOT, Utility Providers, CCWS, Sabinal/Knippa/Utopia water supplies, Waste Management Provider, County EOC Leadership

Solar Eclipse Task Force Coordinator (THCRR)

Full-time position responsible to coordinate and communicate with task force groups and to City / County Leadership to assure adequate planning, communication and execution in advance of the eclipses.

Coordinator will act as a resource to assist task forces to enact their respective plans. THCRR has budgeted for this position (18 months – 2 years). THCRR will also support the various groups administratively.

Emergency Operations Center

Goal: Coordinate Emergency Response professionals to create unified plan to support Uvalde County and the unprecedented number of visitors to our area. The EOC will address emergency response and law enforcement needs in an environment where logistics and communications will be difficult.

Major Stakeholders / Possible Leadership: UCSO, Uvalde PD, UCISD PD, Sabinal PD, TP&W, TDPS, EMT, Uvalde Memorial Hospital, CCVFD, Utopia VFD/EMS, Uvalde/Sabinal FD, Texas Department of Forestry.

Entertainment, Tourism & Media

Goal: Establish unified plan to engage media outlets in advance and during the eclipse to highlight Uvalde County, to educate tourists in advance and during the eclipse and to maximize the return for Uvalde County in terms of returning or new tourism.

Major Stakeholders / Possible Leadership: THCRR, Uvalde COC, etc.

Key Issues

- Finding Volunteers
- Establishing Team Leadership
- Identifying Eclipse Coordinator
- Scheduling Meetings
- Maintaining Momentum
- Local Communication Plan

Next Steps – Who does what?

- Formalize membership and team leadership
- Recruit volunteers – Volunteer Sign Up Sheet
- Individual Team Kick Off
- Establish communication flow
 - To Key Stake Holders (e.g., City/County Leadership)
 - Within Task Force, Teams, to Eclipse Coordinator and within Community
 - THCRR and Uvalde County Solar Eclipse websites

Hill Country Eclipse Portal Resources



Eclipse Resources

County Eclipse Websites

[Blanco County and Blanco County Facebook Page](#)
[City of Kempner](#)
[Fredericksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau](#)
[Hondo Chamber of Commerce](#)
[Kerrville Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)
[Uvalde County](#)

Documents and Guides

[Anatomy of a Total and Annular Solar Eclipse](#)
[City of Fredericksburg – Eclipse Meeting Agenda and Notes](#)
[Eclipse Central – Public Management Article \(Dec 2017\)](#)
[Eclipse Information – Carbondale, IL](#)
[Eclipse Partner Guide](#)
[Russo-White-Paper-Community-Eclipse-Planning-Second-Edition](#)
[Russo-White-Paper-Community-Eclipse-Planning](#)
[Solar and Solar Eclipse Glossary](#)
[State of Idaho – 2017 Eclipse Community Planning White Paper](#)

Helpful Links

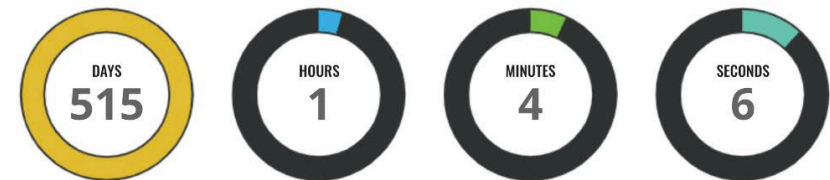
[American Astronomical Society](#)
[American Solar Eclipse Company](#)
[Interactive Google Map – Eclipse 2023](#)
[Interactive Google Map – Eclipse 2024](#)
[Great American Eclipse](#)

Round Table Meetings

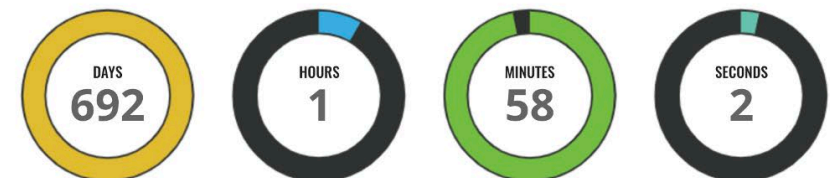
January 2022 Round Table Meeting – Recording: [Taskforce Check-In](#), Documents: [Agenda and Minutes](#)
September 2021 Round Table Meeting [A Personal Perspective on Eclipse Viewing](#)
June 2021 Round Table Meeting [Lessons Learned from Carbondale, Illinois 2017](#)
March 2021 Roundtable Meeting [Taskforce Check In](#)
October 2020 Roundtable Meeting [Solar Eclipses Over South Texas – Dr. Angela Speck, UT San Antonio](#)

Countdown with us!

2023 Annular Solar Eclipse Countdown



2024 Total Solar Eclipse Countdown



Hill Country Eclipse Portal – Eclipse Partners



ECLIPSE PARTNERS

City and County Services: city services will play critical roles in both publicizing the eclipse events and preparing for the influx of visitors

- Animal Control
- Chamber of Commerce
- City Council
- City Hall/Office of the Mayor
- Commissioners Court
- Parks and Recreation

Commerce: the anticipated increase in visitors to the hill country can mean a higher than average volume of local business patronage. Expect a shortage of fuel and groceries and increased usage of ATMs. Eclipses are unique events and can confuse wild and domesticated animals when nearing the period of totality (during first and second contact), at totality, and following totality (during third to fourth contact).

- Animal Kennels/Animal Shelters
- Banks/Credit Unions
- Business Associations
- Gas Stations/Automobile Repair
- Grocery Stores/Convenience Stores
- Local Retailers/Chain Businesses
- Parking Facilities

Education: education facilities are encouraged to educate their students and patrons on eclipses and safe solar viewing. Due to the 2024 eclipse occurring on a Monday and in the early afternoon, school districts may want to consider an alternative schedule to alleviate strain on bus schedules and regional traffic.

- Independent School Districts
- Institution of Higher Learning
- Libraries

Emergency Management: the anticipated increase in visitors to the hill country can mean a higher than average volume of incidents. Some entities may just need a heads up to the upcoming events; the involvement of others will be heavier during the days before, during, and after the eclipses.

- Fire Department
- Health Department
- Hospitals/Clinics
- Office of Emergency Management/Emergency Management Services
- Police Department



Hospitality/Recreation: expect booking of most lodging accommodations to begin soon if not already in progress. Activities and entertainment following the eclipses will help to ease traffic flow and stagger departures from the area. Food and beverage businesses may consider limited menus during the eclipse events to accommodate increased patronage.

- Community Centers
- Hotels/Motels
- Restaurants/Bars/Cafés/Caterers
- RV Parks/Camp Facilities
- State Parks
- Entertainment
- Vacation Rentals/Air B&Bs

Media: due to the nature of these two events, getting the word out means relying heavily on local and regional media. Leading up to the eclipses, keep in communication with your news outlets, informing them of scheduled festivals, activities, road route changes/detours, and general education about these two events.

- Magazines
- News Stations
- Newspapers
- Radio Stations

Residents: residents may not be aware of these two eclipse events and how drastically they will impact where they live. Use your city and county services, local media, and educational facilities to inform them accordingly. Private landowners may open their space to visitors as camping and lodging grounds or as eclipse viewing areas. This may be a challenge for traffic flow and waste management.

- Private Land Owners/Residents
- Retirement Facilities/Senior Centers

Transportation: not all visitors to the hill country will be driving to their eclipse viewing destinations. Some will come to the region via plane, train, and bus, putting a possible strain on vehicle rental facilities, transportation services, and rideshares. Traffic during these event times may lead to delays of busses, trains, and other vehicles that adhere to specific routes and timetables.

- Airports
- Buses
- Train Stations
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Vehicle Rentals/Transportation Services

Utilities: expect the anticipated volume of visitors to strain the electrical grid, water use, and waste services. Consider adding extra water stations and portable restrooms at event sites.

- Electrical Cooperatives
- Waste Management
- Water Districts

Questions?