

## Texas Workforce Commission Begins Consolidation of State Programs

The newly-created Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has now completed consolidation of half of the 28 employment and job training programs which were previously spread throughout a number of state government agencies.

Under H.B. 1863, the TWC will consolidate employment and job training programs in two blocks, half in March and half in June. Among the programs in the initial March transfer are the Job Training Partnership Act from the Texas Department of Commerce, the Apprenticeship Training, Veteran's Education Certification and Proprietary Schools Programs from the Texas Education Agency and the National and Community Services Program from the General Services Commission.

In June, all programs of the Texas Employment Commission move to the TWC, including the Employment Service and Unemployment Insurance,

Project RIO, Communities in Schools, Payday and Child Labor Law. Also transferring in June from the Texas Department of Human Services are the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills program, Food Stamp Employment and Training and Child Care Services. The Senior Texas Employment Program from the Department of Aging and the State Occupational Information Coordinating Council also move to the TWC in June.

The target deadline for complete consolidation is July 1, 1996; to date, the TWC's consolidation is on schedule.

One requirement of the bill is the formation of local workforce boards. These boards will have a minimum of 25 members, with the majority of each board and the chairman representing the private sector. Community-based organizations, local elected officials, local education agencies and organized labor will also be represented.

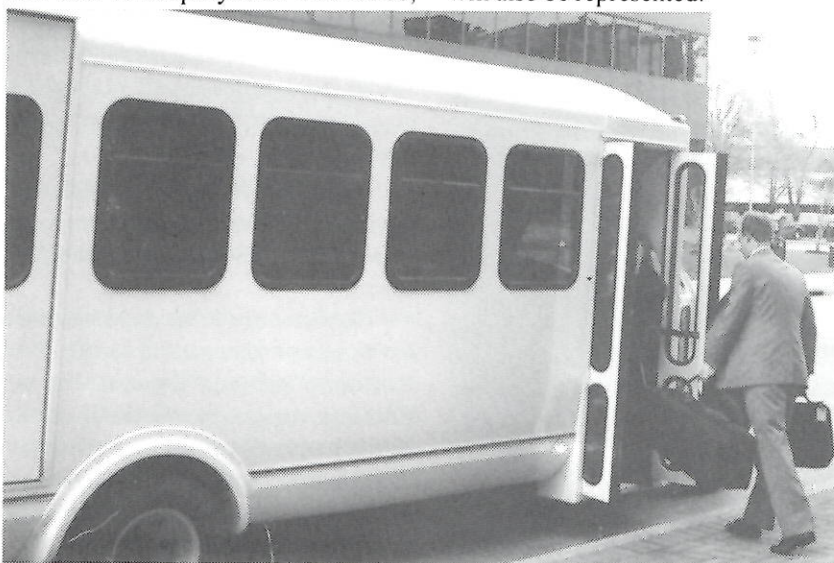
The local boards will plan, oversee and evaluate the quality of the training and employment services in a local area. They will also be the single point of contact for local business with specific worker or training needs.

**Texas**   
**Workforce**  
**COMMISSION**

"The local boards are vital to the success of the state's programs," said TWC Executive Director Ron Kapche. "I have received the application for the Houston-Galveston area's board of directors, which is currently being processed."

Among the names submitted to the TWC for inclusion on the Houston-Galveston area's board are Ray Laughter, North Harris Montgomery Community College District, Karen Moore,

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Passengers get a sneak preview of the new GreenLine Express minibus on its way to the Kingwood Park & Ride lot. The route, run by Industrial Shuttle Service, will convert to the new vehicles in April.

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## From the Chairman

**R. Gary Montgomery**

The North Houston Association is preparing itself for a busy 1996. We began the year by holding our annual awards luncheon. We also made available an updated "North Houston Educational Profiles". The document summarizes statistics on north Houston school districts. I'd like to thank the North Harris Montgomery Community College District for their tremendous underwriting and assistance with the publication.

As a result of the NHA "task force" planning session, the association's committees have set their goals for 1996, and are now taking steps to meet these goals (see related article). If you or someone in your company would like to join a particular committee(s), contact the NHA office.

As you can see by the lead article, Ron Kapche is busy in his efforts at the Texas Workforce Commission. For the time being, he is on a leave of absence and Marlisa Stanley is now serving as Acting Executive Director.

I am looking forward to the rest of the year being as productive as the first quarter. As we delve into many programs and projects, volunteers are extremely important. One goal I have is to go deeper into our member companies than we have in the past. By that, I mean that one company representative should not be the sole NHA contact. Please encourage your employees and coworkers to get involved in a committee that interests them. North Houston will only benefit from the expertise of a variety of individuals.

## Texas Workforce Commission

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Compaq Computer Corporation, Barry Beasley, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and Tom Stinson, Greater Conroe Economic Development Council.

"The formation of local workforce boards will help ensure that local job training and employment programs are matched to local jobs," said TWC Chairman Bill Hammond. "We want job training to be handled from the grassroots up, not from Washington or Austin down."

The TWC says that future programs will provide "career centers" for job training and employment service for Texans seeking more work and employers seeking workers.

## NHA Presents Annual Awards to Community Leaders

Gordon Bethune, president and chief executive officer of Continental Airlines, Inc., addressed the North Houston Association's membership at its Annual Awards Luncheon in January.

Dr. John Pickelman, chancellor of the North Harris Montgomery Community College District, received the 1995 North Star Award for his leadership in expanding college level education services and opportunities to north Houston, most recently with the creation of

Montgomery College.

Two individuals received the 1995 NHA Compass Awards. Mark Froehlich, P.E., manager of land development services for Pate Engineers, Inc., accepted a Compass Award for his chairmanship of the "1995 North Houston Mobility Update" subcommittee.

Jim Royer, P.E., president of Turner, Collie & Braden, Inc., was given the second Compass Award for his years of service to NHA, especially in the area of transportation.



From left are award winners Jim Royer, Dr. John Pickelman and Mark Froehlich.

## NHA to Host Candidate Forum on April 2

The North Houston Association will host a candidate forum featuring runoff candidates vying for the district eight congressional seat, soon to be vacated by Congressman Jack Field.

The event, to take place April 2, will allow each candidate to speak for approximately 20 minutes. The floor will then be open for questions from the audience.

The program will be held at Sheraton Crown Hotel - Intercontinental from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The North Houston Association has invited all chambers of commerce in its service area to cosponsor the luncheon.

To date, the following chambers have committed to participate: Cy-Houston Chamber, Greater Houston Chamber, Houston Northwest Chamber, Humble Area Chamber, North Houston Greenspoint Chamber, South Montgomery County Woodlands Chamber and the Tomball Area Chamber.

Cost of the luncheon is \$20. Please RSVP to the NHA office at 875-0611 Thursday, March 28.



## NHA Committees Set Goals for 1996

The North Houston Association's Economic Development, Environment, Transportation and Membership Committees have set their scope of work for 1996. Following are their goals, broken down by committee and subcommittee.

### **Economic Development Committee**

Goal 1: Creation of a Rapid Response Team, which will be a group of experts in different fields that serve as a resource when a relocation prospect is given to the North Houston Association.

Goal 2: Update Aerial Land Use Map. This aerial map, which covers 850 square miles, designates ten different land uses such as residential, retail, commercial, etc. Also detailed are roads under construction or those proposed for future development.

Goal 3: Complete an inventory of regional financial incentives for companies to relocate to north Houston.

Goal 4: Coordinate with School District Superintendents. Periodically meet with area school district superintendents to find what regional education issues need to be addressed.

### **Environment Committee**

#### *Infrastructure Subcommittee*

Goal: Monitor the environmental activities of government bodies, and to the extent possible, influence the formulation of rules or implementation of capital projects that support continued development and the economic health of north Houston.

### **Landscape Aesthetics and Preservation Subcommittee**

Goal: Advocate for the creation and/or effective implementation of plans, legislation and policies that promote and support the preservation and use of landscape aesthetics and existing resources in the north Houston commercial community.

#### *John F. Kennedy Blvd./Airport Beautification Subcommittee*

Goal: Beautify the medians on JFK between Beltway 8 and Greens Road by tree planting.

### **Transportation Committee**

#### *Transportation Management Organization (TMO) Subcommittee*

Goal 1: To increase ridership on the GreenLine Express to 50 riders per day.

Goal 2: To implement vanpools and carpools in the north Houston area.

Goal 3: Keep members informed of current legislation regarding the Clean Air Act and its amendments.

#### *Airport Connectors Subcommittee*

Goal: Influence the creation of Houston Intercontinental Airport (IAH) road connectors.

#### *Woodlands Vanpool Subcommittee*

Goal: Evaluate the feasibility of developing a vanpool service between The Woodlands and Greenspoint.

### **Membership Committee**

Goal 1: Increase NHA membership a net of 10 percent.

Goal 2: Improve membership retention.

Goal 3: Improve communication to member contacts and company representatives. ■

## North Houston Association Committee Structure - 1996

### **Economic Development Committee**

Chairman: Ray Laughter, North Harris Montgomery  
Community College District  
Board Liaison: James Curry, Hines Interests  
Limited Partnership

### **Environment Committee**

Chairman: Alan Potok, Turner Collie & Braden  
Board Liaison: Sharon Mattox, Vinson & Elkins

### **Transportation Committee**

Chairman: Mark Froehlich, Pate Engineers, Inc.  
Board Liaison: Jon Lindsay, Consultant

## Upcoming Events

### GreenLine Riders Commute in Style

New, 21-passenger minibuses will arrive in April for those individuals commuting from Kingwood to Greenspoint via the GreenLine Express. One of the new vehicles arrived on March 4, and many riders have already taken it for a test ride. The minibuses are an improvement of the previously-used 15-passenger vans. Not only do they have increased capacity, but they feature reclining captains chairs, overhead lighting and a wheelchair lift.

### NHA Aerial Area Land Use Maps Available

The large (37 1/2" x 41 1/2") North Houston Association Area Land Use maps are now half price! Prices for members are \$5 (\$2.50 if 10 or more are purchased). The non-member price is \$12.50 (\$6.25 for purchases of 10 or more). For more information, call 875-0660.

### Special Thanks...

to Champion Realty Corporation and Shell Oil Company for their generous underwriting of this issue of the "NHA VISION".

### NHA Committee Meetings

#### Transportation

The Transportation Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. on March 20, April 17, May 15 and June 19 in the first floor conference room of Two Greenspoint Plaza.

#### Environment

The Environment Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. on March 14, April 11, May 9 and June 13 at Swift Energy Company.

#### Economic Development

Call the NHA office for more information.

#### Environment/Transportation Subcommittees

Call the NHA office for more information.

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**NORTH HOUSTON  
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16825 Northchase Dr., Ste. 160  
Houston, Texas 77060

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