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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alamo Regional Transit (ART) Service to begin in Atascosa County

JOURDANTON [March 4, 2009] – The Alamo Area Council of Governments' (AACOG) Alamo Regional Transit (ART) will begin providing transportation services to the residents of Jourdanton, Pleasanton, Poteet, Charlotte and surrounding areas with the introduction of a vanpooling service. Twelve passenger vans are available for significantly reduced monthly rates per passenger to groups looking to commute to work, school or other technical training centers either in San Antonio or surrounding counties.

Vanpooling is an economical alternative to driving alone and offers many time saving advantages as well. Passengers can spend their commute time reading, checking email, catching up with friends, preparing for the day, or just taking some time to relax. Vanpool drivers have the advantage of getting their commute to work or school free of charge. Drivers also are allowed up to 20 miles per week of personal use of the van in exchange for keeping the van clean, properly maintained and filling out the required paperwork.

Vanpools routes are flexible to meet the individual needs of the passengers. The group of passengers decides on their specific route together – the pick-up and drop-off places, times, and locations. Employers and schools may also give preferential parking to vanpooling vans, pay for parking, or even subsidize the passenger's cost of vanpooling.

The C.A.R.E. program is also available to make sure that no one gets stranded at work or school in case of an emergency. The Certified Auto Ride in an Emergency program was established by AACOG's Natural Resources Department to promote alternate commute options. For an annual fee of only \$5, a passenger can receive up to FOUR FREE cab rides each year (up to 30 miles within the AACOG region) for emergencies as long as the passenger is in the vanpool. Vanpool passengers will never have to worry about being without a car while they are participating in this vanpool program.

Funding for this project has been provided by a grant through the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) program that is designed to provide resources for workers to get to places of employment, training or continuing their education. For more information, contact René Chadick, Economic Development Specialist – Transportation, AACOG at (210) 362-5286.

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