



Atascosa County

Development Transparency & Community Engagement Principles

Welcome to Atascosa County.

Thank you for your interest in investing in our community.

Atascosa County values responsible economic development, private property rights, and transparent operation of county government, and communication with the public. Texas law only provides counties with limited regulatory authority over private development in the unincorporated area. It is important to communicate with the County early on in any development process.

To help build trust and foster productive relationships with the County as well as the community, we strongly encourage developers to consider taking the following steps to ensure the community stays informed:

- Meet with neighboring property owners and affected communities early in the planning process.
- Hold a voluntary public informational meeting before significant project milestones begin, such as submitting major permit applications or beginning construction planning.
- Provide clear, factual information about the proposed project, including its purpose, anticipated operations, and potential community impacts.
- Designate a community contact who can respond to questions and serve as a point of communication throughout the project.
- Maintain a project website or other publicly accessible source of information with project updates, frequently asked questions, and key contacts, when appropriate.
- Share anticipated project timelines, including major milestones and construction activities, as plans develop.
- Coordinate early with county emergency management, public safety agencies, road and bridge personnel, utility providers, and other local partners.
- Maintain open communication with county staff and respond to questions from residents in a timely and respectful manner.

Although these actions may not be required by law, they help build public trust, reduce misunderstandings, and foster productive relationships between developers, local government, and the communities we serve.

Our Commitment to Transparency

Atascosa County is committed to conducting county business openly and in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Public Information Act, and other applicable laws. If a proposed development requires official action by the Commissioners' Court—such as consideration of a tax abatement, development agreement, road agreement, or other county approval—the matter will be considered as required by law through the public process. The County website and Commissioners' Court meeting agenda postings provide the community with information prior to any Commissioners' Court official action being taken. The County is committed to providing residents with factual information, explaining its role and legal authority, and communicating openly as official actions are considered.