

Texas Target Communities

During the 2025-2026 school year, the City of Burton worked with Texas Target Communities, a program with Texas A&M University. Texas Target Communities is an academic and strategic collaboration program connecting college seniors working on capstone projects with local governments and communities needing assistance to become more equitable, resilient, and adaptive in today's world. It is a practicum where "book learning" meets the "real world" issues.

Over the course of that school year (9 months), the City of Burton was matched with THREE classes of students and professors. In May, all three classes presented the City with summaries of the student projects.

Due to the size of these projects, only one was able to be uploaded to the website. The other two are too large to be uploaded. However, they are available for public viewing via an information request thru City Hall.

The three class projects –

1 – BAEN – Biological and Agricultural Engineering Class – 4 students; 1 professor. Their task was to map and evaluate the wastewater system, including a focus on a document issue of more than 15 years on North Railroad Street. The deliverables from this group of students included a 100-page written essay; ARC GIS digital mapping; a poster summary of the project which hangs in City Hall; and two presentations to City Council. This project was also presented in two Engineering Project competitions on-campus at Texas A&M.

2 – URBN – Urban Planning Class – 35 students; 2 professors; 2 Texas Target Communities Staff – The task of this group was broken down into sections covering Housing, Transportation, Economic Development, Parks & Recreation, Community Facilities, Environment & Resilience, and Historic Preservation & Culture. This group of students presented both a Mid-Term and a Final to the community at the Burton American Legion Hall with time for interaction, questions, and learning. The deliverables of this class included these presentations and a "Master Plan and Urban Design Improvement Plan", which is a summary of the visual work presented at the Final.

3 – PLAN – Advanced Transportation Planning Course – 6 students; 1 professor – Graduate Level Course. This group of students both dovetailed with the Transportation group in the Urban Planning Class and separately looked at traffic issues within and around the City of Burton. The deliverables of this class included a presentation at the Final in conjunction with the Urban Planning Class as well as a written summary of their project.