

Data Source(s):

1. A 1985 Texas Department of Highways and Transportation survey done by Raymond Harrington. This survey identified those counties that were operating under one of five systems: (1) The Unit System under the Optional Road Law of 1947, (2) Unit operation with an Engineer but not under the Optional Road Law of 1947, (3) Unit operation without an Engineer, (4) Precinct operation with an Engineer, (5) Precinct operation without an Engineer. The survey listed the names of the counties under each system except for system (5) "Precinct operation without an Engineer." Since this is the default mode for counties, it can be fairly assumed that the author intended that the counties that were not listed under one of the first four systems, would be categorized as the latter.
2. A 1992 Texas Association of Counties survey, author unknown. This survey simply determined whether the county was on the unit system or not and made a notation if a petition was pending. It did not obtain responses from sixteen counties.
3. A 1998 data verification by Stan Reid for those counties that did not respond to the 1992 TAC survey and in those cases where the data between the two previous sources was in conflict or where the data indicated a need for verification. See Methodology, below.

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Methodology:

The two sources were compared. Where the 1992 TAC survey showed that a petition for the Optional Road Law was pending, the county was called. Where the TAC survey showed that there was a "unit" system in a county and the 1985 Highway Department survey showed that the county had voluntarily created a "unit-type" system or had a precinct system run by an engineer, the county was called. Where the TAC survey indicated that a county was not contacted, even though the 1985 survey did, the county was called.

The new data were then entered based upon the changes indicated by the contacts with the counties.