



MINUTES FOR ADOPTION

Public Transportation Advisory Committee – Teleconference Meeting
200 E. Riverside Drive, Austin TX 1st Floor Auditorium
July 24, 2014

Committee Members Present and Participating:

Michelle Bloomer, Chair
J.R. Salazar, Vice Chair
Rob Stephens

Committee Members Participating via Teleconference:

Glenn Gadbois

TxDOT Present and Participating:

Eric Gleason, Director, Public Transportation Division (PTN)
Kelly Kirkland, Planning Section Manager, PTN
Steve Wright, Coordination Planner, PTN
Josh Ribakove, Communications Manager, PTN
Casey Dusza, Planner, Transportation Planning and Programming Division (TPP)

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order

Michelle Bloomer called the meeting to order at 8:40 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Safety Briefing

Josh Ribakove gave a safety briefing at 8:41 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Approval of Minutes from May 27, 2014 Meeting

MOTION Rob Stephens moved to approve the May 27, 2014 meeting minutes.

SECOND J.R. Salazar seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously at 8:51 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Division Director's Report

Eric Gleason spoke about items of concern, including funding for asset replacement and maintenance, the loss of Medicaid funding which is being redirected to HHS, and the impact of energy sector activity upon transit operations in Texas at 8:43 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) discussion. (Action)

Discussion of this item began at 8:52 A.M.

Comments from Glenn Gadbois, Michelle Bloomer, Rob Stephens, Eric Gleason.

Mr. Gadbois suggested that the forthcoming LAR letter include a rider with specific incremental requests, in addition to the large general request. The timeline for this letter was discussed. Eric Gleason suggested that it be sent to the Legislature no later than mid-August.

MOTION Glenn Gadbois makes a motion to draft a new LAR letter.

SECOND 2nd by J.R. Salazar.

Motion passes unanimously at 9:03 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Presentation and discussion of Texas Regional Coordination Public Transportation Planning (Action)

Steve Wright spoke briefly about the planning performance metrics his working group has suggested and addressed questions about regional planning coordination at 9:05 A.M.

Comments from all committee members and Eric Gleason.

Committee inquired about a proposed additional metric: number of trips. Steve Wright indicated that this idea had been discussed and rejected by the working group, as “number of trips” is a poor indicator because it is impacted greatly by factors other than planning. Eric Gleason spoke about a misconception that PTAC is working under (that TxDOT’s spending on coordinated planning is consistent), pointing out that TxDOT’s spending on coordinated planning is greatly reduced during non-update years.

No action taken.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Presentation and Discussion of TxDOT’s Texas Transportation Plan 2040 (TTP)

Casey Dusza gave a presentation on TTP’s interactive online budgeting tool at 10:01 A.M.

No action taken.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Public Comment

At 10:17 A.M. Sarah Cook, General Manager of SouthWest Area Regional Transit District stated that:

- Her organization was doing a regional needs assessment re: energy sector activity and would have draft results by mid-August.
- Her area was likely to be re-designated as Small Urban rather than Rural in the 2020 Census.
- The elderly population is negatively impacted (economically) by the energy boom in her area.
- TxDOT, like her organization, needs to “think outside the bus.”

Michelle Bloomer indicated that she wants to see a working group put together on the issue.

At 10:22 A.M. Judy Telge from Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living stated that seniors are not being adequately served in her region. She brought along a resolution approved by the Silver-Haired Legislature calling for the establishment of a coordinated statewide interagency mobility council. She suggested that Centers for Independent Living be included at the table with TxDOT, HHSC, WorkForce, and others. She proposed that the council be coordinated by the Secretary of State’s office.

Ms. Telge also expressed her approval of TxDOT's efforts toward transparency with PTAC – that transcripts, audio recordings, and meeting handouts are now posted on TxDOT.gov in a timely manner.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Confirm Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 1 P.M. on Tuesday, September 30, 2014 at 3712 Jackson Ave, Bldg. 6, Room 323, Austin, Texas 78731.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Adjourn

MOTION Rob Stephens moved to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND J.R. Salazar.

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 A.M.

Prepared by:



Josh Ribakove
Public Transportation Division

Approved by:



Michelle Bloomer, Chair
Public Transportation Advisory Committee