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TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING

Friday,
February 25, 2011

Room 1A.1
200 East Riverside Drive
Austin, Texas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

MICHELLE BLOOMER, Chair
AL ABESON
GLENN GADBOIS
J.R. SALAZAR
BRAD UNDERWOOD

TxDOT STAFF PRESENT:

ERIC GLEASON
GINNIE MAYLE

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MR. GLEASON: I'm going to get the meeting
3 underway, and then we'll go right into our first order of
4 business, and elect our chair and vice-chair. But I'd
5 like to call the February 25 meeting of the Public
6 Transportation Advisory Committee to order.

7 My name is Eric Gleason. I'm the Director of
8 the Public Transportation Division at TxDOT. Before we go
9 into the agenda, I do want to recognize those folks whose
10 terms did expire in September of last year, and who have
11 not been reappointed to the committee -- Frank
12 Castellanos, Vince Huerta and Janet Everheart, and thank
13 the three of them for their service.

14 And just as an update for the folks, on
15 membership, we are still looking for two appointments out
16 of the Lieutenant Governor's office and one appointment
17 out of the Speaker's office. So I'm hoping that those
18 will be forthcoming. But I'm not sure where my
19 expectations should be with that, now that the session is
20 underway. Anyways, let's go on, number 2.

21 Let's go on to number 3 and our first order of
22 business for the meeting, in accordance with the TAC, will
23 be to elect a chair, and so I'm thinking that I'll open
24 the floor for nominations and if you make a nomination,
25 I'll need a second. So, nominations. Glenn.

1 MR. GADBOIS: I'd like to nominate our well-
2 practiced past chair to continue, Michelle Bloomer.

3 MR. GLEASON: Michelle Bloomer. Do I have a
4 second?

5 MR. SALAZAR: This is J.R. I will second.

6 MR. GLEASON: Do we have other nominations?

7 (No response.)

8 MR. GLEASON: Hearing none, can I have a vote?

9 All those in favor of Michelle Bloomer being chair of the
10 committee?

11 (A chorus of ayes.)

12 MR. GLEASON: All right. We have four ayes and
13 one abstain, and I guess at this point I can turn the
14 meeting over to you, Michelle, since we now have a chair.

15 MS. BLOOMER: All right. Thank you, Eric.

16 MR. GLEASON: Congratulations. All right.

17 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. Then moving on item 4,
18 electing a vice-chair. I'm sorry.

19 MR. ABESON: Congratulations, Michelle.

20 MS. BLOOMER: Thank you, Al.

21 MR. GLEASON: Al, this is Eric. We are going
22 to have to ask you to speak up if you can. We have a
23 court reporter here. It is a little hard to hear you.

24 VOICE: Can you turn up the volume.

25 MR. GLEASON: We are going to up the mike.

1 MR. ABESON: Okay. I will.

2 MR. GLEASON: There you go. That's perfect.

3 MS. BLOOMER: Wow. Okay. Item 4, electing a
4 vice-chair in accordance with the TAC. Do I have any
5 nominations for a vice-chair?

6 MR. ABESON: I'd like to nominate J.R.

7 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. We have a nomination for
8 J.R. from Al, and do I have a second?

9 (Simultaneous discussion.)

10 MR. UNDERWOOD: I'll second.

11 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. We have a second from
12 Brad. All those in favor say aye.

13 (A chorus of ayes.)

14 MS. BLOOMER: Anybody opposed?

15 (No response.)

16 MS. BLOOMER: No. Okay. We have a chair and a
17 vice-chair.

18 MR. SALAZAR: Thank you very much.

19 MS. BLOOMER: All right.

20 MR. ABESON: Congratulations.

21 MR. SALAZAR: Thank you.

22 MS. BLOOMER: Congratulations.

23 MR. UNDERWOOD: We guess. Yes.

24 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. Moving along, item 5 on
25 the agenda is approval of the minutes from the September

1 8, 2010 meeting. Do I have a motion to approve the
2 minutes?

3 MR. SALAZAR: This is J.R. I move to approve.

4 MS. BLOOMER: And do I have a second?

5 MR. ABESON: Is that all? Yes.

6 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. I have a motion and a
7 second. All those in favor?

8 (A chorus of ayes.)

9 MS. BLOOMER: Anybody opposed?

10 (No response.)

11 MS. BLOOMER: The minutes pass. All right.

12 Item 6.

13 (Simultaneous discussion.)

14 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. We are going to go ahead
15 and skip item 6 and go right to item 7, the Division
16 Director's report, and then we'll come back and open it up
17 for discussion on item 6. Eric.

18 MR. GLEASON: Good morning, and welcome to our
19 new members, Brad and Glenn.

20 MR. UNDERWOOD: Thank you.

21 MR. GADBOIS: Thank you.

22 MR. GLEASON: We sent out a Director's Report
23 as is our custom. It is -- fundamentally, it is just a
24 summary of recent commission action, and I won't go over
25 that in too much detail.

1 We did have a good day at the commission
2 yesterday, with four minute orders passing, and the
3 significance of that is, that two of them actually begin
4 to get out the federal fiscal year '11 funding, based on
5 Congressional continuing resolutions.

6 And we were waiting for apportionments to come
7 out from the Federal Transit Administration. We got
8 those, I think the second week of February, and so, now
9 that the CR is almost done, we have got the ability to
10 spend the money associated with that.

11 And then, as in past years when the balance of
12 the apportionments come down, we'll get that out as
13 quickly as we can. We did structure the 5311 minute order
14 in a way where I do not need to go back to the commission
15 to award the balance of those funds. They did approve the
16 ultimate allocation of the 20.1 million.

17 And so, once we get those, we'll be able to
18 just modify the agreements that we have. Just amend those
19 to include them.

20 MR. GADBOIS: And Eric, the continuing
21 resolution was six months? Is that --

22 MR. GLEASON: I actually think it was through
23 March 4.

24 MR. GADBOIS: Okay.

25 MR. GLEASON: It is about five months, really.

1 It is like 42 percent or 43 percent of the year and that
2 is actually exactly what they have done, I believe the
3 last two years. It has been like that and so, we'll
4 continue to move ahead on those apportionments as they
5 come out.

6 We are not -- we don't have anything scheduled
7 for the commission at either the March or the April
8 meetings. There are some rail related that are, I think,
9 being finalized in April.

10 I'm not sure that those deal with anything of
11 significance to the public transportation arena. They are
12 related to the Department having established the Rail
13 Division, trying to get all of the rules in one place for
14 that.

15 So a little bit about TxDOT reorganization.
16 I'm sure that all of you are aware of the conversations
17 and the recommendations of the Restructure Council that
18 have been presented to the commission. You know, what
19 I'll say about that for this committee is that, if you
20 follow the history, beginning with Grant Thornton and
21 their recommendations.

22 And then you look at the Restructure Council
23 recommendations from a public transportation standpoint, I
24 would highlight that they are in -- in the Grant Thornton
25 recommendation, the Public Transportation Division

1 responsibilities were merged with Aviation and Waterways
2 into a new division. In the Restructure Council
3 recommendation, the Aviation and the Public Transportation
4 Division remain as separate divisions.

5 And the report calls for an increased emphasis
6 on activities, including public transportation, as a part
7 of the future for the Department. So I think it is an
8 encouraging step forward and it is consistent with
9 conversations at the Department with respect to the
10 strategic plan as well.

11 You know, I'm not going to get into some of the
12 administrative changes, and things like that. I think you
13 all can follow that on your own, but I think from a policy
14 standpoint, I thought that was significant.

15 I'll mention that -- we have talked about this
16 in the past. The Department and the rural and small urban
17 providers have been working on a Texas Transit Leadership
18 Initiative now for I guess, almost two years. A year and
19 a half to two years now.

20 One element of that was a leadership seminar
21 that was conducted by the Eno Center for Transportation
22 Leadership. We had our first seminar in October, with a
23 follow up day in January. So we have completed that.

24 We have 24 leaders from rural and small urban
25 systems who have finished that training and the feedback

1 we are getting, the evaluations we are getting, suggest
2 that we really hit the mark in terms of the content, and
3 the instructors and all of that.

4 So we are moving to provide a second seminar
5 session later on, this calendar year probably, again,
6 beginning in October, and then, with a follow up, one to
7 two-day session in January. So we are very encouraged by
8 that.

9 MR. GADBOIS: Eric, this is Gadbois. The
10 seminar content, since I'm not familiar with that. What
11 was it?

12 MR. GLEASON: Yes. It is -- how we got to the
13 content Glenn was, we actually spent time surveying
14 existing leadership skills and background. So we knew
15 what folks brought to the table and then we looked at what
16 already existed out there from a leadership training
17 standpoint and we tried to create something that was
18 different than that.

19 And really, I think the key thing about it, and
20 the key uniqueness to it is that it is a leadership
21 training seminar that really is focused on individuals
22 kind of discovering for themselves the strengths and
23 weaknesses they have in leadership. Rather than coming to
24 the table with you know, Seven Habits of Effective
25 Leaders.

1 Now, there is nothing wrong with that approach,
2 but there is a lot of that out there and so, we didn't
3 want to duplicate that. We were trying to do something
4 different and so they talked about a lot of things like,
5 strategic planning and workforce development, and
6 performance measurement.

7 But they do it in ways that, I think, really
8 helps them understand for themselves as individuals how
9 they want to approach it. There is also an individual
10 leadership skill assessment that is done and we provide
11 four hours in total of individualized coaching for each
12 participant with Barbara Gannon from the Eno Center for
13 Leadership, and her assistant, Paula Kellogg.

14 So there is a lot of individualized things and
15 that is the really distinctive part of it.

16 MR. SALAZAR: And I was actually one of those.
17 This is J.R. I was one in the leadership seminar and I
18 agree with everything that Eric was just saying. It was
19 fantastic. It was very reflective, and Ginnie was there
20 as well.

21 And it really gave us time to look and focus in
22 on what we have going and just to see how we go about our
23 day and how we become more productive and less stressful,
24 and there are so many things that can go on and go on, but
25 I can tell you, it was just -- as a matter of fact, Brad

1 and I were talking about that this morning. It was
2 fantastic.

3 MR. UNDERWOOD: I had not -- I did not attend
4 this one, but I helped work on that. I was -- this is
5 Brad Underwood. I forget to say who I am here, but
6 anyway, I have been a part of the Eno Foundation.

7 I attended that last April, and just from a
8 whole -- Dr. Gannon and the whole Eno Foundation is
9 considered as a premier leader, industry leader in
10 training and coaching and I think it is a great program.
11 I was very pleased.

12 I had a staff member that attended. My
13 operations director -- and she still, to this day, is
14 implementing some of the things that she learned in
15 October, and bringing that back to our staff as well.

16 And I can't say enough good things about it. I
17 thought it was a huge thing, a huge step in the right
18 direction.

19 MR. GLEASON: Brad attended a national version
20 of this that Eno has run for some time now and we just
21 took it and kind of crafted it for Texas.

22 MR. GADBOIS: All right. So to summarize, this
23 is Gadbois. To summarize, and make sure that I have got
24 it right, the objective is to help the leadership in
25 transit agencies around this state to have the opportunity

1 to hone skills and tools and kind of rethink innovatively
2 about how they do leadership.

3 And you all found that incredibly helpful in
4 doing that. Is that an accurate summary? Okay.

5 MR. UNDERWOOD: That got it perfect.
6 Absolutely.

7 MR. ABESON: Related in some ways. Is there
8 anything going on in terms of recruiting people to the
9 field of public transit?

10 MR. GLEASON: Al, this is Eric.

11 MR. ABESON: Yes.

12 MR. GLEASON: Not from the state level. Not
13 from my standpoint. We have talked. I have an advisory
14 committee of seven, I think it is seven leaders, who are
15 helping us design this transit leadership initiative, of
16 which the seminar is just one piece.

17 A whole other area that we have talked about,
18 but we have not really moved out on, is this recognition
19 that we need to have some sort of a deliberate and
20 strategic emphasis on bringing people into the industry.
21 Beginning with community colleges and college programs.

22 And then actually ultimately this leadership
23 initiative is a program that is really there for the
24 entire spectrum if you will, the entire length of their
25 leadership career. So there is a recognition that we need

1 to do and I don't know to what extent at the individual
2 agency level. Agencies might be going out and recruiting.

3 MS. BLOOMER: This is Michelle.

4 MR. ABESON: I guess that is potentially an
5 area of needing yet to be dealt with. Is that correct?

6 MR. GLEASON: Yes. And we have a lot on our
7 plate. But yes, that is one area that the committee, I
8 think, really, there is a lot of energy around that.

9 And it is just -- it is not only for
10 leadership. I think there is a real recognition that at
11 all levels within the organization, there is a need to try
12 and deliberately cultivate, particularly with our
13 community colleges workforce, for transit.

14 MR. ABESON: Thank you.

15 MS. BLOOMER: And this is Michelle. I was just
16 going to say, I think you hit on something. I think that
17 is also an important area is, how do we get people
18 interested in the transit field, and how do we really get
19 the process for -- I mean, I don't know how many people
20 grow up and say, one day I want to be a transit manager.

21 And I don't know how it is in other parts of
22 the state, but I know in our region, we just -- we have
23 two new executive directors that don't have a transit
24 background.

25 And so how do we get people who say, I want to

1 be a transit manager, or a executive director of a transit
2 agency, and then how do we give them the skills that if
3 they don't necessarily come from that background, to be
4 able to fit in with all of the funding programs, and
5 everything they need to know? Okay.

6 MR. UNDERWOOD: And Michelle, just to add to
7 that comment, I believe that we first -- this is Brad
8 Underwood. We started that process.

9 I think it was a very high number of survey
10 around this -- was it only like 83 percent of the people
11 that are executive directors or presidents of
12 organizations did not have a transit background. I mean,
13 they didn't plan on going into transit. They just kind of
14 found themselves there for whatever circumstances. I
15 think you make a very valid point, though.

16 MS. BLOOMER: And just to add on to that. This
17 is Michelle again. What we find as staff of an MPO is, we
18 spend a lot of our time sort of reeducating. It is to the
19 point where we have gotten down the "We are the MPO. This
20 is how you get your funding. This is your TIP, the STIP,
21 the cycle down."

22 Because every time a new executive director
23 comes in, the transit manager or somebody will bring them
24 in, and we'll, you know, try to -- but that is trying to
25 cram about ten years of information and knowledge into an

1 hour and a half meeting.

2 And so it is constantly trying to inform and
3 educate and help them through that process. So anything
4 we can do to ease that transition would be beneficial.
5 Are there any questions for Eric?

6 MR. GADBOIS: I want to go back to one, and
7 hopefully this is a quick question and not a huge
8 discussion. The Rail Division.

9 MR. GLEASON: Okay.

10 MR. GADBOIS: The Rail Division. Do they have
11 an advisory committee for the Rail Division?

12 MR. GLEASON: I do not believe that they do.

13 MR. GADBOIS: Okay.

14 MR. GLEASON: But --

15 MR. GADBOIS: Here is the corner of my question
16 is, the Rail Division does more than public
17 transportation. They deal with the freight side of
18 things. Historically, that is most of what they have
19 done.

20 But they are getting into the business more and
21 more of public transportation and, at a minimum, the
22 question is, what conversations have you all had about
23 coordinating you know, PTN and our work with Rail Division
24 and their work.

25 MR. GLEASON: This is Eric. I have had one

1 conversation with administration on this exact issue,
2 anticipating down the road that as the Rail Division got
3 into what I would consider to be public transportation
4 issues as well, not being necessarily divided you know,
5 bus versus rail. I mean, it is public transportation.

6 I thought that we needed to think about this
7 committee as an appropriate place for policy type
8 conversations as it relates to that portion of the Rail
9 Division. Because you're right. A lot of it is freight
10 side stuff, and all of that. In fact arguably, the
11 majority of this.

12 But there is this -- everyone is really excited
13 right now about high speed rail, and the passenger side of
14 things and so I'll have that conversation again and
15 mention that it was brought up here, and the next time
16 we'll meet, I'll report back on what I --

17 MR. GADBOIS: Well, and the mass model is
18 almost always walking transit, rubber tire transit or
19 something like that.

20 MR. GLEASON: Integration.

21 MR. GADBOIS: They are not real into the
22 integration, and especially, you know -- I mean it can be
23 better in a number of different ways.

24 If they already have an advisory committee, you
25 know, you could do it one way; if they don't have one, you

1 can do it another. I'm just wanting to encourage you to
2 think about and have those conversations and you know,
3 talk to us as appropriate.

4 MR. GLEASON: Why don't we -- actually, that
5 could be a great transition into our next agenda item as
6 something of interest to the committee, and so --

7 MS. BLOOMER: Can I, before you move on to
8 number seven, can I just ask the question, to follow up to
9 the commission action on the 5311 yesterday?

10 MR. GLEASON: Yes.

11 (Simultaneous discussion.)

12 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. I slept since we did all
13 of the work regarding the 20.1 million and above and I
14 just wasn't sure in reading the minute order, and then
15 seeing the funding amount. I know we don't exactly how
16 much money the state will get in 5311 money, but wanted to
17 know how we were addressing -- because it is in the
18 Administrative Code now, correct?

19 MR. GLEASON: Correct.

20 MS. BLOOMER: The twenty. So we are going to
21 award the 20.1 million based on the existing formula, and
22 then the difference between the 15 percent for inner city
23 bus, but up to 15 percent for TxDOT admin, but no more
24 than 10 percent for commission discretionary --

25 MR. GLEASON: Of the overall.

1 MS. BLOOMER: Of the overall.

2 MR. GLEASON: Including the 20.1 million.

3 MS. BLOOMER: Right. The 10 percent is taken
4 off the top.

5 MR. GLEASON: Right.

6 MS. BLOOMER: What do we know, if any, will be
7 left between the 20.1 and all of the set asides, and when
8 will that be distributed?

9 MR. GADBOIS: If I can, just to catch up.
10 Because even this wasn't clear. Did the commission
11 approve the PTAC's recommendation on the cap for
12 discretionary? I mean, is --

13 MR. GLEASON: Yes. It wasn't furnished that
14 way, but, yes. The way it generally releases, that of the
15 total amount available for distribution to the rural
16 transit program. So minus administrative expenses, minus
17 15 percent set-aside for inner city bus. So the total
18 remaining amount available, no more than 10 percent can
19 be --

20 MR. GADBOIS: That is passed as a minute order?

21 MR. GLEASON: Yes.

22 MR. GADBOIS: Okay.

23 MR. GLEASON: So that is in the Administrative
24 Code now. That is a rule, and so, whatever year, that
25 leaves us with a question. It says, no more than 10

1 percent. So how much is the actual amount.

2 And that is actually a topic. I'm not sure I
3 have got it down here, but I think it is a great area of
4 policy conversation for this group to have. In terms of
5 when we might be in a position to know. It is whenever
6 the balance of the apportionments come out.

7 I would not anticipate having to make a
8 decision at the commission level before May. Just the way
9 things have rolled out the last couple of year. I don't
10 think we'll be in a position any sooner than that. So we
11 have got some time to talk about that.

12 MS. BLOOMER: And that is not the commission
13 discretionary part? That is the --

14 MR. GLEASON: That is right. It is how do we
15 get our arms each year around, is it 90 percent? Is it 93
16 percent? Is it 97 percent? Because it can be -- it just
17 says that the discretionary amount can be no more than 10
18 percent. So it leaves that open every year for
19 discussion.

20 MS. BLOOMER: As to what? Up to the 10 percent
21 we take for commission discretionary. Which then
22 determines how much you have left to --

23 MR. GLEASON: Right. And so I think it would
24 be appropriate, and, actually, why don't we just shift to
25 the next item.

1 MR. GADBOIS: Well, can we not, for just a
2 second? Because my understanding of this item is this
3 gives us great flexibility for discussion. So if we can,
4 let's just stay here.

5 MR. GLEASON: Actually, okay. Well, this or
6 the second one.

7 MR. GADBOIS: Okay. But let's just stay here
8 for a second to make sure that everybody is comfortable
9 with that conversation.

10 MR. GLEASON: Let me just -- we can talk about
11 topics. We can't do anything that looks like any kind
12 of --

13 MR. GADBOIS: What? And all I'm looking for is
14 catch up exploration, thinking about it. So on the
15 commission -- on the Code now, regarding commission
16 discretion, are there any parameters for how that
17 discretionary money can be used, besides that it must be
18 for public transportation?

19 MR. GLEASON: Not on how it can be used. And
20 we call it commission discretion, and I have always taken
21 a little bit of exception to that. Because the commission
22 has to distribute it either on a pro rata basis, or as a
23 result of a competitive call. Discretion suggests that
24 they can just decide.

25 MR. GADBOIS: Right.

1 MR. GLEASON: So I'm okay with that.

2 MR. GADBOIS: Okay.

3 MR. GLEASON: But sometimes, that communicates
4 a little more latitude than they have.

5 MR. GADBOIS: So the only restrictions are, as
6 I understand it, that it has got to be for public
7 transportation, that the commission has to make a decision
8 on that particular pot of money and that it either goes
9 pro rata or for a competitive call.

10 MR. GLEASON: It has to be for a non-urban
11 area, public transportation.

12 MR. GADBOIS: Non-urban? Okay. And those are
13 really the only four restrictions?

14 MR. GLEASON: For all practical purposes.

15 MR. GADBOIS: Okay. Perfect. Thank you.

16 MS. BLOOMER: And, I think, with that, we'll
17 move into item 7 or 6, the next one, which is a discussion
18 of our possible work plan, and I think we can discuss
19 similar of the topics in general.

20 One thing I did want to throw out, though, to
21 think about is, last time what we did -- and I think it
22 would be beneficial, as we have sort of a workshop where
23 everybody actually got together in person. The last time,
24 we did it in DFW. We can do it anywhere.

25 TxDOT provided a really nice handout that had a

1 lot of the basic information, I think that would be very
2 helpful and I use the reference a lot. I think that might
3 be helpful.

4 And as part of that, we had a discussion, a
5 really in-depth discussion about what we wanted to focus
6 on as PTAC. So I think -- I mean, we can do that today,
7 and throw some of those items out. I think the last we
8 heard, the 5310 program was probably one thing we wanted
9 to look at next.

10 I heard that from the PTAC members that were on
11 the committee last year, as well as from some folks at the
12 summer annual meeting, not this January one, but the July
13 one, and I have heard since, since we have got through a
14 recent 5310 program funding process, that that might be
15 something that PTAC could take a look at.

16 But I thought we could just open it up to what
17 your ideas were, at least out of the workshop, what items
18 we would like to cover, and then, if you had any ideas. I
19 heard of a couple of others that we might want to talk
20 about as well, since the last meeting, I think it was in
21 September or October.

22 MR. GADBOIS: This is Gadbois, and I'll just
23 jump in. I'm happy to do a workshop, as long as we get it
24 scheduled in time to get everybody there. I think it is
25 important for it to be a face-to-face conversation with no

1 tie.

2 And, we count on our new leadership to help
3 kind of plan that out, and make it as constructive a
4 conversation as possible, and not just -- I'd like to
5 encourage us to think about something. In looking back at
6 the work done from PTAC the last year, there is a
7 significant tension here.

8 And the transit is facing generally, and
9 frankly, we all kind of fall into, and that is fixing kind
10 of the immediate problems dealing with the immediate
11 issues. You know, 5310 allocations to whatever. There is
12 also, I think, incumbent on us, as the smart people in the
13 room, or those at least appointed to think about it, a
14 larger issue of what is public transportation.

15 We need to start thinking about doing in the
16 future for its long term success and that is a radically
17 different conversation than how do we manage the funds
18 that we have available now, and continue to cut that pie
19 as equitably as possible.

20 To talk about everything from enlarging the
21 pie, to new trends that include more than the operation of
22 systems. How that manifests itself for rural, for small
23 urban, for urban.

24 And start thinking about where this Department
25 might be able to help guide the industry and itself to

1 face those new trends in the long run and I'd hope that
2 somewhere on our work plan we have some time and focus to
3 look at the larger issues.

4 MR. ABESON: This is Al. I appreciate that
5 comment and I wonder to what degree would our focus on
6 implementation of the strategic plan that has now been
7 adopted, at least at the major policy level, how do those
8 two things mesh?

9 And I remember on the strategic plan from last
10 year, what was supposed to happen next -- and Eric, I know
11 you will correct me if I'm wrong, was at the Department
12 administratively, there were going to be the adoption of,
13 I guess, strategies, or implementation approaches,
14 whatever, to actually accomplish that plan, and the plan
15 is for how many years?

16 MR. GLEASON: This is Eric Gleason. The
17 strategic plan is a five-year plan, and so that is --

18 MR. ABESON: That five years would not
19 necessarily cover the comment just made, but is that a
20 step along the way?

21 MR. GLEASON: It could be. Yes. The
22 commission has adopted the Department's strategic plan at
23 2011 through 2015, and if you study the history of these,
24 I think this one is a significant departure from previous
25 ones in a number of significant ways. Mostly, in its

1 recognition that the Department does need to be more
2 multi-modal in its focus.

3 It does recognize that its decision making
4 processes need to be more collaborative and, I think, if
5 you go through it, there is lots of opportunities in it,
6 to highlight sentences and statements that we could take
7 from it, and have a public transportation conversation
8 about.

9 And what hasn't happened, administratively
10 since we last met was specific direction to each of the
11 divisions to go ahead and develop one. The Department is
12 focused on developing performance measures, too, that are
13 called for in the Department adopted strategic plan, but
14 I'm certainly open to structuring a work program over time
15 that would allow us to look at some of the issues that --
16 or all of the issues that Glenn has brought up.

17 You know, I think we'll just have to get our
18 heads together, perhaps in a workshop setting and figure
19 out a timetable for doing that. Because we also do need
20 to do the other things that are important committee
21 business. But I would agree. I think -- and actually, it
22 would be helpful to us to have the committee to get into
23 that kind of a mode of conversation, where we can actually
24 have constructive dialogue around these issues.

25 MR. GADBOIS: And this is Gadbois again. To

1 put a point on this, Michelle, for example, in North
2 Texas, and she is not the only one, but North Central
3 Texas uses a whole lot of tools, value capture tools, TIP,
4 that sort of thing. You know, looks at partnering on
5 coordination. Looks at a lot of different ways of
6 increasing the pie.

7 And given how much we have struggled in this
8 state over how do we fund our systems to the extent that
9 we can start thinking about not just the programmatic
10 money, but the other options that are already being
11 utilized somewhere and can those messages be transferred,
12 is an important conversation for us to have.

13 And Al, I think you're absolutely right in
14 pointing it out. The strategic plan, and my read on it
15 definitely allows us the latitude to do that and so the
16 only question is kind of balancing, do we have the time
17 and the focus and when -- the logistics.

18 MS. BLOOMER: And I think I wanted -- this is
19 Michelle, to talk to your comment, the one on the Rail
20 Division. I was reading one of the weekly articles that
21 comes out from the commission from Amadeo and it says, the
22 Rail Division has a strategic plan, or they have like a
23 work plan.

24 And I wrote off to the side, do we have one for
25 public transportation? And I haven't had a chance to read

1 the Rail one, but I think that would be something that
2 might address your -- where are we trying to get to in the
3 longer term.

4 And then how do we programmatically address
5 some of the issues now that help us move in that
6 direction. Because I think that is where I'm coming from
7 on the 5310 issue. Is, we have a program, but how does
8 that coordinate with the JARC program, the New Freedom
9 program. How does that coordinate with the coordination
10 plan.

11 Because we are finding entities that aren't
12 part, you know. So, I think if we have that bigger
13 picture, that might help us on the day to day items,
14 figure out that maybe the direction they had, because we
15 know where we are ultimately trying to get and, right now,
16 I don't know that we have that.

17 But how do we find the balance between the big
18 picture and the day to day? And that is something that I
19 have trouble with every day in my regular job as actually
20 getting the day to day work done, but still having --
21 spending enough time figuring out where I might try to
22 take my folks, while they are all busy trying to get it
23 all done.

24 MR. GADBOIS: And then responding to Michael
25 Visonos [phonetic].

1 MS. BLOOMER: But I do think that is a good
2 point, and I know, Al, that was something you were very
3 interested in, as part of the strategic plan is, what is
4 the next step after adoption of the Department strategic
5 plan. How do we take it down to public transportation?
6 So maybe we can add --

7 MR. ABESON: Yes. This is Al again. I just
8 like to think that if there is going to be movement on
9 implementation of the strategic plan, and some of those
10 initiatives will relate to more immediate satisfaction and
11 more long term concerns, I think that we should take
12 advantage of overcoming the inertia which typically occurs
13 with a brand new set of ideas.

14 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. So going forward, we would
15 like to, as a committee both work on long term sort of
16 visioning and where we are going, and guidance.

17 MR. GADBOIS: I don't think we are there. I
18 think my suggestion was yes to a workshop, and at that
19 workshop, we ought to struggle with how we might do that.

20

21 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. Any other thoughts on the
22 workshop? Right now, we have one, two, three, four, five,
23 six members?

24 MR. GLEASON: Yes. Our hope had been that we
25 would have it when we have a full committee, but I think

1 it is no longer useful to wait. I think we need to move
2 ahead and so we will -- we have already been talking about
3 needing to do something like what we did last year in the
4 transit capital of Texas, Arlington.

5 MS. BLOOMER: You're all welcome back.

6 MR. GADBOIS: I object.

7 MR. GLEASON: So we'll -- I'm sorry, Michelle.
8 I know you sympathize with us.

9 MR. ABESON: As long as it doesn't require a
10 ticket to get in.

11 MR. GLEASON: And I think we were thinking
12 about the April time frame, or early April time frame for
13 that. So we'll put our heads together and get some dates
14 out. That is always first thing, is get some dates and
15 then we'll work interactively through Michelle on an
16 agenda for that.

17 And you know, from our standpoint, it is an
18 opportunity to bring everyone up to speed on some
19 fundamental issues that the committee will need to
20 address. One of them being the formula. Now we have a
21 certain amount of existing experience on the committee as
22 it is today. So we'll shorten that one up a bit. We
23 spent quite a bit of time on it before.

24 But we are going to -- I do envision as part of
25 the next year, taking the time to open up the formula a

1 bit to address some of the census impacts that we
2 anticipate. So it will be helpful for folks to
3 understand. Why it is the way it is today, and how it
4 works today without necessarily judging it as being bad or
5 good. It is the way it is.

6 You know, there is a reason for it. We can
7 talk about whether or not -- some things that need to
8 change.

9 MR. GADBOIS: As Michelle is working on that
10 workshop, I'm happy to volunteer to brainstorm with you,
11 if you want that. You just prompt and let me know.

12 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. Thank you. I think we
13 definitely need to follow up on the Census.

14 MR. GLEASON: On the what?

15 MS. BLOOMER: On the Census.

16 MR. GLEASON: Yes.

17 MS. BLOOMER: And what is going to happen with
18 that? And thinking that a SWOT analysis of all of our
19 transit providers, sort of -- what are our strengths and
20 weaknesses and what can we do I guess, better advertise,
21 but, you know, we do provide a service.

22 I think a lot of people don't realize what a
23 good service we provide and to how many people they have
24 provided it. Sort of transit seems to be the afterthought
25 and it is not just of the state.

1 It is, I mean -- and in our Central Texas
2 region too. You say public transit, and everybody thinks
3 rail. So how do we elevate public transit to that level
4 where people realize the critical role it does play, and
5 how we, as a committee, help do that, and help those
6 states providers do that?

7 And then, what are those plans [phonetic] that
8 are coming, either existing or coming down the road that
9 we know and how can we help them prepare for them before
10 they get here?

11 And the Census is one of those. You know,
12 trying to, this time around, think a little bit further
13 about what the options might be, what might happen, and
14 how we can help respond to them now, instead of after it
15 happens.

16 MR. GADBOIS: And what was your request to try
17 to have that for the workshop?

18 MS. BLOOMER: I think that could be -- if we
19 could -- Eric is looking, shaking his head, no.

20 MR. GLEASON: I have given, with all due
21 respect, I think given what you're asking for is a
22 significant undertaking, probably with a lot of value and
23 I'm not sure what, if anything we could do on it, between
24 now and then.

25 MS. BLOOMER: But have it as a topic for

1 discussion.

2 MR. GLEASON: Absolutely.

3 MS. BLOOMER: At the meeting. Not necessarily
4 come to the meeting --

5 MR. GLEASON: Well, I was trying -- I think
6 that is what -- yes.

7 MR. GADBOIS: And clearly defining what we
8 want, I think is a great thing, a topic to have for the
9 workshop, but my follow up question was going to be Eric,
10 you don't do anything like that now, do you? In which
11 case --

12 MR. GLEASON: No. Not in a formal kind of way.
13 We spent a lot of time running from one fire to the next
14 and it is this diversity within our systems that is a
15 challenge and a strength for us, in terms of you know,
16 what is on the table and what is being dealt with. So we
17 struggle as anyone does, in finding the time to do the
18 longer term strategic planning.

19 MR. GADBOIS: Okay. So, a matter of timing. I
20 love that idea as another topic for the workshop, but the
21 Department. you said, is right now engaged in developing
22 metrics for the strategic plan.

23 MR. GLEASON: The metrics are in the strategic
24 plan.

25 MR. GADBOIS: Specified?

1 MR. GLEASON: Performance measures that were
2 adopted specifically in the plan.

3 MR. GADBOIS: Okay.

4 MR. GLEASON: And so we are all working on the
5 processes we are going to use to develop them, and how
6 often we are going to report it, and when the first
7 time -- that's what it is. It's not anything new. It's
8 just -- the plan goes through and how to reach the goals.

9 MR. GADBOIS: Okay. So our real question is,
10 what kind of performance metrics and description of need,
11 description of state of transit do we want to have, in
12 addition to performance measures that are already in
13 there. Is that --

14 MS. BLOOMER: I'm not sure. I think, if I
15 understand it, the strategic plan has performance measures
16 in it. You're working to develop what those are, but they
17 are on a very broad scale.

18 MR. GLEASON: Yes. There are. In the
19 strategic plan, there are a specific set of performance
20 measures that relate at a very broad level.

21 MS. BLOOMER: Right.

22 MR. GLEASON: To being able to, in some fashion
23 express how the Department is doing toward achieving the
24 goal. Now some of them, because they are at such a great
25 level, we'll find to be more useful than others.

1 And I think if you look at some of the ones
2 that relate to public transportation in there, you will
3 realize that okay, that may say something that is
4 important about it, this issue at a state level, but it
5 really doesn't give us much to work with in terms of
6 understanding who is doing well and where we might need to
7 put an emphasis. Okay.

8 Now, they tend to be rather black and white.
9 Now there are some in there that are very good, like the
10 condition of the statewide fleet, a vehicle. Now we
11 may -- I'll say this, and then we will -- in my view,
12 under the maintenance goal for the Department, it now
13 includes a statement about maintaining the condition of
14 the transit fleet. That is big. Because it used to be
15 about road maintenance.

16 But we now have -- one of our interests is now
17 linked to a critical and core goal of the Department.
18 That is good stuff, and so, I think we have got some doors
19 opening. It isn't perhaps anywhere near what we think it
20 should be yet.

21 But I see some opportunities to open some doors
22 and there is nothing that prevents us from going beyond
23 those specific performance measures and getting some
24 others that are more helpful for us.

25 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. And I think that is a good

1 point. I think what I'm thinking with the SWOT analysis
2 is sort of a bigger picture, and this is what I struggle
3 with in my day job is, you know, in 20 years, what should
4 transit in the DFW area look like? And what am I doing
5 today that helps me get a step closer? And then what is
6 that framework?

7 And I'm thinking, that is something that would
8 be helpful at a state level, for TxDOT. You know, what
9 does TxDOT envision public transportation looking like in
10 ten, 15, 20 years and then how are the programs we
11 currently have helping move us in that direction?

12 And then I guess there is specific performance
13 measures, X number of people served. But what are those
14 things? Do we still want to have urban, rural public
15 transit divisions. Do we want to have multiple in a
16 count -- you know, what is the bigger vision, and how do
17 we help everybody get there.

18 MR. SALAZAR: What a great question. Eric has
19 the answer to that, too.

20 MS. BLOOMER: I didn't say it was easy.

21 MR. GLEASON: Well, one of the things we'll
22 talk about with that is, you know, it is critical. Is it
23 a TxDOT plan? Or is it something bigger than that? I
24 mean, clearly we have a goal and the state has a set of
25 interests in how the systems develop, and what they

1 accomplish.

2 But our interest may not be perhaps as
3 specific, for example, as whether they are big, small,
4 little, whatever. You know, because at a state level --
5 so and you know, so who is the plan for? And you know,
6 that is a good conversation too. Because it is
7 interesting to go that way and it is very helpful to
8 actually ask it from that standpoint. And how much are we
9 biting off, you know --

10 So anyway, so, yes, to a workshop, and we can
11 bring any or all of these topics back with some game plan
12 on how to talk about them more extensively. If I could
13 suggest that, if there is any sort of emphasis, or as you
14 look at the page we have got here, any sense of one being
15 more important than the other.

16 That is probably not a useful question at this
17 point, but it would be helpful, even in the context of a
18 workshop.

19 MR. ABESON: This is Al. On the work plan we
20 have in place -- we have the bullet by coordination
21 planning and as the older committee or seasoned committee
22 members know, this is of great importance to me. I wonder
23 if we could put on the agenda for the workshop kind of an
24 update of where TxDOT feels the coordination is working
25 and I'm not trying to get at holding anybody individually

1 responsible, but where is it going well? Where is it not
2 going well? And can we then think about some ways that,
3 to use the word we used last year, incentivize further
4 development of coordinated service provision. Is that
5 something that can be added to the agenda, or refined in
6 terms of the agenda?

7 MS. BLOOMER: Al, this Michelle. I definitely
8 think so, and I think it gets back to that bigger question
9 of how do we do the big picture, and some of the day to
10 day, and maybe we can, at the workshop, strategize a
11 little bit more of how we would like to do that.

12 Because I think a lot of these items are all
13 interrelated. Like, where I'm coming from on the 5310
14 program, in asking for that to be an item for discussion.

15 I think it gets back to coordination, and what we are
16 trying to achieve, and so maybe it is a larger discussion
17 of what actually is the longer term vision for public
18 transit and TxDOT, and how does regional coordination
19 planning play into that.

20 How does the 5310 program play into that? How
21 did the -- the coordinated call, and the [indiscernible].

22 How do they fit into that bigger picture? Because my
23 frustration is, I think we have a vision of where we are
24 trying to get to.

25 But then we are doing all of these independent

1 programs that aren't necessarily coordinating with each
2 other, and moving us in a forward direction. So I
3 definitely think we can leave the coordinated planning on
4 there and maybe we lump in the 5310, the TARC and New
5 Freedom programs in there. I don't know if we can do all
6 that, and take up the funding formula again.

7 MR. UNDERWOOD: Well, that was I was about to
8 say Michelle. It is pretty difficult to talk about those
9 things, without talking about the funding formula.
10 Because that is where it all starts.

11 MS. BLOOMER: And if you're going to talk about
12 the funding formula, you have to talk about transportation
13 development credits.

14 MR. UNDERWOOD: I'm teasing.

15 MS. BLOOMER: So that is where we struggled.
16 The prior committees, you know, all of these items are so
17 interrelated, but we felt that if we didn't tackle them
18 one at a time, we were going to have a difficult time
19 getting a year into it, and not having any measurable
20 outcome to show for a years worth of activity.

21 And so that is why we sort of tackled the 5311,
22 the discretionary. Then we tackled the Legislative
23 Appropriation Request, and so maybe at the workshop we can
24 talk about as well, the new committee, if the desire is to
25 sort of try to bite off little pieces of a bunch of items

1 all at once. Or pick one, and really attack it, and move
2 it forward.

3 Because you're right. I don't think we can
4 really take all of it. It is sort of like regional
5 coordination, and I originally called it the big burrito.

6 There is no way you're going to sit there and just down
7 that thing.

8 MR. UNDERWOOD: Right.

9 MS. BLOOMER: You have to take little pieces of
10 it, and move something forward. Otherwise, we would sit
11 there, and we just -- we wouldn't get across the goal line
12 on anything.

13 MR. GADBOIS: And since we are still talking
14 workshop, I think, it helps me to think about it, in that
15 most of these items have some relationship to the long
16 range, to the whole burrito, and then most of them have
17 some kind of immediate aspects that you just need to work
18 on, right.

19 The whole burrito thing is probably an
20 incremental process. We won't get things, big picture
21 things settled in one three hour meeting. I mean, we
22 won't, but we may be able to clearly define where we want
23 to go over the next year, well enough to then give
24 guidance to staff on, we need this information to refine
25 this piece of it. You know, on and on.

1 As a consequence, if we think about the
2 workshop, in terms of trying to frame where we want to go
3 long term, and kind of what the incremental steps are, and
4 then how we deal with these immediate pieces, funding
5 formula, that sort of thing. Then I think we'll be much
6 more productive in our three hour session.

7 That may also give us some time to start
8 digging into funding formula. You all may all be up to
9 speed enough to where the funding formula is going to pop
10 quickly, but I seriously doubt it.

11 MR. GLEASON: I think our workshop last year
12 was six hours.

13 (Simultaneous discussion.)

14 MR. GADBOIS: With six hours, we can solve a
15 world of problems, you know.

16 MR. ABESON: This is Al. The only thing I
17 would add to that is that we also use a filter of a
18 likelihood of actually being able to accomplish something.
19 Maybe that is self evident, but the big picture, I
20 absolutely agree with that, but when we take off the next
21 set of pieces to get to the big picture, I want us to
22 think about where are those areas where time and
23 circumstance suggest we might actually make a more rapid
24 difference.

25 MR. GADBOIS: I agree.

1 MR. ABESON: And again, I'll just pick on
2 coordination for the moment. There does seem to be a fair
3 amount of national interest and, I think, in this state as
4 well, on coordination.

5 So it may be, that because the time is right,
6 the circumstances are right, we have the three federal
7 programs at least as of today, that that might be a
8 priority. Because we can make a difference there fairly
9 quickly. And I just want to add that filter, because I
10 think it is important.

11 MR. GADBOIS: This is Gadbois for the record.
12 Heads are nodding.

13 MR. ABESON: Well, I'm glad.

14 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. So we are looking at early
15 April. So between now and then, we have some time to all
16 individually think of other items, and maybe ideas for the
17 longer term vision or the frame and, Al, we know we'll
18 keep coordination on there.

19 And if anybody wants to add anything or take
20 anything off, just, I guess, let Ginnie know. Okay. Were
21 there any other items for discussion today? This is
22 really sort of our initial kickoff meeting, I guess.

23 MR. SALAZAR: This is J.R. I just had one
24 question. I know that for the last year or so, we have
25 been talking about transparency. It is a big issue with

1 TxDOT and I guess my question is, I have talked to a few
2 people and they say, well we don't even know when PTAC
3 meetings are. So my question is, do the notice of PTAC
4 meetings go out to the providers?

5 MR. GLEASON: We do not typically, because I
6 don't have a distribution list beyond the committee. It
7 is published in the register as happening. That is a
8 requirement we made, but we can, you know, we can look at
9 that.

10 I would, I guess it would be -- I'd be
11 interested in the committee's suggestion on a distribution
12 list as well. It is not just the providers, but it would
13 be the stakeholder group, inclusive of that, I'd think and
14 that is certainly a reasonable, a frequent suggestion.

15 MR. SALAZAR: Fair enough.

16 MR. GADBOIS: Isn't the regional coordination
17 list probably the largest? I mean, that would include
18 providers.

19 MR. GLEASON: I don't know anymore. That is a
20 good place to start, for sure. We have so many different
21 lists that -- it can be real mind boggling.

22 MR. GADBOIS: Sure. Send them to all.

23 MR. GLEASON: Well, then some will get three.
24 Whatever it is.

25 MR. GADBOIS: Well, you know, seven, it takes

1 to hit people's consciousness.

2 MR. GLEASON: We will talk about that, and see
3 what seems to make sense to us, but I think the notion of
4 broadening the --

5 MR. GADBOIS: Okay.

6 MS. BLOOMER: I think that is a good point.
7 J.R., I think another -- this is Michelle for the record.

8 I think another good option too, is for PTAC members to
9 know, and be made aware of other items that are going on,
10 related to the transit providers, like the semi-annual
11 meeting.

12 There is a regional coordination meeting on
13 March 8th. Any way that we can sort of get tapped in, if
14 we weren't already, like J.R. and Brad, by going to those
15 meetings, and just sort of listening and participating and
16 hearing what the transit providers have to say, I think is
17 beneficial as well.

18 MR. GADBOIS: Do we ever record our open
19 meeting?

20 MR. GLEASON: Yes. I think we have to explore
21 that with our counsel, to see what issues that might
22 raise.

23 MS. BLOOMER: I think we are -- well, having
24 had to participate in the Open Meetings requirement as
25 part of being appointed by the Governor and doing the

1 certificate and everything, we are fine, and you can
2 correct me, because I was multi-tasking, for the record.

3 MR. SALAZAR: Yes. You're going to have to
4 wait about 20 minutes, and they will never know.

5 MS. BLOOMER: Is that, as long as we don't
6 conduct business of the committee, we should be fine, but
7 yes, we might just want to double check. Because it kind
8 of scared me a little bit, you know.

9 MR. GADBOIS: Well, and it is easy enough, with
10 advanced notice, it is easy enough to -- for anybody to go
11 in, to one of those meetings, to let Ginnie know, and
12 Ginnie to post it. Right? I mean, at the City, we do
13 that all of the time. For organizations that are getting
14 counsel on, that are getting together and subject to Open
15 Meetings.

16 MS. BLOOMER: Or you know, we don't all have to
17 go. I go, I have gone to the last couple of semiannual
18 meetings, just to get a PTAC update, to try to put a face
19 on, we are here. This is what we are trying to do. We
20 are here for you. Please let us know, you know, what we
21 can do.

22 But just like, Glenn, if you just go to any of
23 the public providers in your region, or public meetings,
24 anything like that, just to sort of, how we can also tap
25 in, instead of expecting the providers to the same.

1 MR. GADBOIS: Although Eric, you made a face,
2 and I just wanted -- I like the idea. You made a face
3 that looked like you have some clarification or concerns.
4 So I'm going to push for that.

5 I understand that we ought to, as PTAC members,
6 be reaching out and talking to the community. I think
7 that would be a good thing.

8 I also, though, think it is easy enough if we
9 happen to find four is a majority now, five? If we find a
10 meeting such that we know five are going to be there, that
11 we simply you know, with a week's advance notice, can
12 publish that and have no problem on Open Meetings. That
13 is my understanding. That is, where you were having the
14 look of question.

15 MR. GLEASON: Well, I think, if I can, this is
16 Eric. I think, I have to use my poker face. Al, you
17 couldn't see that, so you're at a disadvantage.

18 MR. ABESON: I truly am, and I'm missing a lot.

19 MR. GLEASON: I know. And I think my
20 expression was probably related to trying to think that
21 through with respect to the Department having what I'd
22 call a business meeting.

23 Where, for example, on the 8th of March, as
24 Michelle mentioned, we are pulling the lead agencies in to
25 talk about coordination and we have enough room for two

1 people from each lead agency, and the effort is, should
2 have a very close and intense conversation of how things
3 are going, and what we need to do differently.

4 And where I was giving you the face was trying
5 to imagine a situation where we ended up posting something
6 in the *Register* somehow, of a meeting and whether or not
7 they would open up these meetings to anyone who might like
8 to come. It was more of a -- I don't quite understand
9 this completely yet, but I understand the spirit of the
10 comment. I was kind of working through the details in my
11 mind.

12 MR. GADBOIS: And this is Gadbois. As my
13 mother-in-law often says, I think from attendance today,
14 using the regular public notice, that you're borrowing
15 trouble to suggest that anybody is going to show up simply
16 because you publish something. Number one, but regardless
17 of that, let's just see if we can't figure out how we can
18 make sure and do open meetings and get out and talk to the
19 public more.

20 MS. BLOOMER: And just to follow through. I
21 wasn't suggesting all PTAC members go to the March 8th,
22 but I think it is an opportunity for -- normally, I'd just
23 send my regional coordination planner.

24 But being on PTAC, and knowing that two folks
25 can go, and having a yet unfilled planner position, I

1 think I'd like to go to that. Both as the lead agency for
2 regional coordination of our region, and as a member of
3 PTAC. Just to see what everybody else is saying about it,
4 what can we do in our region.

5 But then, what information can I then bring
6 back and share with the rest of my fellow PTAC members,
7 related to that? And if you go to something similar, do
8 the same. You could do the same thing.

9 Not necessarily, we have everybody from PTAC go
10 to the March 8th meeting, or another meeting, but we all
11 try to get our little tentacles out there, and then bring
12 that information back and share it.

13 MR. GLEASON: As long as we can have a
14 conversation about our meeting purpose, and what we are
15 trying to do, and all of that, and if I can, from time to
16 time, I might suggest that the dynamic we are trying to
17 create in a meeting is such that -- you know, we really
18 want -- and I'm glad you're coming on the 8th, because I
19 need you there.

20 But I mean, we really want -- we have got some
21 issues to work through with that program, good and bad and
22 we need a constructive, forceful dialogue amongst the
23 leads to figure this thing out.

24 MR. GADBOIS: Now, back to process. Because
25 that is the big question that I need to deal with. So

1 Michelle goes to a meeting and she wants to make sure we
2 all understand what was talked about at that meeting, so
3 that we at PTAC have the benefit of her participating in
4 that.

5 How does that happen? Is that an email sent to
6 Ginnie, and then Ginnie can send it out to all of us?

7 MR. GLEASON: We can do that.

8 MR. GADBOIS: Just physically --

9 MR. GLEASON: I think that is a good way to do
10 it. You know, what the committee has to watch out for, is
11 any kind of a dialogue that would -- email that begins to
12 look like the committee is making a decision.

13 VOICE: Daisy chain.

14 MR. GADBOIS: Yes. That is what I want to make
15 clear is, Michelle can't just send it out to us directly
16 and we can't reply all and start talking about it, and so
17 I just want to make clear how that actually happens.

18 MS. BLOOMER: And this is Michelle. Eric will
19 let us know, going down that road. That got yanked back.
20 I think probably the best thing to do it nicely, I think
21 probably the best thing to do would just be at the next
22 PTAC meeting, or the next workshop, maybe we can have an
23 item under general discussion where people who attended
24 meetings in the past can just share.

25 And that way, we don't run into that issue of

1 conducting business, when we shouldn't be, but, yes, and I
2 rely on Eric to make sure, keep me in line.

3 MR. GADBOIS: And I personally would rather
4 emails, just when they happen. But we all have to
5 understand, we can't turn that into an email conversation.

6 MS. BLOOMER: Right.

7 MR. GLEASON: Right. Exactly.

8 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. I had an item, and it has
9 escaped.

10 MR. ABESON: While you're thinking, this is Al.
11 I wonder if it would be possible to get the minutes from
12 each of our meetings, more closer to when the meeting has
13 occurred. Frankly, at my age, I have difficulty
14 remembering all that went on today, in terms of when we
15 next meet. Is it possible to get them earlier?

16 MS. BLOOMER: Ginnie whispered sure.

17 MS. MAYLE: Sure.

18 MS. BLOOMER: And Al, it is not just you. By
19 the time I get back home tonight, I pretty much will have
20 forgotten a lot. Which is why I write a lot of notes.
21 Would it be possible -- what is a realistic turnaround
22 time from the date of the meeting, do you think? Because
23 do you rely on the court reporter's report?

24 MS. MAYLE: This is Ginnie. The reason I send
25 them out when I do, is to refresh your memories, closer to

1 the next meeting date. That is why it has always been
2 done closer to the scheduled meeting. Like, I send it out
3 this week for today's meeting and what you're asking is to
4 have it closer to the meeting where the topics were
5 discussed. The session occurred.

6 MR. ABESON: Correct. I don't want to create
7 an undue burden on anybody, but it would certainly be
8 helpful to me.

9 MS. MAYLE: It isn't, but I can get them out
10 closer after the actual meeting date.

11 MS. BLOOMER: So maybe like, get them in 30
12 days, or generally around 30 days from the date of the
13 meeting?

14 MS. MAYLE: That is doable.

15 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. And, Al, we also have the
16 transcript. I don't know if you have ever had the
17 pleasure of going back and reading that.

18 MR. ABESON: I have, a few times, and I
19 understand why we are not exposed to them each time.

20 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. Because we have had to go
21 back a couple of times, just to reference to it. For
22 Ginnie and I to recall to our memory what action we
23 actually did take in the minutes. So okay.

24 Thirty days from today. I don't even know what
25 today is, the 25th. So sometime around the end of March

1 which will probably be really close to when we start
2 talking about April maybe. So it might not work out
3 quite. It might not work out exactly like it did today
4 where we get it before the next meeting.

5 Okay. And it still hasn't come back to me, Al,
6 but thank you for stalling for me. In my old age, if I
7 don't write it down, it goes flying out. Okay.

8 I think the next item will be for Ginnie to
9 send us some possible dates in early April for the
10 workshop and then if any of the members have any ideas on
11 how we can structure the longer term framework or vision
12 discussion, and then the more short term specific items to
13 work on, to just email those to Ginnie.

14 And, if not, is there any public comment? All
15 of our public?

16 (No response.)

17 MS. BLOOMER: Hearing none, confirm the date of
18 the next meeting. We will do that via email.

19 Do I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

20 MR. ABESON: So moved. This is Al.

21 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. Al, I have a first.

22 Brad, do you want to second it?

23 MR. UNDERWOOD: Second.

24 MS. BLOOMER: I have a second. Anybody
25 opposed?

1 (No response.)

2 MS. BLOOMER: The meeting is adjourned. Thank
3 you, Al.

4 MR. ABESON: Thank you all. Bye.

5 (Whereupon, the meeting was concluded at 11:05
6 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

MEETING OF: Public Transportation Advisory Committee
LOCATION: Austin, Texas
DATE: February 25, 2011

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages,
numbers 1 through 54, inclusive, are the true, accurate,
and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording
made by electronic recording by Nancy King before the
Texas Department of Transportation.

(Transcriber) 3/04/2011 (Date)

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