

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Friday, February 26, 2010
Lone Star Room
Building One
4000 Jackson Avenue
Austin, Texas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT BY TELEPHONE:

Michelle Bloomer, Chair
J.R. Salazar, Vice Chair
Al Abeson
Frank Castellanos
Christina Crain
Janet Everheart
Vince Huerta
Claudia Langguth

STAFF:

Eric Gleason, PTN Director
Bobby Killebrew, PTN Deputy Director
Kelly Kirkland, PTN Director of Planning
Ginnie Mayle, PTN

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 MS. BLOOMER: The meeting is called to order.
3 We're going to try to do this. It might be a little
4 difficult with everybody on the phone, but I think we can
5 manage.

6 The first item on our agenda today is approval
7 of the minutes from the January 29, 2010, meeting. Did we
8 have any comments?

9 (No response.)

10 MS. BLOOMER: I did want to make one comment.
11 I think based on the list of committee members present --
12 did we have somebody join us?

13 MS. EVERHEART: This is Janet.

14 MS. BLOOMER: Good morning, Janet. This is
15 Michelle.

16 MS. EVERHEART: Hi, Michelle.

17 MS. BLOOMER: And did somebody else just join?

18 MR. SALAZAR: Good morning, Michelle, this is
19 J.R. Good morning, everyone.

20 MS. BLOOMER: Good morning, J.R. We now have
21 everybody except for Frank. Is Frank on the line?

22 (No response.)

23 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. Well, we already called
24 the meeting to order and we're on agenda item 2, approval
25 of the minutes.

1 Ginnie, the one comment that I had is that
2 under the committee members present, it reflects two
3 members via conference call but down under agenda item 1
4 it says three participating by telephone. I didn't know
5 if we had another member that we needed to add up at the
6 top. I think we had anticipated three members.

7 MS. MAYLE: I think you're right. Yes, there
8 were two that were unavailable. I'll change that.

9 MS. BLOOMER: And then, Al, I wanted to make
10 sure that you were okay with the language added under
11 agenda item 2, that second motion.

12 DR. ABESON: I'm fine with that.

13 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. If there are no other
14 comments, can I hear a motion for approval of the minutes
15 from the January 29 meeting?

16 DR. ABESON: So move.

17 MS. BLOOMER: A second?

18 MR. SALAZAR: This is J.R., I second.

19 MS. BLOOMER: And in order to facilitate, we'll
20 just call roll call as far as approval. Dr. Abeson?

21 DR. ABESON: I'm in favor.

22 MS. BLOOMER: Michelle Bloomer, yes.

23 Christina Melton Crain?

24 MS. CRAIN: Yes.

25 MS. BLOOMER: Janet Everheart?

1 MS. EVERHEART: Yes.

2 MS. BLOOMER: Vince Huerta?

3 MR. HUERTA: Yes.

4 MS. BLOOMER: Claudia Langguth?

5 MR. LANGGUTH: Abstain. I, unfortunately,
6 could not attend.

7 MS. BLOOMER: And J.R. Salazar?

8 MR. SALAZAR: Yes.

9 MS. BLOOMER: Okay, the minutes for January 29
10 pass.

11 And did we just have somebody join us?

12 MR. CASTELLANOS: Yes, this is Frank
13 Castellanos.

14 MS. BLOOMER: Good morning, Frank. Glad you
15 could join us. We now have all eight members. And we
16 just approved the minutes from the January 29 meeting, so
17 we're moving on to agenda item number 3: Discussion and
18 action on the department's draft 2011-2015 Strategic Plan
19 Vision, Mission, Values, Goals, and Focus Area Statements.

20 And before we started, I just wanted to lay out maybe a
21 plan of action for that discussion.

22 And just a reminder that the draft Strategic
23 Plan is still in development, and as Kelly reminded me
24 this morning, they have not yet gone out for public
25 comment so this is sort of a pre-public comment

1 opportunity to provide our thoughts and comments. At our
2 last meeting, all members were asked to review this draft
3 Strategic Plan and provide any comments they had to
4 Ginnie.

5 Al, you're the only one that provided comments,
6 and I think we all have those and hopefully had a chance
7 to review them.

8 What I think I'd like to do to facilitate the
9 discussion is maybe just walk through the mission, the
10 vision, the value statements, the goals and the associated
11 objectives under each one, and then have you, Al, give us
12 any comments or thoughts you had, and then, as well, any
13 other members add their thoughts or comments. And then at
14 the end we can strategize on how we want to provide our
15 comments to the department.

16 I think there's a couple of ways we could
17 probably provide our comments: we can either be very
18 specific in the comments we make; we can provide more
19 general or global comments such as we think it should have
20 a more multimodal impact or it should be more inclusive of
21 all modes; or the third option would be to provide some
22 combination thereof of general and specific comments.

23 I don't know if anybody has any comments or
24 thoughts on that before we get started.

25 MR. GLEASON: Michelle, this is Eric. Good

1 morning, everyone.

2 I'm not sure whether you've covered this or
3 not. I talked with Mary Meyland at TxDOT who is leading
4 up the effort for the department on the Strategic Plan,
5 and because this is kind of an early comment opportunity
6 for the committee, and I think it's great that you're
7 taking this opportunity, probably the best vehicle to
8 communicate whatever comments the committee does wish to
9 forward at this time would be for me to capture those
10 thoughts in a memo to Mary. I would clearly have that
11 memo; you would have a chance to review it before I sent
12 it, but just sort of from a technical communications
13 standpoint, that's probably the best option for the
14 committee at this point.

15 Once we're into a formal comment period on the
16 plan itself, then I think it's entirely appropriate for
17 the committee, under signature from Michelle, perhaps, to
18 forward their thoughts to the commission directly.

19 MS. BLOOMER: Okay, I think that sounds like a
20 good idea.

21 If there are no other comments, let's go ahead
22 and start working through this. Mission statement, Al,
23 would you like to sort of highlight your comments
24 regarding the mission statement?

25 DR. ABESON: Unfortunately, I don't have in

1 front of me all of my comments, I'd really focused on what
2 I called Objective 4. I'm trying to bring it up. We have
3 two computers in our house and we go back and forth which
4 sometimes works real well and sometimes not so hot. Did I
5 make a recommendation on that mission statement?

6 MS. BLOOMER: Yes, and let me take a stab at
7 summarizing what I think your comment was. I don't know
8 if everybody else has a copy of the mission statement in
9 front of them, but I won't read it, but basically what
10 your comment was, I believe, was to add multimodal to the
11 description of the statewide transportation system. So
12 the mission statement says to provide a safe, efficient,
13 cost-effective and environmentally sensitive, and you've
14 added the word "multimodal" statewide transportation
15 system for the movement of people and goods.

16 DR. ABESON: I now have it in front of me too.
17 Yes, I just felt that what my comments were when we met
18 in Austin a month or so ago was that I thought that
19 starting with the logo, the clear focus is on highways and
20 roads, and yet later on in the plan there is mention of
21 multimodal, and I just thought it would be worth having it
22 right up front so that it would set the stage for some
23 other kinds of transportation besides roads, or I should
24 say in addition to roads. That's all that's about.

25 MS. BLOOMER: Any other comments or

1 concurrence, disagreement?

2 MR. CASTELLANOS: Just a question. This is
3 Castellanos. Multimodal includes light rail?

4 DR. ABESON: In my mind it does.

5 MR. CASTELLANOS: Very good.

6 MS. BLOOMER: And Eric, I don't know -- maybe
7 an appropriate comment or thought would be for somewhere
8 as part of the Strategic Plan to define some of the terms
9 of what multimodal means, because for some of us I think
10 that means certain tools and to some of us it means all
11 the possible tools, so that might be helpful too to lay it
12 out for the public, as well.

13 MR. GLEASON: And I think probably since this
14 is a statewide Strategic Plan, it probably has a meaning
15 in that sense as well in terms of the kind of multimodal,
16 what that might mean in the context of statewide
17 initiatives

18 MS. BLOOMER: But I think Al makes a good
19 point, and as we get through some of the other items, a
20 lot of my comments relate to sort of the focus and trying
21 to be more inclusive of all the modes and not just highway
22 or infrastructure-intensive modes, because a lot of those
23 performance measures, as we get down, are highway-related.

24 MR. GLEASON: And I think that strikes me as an
25 example of what I would think would be a very welcome

1 comment at this point in the plan process because it
2 speaks to how the plan is presented and how things are
3 talked about, and it may be that the intent is to be as
4 you suggest, Michelle, but perhaps the words don't reflect
5 that yet. So I think that's an example of what I think
6 would be a welcome comment at this point in the plan
7 process.

8 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. And then moving on to the
9 vision statement, Al, I think your comment was to add the
10 word "all" in front of Texas citizens.

11 DR. ABESON: Right, and I'm thinking primarily
12 to emphasize the necessity for transportation for special
13 populations, and even more important, rural parts of the
14 state. I know that gets a lot of lip service everywhere
15 from Washington to just about everywhere, and I think
16 that's such a vital need that we haven't yet figured out
17 exactly how to meet all those needs, and I just wanted to
18 provide an emphasis there.

19 MS. BLOOMER: Okay, I think that's a good
20 comment, trying to meet all the various diverse needs,
21 whether by population or by geography, is definitely a
22 goal.

23 My only other comment, and this may just be
24 semantics, Eric, is the word "citizens" and that may be
25 because it's a state plan, but I know when we did our

1 regional coordination plan, we tried not to limit it to
2 our residents due to the sort of economic development
3 nature of transit as well, that it's not only the people
4 who live here but the people who come to visit here.

5 DR. ABESON: There's another aspect of the word
6 "citizen." It gets you into the immigration question. I
7 don't know whether it's a capital C, a small C of the
8 word, maybe it would just be all people in Texas, or
9 something of that sort.

10 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. Any other comments on
11 either the mission or the vision.

12 (No response.)

13 MS. BLOOMER: Moving on to the value
14 statements, I think, Al, you had a comment on the third
15 one: Earn and maintain the respect and trust of Texas
16 citizens by listening, seeking to understand and being
17 responsive, and you've added the words "meeting the
18 transportation needs of" our customers and stakeholders.

19 DR. ABESON: Right. I just think that it's a
20 simple concept in my mind is that it is the needs of the
21 people that should come foremost in everything that is
22 done multimodally, and just wanted to get that emphasis
23 included.

24 MR. GLEASON: This is Eric. Let me just talk
25 with you a bit about this one because, in my mind, the

1 value statements go to how we conduct our business as a
2 department, and not so much what the nature of that
3 business is, if I can make that distinction for you. In
4 my mind, the value statements are statements that it
5 really doesn't matter what the department is up to,
6 whether it's up to building rail, being multimodal or
7 building highways, whatever it is, it goes to how we
8 conduct our business, not the what of what the business
9 is.

10 DR. ABESON: I think I understand what you're
11 saying and I find that a very difficult division to make.

12 MR. GLEASON: Okay.

13 DR. ABESON: It would seem to me that what you
14 do is how you get to earn and maintain the respect, et
15 cetera, and that that would be meeting the transportation
16 needs. This is tough, Eric; you're making this hard.

17 (General laughter.)

18 MR. GLEASON: Well, you know, it's something
19 that I have tried to communicate with my staff, as well,
20 this exact issue, and it's the business, the choices of
21 how we relate to people are as important, actually, if not
22 more, than the specifics of what we're talking about
23 because you may have the best idea in the world, but if
24 you don't go about communicating it and listening with
25 others about it and what-have-you, it may not happen.

1 And so I understand completely what you're
2 saying about the outcome and what we do speaks volumes
3 about things. But this goes to the heart, in my mind, of
4 how employees of TxDOT make choices in conducting whatever
5 business they're up to, if I can say that.

6 DR. ABESON: I think I understand the
7 distinction you're trying to make, and I'm going to
8 respectfully disagree with you.

9 MR. GLEASON: Okay, that's fine. That's all
10 part of how we're conducting our business.

11 DR. ABESON: Yes, exactly. And I think that's
12 very fair and really quite positive, and I have high
13 regard for that. On the other hand, I really do think
14 that the ultimate product is the basis on which
15 performance indicators should be determined and whether or
16 not, in fact, the citizens of the state have had their
17 needs met.

18 MR. GLEASON: Absolutely.

19 MR. CASTELLANOS: It may be as simple as
20 changing the phrase or moving the phrase from the third
21 bullet to the top where it says TxDOT will, and putting
22 that bullet that's in red, meeting the transportation
23 needs of -- TxDOT will meet the transportation needs of
24 our customers through -- and then all the bullets: honor
25 our commitments, provide the best value, earn and

1 maintain, promote innovation, et cetera.

2 MR. GLEASON: For the members on the phone, if
3 I can, this isn't about me and you all reaching agreement
4 about what to put in my memo to Mary. I will put in it
5 whatever the committee comes up with, so let's have the
6 back and forth. But I don't want the members to think
7 that this is about me having to agree before I put it in a
8 memo that I sign to Mary. I just need to make sure I
9 reflect accurately the comments of the committee.

10 MS. BLOOMER: And J.R., was that your comment?

11 MR. CASTELLANOS: This is Frank.

12 MS. BLOOMER: Oh, sorry, Frank.

13 MR. CASTELLANOS: Thanks. Okay. And I guess
14 to me, I'm agreeing with Al in saying by moving it from
15 one place to another, it makes it more expansive rather
16 than reduces the meeting the transportation needs into
17 just one bullet, makes it part of all the bullets.

18 MS. BLOOMER: Right. All, are you good with
19 that suggestion?

20 DR. ABESON: I think that's a fine
21 recommendation.

22 MS. BLOOMER: Okay, I would agree as well. I
23 think it would be beneficial to put it up there as to what
24 the value statements apply to just to reiterate it.

25 If there aren't any more comments, let's move

1 on to Goal Number 1. And are there any comments related
2 to Goal Number 1 and the respective objectives? There are
3 four objectives.

4 I know, Al, you had a couple of comments.
5 Would you like to summarize those for us?

6 DR. ABESON: On Strategy 2, just to add the
7 words "the timely" flow of information. Well, actually,
8 now that I read it again, I think it's there. Oh, up
9 under example performance measure, I added the word
10 "useful" and I don't know if that requires a great deal of
11 explanation. I think we've all been exposed to government
12 at all levels where we get volumes of information, none of
13 it particularly useful. So I just thought it would be a
14 good term to add there.

15 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. Any other comments?

16 MS. LANGGUTH: This is Claudia. I would really
17 like to see us looking at going green as much as possible,
18 and to use the internet and other means of communication
19 rather than hard copy, killing trees, if we could work
20 that into this goal because I do think it's important for
21 us to set an example since we're one of the biggest
22 agencies in the state of Texas.

23 MS. BLOOMER: Okay, and I think maybe a good
24 suggestion off of both the useful comment and the going
25 green is maybe to suggest adding something related to

1 exploring multiple options based on the intended audience.

2 I think a lot of times we put some information out and we
3 use the same information and the same delivery method for
4 a variety of audiences, and one particular audience may be
5 very good on Twitter, YouTube, the internet, but there
6 might be some information that's appropriately
7 communicated in another fashion, and that the
8 appropriateness of having information that's communicated,
9 I think, gets back to the usefulness issue that Al Abeson
10 addressed.

11 DR. ABESON: I would agree with that. I've
12 used the term market segmentation from time to time to
13 make distinction, but I don't know how you fit that here.
14 That's the concept. Right?

15 MS. BLOOMER: Right, that the appropriate level
16 of information is delivered via the most efficient
17 mechanism for that audience.

18 DR. ABESON: Efficient and understandable or
19 relevant.

20 MS. BLOOMER: Efficient and effective. If it's
21 efficient but we don't understand it, then it doesn't
22 matter.

23 Moving on to Objective 2, Al, you had some
24 comments.

25 DR. ABESON: Well, I added "program evaluation"

1 only because I think that a performance management program
2 must have evaluation in order to be meaningful, and it may
3 be there but I didn't see it.

4 MS. BLOOMER: One comment I had under the
5 example performance measures, and I think this gets back
6 to sort of the more highway plus infrastructure, is the
7 example performance measure is on-time project design, and
8 I don't know if there's a better way to be more inclusive
9 to all the types of projects that TxDOT is involved in,
10 either on-time project delivery, on-time project
11 implementation, because some projects don't require any
12 design, and I think the public is more concerned about
13 project implementation than design.

14 DR. ABESON: You're proposing, Michelle, we
15 change the word "design" to "implementation"?

16 MS. BLOOMER: Well, I think that I'd like to
17 have a more general comment that I think it gets back to
18 the all-inclusive, multimodal nature that the Strategic
19 Plan should be, and that includes specific examples. Like
20 I don't think on-time project design is very inclusive. I
21 think it's very specific to a program or area that TxDOT
22 is involved in. How they want to address I think is up to
23 them, but, yes, I think changing the word from "design" to
24 "delivery" or "design" to "implementation" would meet that
25 basic comment.

1 And then I know under Strategy 3, Al, you had a
2 comment to change the wording there.

3 DR. ABESON: Yes. It would be the addition of
4 the presumption that the selection of projects would be
5 the full range of transportation, environmental, et
6 cetera, not just the implementation. To me, the word
7 "encourages" left something to be desired in the fact that
8 it was presumably voluntary, I guess, or passive is the
9 way I would say it, and I think that we need to make it
10 involvement of all those audiences in a more active way.

11 MS. BLOOMER: I don't know if anybody else has
12 comments, but I also made that comment, that I think
13 changing the focus from encourages, from saying TxDOT
14 encourages this type of activity to TxDOT will do, I think
15 is -- I don't know how to say this, but like TxDOT may,
16 TxDOT could, TxDOT encourages is a lot different than
17 TxDOT will, and I think the public is looking for a little
18 bit more statements of what TxDOT will do versus what they
19 might try to do or not do.

20 Any other comments there on Objective 1 or 2?

21 MR. GLEASON: Michelle, this is Eric. Do you
22 think there's anything on what you just said to something
23 like, you know, we can't require others to participate but
24 we can certainly put together processes and do everything
25 we can to get them to the table. I guess I would be

1 concerned from a department standpoint of a statement that
2 seemed to imply that we will get other people involved.
3 This may just be a split hair; I understand what you're
4 saying.

5 MS. BLOOMER: Right.

6 MR. GLEASON: And I think from a TxDOT
7 standpoint, looking at TxDOT employees and TxDOT
8 involvement, the "will" is just fine. I think when we
9 begin to make statements that imply others, then perhaps
10 we don't feel quite as like we can say "will," I guess is
11 what I'm trying to say. In the end it may not be a big
12 deal, but I understand what you're saying.

13 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. And I understand you have
14 no control over who does and doesn't participate.

15 MR. GLEASON: We can invite but obviously we
16 can't require.

17 MS. BLOOMER: Right, invite, welcome,
18 encourage.

19 MR. GLEASON: To me, it goes to the heart of
20 when we're first beginning to think about making a
21 decision about anything. Are we thinking at that very
22 earliest moment how to design a decision-making process
23 that is as inclusive as it needs to be and can be?

24 MS. BLOOMER: Right. And anybody please jump
25 in. Under Objective 3, Strategy 1, I think in line with

1 the previous comments, and maybe it just goes in support
2 of it, but it says "and maintain the safe transportation
3 infrastructure." I think to be much broader, something
4 about multimodal, and maybe it's infrastructure in the
5 largest sense of not just a building, a park-and-ride lot,
6 a highway, but that's initially how I read it is
7 infrastructure, and a lot of what we do on the transit
8 side isn't necessarily infrastructure. There's human
9 capital and knowledge and institutional knowledge, and I
10 think we want to harness that as well.

11 Objective 4 is enhance workforce recruitment,
12 with the example performance measure is employee retention
13 rate. Maybe just a suggestion or a thought would be, I'm
14 thinking there might be another performance measure that
15 might a little bit more applicable than retention rate.
16 It's one thing to retain employees; it's another thing to
17 retain good employees, and so if the performance measure
18 focused on the retention of quality employees --

19 MR. GLEASON: Well, actually, I think,
20 Michelle, bearing in mind that these are presented as
21 examples, if you will, and not necessarily performance
22 measures that have been selected. I think if you look at
23 Strategy 1 and the language, that gets to what you're
24 saying, and really what you're talking about, maybe the
25 example isn't quite the performance measure you need to

1 measure Strategy 1, because it talks about a highly
2 skilled workforce. And so, you know, the performance
3 measures need to, as accurately as possible, measure the
4 strategy.

5 MS. BLOOMER: And maybe the suggestion is
6 instead of having an example performance measure right
7 below the objective is that there could be an example
8 performance measure related to each strategy.

9 MR. GLEASON: Below the strategy statement, if
10 you will.

11 MS. BLOOMER: Right.

12 MR. GLEASON: Okay, that's kind of an
13 organizational thing, but yes, I can see that.

14 MS. BLOOMER: Any other comments before I move
15 on to Goal 2?

16 (No response.)

17 MS. BLOOMER: And Goal 2 is: "Facilitate the
18 development and exchange of comprehensive multimodal
19 funding strategies with transportation program and project
20 partners."

21 The only comment I really had, Eric, was I
22 thought maybe, and this is sort of a detailed question,
23 that they may or may not be interested in, but it seemed
24 to me that Objective 2 might be a little bit more
25 appropriate first because it's to assess and document the

1 needs and available revenues and then explore all
2 available financing options.

3 (General talking and laughter.)

4 MS. BLOOMER: We'll move on. I understand
5 people might have other items they need to do. If you
6 could just either put us on mute or step out of the
7 office, that would be appreciated, because you might not
8 want us to hear what you're talking about.

9 Let's see. Were there any other comments
10 related to Goal 2?

11 DR. ABESON: Just a change of wording under
12 Strategy 1, Objective 2. I don't know if it requires lots
13 of discussion. I'm just trying to be more active than
14 passive.

15 MS. BLOOMER: And I think that might be a good
16 general overall or overarching comment, being more active
17 than passive.

18 Goal 3: "Maintain the existing Texas
19 transportation system." Any comments on Objective 1, 2 or
20 3?

21 (No response.)

22 MS. BLOOMER: I'll go ahead and start. One of
23 these comments, Eric, sort of just along the lines of what
24 we've said previously, but I'm not sure. The first
25 objective there is: "Develop optimal asset management

1 programs to protect existing infrastructure investments."

2 And again, maybe that's just my limited understanding or
3 definition of infrastructure, but I thought in order to
4 take a broader approach, it might be better to separate
5 those two words and put "investments" first, that we
6 should as a state be trying to better manage all of our
7 investments, whether those are infrastructure or not.

8 And I think if we talked about the example
9 performance measures being moved down under each strategy,
10 that will address the comment that I had for the next one
11 because it's basically percent of lane miles, and my
12 comment there was to sort of broaden the focus. Again, it
13 has a highway focus versus aviation, freight, transit, or
14 any of the other areas where TxDOT is involved in
15 transportation.

16 MR. GLEASON: Michelle, this is Eric. I have
17 had similar thoughts that you're obviously having when you
18 see the word "infrastructure" and, you know, I think the
19 obvious conclusion is that word is referring to those
20 things the department does on the highway side of its
21 activities and not so much referring to what it does on
22 the non-highway products, if you will. And so I think we
23 could try and add language.

24 The other thought I've had is to just simply
25 use in my own mind and my own thinking, and when I provide

1 comments or when we develop performance measures for these
2 things, to treat infrastructure more broadly.

3 And an example here, what we've talked about is
4 if we think of the fleet investment that at the state
5 level we have and close to 2,000 members of the fleet
6 between the rural and the small urban systems around the
7 state; if we think about as infrastructure and develop
8 measures around the quality of that investment that that's
9 one sort of approach I've sort of thought through in my
10 head, you know, not so much necessarily trying to change
11 the language of the objectives to have more words in them
12 but to simply broaden the concept of what infrastructure
13 means through the strategies and through performance
14 measures.

15 MS. BLOOMER: I think that's probably a good
16 strategy, and I was also thinking maybe we add
17 infrastructure to the list of terms that might be useful
18 to be identified up front, or another strategy might be to
19 even broaden it a little bit more by referring to
20 resources instead of infrastructure, because resources
21 would be both your physical and building, because I think
22 even in your example you're saying the fleet which I
23 obviously think is an item that would be infrastructure,
24 but going beyond that, the human capital. I mean, TxDOT
25 has spent a lot of time and money bringing along staff and

1 offering training that we might want to think about
2 expanding infrastructure or resources to be inclusive of
3 that sort of resources as well.

4 MR. GLEASON: Okay.

5 MS. BLOOMER: On Objective 2 and 3, I think I
6 basically had the same comment, trying to bring an
7 inclusive or much broader focus. It seems every, again,
8 highway focused.

9 Any other comments on Objective 2 or 3?

10 (No response.)

11 MS. BLOOMER: Moving on to Goal 4: "Promote
12 congestion relief strategies." Any comments related to
13 Goal 4 or the associated objectives? Is anybody else out
14 there?

15 (General talking and laughter.)

16 MS. BLOOMER: Okay, just checking.

17 Eric, I guess a question I had in just reading
18 it again this morning, and I understand that congestion
19 relief is an important strategy, but I was sort of torn
20 between congestion relief versus mobility, and what's the
21 true goal of Texas as far as TxDOT. Is it to provide
22 mobility, and I think one way of doing that is to help
23 reduce congestion, but I think reducing congestion and
24 mobility are really two different things. Because you can
25 reduce congestion for somebody but unless you're on the

1 road, that's not really a benefit to you; whereas,
2 mobility is a much broader focus.

3 MR. GLEASON: Well, two things. I think it's
4 important -- congestion relief, in my mind, is very
5 different than the current department goal of congestion
6 reduction, so I think even that represents a significant
7 step.

8 I think, Michelle, you're asking a broader
9 question that I think is very important, and if the
10 committee thinks it is, that needs to be entered into the
11 discussion, and that is this notion of mobility and
12 whether or not that is an important and broad enough
13 concept. Is it recognized in this draft to the extent it
14 should be as one of the goals of the department? And I
15 think that's an important conversation for the committee
16 to have.

17 DR. ABESON: This is Al. I would add here that
18 I was really trying, in doing the new objective -- and I'm
19 not sure if I've numbered this right, I had great
20 difficulty organizing this -- but the idea of ensuring the
21 availability of a sufficient workforce really is not what
22 I have in mind. What I have in mind is ensuring the
23 availability of mobility, and I was trying to figure out
24 how could I get that in there in a way that would relate
25 to what's already there which is why it is located where

1 I've put it, or where I hope I've put it, and why I've
2 said what I've said, because I think the ultimate goal has
3 to be mobility, not merely getting people to jobs.

4 MS. BLOOMER: Right. Any other comments on a
5 goal being mobility, enhance mobility?

6 DR. ABESON: I'm certainly supportive of that.

7 MR. GLEASON: Let me ask a question of the
8 committee. To what extent do you think the goal of
9 connectivity gets at the mobility goal?

10 MS. BLOOMER: Eric, I think, and this is just
11 how I look at it, but mobility is more of the overarching
12 umbrella and I think connectivity would be sort of a
13 strategy within that, as well as congestion relief would
14 be a strategy within that, but I see sort of what TxDOT's
15 role and my role as planner at the MPO is to improve
16 mobility, and we do that through multiple ways, regional
17 coordination, congestion management, ITS, TDM, and all
18 that, but ultimately our goal is to move people where they
19 want to go. And I think that overarching vision is
20 missing, or at least I don't see it in the strategic plan.

21 MR. GLEASON: Okay

22 MS. BLOOMER: Just a comment that gets back to
23 a little bit more of the details, but Objective 2 under
24 Goal 4, again, the example performance measure -- even in
25 that example it specifically says congested highway

1 segments, and just to encourage TxDOT to think more
2 broadly and maybe it's just congested segments, because
3 there are quite a few congested rail segments, and so to
4 continue to keep being inclusive, even an example, because
5 I think when we give examples and we're limiting it, it
6 tends to limit people's range of possibilities when
7 thinking about it.

8 MR. GLEASON: So if I can paraphrase, in terms
9 of readying a draft document for formal public discussion,
10 I'm hearing sort of an organizational suggestion about
11 where the examples appear and also a suggestion that
12 perhaps more than simply one would be helpful. Is that a
13 fair statement?

14 MS. BLOOMER: Yes, I think so.

15 MR. GLEASON: Because keep in mind, you guys
16 are seeing this before it goes formally public, but I can
17 see the value of that, absolutely.

18 MR. CASTELLANOS: This is Frank again. I'm
19 thinking that the discussion over the broader issues and
20 the overarching issues, I think those are valuable too
21 because they not be specific objectives but maybe could
22 be, as we're struggling to try to see where we articulate
23 those, maybe an expansion of maybe the vision or the
24 mission to include some of the concepts that we're talking
25 about.

1 MS. BLOOMER: Thanks, Frank, good comment.

2 Second to last goal, number 5, "Enhance system
3 connectivity," I know, Al, you had some comments here,
4 you've added a strategy, I think, under Objective 1.

5 DR. ABESON: Yes. Actually, I had great
6 difficulty trying to figure out where to put this, but it
7 does fit under Objective -- I labeled it 4 because there
8 were three ahead of it, so what I'm talking about is
9 Strategy 4 which, as I mentioned, speaks to ensuring the
10 availability of sufficient maybe the word is mobility
11 options related to getting people to work for Texas
12 industries. Texas industries appeared earlier, so I was
13 just trying to piggyback on that language.

14 And the example performance measure, you've
15 read all this so you know what it is, and I feel so
16 strongly that the department is investing heavily in
17 trying to increase coordination around the state, and some
18 regions have really moved forward on it, and I think that
19 historically, regional coordinated efforts have not
20 succeeded in the United States. It's been around for a
21 long time and it's gotten lots of new impetus thanks to
22 SAFETEA-LU, and I presume that's going to continue, and I
23 would just like to see that really stressed as something
24 that could contribute significantly to mobility for Texas.

25 MS. BLOOMER: And we might be able to address

1 that as well as part of the focus mobility versus specific
2 items.

3 And then I've turned the page, Al, on Objective
4 2, and you've added some example performance measures that
5 I think helps get to the regional coordination and the
6 mobility initiative.

7 DR. ABESON: Right.

8 MS. BLOOMER: And I think I would agree,
9 although I'm not sure that that's the place for those to
10 be incorporated, but I guess that gets back to the
11 infrastructure versus the resources. I don't know that I
12 would call the regional coordination effort
13 infrastructure, but I would definitely consider it a
14 resource that TxDOT has spent significant time and money
15 developing and should continue to nurture and manage that
16 resource.

17 MR. SALAZAR: Michelle, this is J.R. I have a
18 question for Eric. Under the Objective 2, Strategy 2,
19 "Develop a process to prioritize regional and statewide
20 connectivity improvements," that strategy there, Eric.
21 Can you elaborate just briefly on that?

22 MR. GLEASON: I'm not sure I can, J.R. When I
23 look at this objective and these strategies, I want to
24 make sure that what gets communicated is more than just
25 completing the state highway network. I think we need to

1 make sure that the kinds of connections that we provide or
2 that you all provide with funds that we administer, that
3 we're building toward something, some kind of a notion of
4 a network, if you will, with connections and service
5 levels and things like that that is included in the
6 concept of enhancing system connectivity.

7 so I didn't really answer your question, J.R.,
8 but when I look at this goal and I look at the objectives
9 and strategies, that's one of my interests is to make sure
10 this doesn't somehow get interpreted as just completing
11 the state highway system.

12 MR. KIRKLAND: And J.R., this is Kelly
13 Kirkland, if I could add also. Again for the record, this
14 is Kelly Kirkland, director of planning for the Public
15 Transportation Division. A lot of that strategy wording
16 is about the process and that addresses one of the major
17 emphases that the commission has had recently on
18 accountability and transparency. I think there's been a
19 lot of discussion about how the department has selected
20 projects in the past and this helps address an emphasis on
21 making that process at all levels more transparent.

22 MR. SALAZAR: Okay, that's fair enough.

23 MS. BLOOMER: Any other comments on Goal 5?

24 (No response.)

25 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. Moving on to Goal 6:

1 "Enhanced safety for all Texas transportation system
2 users." Any comments regarding either the goal or the
3 four objectives?

4 DR. ABESON: Just again, you have it in red
5 under Strategy 3, Objective 1. I propose to add "with
6 emphasis on older adults and people with disabilities"
7 only because the company is going to be facing lots more
8 of both of these categories of people and we haven't done
9 terribly well for those folks yet, and we've got more
10 coming, so we need to do some special attention for these
11 individuals, in my mind.

12 MS. BLOOMER: I would completely agree with you
13 there. And I think that gets back to just the overarching
14 picture, I think, again, back to your comment of all
15 Texans, specific populations, as well as geographic
16 differences. And again, that Objective 1 is very highway
17 specific, the example performance measure: "Number of
18 fatalities per 100,000,000 miles traveled." Strategy 3:
19 "Assess the roadway system to enhance the safety of
20 multimodal interfaces." I think that just gets back to
21 reinforcing that it should be a multimodal, all population
22 mobility goal or plan. That's just my two cents. Anybody
23 else want to throw their two cents in?

24 (No response.)

25 MS. BLOOMER: Eric, do you think you have

1 enough information or direction to take a stab at a
2 letter?

3 MR. GLEASON: Yes, with some help, obviously.
4 I think what we can do is we'll draft something up that we
5 think reflects the conversation and then we will throw it
6 out there to you all for comment, and we'll probably go
7 back and forth maybe a couple of times with that before we
8 send it on.

9 I'm kind of hearing, as well, in terms of the
10 way this thing might look is we might identify some
11 themes, if you will, that have been kind of running
12 throughout this whole conversation, and some of the things
13 I've listed down are this notion of truly multimodal,
14 inclusiveness, infrastructure versus resources, some
15 organizational things around use of more active language
16 versus passive language, the organizational issue of what
17 are the example performance measures and how many of them
18 are given, and then the general concept of elevating and
19 making much more apparent that the goal or objective of
20 mobility.

21 So I would probably suggest that what you'll
22 see when we get it out to you will be an attempt to
23 capture some themes that are generally running throughout
24 the more specific comments that follow, and then we'll
25 probably go ahead and try and I don't know whether we'll

1 do an annotated or a modified version of what you have
2 here to reflect it or not, but it will be something much
3 more specific.

4 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. And what do you anticipate
5 the timeline being for submitting our comments?

6 MR. GLEASON: For me sending something over to
7 Mary Meyland?

8 MS. BLOOMER: Yes.

9 MR. GLEASON: I'm going to say a couple of
10 weeks. The only reason I say that is we're tied up in a
11 state management review next week with the FTA that will
12 be taking a lot of people's time in sort of a predictable
13 and unpredictable fashion, so I'm thinking that we're
14 probably a couple of weeks out from having something I can
15 send over to Mary.

16 MS. BLOOMER: Okay.

17 DR. ABESON: This is Al. Can I suggest, Eric,
18 that perhaps you take a crack at a glossary as well? Some
19 of the terms that you just used when we talked about
20 mobility, for one, infrastructure for another, I think
21 might be helpful not only now but down the road as
22 something that could be an important appendix to the plan
23 itself.

24 MR. GLEASON: Well, what I can do, Al, is I
25 think I'll add the notion of the glossary as kind of an

1 overarching comment, and maybe identify a handful of terms
2 that are good examples of why we might need one and send
3 that along at this point rather than trying to actually
4 take a crack at it.

5 DR. ABESON: Okay, that's fine.

6 MR. CASTELLANOS: Eric, I know that there was a
7 comment, I don't know if it was Claudia about green.

8 MR. GLEASON: Yes, it was Claudia, about going
9 green.

10 MR. CASTELLANOS: I would encourage that
11 concept not to be lost among the overarching issues.

12 MR. GLEASON: Okay.

13 MS. BLOOMER: Thank you for reminding us, J.R.

14 MR. GLEASON: That was Frank.

15 MS. BLOOMER: Okay, if there's no further
16 discussion item 3, we'll move on to item 4.

17 MR. KIRKLAND: Michelle, this is Kelly again.

18 MS. BLOOMER: Yes.

19 MR. KIRKLAND: Before we move on from this, I
20 wanted to mention there's another planning effort that's
21 getting started here in TxDOT and that's on a vision or
22 rewrite of the Texas Transportation Plan, the 20-year, 20-
23 plus-year planning document required in state and federal
24 statute.

25 We've gone a little long with the prior one.

1 It was actually developed in 1994, but we have a
2 consultant onboard and they're going to be conducting,
3 with TxDOT, some public involvement process. There's
4 going to be a series of two public meetings statewide.
5 The first one is going to be the first half of May and the
6 second is going to be the first half of August.

7 And in advance of each of those rounds of
8 public hearings, there are going to be specific meetings
9 with stakeholders and we're going to be talking with you
10 all and with other public transportation providers and
11 users about who should be attending those meetings. We
12 have asked the consultant to provide us with some
13 information about what kind of input they'd like to see
14 from the stakeholders and we'll get that out when we start
15 talking about who should be attending those stakeholder
16 meetings. I just wanted to give you all a heads up on
17 that.

18 DR. ABESON: When will that plan be submitted
19 to the governor?

20 MR. KIRKLAND: Well, the due line that we have
21 right now is that the final draft will be done August 31,
22 2010, and it will go to the commission for their review
23 after that, with the idea of having the commission
24 approval before the next legislative session begins in
25 January.

1 DR. ABESON: And what is the relationship
2 between that plan the Strategic Plan we just talked about?

3 MR. KIRKLAND: Well, I don't have all the
4 answers to that, but part of it is the Strategic Plan is a
5 five-year document and it talks about the overarching
6 goals, objectives, things the department wants to do and
7 how we want to do those things. The state Transportation
8 Plan is going to be closer to the actual work that's being
9 done.

10 Now, it's not going to be lists of projects but
11 it could talk about priorities. It might say, you know,
12 here's a list of priority corridors around the state, or
13 here's a list of priority projects in a very general
14 sense, but not in terms of like adding lanes to this road
15 or that sort of thing.

16 DR. ABESON: That's helpful. I guess one
17 further thing, it appears to me that the origination of
18 what would be in the 20-year plan would be in the five-
19 year plan. Does that make sense?

20 MR. KIRKLAND: It does. And it's built into
21 the scope of work that the consultants have is including
22 to look at this Strategic Plan. Even though the Strategic
23 Plan is under development now, and I realize that it's
24 difficult to have two planning processes going on semi-
25 simultaneously, but there are some other reasons behind

1 that, of course, and part of that is getting the
2 information prepared in a very timely fashion.

3 DR. ABESON: Thank you.

4 MR. KIRKLAND: You're welcome.

5 MS. BLOOMER: Thanks, Kelly and Al. I think,
6 Al, your comments sort of transition us into the next item
7 which is the PTAC workshop discussion, and maybe one thing
8 we might want to consider requesting a little bit more
9 information about is how the different planning processes
10 feed into each other, how the statewide planning process
11 feeds into the Strategic Plan and how that feeds into the
12 metropolitan transportation plan which each MPO is
13 required to do, and the regional coordination plan, and
14 how all those things are sort of related and supportive of
15 each other.

16 So item 4, Ginnie, maybe before we get into
17 some of the details, do we have a date for the PTAC
18 workshop?

19 MS. MAYLE: This is Ginnie. I sent out an
20 email to the committee and asked if April 7 was a good
21 date, and I heard from five of you, so I do have a quorum
22 on the 7th, but we would like, if possible, for every
23 member to attend. So since you're all on the phone, could
24 you check your calendars and see if April 7 works for you?

25 MS. CRAIN: Ginnie, this is Christina. I can

1 be there.

2 MS. MAYLE: You can? Okay.

3 MR. CASTELLANOS: This is Frank. I can be
4 there as well. Is this the one that's going to be in the
5 Dallas area?

6 MS. MAYLE: Yes.

7 MR. CASTELLANOS: Yes, I can be there.

8 MS. LANGGUTH: This is Claudia, and I can be
9 there.

10 DR. ABESON: And Al can too.

11 MS. BLOOMER: Since it will be in Arlington,
12 I'll be here.

13 MR. GLEASON: You'd better be, Michelle.

14 DR. ABESON: You have the key. Right?

15 MS. BLOOMER: Right. I have the key to the
16 building.

17 (General laughter.)

18 MR. GLEASON: Let's see. I've got Christina,
19 Frank, Claudia, Al, myself. J.R., Vince or Janet?

20 MR. HUERTA: Vince, it's a go for me; Vince is
21 good.

22 MS. BLOOMER: Okay.

23 MS. EVERHEART: This is Janet. I had responded
24 yes as well.

25 MS. BLOOMER: Great. Let's see. Who are we

1 missing? Did I hear J.R. say yes? Have we lost J.R.?

2 MR. SALAZAR: I'm sorry. I was talking with my
3 mute on; I will be there. My apologies, I had my mute on.

4 MR. GLEASON: How long had that been going on,
5 J.R.?

6 (General laughter.)

7 MR. SALAZAR: My question was do we have any
8 idea on the new appointment. Are we still waiting on
9 that?

10 MR. GLEASON: We are still awaiting the final
11 appointment to the committee. I had an opportunity
12 yesterday at the commission meeting to speak with Zeke
13 Reyna, who is in Speaker Strauss's office, and asked him
14 to see what he could do to maybe push that through before
15 this workshop. I impressed on him the importance of it
16 and our desire to have a full committee there because of
17 some of the really critical issues that the committee is
18 responsible for, and he promised to see what he could do.

19 MR. SALAZAR: Good.

20 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. I think then if everybody
21 is available on the 7th and we have the possibility of
22 getting our ninth member, let's go ahead and pen for April
23 7. And if for some reason the newest member isn't able to
24 join us, I do know what TTI had put together for the last
25 one was fairly informative -- just the information

1 itself -- because I wasn't able to attend it. But I went
2 through the materials afterward, and I would be happy to
3 sit down with the new member and sort of walk through that
4 if any other members would like to join me as well in the
5 event we can't get the ninth member in advance of the
6 workshop.

7 But now that we have a date, a location and a
8 general time, let's go ahead and talk about the actual
9 content.

10 MS. MAYLE: Michelle, this is Ginnie. Did you
11 confirm that we have a meeting room available to us?

12 MS. BLOOMER: We have a meeting room. It's not
13 a preferred, but I will continue to check to see if
14 something gets canceled. But we will have a meeting room.

15 The current meeting room I have is not within my
16 building; it's in another building, but it's of sufficient
17 size to accommodate all of us. I was just hoping to be
18 over in the Center Port II building with all the resources
19 we have over here, but we do have a location.

20 MS. MAYLE: Okay.

21 DR. ABESON: And is the ten o'clock start time
22 going to hold? The reason I ask is we should have a full,
23 full day, and I don't know if people are going to be
24 driving in that morning or coming in the evening before,
25 but if we could start earlier, I think it may be a good

1 idea.

2 MS. MAYLE: Al, this is Ginnie. That was just
3 to allow travel time.

4 DR. ABESON: Yes, that's what I thought, and
5 that's fine, if that needs to be. That's fine.

6 MS. BLOOMER: And Ginnie, is April 7 a Friday?

7 MS. MAYLE: It's a Wednesday.

8 MS BLOOMER: And Al, let's -- if we can try to
9 stay flexible on the time and hold that entire day and
10 then based on what the agenda starts to shape out will
11 help determine whether or not we need to bump it up to
12 9:30 or maybe we work through lunch or try to stay a
13 little bit later.

14 DR. ABESON: Okay, that sounds fine.

15 MR. GLEASON: This is Eric. I think people can
16 begin making their plans as well and that will help us
17 understand when the earliest possibility we could start
18 the meeting that day, and I think the notion of working
19 through lunch is clearly something we can look at.

20 Michelle, I'm assuming the room is such that
21 Linda is going to have PowerPoint presentations, things
22 like that. So is it large enough?

23 MS. BLOOMER: Yes, we have all those
24 capabilities.

25 MR. GLEASON: Well, I'm thinking size more than

1 anything just so we've got room to kind of spread out a
2 bit and maybe flip charts for notes and stuff.

3 MS. MAYLE: And also, we'll need to accommodate
4 the public because this will have to be a public meeting.

5 MS. BLOOMER: Okay.

6 MR. GLEASON: Yes, that's a good point.

7 MS. BLOOMER: When we get off this conference
8 call, I'll confirm I have a room -- I'm about 99.999
9 percent sure I did, and I'll make sure that it can
10 accommodate us, TxDOT staff, the public and that there's
11 room to sort of maneuver with flip charts and presentation
12 and all that. But again, I'll continue to see if we can
13 get a larger room, like our council room or our executive
14 boardroom that would definitely meet all those
15 requirements.

16 And then what I'll also do for members is I'll
17 go ahead and email out like the location and hotels that
18 are close to the Council of Governments. There are some
19 within walking distance so if you just want to fly in, and
20 once you get here you wouldn't need a rental car, so I can
21 do that as well after the conference call.

22 MS. MAYLE: That would be great. Thanks,
23 Michelle.

24 MS. BLOOMER: Ginnie, you had mailed out an
25 agenda.

1 MS. MAYLE: I did. I sent out a draft agenda.

2 MS. BLOOMER: And then I apologize to the
3 members, and Ginnie might not have had a chance -- but
4 this morning I put a supplemental information to the
5 agenda that you had emailed out. I sent out sort of a
6 summary from the December 2005 PTAC workshop, and I don't
7 know if any of the current members were on the committee
8 back in 2005. I know I wasn't. But I thought that might
9 be a good starting point for discussion.

10 Now, to my understanding, that workshop was
11 specific to the committee's goal of updating the funding
12 formula, but in looking through that material and sort of
13 the agenda that was put together by TTI, who facilitated
14 the workshop, I thought there were large sections that
15 were very applicable to what might be helpful to us as
16 members now.

17 I didn't know if there were any other comments
18 on sort of what you would like out of the workshop, what
19 information you would like to come away with knowing after
20 the workshop.

21 MS. CRAIN: Michelle, this is Christina. In
22 other commissions and boards I've sat on when we've done a
23 workshop, I found that a legal segment was kind of
24 helpful. Maybe the general counsel could come in or
25 someone from that office to kind of go through, especially

1 for those of us who are newer, the rulemaking procedures,
2 kind of open records training, how the advisory committee
3 differs in open records -- not open records but open
4 meetings, how we differ as a committee versus a commission
5 or board, and what we can and can't do if we have to fill
6 out disclosure forms with the state, all the legal kind of
7 ramifications and procedural things that our committee
8 does and kind of run us through that.

9 MS. BLOOMER: Okay.

10 DR. ABESON: I would like to propose adding, as
11 well, some discussion of how the division is organized in
12 terms of the various -- a table of organization, if you
13 will, including the regions and the responsibilities and
14 functions of each of the offices would be helpful to me.

15 MS. BLOOMER: Al, are you talking about the
16 entire department?

17 DR. ABESON: No. I'm talking about the
18 division, but also the division within the department,
19 where it sits and how all that goes down.

20 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. So it might help to have a
21 very general overview of TxDOT as an agency but to really
22 drill down and provide detail on how the Public
23 Transportation Division relates within itself --

24 DR. ABESON: Yes, that's exactly what I had in
25 mind.

1 MS. BLOOMER: -- within itself and then within
2 the agency.

3 DR. ABESON: Right, exactly.

4 MR. GLEASON: Got it.

5 DR. ABESON: I would also propose that -- and I
6 did get a chance to look at what you sent earlier,
7 Michelle, I thought it was helpful -- just some
8 unstructured time that might be for an open discussion.
9 At the last meeting in Austin, J.R. and Vince both
10 surfaced issues that weren't on the agenda but were
11 important, and I would hope we could allow some time for
12 that.

13 MS. BLOOMER: And Eric, I think you'll have to
14 provide us some guidance. We need that sort of
15 unstructured time to discuss ideas and throw out topics
16 and be strategic, but you'll need to make sure that we can
17 still do that within, like Christina said, our legal
18 requirements, and the workshop. I guess we'll all be
19 there and it will be a quorum; it's considered an open
20 meeting.

21 MR. GLEASON: Yes, it is.

22 MS. BLOOMER: And so every item we want to
23 discuss will have to be on the agenda in some form or
24 fashion?

25 MR. GLEASON: Yes.

1 MS. BLOOMER: So we'll need to be very careful.
2 I think we'll probably need two agendas: the one that is
3 posted officially and then a more detailed one.

4 MR. GLEASON: Kind of an annotated one?

5 MS. BLOOMER: Yes. Generally when we have
6 meetings of the Council of Governments, we have what we
7 call an external agenda which is the one we share with
8 everybody, and then there's the internal agenda for those
9 of us that are sort of facilitating and running the
10 meeting so we know the key points that we're going to talk
11 about. And we probably need to finalize the internal one
12 to ensure that the posted one or formal one is general
13 enough to allow us to discuss all the items we identify in
14 any potential offshoot from that.

15 MR. GLEASON: I think that's a fine suggestion.

16 Al, because it is a formal meeting of the
17 committee and because we need to provide the public with a
18 reasonable enough description of what the topics to be
19 discussed are so they can make the decision on whether to
20 attend or not, what we have generally thought of as this,
21 as you suggest, a sort of unstructured time, the general
22 approach is under the topic of when I'm providing a report
23 to the committee on what's going on from our standpoint
24 and things like that, that that's an opportunity for the
25 committee to have a conversation with me about things that

1 are of interest or importance to them.

2 What we can't do, then, is with one of those
3 topics the committee can't then take that topic at that
4 meeting and do something with it as a committee, but
5 there's certainly room to have kind of a Q and A with me
6 or an opportunity to identify something of interest to be
7 discussed at a future meeting. But the committee couldn't
8 just take something that came up during that conversation
9 and do anything with it or get into too much of a
10 conversation amongst themselves about it during that
11 meeting.

12 DR. ABESON: I think that would meet my needs,
13 and I do understand the limitation.

14 MS. BLOOMER: We have two comments for
15 addition. Are there any other comments as far as content
16 you'd like to see? Currently, what's been rolling around
17 in my head is sort of an overview of the federal funding
18 process, and then the state level, and then kind of TxDOT
19 and then PTN, and maybe that's something we can do in the
20 morning. And then what I'd like to sort of do, with all
21 that information and sort of that base level of
22 understanding among all members, is start to talk about
23 what do we want to do as PTAC in this year and start
24 really working on our work plan.

25 And I think we sort of started that with our

1 subcommittee work but have a little bit more discussion
2 about what those issues are. Do we want to continue the
3 subcommittees, or now that we're eight, soon to be nine,
4 continue to work as a group of nine, and how do we really
5 move forward in reaching some milestones and goals that
6 we've set for ourselves? And I think, J.R., you and Vince
7 had asked that one of those items to be added was the
8 medical transportation program.

9 MR. SALAZAR: Right.

10 MS. BLOOMER: Now, Eric, if we put on the
11 agenda discussion of PTAC work plans, does that allow us
12 the ability to talk about what those items are, like the
13 issue related to NTP?

14 MR. GLEASON: I think it would allow us to talk
15 about them with the purpose of clarifying exactly what the
16 issue was and what the committee's interest was in it.
17 What we couldn't do is move beyond that and start talking
18 about ideas, solutions, options, things like that. I
19 think as long as we keep it to trying to best define the
20 interests of the committee and the topic, we're fine.

21 DR. ABESON: Don't forget we mentioned,
22 Michelle, the dovetailing of these plans.

23 MR. GLEASON: The Strategic Plan and the Texas
24 Transportation Plan?

25 DR. ABESON: Yes.

1 MS. BLOOMER: Right. Okay.

2 DR. ABESON: In your proposed agenda, is there
3 someplace there is some presentation on estimated
4 transportation needs for the state? Am I making myself
5 clear? I'm not sure I am.

6 MS. BLOOMER: Yes. And I think, Al, one of the
7 items under possible Session 2, Public Transit in Texas,
8 is to get to the needs, what are the needs, and how does
9 PTN best go about determining what those needs are,
10 because you need to know what the needs are before you can
11 work on meeting the needs.

12 DR. ABESON: Right.

13 MS. BLOOMER: And Ginnie or Eric, has Linda
14 Cherrington been confirmed to assist facilitating?

15 MR. GLEASON: Linda is confirmed to attend to
16 do the presentations related to formula and the 2010
17 Census work. We've not talked to her about facilitating
18 the meeting, if that's what you meant, Michelle.

19 MS. BLOOMER: Okay, I misunderstood then. So
20 she's going to the 2010 Census presentation and the
21 formula funding history discussion?

22 MR. GLEASON: Yes.

23 DR. ABESON: And the several statutes as well.

24 MR. GLEASON: Well, let me talk a little bit.
25 Michelle, when you kind of rolled in the federal funding

1 thing, I want to make sure I understand. In my mind, one
2 version of that is actually in the context of explaining
3 the Public Transportation Division and it's
4 responsibilities. We could identify those federal
5 programs for which we are responsible for administering.
6 Is that what you had in mind? Or were you talking more
7 generally about all the conversation in D.C. about
8 authorization and things like that?

9 MS. BLOOMER: I think the authorization in D.C.
10 sort of starts at the federal level. I think every PTAC
11 member needs to have a general understanding of how public
12 transportation funding works and I think we need to start
13 very generally at the federal level, that there is
14 authorization called SAFETEA-LU and this is how the state
15 gets their money, and then as we get further down to the
16 state and to PTN, we would be adding more and more detail
17 as we go.

18 MR. GLEASON: Well, I think we can look at
19 that. I am beginning to get anxious about how full our
20 day is becoming, but I'm willing to kind of try to take a
21 crack at a very streamlined version of that, Michelle.
22 Because I had really, at least in my mind, and perhaps I'm
23 off base on this one, the two presentations from Linda, I
24 think, are extremely critical for the committee as a whole
25 to hear and have a chance to work through.

1 And I think we can work with some of the
2 additional topics that have been suggested. If the
3 committee is comfortable with us continuing to have a
4 focus and an emphasis on those two morning presentations
5 to make sure we get enough for them in, then I'm fine.

6 But I'm beginning to hear enough other ideas
7 where I'm getting kind of worried that our workshop might
8 turn into a series of 15- and 30-minute presentations,
9 none of which will have enough time to talk about
10 substantively, and I was really hoping to be able to spend
11 as much time as we could on the formula and the census.
12 So I just kind of need to hear from folks whether that's
13 still a good assumption on our part or whether we want to
14 change the workshop to be more topics and not as much
15 depth.

16 MS. LANGGUTH: Eric, I would certainly agree
17 with let's just focus on the critical issues.

18 MR. GLEASON: Well, I didn't mean to say the
19 others aren't critical, but it just has been my assumption
20 coming into this that the formula and the census and its
21 potential implications on that really was this was a great
22 opportunity to really engage the committee in that issue
23 outside of a rulemaking process so they could really
24 digest it in anticipation of something.

25 MS. BLOOMER: And Eric -- sorry, Al, go ahead.

1 DR. ABESON: I was just going to say that,
2 Eric, I think from my perspective if, as you describe the
3 work of the division, you could talk a bit about the
4 federal statutes and drive some of that work, I think that
5 would do it.

6 MR. GLEASON: That's fine. I just want to kind
7 of check in. We can kind of do a real streamlined version
8 of that.

9 DR. ABESON: Yes.

10 MR. GLEASON: Okay, all right.

11 MS. BLOOMER: And Eric, let me just add I
12 completely agree, and I would like to have maybe the
13 afternoon or the lunchtime to focus on the issue and the
14 critical issues and the presentations, but I think we
15 definitely -- and I've always envisioned it more of a less
16 item-specific except in the afternoon, like developing the
17 work plan.

18 But I think we really need to set a base level
19 and a common level of understanding among all the members
20 so they think if we start talking about the 2010 Census
21 and how changing census blocks and groups and X and Y
22 changes funding, without everybody understanding the
23 importance of the census and how it relates to our funding
24 from a state and a federal level, then we sort of miss a
25 huge chunk of that discussion because we don't all have

1 the same level of understanding to build upon.

2 MR. GLEASON: I understand, Michelle, and some
3 of that's actually in Linda's presentation, but we will
4 take a look at it from the standpoint of an introduction
5 and overview to how federal funds and in what programs
6 come down to Texas and sort of start people there, and
7 then swing into a description of the division and where it
8 sits with the department, and kind of have a general one-
9 on-one session that way.

10 And then Linda actually does, in her census
11 presentation, begin with sort of how general changes and
12 population and things affect federal funding for Texas in
13 general, and then she takes it down to the more specific
14 issues around how these changes with our current formula,
15 what are some of the potential impacts.

16 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. And maybe some more of the
17 detail could just be items that are included as material
18 but aren't necessarily hit on at that detail level during
19 the day, and hopefully we would be able to have something
20 in advance of the workshop to sort of look through and
21 maybe answer some of those broader questions like what is
22 5310, what is 5311, what's JARC, what's New Freedom, to
23 cover some of that detail and then we don't have to take
24 time during the workshop to explain that Job Access
25 Reverse Commute Program is called JARC; it's Section 5316;

1 you can use it for capital operating/planning, 50/50, and
2 all that kind of stuff. We can cover that up front and
3 then if anybody has questions about the material that's
4 been provided, they can always ask as part of that
5 discussion.

6 MR. GLEASON: Okay.

7 MR. SALAZAR: Michelle, this is J.R. I know
8 one of the things that I believe someone mentioned at the
9 last meeting was the Coordinated Call and so if we want to
10 handle that that way, I'm okay with that as well.

11 MS. BLOOMER: Okay.

12 MR. SALAZAR: And I believe somebody had the
13 comment about they wanted to see who all submitted
14 proposals. I'm not sure who made that comment. Do you
15 remember that?

16 MS. BLOOMER: I think that might have been Al.

17 DR. ABESON: I don't think so.

18 MR. GLEASON: Actually, Michelle, I think it
19 was you.

20 MS. BLOOMER: It might have been me.

21 MR. GLEASON: I think it was you, Michelle.

22 (General laughter.)

23 MS. BLOOMER: It might have been me. But that
24 might be a good example of starting at a really big
25 picture. TxDOT has all these funding programs that they

1 administer on behalf of the federal government; one way
2 they administer their programs is through the coordinated
3 call. There's also a couple of other ways that PTN has
4 chosen to do it and then provide the detail of the
5 Coordinated Call, maybe an example of the notice, the
6 packet, a list of projects that have been funded in the
7 past, where we wouldn't necessarily have to cover that in
8 detail at the workshop but that the members would have
9 that information.

10 And Eric, sort of what I'm envisioning is that
11 what would happen is we'd have this binder of information
12 which we would use at the workshop but then, say, my term
13 expires the end of September -- you're going to get a
14 brand new member, that that's something that either one
15 member could pass on to another member or PTN could make
16 another binder and it's sort of, You're welcome to PTAC;
17 here's your member binder. Hopefully it answers a lot of
18 questions you have, but if not, please let us know.

19 We have a lot of our Policy Committee members
20 that come to their first meeting and we're throwing around
21 acronyms and we're talking about very complex financing
22 things and they're just sitting there, eyes glazed over,
23 and if we can avoid that and sort of get people up to
24 speed quicker, I think that will benefit PTAC's work plan.

25 MS. BLOOMER: Okay.

1 DR. ABESON: Well, will this presentation
2 include the transportation credits?

3 MR. GLEASON: The transportation development
4 credits?

5 DR. ABESON: Yes.

6 MR. GLEASON: Well, we could refer to them
7 generally but we weren't -- no, I don't have any plans at
8 the moment to do a separate presentation on transportation
9 development credits. But that's why we're having this
10 conversation is to decide what topics for this workshop on
11 April 7 the committee wants to hear about.

12 DR. ABESON: Well, I would defer to my
13 colleagues on the committee as to the importance of
14 understanding of that program and whether that should be
15 on the agenda or not.

16 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. Eric, how would you like
17 to do this? I have, obviously, some ideas and we've heard
18 some ideas today. Would you like to go ahead and take a
19 stab at putting together sort of a draft internal agenda,
20 would you like me to do that and get member feedback, or
21 how would you like to proceed? I know if we're doing this
22 April 7, time's a-ticking. And I know you're busy next
23 week so I'd be happy to take a stab at putting something
24 together.

25 MR. GLEASON: Well, let me suggest this,

1 Michelle. I'll talk with Ginnie and what I would like to
2 do is maybe something back and forth between you and us to
3 come up with an initial draft and then we'll send it out
4 to the committee for their lookover, and we'll try and
5 turn that around pretty quickly.

6 MS. BLOOMER: Okay, that will be good. Are
7 there any other comments from the committee regarding the
8 workshop?

9 MR. HUERTA: Michelle, this is Vince. I just
10 want to plug in and dovetail into what you were talking
11 about in terms of the committees that we have. I know
12 that at least the one I was involved in, we talked a lot
13 about the 5310. I think it was myself, Claudia, Al and I
14 think it was Kerry who was still on PTAC at the time. We
15 had a lot of interesting discussions and various good
16 ideas, but we haven't met in a while, so certainly if
17 there does need to be some action involved in that, I
18 think it would be important to include it in this next
19 upcoming meeting so that we can move forward on those
20 ideas and maybe set some timelines.

21 MR. GLEASON: And Vince, that was one of the
22 notions -- the afternoon on the draft agenda you have is
23 talking about whether or not the notion of subcommittees
24 works and what the work program ought to look like, and
25 transportation development credits, 5310 Program, were all

1 pieces of work that were identified as issues that these
2 subcommittees were going to work on, and I just think this
3 whole concept is a relatively new idea and we may not have
4 gotten out of the starting blocks on it as quickly or as
5 efficiently as we wanted to. And so with some of the
6 changeover in the committee, we wanted to revisit it and
7 try and figure out what the best way to get work done on
8 some key issues of importance to the committee and the
9 department would be.

10 MR. HUERTA: Okay. I guess I was just
11 suggesting to make sure we keep it in there. I know that
12 you all are going to be going back and forth, I just
13 wanted to plug that in. Thank you.

14 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. And so, Eric, you're
15 saying we could address the 5310 issue as part of our work
16 plan discussion later in the afternoon.

17 MR. GLEASON: Well, we could talk about it as
18 an important task to be worked on. If the committee is
19 desirous of a more substantive conversation on the 5310
20 Program at the workshop, that would be a different thing.

21 MR. HUERTA: I think what I'm suggesting is
22 that the committees, if we are going to move forward,
23 whether they're different topics of whatever it may be,
24 that we just kind of, I guess, develop those at that point
25 in time.

1 MR. GLEASON: I see it as an opportunity maybe
2 to check in on those topics that a year ago, or maybe a
3 little more than a year ago, were identified as important
4 to the committee to work on. This workshop would give us
5 a chance in the afternoon to revisit those topics, to
6 reconsider them, maybe clarify what we meant by them or
7 what the committee was interested in, and really focusing
8 on let's pick one or two of these things to really focus
9 on moving forward in the near term. That would be one
10 possible outcome for that item on the agenda.

11 MS. BLOOMER: Vince, does that get to your
12 question?

13 MR. HUERTA: Yes.

14 MS. BLOOMER: Any other discussion on the PTAC
15 workshop? If you think of anything later, feel free to
16 call me or shoot me an email. If not, we'll move on to
17 item 5, Division Director's Report.

18 MR. GLEASON: We didn't send you anything out
19 for this. I just wanted to take the opportunity with
20 everyone on the phone to kind of recap what's been going
21 on here recently.

22 At our last meeting we talked a little bit
23 about the possibility for a second stimulus package coming
24 from D.C. None of the discussion you've been reading
25 about in the paper about a jobs bill and things like

1 that -- none of that has any additional stimulus money in
2 it, and so even though the general thought is that the
3 Senate will pick something up in the near future more
4 specifically related to stimulus funding, that's not the
5 focus of the discussion right now.

6 We have gone ahead on the rural side of the
7 program and have gotten out to our rural program providers
8 a request for projects just so that in the event that
9 something does pop out of D.C. that we'll be prepared to
10 move ahead fairly quickly with that. But not a lot of new
11 information on that right now.

12 We talked a little bit about the leadership
13 development program that we are working in partnership
14 with Texas Transit Association. TTI, Texas Transportation
15 Institute, is helping as well, and actually working
16 through TTI through an interagency contract, we're moving
17 ahead to engage the Eno Foundation out of Washington,
18 D.C., to design and conduct a leadership seminar this
19 fall. So we're making a lot of progress there.

20 I know that the Transit Association is
21 discussing how to move a mentoring program forward, and
22 then we also recently met with Betty Gilmore from the
23 University of Texas Center for Public Policy Dispute
24 Resolution about some customized training for transit
25 leaders on conflict resolution, collaboration and building

1 consensus, and that was a very positive meeting that we
2 had with her on that. So that's where we are on
3 leadership efforts.

4 Yesterday was a busy day for us in front of the
5 commission, we had five minute orders that passed. I'll
6 mention two of them as especially significant. The
7 Federal Transit Administration did finally release
8 apportionments for the partial annual authorization that
9 Congress has given on the Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

10 We got about five months' worth of annual
11 funding for our 5310 and 5311 programs, along with other
12 federal programs, but yesterday at the commission we were
13 awarded on the 5310 Program side for Elderly Individuals
14 and Individuals with Disabilities -- we did award
15 essentially five-twelfths of a year's worth of funding,
16 and then on the 5311 we did push just over \$12 million
17 through the formula, given what we've received from an
18 apportionment standpoint.

19 And also significantly in this case, because
20 the department has a very reasonable expectation of
21 getting additional apportionments for our federal
22 programs, that the commission did, in fact, on the 5311
23 side approve an eventual allocation of the \$20.1 million
24 that's called for in the Administrative Code. So what
25 that means, in a nutshell, is that when the additional

1 appportionments come down on the rural program side, that
2 we do not need to go back to the commission to further
3 allocate those funds under the formula to the sub-
4 recipients; we can just amend their grant agreements to
5 reflect the additional amount.

6 MS. BLOOMER: Eric, this is Michelle.

7 MR. GLEASON: Yes.

8 MS. BLOOMER: So the minute order was currently
9 to award now the five-twelfths, and then once we have the
10 remaining seven-twelfths, you don't have to go back to the
11 commission up to the \$21 million.

12 MR. GLEASON: Up to the \$20.1 million, that's
13 correct.

14 MS. BLOOMER: And then so does that mean once
15 you have the final appportionment, you will have to go back
16 to the commission to award the total amount based on the
17 letter you had sent out to the rural providers?

18 MR. GLEASON: Any amount over \$20.1 million
19 will take additional commission action, yes. And I would
20 propose as soon as we get all of that and have the ability
21 to do that, we will go to the commission and do that, as
22 the letter said.

23 MR. SALAZAR: Eric, this is J.R. I just have
24 one question. You still have not received any comments on
25 that letter or any conversation whatsoever?

1 MR. GLEASON: That's correct. Honestly,
2 actually, I did have a conversation with Jeff Heckler at
3 the Transit Association, the acting director at the
4 moment, or the interim director, and he had received one
5 comment from one of the association members with some
6 questions about that and what the department's intent was
7 to do with the balance of the program funding, and so I
8 provided Jeff with a copy of that November 17 letter and
9 he was going to speak with that individual about that.

10 MR. SALAZAR: Okay.

11 MS. BLOOMER: Eric, this is Michelle. So the
12 question was really not regarding the bulk of the money
13 above the cap, but the remaining, like the 3 percent that
14 remained, commission discretionary. Do I understand that
15 correctly?

16 MR. GLEASON: The question we got was framed
17 from the standpoint, I think, whether the department had,
18 I think, gotten all the money that it might expect to get
19 in an annual appropriation and that the department was not
20 moving out on allocating those funds as quickly as it
21 might. I think there was some general misunderstanding of
22 how much money the department had actually received to
23 distribute and what our intentions were in terms of how to
24 proceed. So I'm hoping that that person has got
25 everything now that they need and that they understand

1 what the approach will be.

2 MS. BLOOMER: Okay, thank you for clarifying
3 that.

4 MR. GLEASON: There were three other minute
5 orders. Two of them awarded some transportation
6 development credits, one of them to the Greater Southeast
7 Management District in Houston to do some livability type
8 improvements in that area of Houston -- pedestrian
9 connection improvements, transit center, things to improve
10 access to public transportation.

11 And then finally, we moved the lead
12 responsibility for our Job Access Reverse Commute Program
13 award from the Golden Crescent Workforce Solutions group
14 to Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission, the
15 provider there, to go ahead and implement that grant.
16 Workforce had informed us that they would no longer be
17 able to lead that effort and so we transferred it over to
18 Golden Crescent.

19 So that's what happened yesterday. The
20 commission also approved proposed rules for grant
21 sanctions which is something that the committee commented
22 on a while ago, I think, and we sent you information on
23 that. So we're into rulemaking on the grant sanctions
24 thing.

25 March, the internal compliance and ethics rules

1 are final at that point, final on those. I'm kind of
2 looking at Bobby -- those of you who can't see this --
3 looking at Bobby Killebrew here to make sure I get that
4 straight. I have a hard time keeping track of those
5 things.

6 And then we're pretty quiet the next couple of
7 months on the funding side. We're still evaluating our
8 Coordinated Call proposals. It's not clear when we'll get
9 the balance of the federal apportionment, so we're kind of
10 entering a time frame on that in the next couple of months
11 that we're a little uncertain about. That's it for my
12 report.

13 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. This is Michelle. Eric,
14 at our last meeting we talked about a member volunteering
15 to serve on the 2009 Friend of Texas Transit Award
16 selection committee. Did you get a volunteer?

17 MS. MAYLE: This is Ginnie. No, we did not.

18 MS. BLOOMER: Would somebody like to volunteer
19 or be volunteered?

20 MR. GLEASON: For those of you who might have
21 missed that discussion, each year the department awards a
22 Friend of Texas Transit Award to an individual who has
23 made a significant contribution to public transportation
24 in Texas, and we are in the nomination process right now.
25 We're soliciting nominations, and those are due back to

1 us when, Ginnie?

2 MS. MAYLE: March 19.

3 MR. GLEASON: March 19, and we have
4 traditionally formed a small committee of folks to review
5 those nominations and make a recommendation to me, and we
6 would like a member from PTAC to help us with that. There
7 are a number of former recipients of this award on this
8 committee: J.R. and Janet have both received this award
9 in the past.

10 MR. SALAZAR: And Michelle, you did it last
11 year?

12 MS. BLOOMER: I did it last year; I'd be happy
13 to do it this year if nobody wants to take up that
14 opportunity. It's about an hour, at the most, I think.

15 MR. GLEASON: Yes. We would scan in and
16 forward to you the nominations and an evaluation form. It
17 wouldn't require any travel; you could do it at your
18 office.

19 MS. BLOOMER: Going once, going twice.

20 MR. SALAZAR: Michelle, I think you'd be good
21 at it.

22 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. I guess I volunteered
23 myself, I walked right into that.

24 MR. GLEASON: J.R., that's a dangerous
25 precedent, buddy. If you're going to start volunteering

1 others. Uh-oh, here we go.

2 MS. BLOOMER: You'd better be at every future
3 PTAC meeting.

4 MR. GLEASON: Exactly.

5 (General laughter.)

6 MS. BLOOMER: Any public comment? No?

7 Confirm date of the next meeting. I think,
8 Ginnie, we agreed April 7.

9 MS. MAYLE: Yes.

10 MS. BLOOMER: With probably a no-later-than-ten
11 o'clock start time, potentially maybe a 9:00 or 9:30,
12 depending on travel and agenda.

13 MS. MAYLE: Sounds right.

14 MS. BLOOMER: Any other items to cover, Ginnie,
15 Eric, or the committee, before I call for adjournment?

16 MR. GLEASON: I think we're good.

17 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. I don't think we have to
18 vote, so we'll just go ahead and adjourn. Thank you all
19 for participating and sticking with us.

20 (Whereupon, at 11:44 a.m., the meeting was
21 concluded.)

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MEETING OF: Public Transportation Advisory Committee
LOCATION: Austin, Texas
DATE: February 26, 2010

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages, numbers 1 through 69, 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) 3/05/2010
(Date)

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