

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Wednesday,  
September 8, 2010

Room 325  
3712 Jackson Avenue  
Austin, Texas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT BY TELEPHONE:

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

STAFF:

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

*ON THE RECORD REPORTING*  
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I N D E X

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1. Call to Order	3
2. Approval of Minutes from June 17, 2010 meeting (Action)	3
3. In accordance with TAC '1.83(c), final review of proposed revisions to 43 TAC '31.36 (Section 5311 Grant Program) (Action)	3
4. Discussion and possible action on PTAC Work Plan as it relates to Transportation Code Section 455.004 (a)(1), which charges PTAC with advising the commission on the needs and problems of the state's public transportation providers, including the methods for allocating state public transportation money. (Action)	8
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MS. BLOOMER: I call the meeting to order.  
That's item number one.

We'll move on to item number 2 on the agenda,  
approval of the minutes from the June 17, 2010 meeting.  
Were there any comments, corrections or questions  
regarding the minutes? If none, can I get a motion for  
approval of the minutes?

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

MS. BLOOMER: And a second?

DR. ABESON: This is Al, second.

MS. BLOOMER: Thank you. Okay. To make it  
easier since we're all on the phone, I'll just go ahead  
and call down the list.

Christina?

MS. CRAIN: Yes.

MS. BLOOMER: Janet?

MS. EVERHEART: Yes.

MS. BLOOMER: J.R.?

MR. SALAZAR: Yes.

MS. BLOOMER: Al?

DR. ABESON: Yes.

MS. BLOOMER: And Michelle, yes. All right.  
The minutes have been approved.

Moving to item 3 regarding the final review of

1 the proposed revisions to the Texas Administrative Code.

2 MR. GLEASON: Let me jump in here. This is  
3 Eric Gleason, director of Public Transportation.

4 We received no comments on the rules during the  
5 comment period. We held a hearing on August 6 with no one  
6 attending and no comments at that point either. The rules  
7 are as they were when you last looked at them just prior  
8 to commission action adopting them as proposed rules. So  
9 they are ready to go, as far as we're concerned, at this  
10 September meeting, and we're looking for an action on the  
11 part of the committee today to either recommend adoption,  
12 to recommend with comments, or you can also choose not to  
13 take any action.

14 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. Are there any comments or  
15 questions from the committee?

16 Eric, can I just clarify there's the annual  
17 apportionment form the Federal Transit Administration that  
18 comes to TxDOT.

19 MR. GLEASON: That's correct, for the 5311 Non-  
20 Urban Program, yes.

21 MS. BLOOMER: For the 5311 Non-Urbanized Area  
22 Program. So the total amount comes, TxDOT can take up to  
23 15 percent to cover its administrative costs.

24 MR. GLEASON: Yes.

25 MS. BLOOMER: Then what's left, there's a

1 certain percentage that is take off for intercity bus.

2 MR. GLEASON: No, not quite, Michelle. That  
3 percentage for intercity bus comes off the total as well.

4 MS. BLOOMER: Okay, comes off the total. And  
5 then after you take the two sort of off the top set-asides  
6 of TxDOT administration and intercity bus, whatever amount  
7 that is left up to that magical cap number --

8 MR. GLEASON: \$20.1 million.

9 MS. BLOOMER: \$20.1 million. The \$20.1 million  
10 goes by the current formula, and then based on what's  
11 left, is it 10 percent off of what's left or 10 percent  
12 off of the apportionment?

13 MR. GLEASON: It's 10 percent off of the  
14 remaining apportionment after administrative and intercity  
15 bus set-asides, so no more than 10 percent of it at that  
16 point can be held out.

17 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. So the 15 percent are off  
18 the total and then the 10 percent for commission  
19 discretionary is off of what's left.

20 MR. GLEASON: That's correct. In the e-mail I  
21 sent out on June 8, if you were to read through that  
22 again, we called the remaining amount RA in that e-mail,  
23 and we attempted, in doing that, to draw it back to that.  
24 It's the amount that remains of the apportionment after  
25 we take the set-asides out.

1 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. I just wanted to make sure  
2 I was reading and understanding everything correctly. And  
3 this is pretty much consistent with what the PTAC  
4 subcommittee had recommended and TxDOT had informally  
5 adopted last year.

6 MR. GLEASON: That's correct. Now, every year  
7 we will need to make a decision as to whether -- because  
8 it's up to 10 percent -- whether it's the whole 10 percent  
9 or whether it's 5 percent or 2 percent or 6 percent, but  
10 it's up to that amount but no more than that amount.

11 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. I think that's great.  
12 Any other questions or comments?

13 DR. ABESON: Is the fact that there were no  
14 comments prior to or at the hearing indicative of  
15 anything?

16 MR. GLEASON: I don't know, Al. I mean, when  
17 we went into this, it was our understanding from  
18 conversations with the Texas Transit Association and  
19 transit leadership that there was a large degree of  
20 support for this. In practice we've been doing this for  
21 the past two years, and I don't recall any concerns being  
22 voiced by any provider during that time frame either. So  
23 while I assume some of it may be because people don't know  
24 this is happening, despite our efforts to communicate, I  
25 think mostly the lack of comment is that everyone is in

1 agreement.

2 DR. ABESON: Thank you.

3 Do we need a motion, Michelle?

4 MS. BLOOMER: Yes. I think we had somebody  
5 join us so I just wanted to make sure.

6 MR. HUERTA: This is Vince, Michelle. Good  
7 afternoon, all.

8 MS. BLOOMER: Good afternoon, Vince. We're on  
9 item 3, the 5307 Non-Urbanized Area formula.

10 MR. GLEASON: 5311.

11 MS. BLOOMER: Sorry. 5311.

12 Okay. If there are no further questions, then  
13 I guess I'll call for -- and we have three actions we can  
14 take, so whoever makes the motion, we can recommend  
15 commission adoption, we can defer adoption to the  
16 commission -- what was the other one, Eric?

17 MR. GLEASON: You can recommend with comments.

18 MS. BLOOMER: Recommend with comments. Would  
19 somebody like to make a motion?

20 DR. ABESON: I would move that we recommend  
21 adoption by the commission without comments.

22 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. Thank you, Al. We have a  
23 motion. Do we have a second?

24 MS. CRAIN: This is Christina. I make a  
25 second.

1 MS. BLOOMER: All right. Going down the list,  
2 J.R.?

3 MR. SALAZAR: Yes.

4 MS. BLOOMER: Vince?

5 MR. HUERTA: Yes.

6 MS. BLOOMER: Janet?

7 MS. EVERHEART: Yes.

8 MS. BLOOMER: Christina?

9 MS. CRAIN: Yes.

10 MS. BLOOMER: Al?

11 DR. ABESON: Yes.

12 MS. BLOOMER: And Michelle, yes. All right.

13 The motion passes.

14 Moving on to item 4 which is the PTAC Work Plan  
15 as it relates to -- I won't the whole thing -- PTAC Work  
16 Plan. Eric, do you want me to take that one, or do you  
17 want to start?

18 MR. GLEASON: I think let me just start it and  
19 then I'll throw it your way, Michelle.

20 MS. BLOOMER: Okay.

21 MR. GLEASON: This is a possible action. I  
22 think the committee has gotten into a pattern of sort of  
23 tackling one topic at a time which has proven to be, I  
24 think, relatively effective. And you know, now we've been  
25 through the Strategic Plan, we've been through the

1 development of the department's LAR, and this item is on  
2 the agenda as an opportunity for the committee to discuss  
3 about what to do next.

4 The only caveat I guess I would add at this  
5 point, we are approaching a time when we're going to lose  
6 four of our current seven members because their  
7 appointments run out at the end of this month, and so I  
8 don't know whether that affects the committee's discussion  
9 this item or not. It doesn't need to, there's certainly  
10 nothing that prevents the committee from identifying the  
11 next topic, it's just that we're entering into kind of an  
12 awkward time frame from a membership standpoint.

13 MS. BLOOMER: Very well put, Eric.

14 Unless the committee has any comments or  
15 suggestions, I was thinking just to start off with giving  
16 maybe an update of where we've been since our last meeting  
17 which was on June 17, kind of walking through the LAR and  
18 then where we are now, and I guess we can talk about  
19 whether or not we want to take up a new item or defer that  
20 until you have a new PTAC membership after October 1.

21 At our last meeting on June 17, the main focus  
22 of the meeting was the letter that the committee was  
23 sending to the commission. That letter did get signed,  
24 and Ginnie, correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe you  
25 hand-delivered it to the commission that day or the

1 following day.

2 MS. MAYLE: I did.

3 MS. BLOOMER: The following week, on June 23,  
4 the commission held their workshop meeting, and there were  
5 quite a number of presentations that day and I thought it  
6 actually worked very well. The last item on the agenda  
7 was the LAR, but an item or two before that was an update  
8 from Linda Cherrington on the census, and as part of that  
9 larger presentation, Eric also presented, and I think that  
10 was very helpful in reinforcing what came later as our  
11 request.

12 And so I think I had five minutes where I  
13 presented the comments that I had shared with all of you  
14 to the commission during their workshop. We had three of  
15 the five commissioners there. I didn't faint, so I  
16 thought that was fairly successful.

17 And in the coming weeks after that, I went to  
18 the TxDOT semiannual meeting where all the providers get  
19 together two times a year in Austin -- that was in July --  
20 and sort of presented what the committee had been working  
21 on, including the Legislative Appropriations Request. We  
22 shared a copy of the letter with them, along with the PTAC  
23 membership roster, and encouraged them to contact any one  
24 of us with ideas, suggestions, request for assistance, so  
25 you may or may not get a call.

1 I had asked at that meeting that if there were  
2 any concerns that they had, that we were here and we were  
3 willing to hear their concerns. I only had one person  
4 come up to me throughout the day which was better than the  
5 last time. And items that they had sort of requested PTAC  
6 taking a look at next was the Section 5310, Elderly and  
7 Persons with Disabilities Program. So I throw that out  
8 there for maybe the second part of this discussion.

9 And then as it relates to the LAR, the  
10 commission did take action at their August 26 meeting. We  
11 have good news and we have bad news, I guess. The good  
12 news is we got some additional funding, the bad news is it  
13 wasn't a whole lot. The commission, as I understand it,  
14 did approve the Legislative Appropriations Request with  
15 \$3.2 million in additional funding, and that \$3.2 million  
16 will go to offset the addition of new small urbanized  
17 areas as a result of the 2010 Census.

18 I did try contacting Chair Delisi for one last-  
19 ditch attempt effort to get any amount of additional  
20 funds, because that \$3.2 million, while it will mainly  
21 help new small urban providers, it does nothing for the  
22 existing rural providers or small urban providers, it  
23 basically just holds them at their 2000 funding levels.

24 MR. GLEASON: Michelle, if I could just  
25 interject right there. A very small portion, I think

1 \$300- to \$400,000, so a total of maybe \$600,000 of that  
2 total actually is for the rural program to keep rural  
3 programs whole, if you will, from any sort of impacts of  
4 the census. It is true that the vast majority of those  
5 funds are for the new urban areas, but there is a small  
6 amount in that total that does keep the rural providers  
7 whole from any impacts of the census.

8 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. So I guess that's good.

9 I did want to thank Christina for her guidance  
10 and assistance the day before the commission meeting,  
11 trying to walk me through the process of contacting the  
12 chair and sort of working through that process.

13 I don't know if it was worth the time and  
14 effort. When I went back and we compared the numbers,  
15 Eric, it looks like it's \$3,200,600, so I think we got an  
16 additional \$600, maybe, or maybe they just rounded. So  
17 for a day's work, we got an extra \$600.

18 (General laughter.)

19 MR. GLEASON: All right.

20 MS. BLOOMER: So I guess the next fact is  
21 everything else, the \$22 million to account for inflation,  
22 the \$20-some million to address the growing need, et  
23 cetera are all in the exceptional items, and I don't know  
24 what role, if any, we would have as a committee in sort of  
25 pushing for those items as well. But I think the next

1 PTAC committee probably really needs to start looking now  
2 at how we can be more successful in that discussion coming  
3 years because, again, we're going to be two more years out  
4 and the transit providers in the State of Texas are  
5 getting the same dollar amount of funding they got in  
6 2000, basically.

7 And like I told the chair, I can't imagine  
8 doing my job for the same amount of money I was getting  
9 paid in 2000. I mean, that would be insane. Gas cost 99  
10 cents then, it cost me \$2.79 yesterday when I got it. So  
11 I don't know how we, as a committee, can make that  
12 argument any better, but I think we can start looking at  
13 that now and we'll be ready in two years when it comes up  
14 again.

15 I know, Vince and J.R., you were there at the  
16 semiannual meeting, if you had any comments to add or  
17 thoughts.

18 MR. SALAZAR: This is J.R. I didn't really  
19 have a lot to add other than I thought it went well and I  
20 thought you did a good job, and I thought they were  
21 receptive, so I thought it went well.

22 MR. HUERTA: This is Vince. I agree, and I  
23 just think that making the presence, whoever the members  
24 may be, is going to be key to trying to push it through.

25 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. Did anybody want to weigh

1 in on the work plan going forward. Like Eric said, I  
2 think we're kind of in an awkward time. We have four of  
3 us, myself, Frank, Vince and J.R., that our terms will  
4 expire September 30. We can talk about setting the next  
5 agenda, or if you would prefer to wait and have the new  
6 PTAC membership set the direction for the coming year,  
7 I'll leave that up to the committee.

8 DR. ABESON: This is Al. I have a question in  
9 terms of when will the new committee be formulated.

10 MR. GLEASON: This is Eric. Al, I can't answer  
11 that for you. The department has contacted each of the  
12 three offices, the Speaker, the Lieutenant Governor, and  
13 the Governor's Office, with our needs. We've identified  
14 for them -- each get to make two appointments and we've  
15 identified for them the nature of those appointments,  
16 whether they're for a provider, a user, or a member of the  
17 general public. I have spoken with staff from the  
18 Governor's Office and the Lieutenant Governor's Office,  
19 and feel pretty good about the fact that they are aware  
20 that they need to make these appointments.

21 We do have a history with the Lieutenant  
22 Governor already having made an appointment in this  
23 process, in this new process, and the person I spoke with  
24 from the Governor's Office said that they have a large  
25 number of staff dedicated toward this whole issue of

1 appointments, so it seems as though the capacity exists  
2 there as well. The big unanswered question in my mind is  
3 the Speaker's Office, and again, we've contacted them  
4 several times and we've not yet seen or heard anything  
5 back from them. So I can't tell you, Al, when.

6 DR. ABESON: The appointments that expire at  
7 the end of the month, do those people automatically leave  
8 the committee, or do they continue until new appointments  
9 are made?

10 MR. GLEASON: No. My understanding is that  
11 when those appointments expire, those folks are no longer  
12 on the committee and that they do not continue to serve  
13 until an appointment is made.

14 DR. ABESON: So at a minimum, we're talking  
15 about seven weeks or so of interruption -- if I can use  
16 that word -- before the new committee would be in place  
17 and further action could occur. Is that correct?

18 MR. GLEASON: When you say that, you're  
19 allowing time for the appointment to be made and then for  
20 us to get a meeting scheduled?

21 DR. ABESON: No, I'm not. That would be  
22 additional time.

23 MR. GLEASON: Well, I don't know. I mean, the  
24 appointments can happen tomorrow, for all I know, Al.  
25 There is no approval process once the folks make their

1 selections, and so all they need to do is identify who  
2 they want to appoint to the committee and they're on, so  
3 if they decide to act, it's fairly quick.

4 DR. ABESON: Would it be possible that some of  
5 the current expiring members would be reappointed?

6 MR. GLEASON: It's possible, yes, and I know  
7 that current members and I know of at least one other  
8 individual who is currently not on the committee have been  
9 in contact with key people expressing their interest to  
10 either remain on the committee or to serve on the  
11 committee. So I mean, activity is happening, it's just  
12 that I don't have any control over the result.

13 DR. ABESON: I wish you did, that would be  
14 great. If you could control the Governor's Office and the  
15 Speaker's Office, that would be nice.

16 MR. GLEASON: Well, I know. I didn't really  
17 mean it like that either.

18 DR. ABESON: No. I understand.

19 (General laughter.)

20 MR. GLEASON: But it's very frustrating for us.

21 DR. ABESON: I'm sure.

22 MR. GLEASON: And really, I'm not sure what  
23 else more we can do.

24 DR. ABESON: Right. I understand.

25 My additional question then is in terms of the

1 work of the committee, we have invested considerable  
2 effort in the Strategic Plan, with some but not a great  
3 deal of success, and I was wondering if a legitimate next  
4 activity could be to work on -- and I don't recall the  
5 exact terminology but it was sort of the division  
6 operational plan to accomplish the Strategic Plan. That  
7 has a name, doesn't it, Eric?

8 MR. GLEASON: Yes. I think when we talked  
9 about this last May or June or even April as a group, I  
10 described what I thought would be the next step once the  
11 commission had adopted the Strategic Plan for the  
12 department, that then the next step was going to for each  
13 of the divisions or each of the sort of operational areas  
14 of the department to develop their own plan showing how  
15 their activities over the next five years would support  
16 the department's plan.

17 And what has happened to date since the  
18 commission adopted the Strategic Plan, we've taken what I  
19 would call sort of an intervening step that I haven't  
20 anticipated where we've been working with the executive  
21 director -- we meaning the division heads -- with the  
22 executive director to identify a series of activities that  
23 he can embrace at his level of the agency that would move  
24 the agency toward the department's plan. So we've not yet  
25 gotten any next step instructions with respect to these

1 division level operational plans.

2 I do expect that to happen in the fall  
3 sometime, and when that does happen, and depending on what  
4 it looks like, it would certainly be my intention to  
5 engage the committee in that. I don't think it is  
6 necessarily something the committee would have a formal  
7 role in making a recommendation to the commission on  
8 because I don't believe this level of plan would be going  
9 to the commission, but I would sincerely look to involve  
10 the committee in helping us as the division come up with  
11 ours.

12 DR. ABESON: Okay. That's helpful, Eric.

13 MR. GLEASON: So I think there's a task out  
14 there, I think there's a work product out there, it's just  
15 that at this point I can't fit a schedule to it for you.

16 MS. BLOOMER: And Ginnie, do you remember what  
17 some of the other items on the Work Plan are?

18 MR. GLEASON: We've got transportation  
19 development credits; we've already mentioned the Section  
20 5310 Program; coordination planning, looking at the  
21 coordinated call and looking at coordination incentives;  
22 further work on the funding formula. You know, we talked  
23 about this rule change that was just approved by the  
24 committee as a tweak, knowing full well that as the census  
25 approaches, it probably makes sense to have a much more

1 in-depth look at the formula. And then as Al just  
2 mentioned, the Strategic Plan. So TDCs, Section 5310,  
3 coordination planning, funding formula, and Strategic  
4 Plan.

5 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. So I guess we're at a  
6 crossroads. We can pick one and try to start working on it  
7 in the next two and a half to three weeks before you lose  
8 four of us, with some of us may or may not be returning,  
9 or we can decide to hold off and wait for the new PTAC  
10 committee to move forward beginning sometime in the middle  
11 of October.

12 MR. GLEASON: Michelle, this is Eric. Can I  
13 make a suggestion?

14 MS. BLOOMER: Sure.

15 MR. GLEASON: I would actually like to hear  
16 from the committee, as it is now comprised, of what you  
17 all would choose to work on next, just because you all  
18 have put so much time and energy into this and have  
19 started developing a good track record for getting these  
20 things done. I think it would be helpful, certainly for  
21 Al and Christina and Janet, the three remaining members  
22 after September 30, just for some continuity. If this  
23 group wanted to have a conversation today about those five  
24 or perhaps another topic and identify which one you would  
25 work on next, I think that would be helpful.

1 I'm not sure how much we could actually get  
2 done on that in the next two to three weeks, but at least  
3 knowing what the next priority would be would be helpful.

4 MS. CRAIN: This is Christina. I echo exactly  
5 what Eric has said. That was my thought that it's going  
6 to be beneficial, I think, for us new members to have the  
7 wealth of knowledge that you veterans have put into this,  
8 and for the committee going forward, the new ones coming  
9 on to already have something in place I think is going to  
10 be beneficial.

11 MS. BLOOMER: This is Michelle. I know we had  
12 sort of taken them, either because there were some that  
13 were kind of short time frame deliverables, some were  
14 based on scheduling, like the LAR. Eric, you had  
15 mentioned, sort of back to Al's point, the Strategic Plan  
16 might be more the fall?

17 MR. GLEASON: Well, I'm just guessing,  
18 Michelle, because I've not seen a schedule for the next  
19 step. I just know that it's out there at some point and I  
20 would guess it would be some time -- I'm thinking sometime  
21 October-November time frame would be the earliest.

22 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. I'm just trying to think  
23 maybe by process of elimination, because the funding  
24 formula, we probably would want to put that one on hold  
25 until we had the results of the census, and so that one

1 really wouldn't be a good one to take first. I don't  
2 know, just sort of thinking out loud, something that  
3 combined sort of the coordinated call which would include,  
4 I would think, the 5310 Program as well, since it's sort  
5 of one of those three coordinated programs, that might be  
6 a good next step, and then the funding formula could be  
7 combined with the transportation development credits at a  
8 later time.

9 MR. HUERTA: This is Vince. I remember doing  
10 some work on a couple of calls with -- I'm not sure if Al  
11 participated, I believe so, but I know that Kerry for sure  
12 and Claudia, and we had discussed a number of ideas for  
13 the 5310 Program, and just, I guess, the differences on  
14 how it's done throughout the state and maybe some  
15 inconsistencies and some impacts that it would have. I  
16 know that Cheryl had taken most of the notes or the  
17 minutes of the conference calls that we were on, so I  
18 think there is some groundwork that's done in that area,  
19 so it might be beneficial to certainly focus on that topic  
20 since there seems to be, like I said, some groundwork that  
21 has been done.

22 MS. BLOOMER: Okay.

23 MR. SALAZAR: This is J.R. I'd like to add to  
24 what Vince said. I agree with what Vince is saying,  
25 especially being that we just participated in the 5310

1 allocation process in one of the districts that I happen  
2 to have a little bit of a service area in, and I will tell  
3 you it was a long, strenuous process as to how we went  
4 about making decisions. I guess what I'm trying to say is  
5 I think -- and Michelle, you and I had a conversation and  
6 I actually called to talk PTAC and we wound up talking 530  
7 for about an hour, and we talked about how the whole  
8 process was going. And there were some things that took  
9 place that I know everyone around the room, when we talked  
10 about the 5310 Program, wasn't comfortable judging another  
11 transit provider's evaluation, if you will. And so there  
12 are some things that maybe I think we need to look at with  
13 regards to 5310.

14 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. I think it's probably  
15 good, like you said, Vince, your subcommittee, I believe,  
16 laid some groundwork already in that area.

17 MR. HUERTA: Correct.

18 MS. BLOOMER: We've recently with the providers  
19 gone through the 2011 sort of programming of the funds, so  
20 it might be a good time while it's on everybody's mind,  
21 and it was the only comment I received from the semiannual  
22 meeting of is there anything you need assistance on or  
23 would like PTAC to take up, and that was one of the areas  
24 that was mentioned.

25 DR. ABESON: Would attention to the 5310

1 Program, as just described, include consideration of  
2 advancing coordination as well?

3 MS. BLOOMER: I would hope so, Al. And that  
4 would be the work of the committee, I think, to help sort  
5 of lay the framework or the guidance, but I definitely  
6 think coordination should be a key component.

7 DR. ABESON: Then I would be very supportive of  
8 that being at the top of the list for the committee's  
9 work.

10 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. Eric?

11 MR. GLEASON: So if I can paraphrase, a focus  
12 on the 5310 Program with making sure that there's an  
13 emphasis or at least a significant effort around looking  
14 at the coordination planning link.

15 DR. ABESON: Yes. Well said.

16 MR. GLEASON: Okay. That's very helpful.

17 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. Any other comments from  
18 the committee on item 4? If not, we'll move on to item 5,  
19 Division Director's Report.

20 MR. GLEASON: All right. I think all of you  
21 received a copy of this electronically, and I won't dwell  
22 on the detail. There's been a lot of recent commission  
23 action that I'll let you read. If you have any questions  
24 on any of these minute orders that are listed, I'll  
25 certainly answer them for you.

1           I did want to mention two things. The first is  
2 at the very top of the report, TxDOT and DARS held a rural  
3 issues conference, and we had an opportunity during that  
4 conference -- we joined their conference, I guess is the  
5 best way to describe it, and we actually had a three-hour  
6 panel session that Chris Dudley, of my staff, moderated.  
7 That was just a great opportunity. The first part was an  
8 opportunity for us to talk to staff people from DARS about  
9 the regional coordination effort, the United We Ride  
10 project, and the coordinated call for projects, so the  
11 first half of this three hours was an opportunity for us  
12 to talk to them about the things that TxDOT is doing.

13           And then we had a follow-up panel during the  
14 second part with local projects, highlighting local  
15 projects, one from the Amarillo area, another from the  
16 Texoma area with TAPS, and then the Heart of Texas  
17 Workforce Board, Highway to Success JARC project, and we  
18 also had a JARC New Freedom project from the Tyler area.

19           So it was a great opportunity to present those  
20 things to folks in the audience. We find just a  
21 tremendous amount of interest in these kinds of forums,  
22 and are really feeling like we're getting in touch with  
23 folks and hearing from important stakeholders on what  
24 their needs are and making connections with them about  
25 things that are already going on. And we're hoping that

1 the timing of it in August will fit with our current  
2 annual call for projects which is on the street.

3 The second item I want to mention, which is not  
4 included in the report, is I did have an opportunity to  
5 testify before the joint legislative committee on aging  
6 which is chaired by Senator Lucio.

7 And Al, I think they tried to contact you. I  
8 actually gave Senator Lucio's staff person your name as  
9 someone to call, but you weren't available, so perhaps  
10 you'll have an opportunity to talk to this committee at  
11 another point.

12 But I joined presentations from AARP, there  
13 were some folks from DADS who spoke, we had a number of  
14 different people who spoke on aging issues in general, one  
15 of which was transportation, to the committee, and it was  
16 an opportunity for me to describe both our 5310 Program  
17 and the Coordination Planning Program and how those two  
18 efforts were oriented toward trying to address the needs  
19 of aging Texans. So that was a good opportunity.

20 With that, coming up in September for the  
21 commission we have a transportation development credit  
22 award up on the agenda to four systems, and then the  
23 rules, as we talked about earlier.

24 So with that, before I turn it over to the  
25 committee, I do want to take an opportunity to thank

1 Michelle and J.R. and Frank and Vince for your service. I  
2 certainly feel like particularly in the last, what, nine  
3 or ten months that the committee really has done some  
4 great work, and I think in no small part due to the four  
5 of your contributions to that. So on behalf of the  
6 department, I want to thank you for your time, and we'll  
7 just have to see what happens over the next several months  
8 in terms of appointments and reappointments.

9 And Michelle, I'll turn it over to you.

10 DR. ABESON: I have a question on your  
11 testifying. Were you testifying in front of a committee  
12 or just to one member?

13 MR. GLEASON: It's a committee, Al, of four  
14 elected officials and there were two members from the  
15 Silver Haired Legislature.

16 DR. ABESON: Were they responsive? Did they  
17 ask any decent questions?

18 MR. GLEASON: I had a question from one  
19 representative about whose responsibility was it in this  
20 coordinated planning process to get the different  
21 stakeholder groups to the table, was it the department's  
22 responsibility or the lead agency responsibility, and I  
23 responded that it was both. I also acknowledged that it  
24 is a challenging issue for us in getting them there in the  
25 first place and keeping them there, and that we are

1 learning a lot about how to speak each other's language.

2 DR. ABESON: Right. Good. I'm delighted that  
3 you had that opportunity.

4 MR. GLEASON: Well, I would encourage you to  
5 look for one as well, because I let them know that I  
6 thought, one, that we were benefitting greatly from having  
7 you on the committee, but two, beyond all that, that Texas  
8 has a resident expert on these issues and that you are it.

9 DR. ABESON: Well, that's very kind. Thank  
10 you.

11 MS. BLOOMER: Any other questions or comments  
12 for Eric?

13 DR. ABESON: I would like to echo Eric's  
14 comments about the great work that those of you who may or  
15 may not be departing from the committee have done. I've  
16 only been on the committee for a short time, but the  
17 difference between the first portion of my time on the  
18 committee and this latter portion has been nothing less  
19 than dramatic. And I was terribly frustrated early on,  
20 feeling like we really were spinning our wheels, and do  
21 not feel that way at all. So from this very short term  
22 veteran, many thanks for the leadership, guidance and  
23 participation.

24 MS. BLOOMER: Thank you, Al and Eric.

25 MR. SALAZAR: Sorry about that, Michelle, but

1 thank you, gentlemen, for the kind thoughts and remarks.

2 MS. CRAIN: And as a brand newcomer -- this is  
3 Christina -- I just want to add you guys have made it  
4 really easy, so thank you.

5 MS. BLOOMER: Well, good. And I hope if you  
6 get four new members, I'm hoping you get some friendly  
7 faces come October 1, but if you get four new faces, I  
8 hope that folks continuing on will sort of take them under  
9 their wing and get them up to speed, because I think we  
10 have a lot of important work to do to address the  
11 transportation needs in the State of Texas, and it's not  
12 going to get any easier in the next 10 to 15 years with  
13 the growing population and the aging of the population.

14 DR. ABESON: And the shortage of funds.

15 MS. BLOOMER: Yes.

16 Eric, I did have one question I just wanted to  
17 follow up. A couple of meetings back the committee had  
18 requested a summary of the JARC and New Freedom projects,  
19 and I know that Chris was working on something, but I was  
20 hoping that we could get that before September 30.

21 MR. GLEASON: Okay. You're right, she is  
22 working on something, and I remember looking at it. I had  
23 lost track of that, though. Let me see where that's at.

24 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. There aren't any public  
25 comments or confirm a date for the next meeting, so before

1 we adjourn, I just wanted to take a moment and thank  
2 everybody for all your hard work and service. I do  
3 believe, like Eric said, we've made some significant  
4 progress in the last nine to ten months, and not only have  
5 I personally experienced that but I sort of see that in  
6 the response we're getting from the transit providers,  
7 specifically in my region as well as when we come together  
8 at the statewide level. A few more people know what PTAC  
9 is and that we're actually doing something and we are  
10 concerned, so I think that's a good step in the right  
11 direction.

12 So I thank you all for your hard work and  
13 effort, and I wish you the best of luck in the next year.

14 And thank you for this opportunity.

15 Any other of the other departing members?

16 MR. HUERTA: Yes. This is Vince. I want to  
17 say the same too. Thank you, Eric. Thank you, Al, for  
18 your comments.

19 And thank you, Michelle for your guidance. I  
20 think you've done an excellent job as chair of the group.

21 I've been here as long as you all and have seen a number  
22 of chairs, and I think that you've done a great job, so  
23 thank you. And as you say, I hope that we see some  
24 friendly faces come this next appointment.

25 MS. BLOOMER: Okay. If there's nothing else,

1 then I'm going to make this official as my last official  
2 meeting as chair. Can I get a motion to adjourn the  
3 meeting?

4 DR. ABESON: So moved.

5 MS. BLOOMER: All right. Al, I have a first.  
6 And a second?

7 MR. HUERTA: Vince. I'll second that.

8 MS. BLOOMER: Vince, thank you. I think we can  
9 skip the roll call. All those in favor?

10 (A chorus of ayes.)

11 MS. BLOOMER: Thank you all.

12 MR. GLEASON: Thank you.

13 (Whereupon, at 2:44 p.m., the teleconference  
14 was concluded.)

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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: September 8, 2010

I do hereby certify that the foregoing pages, numbers 1 through 31, inclusive, are the true, accurate, and complete transcript prepared from the verbal recording made by electronic recording by Nancy H. King before the Texas Department of Transportation.

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(Transcriber) 09/13/2010  
(Date)

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