



MEETING AGENDA

Public Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 | 10:00 A.M. (local time)

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

Virtual Meeting via Webex Events

1. Call to Order.

2. Guidance on virtual meeting participation.

3. Approval of minutes from April 28, 2020 meeting. (Action)

4. Approval of minutes from May 26, 2020 meeting. (Action)

5. Presentation and discussion on rural ridership trends. (Action)

6. Public Comment – Public comment will only be accepted during the meeting. Link and details are below. The meeting transcript will be posted on the internet following the meeting.

7. Propose and discuss agenda items for next meeting; confirm date of next meeting. (Action)

8. Adjourn. (Action)

I certify that I have reviewed this document and that it conforms to all applicable *Texas Register* filing requirements.

CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: Becky Blewett, Deputy General Counsel, (512) 463-8630.

The public is invited to attend this meeting and view meeting presentations via WebEx at <https://txdot.webex.com/txdot/onstage/g.php?MTID=e4878933fbe8be845193b34cd76cf341e>
For toll-free audio and best audio quality, select the option to have the meeting call you.

AGENDA ITEM 3

Approval of minutes from April 28, 2020 meeting. (Action)

MINUTES FOR ADOPTION
Public Transportation Advisory Committee – Webex Meeting
April 28, 2020 10:00 A.M.

Committee Members Present and Participating: None (Virtual Meeting via Webex)

Committee Members Participating via Webex:

John McBeth, Chair
Jim Cline, Vice Chair
J.R. Salazar
Marc K. Whyte
Ken Fickes
Dietrich M. Von Biedenfeld

TxDOT Participating via Webex:

Eric Gleason, Director, Public transportation Division (PTN)
Mark Sprick, Section Director, PTN
Josh Ribakove, Communications Manager, PTN

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to order.

John McBeth called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Safety briefing with guidance on virtual meeting participation

Josh Ribakove briefed meeting attendees on virtual meeting protocols including how public comments can be submitted via Webex at 10:07 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Approval of minutes from February 11, 2020 meeting (Action).

John McBeth opened this item at 10:08 A.M.

MOTION Marc K. Whyte moved to approve the February 11, 2020 minutes.

SECOND Jim Cline seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously at 10:09 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 4: TxDOT's Public Transportation Division Director's report to the committee regarding public transportation matters.

Eric Gleason delivered this report beginning at 10:10 A.M. The report touched on TxDOT's potential return on onsite office work, anticipated upcoming Texas Transportation Commission action, bus safety plans, and the possibility of additional federal stimulus elements.

Questions/Comments: John McBeth

AGENDA ITEM 5: Presentation and discussion on projected 2020 Census impacts to public transportation funding for Texas transit providers (Action).

John McBeth introduced this item at 10:21 A.M. Item was tabled for this meeting by the committee. The presentation and discussion will take place at an upcoming meeting.

MOTION Marc K. Whyte moved to table this item until the committee's next meeting.

SECOND J.R. Salazar seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously at 10:21 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act – presentation and discussion of potential impacts of CARES Act funding on Texas' rural public transportation program.

John McBeth introduced this topic at 10:21 A.M. Eric Gleason presented and led the discussion.

Questions and comments: Jim Cline, John McBeth, Eric Gleason

AGENDA ITEM 7: Discussion on exceptional items for 2022/2023 Legislative Appropriations Request, including additional funding due to 2020 US Census impacts (Action).

John McBeth introduced this topic at 10:48 A.M. Eric Gleason presented.

Questions and comments: John McBeth, Eric Gleason, Jim Cline, Fen Fickes, J.R. Salazar

MOTION Jim Cline moved to request PTN staff provide a recommendation for a baseline Legislative Appropriations Request sufficient to mitigate 2020 US Census impacts.

SECOND Dietrich von Biedenfeld seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously at 10:57 A.M.

MOTION Jim Cline moved that PTAC's Legislative Appropriations Request letter to the Texas Transportation Commission should include an exceptional item request to fund the expansion of 14-hour weekday transit service.

SECOND Ken Fickes seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously at 11:10 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Public Comment

John McBeth introduced this item at 11:12 A.M.
There were no public comments.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Propose and Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting; confirm date of next meeting (Action).

John McBeth initiated and led this discussion beginning at 11:12 A.M.

Two meeting dates and their topics are in consideration:

- A special meeting in May to accommodate the presentation and discussion item on projected Census impact data that was tabled at today's meeting
- PTAC's regular meeting in July, to discuss TxDOT's 2019 Texas Transit Statistics Report and PTAC's Guiding Principles document

No specific meeting dates were chosen.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Adjourn (Action).

MOTION J.R. Salazar moved to adjourn.

SECOND Dietrich von Biedenfeld seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously at 11:16 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 A.M.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Josh Ribakove
Public Transportation Division

John McBeth, Chair
Public Transportation Advisory Committee

AGENDA ITEM 4

Approval of minutes from May 26, 2020 meeting. (Action)

MINUTES FOR ADOPTION

Public Transportation Advisory Committee – Webex Meeting
May 26, 2020 10:00 A.M.

Committee Members Present and Participating: None (Virtual Meeting via Webex)

Committee Members Participating via Webex:

John McBeth, Chair
Jim Cline, Vice Chair
J.R. Salazar
Marc K. Whyte
Ken Fickes

TxDOT Participating via Webex:

Eric Gleason, Director, Public transportation Division (PTN)
Mark Sprick, Section Director, PTN
Josh Ribakove, Communications Manager, PTN

Also Participating via Webex:

Michael Walk, Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI)

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to order.

John McBeth called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Guidance on virtual meeting participation

Josh Ribakove briefed meeting attendees on virtual meeting protocols including how public comments can be submitted via Webex at 10:05 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Approval of minutes from April 28, 2020 meeting (Action).

John McBeth opened this item at 10:06 A.M. and suggested tabling it until the next meeting due to technical issues.

MOTION Jim Cline moved to table adopting the April 28, 2020 minutes until the next meeting.

SECOND Ken Fickes seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously at 10:07 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Presentation and discussion on projected 2020 US Census funding impacts to public transportation for Texas transit providers (Action).

Eric Gleason opened this item at 10:07, introducing presenter Michael Walk (TTI), who began at 10:09

Questions/Comments:

Jim Cline, John McBeth, Eric Gleason, J.R. Salazar, Marc Whyte

MOTION Ken Fickes moved to recommend scenario 2 to the Texas Transportation Commission via PTAC's Legislative Appropriations Request letter.

SECOND J.R. Salazar seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously at 10:52 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Public Comment

John McBeth introduced this item at 10:53 A.M.

There was one public comment, from Harrison Humphreys, Air Alliance Houston. His comment was addressed by John McBeth and Eric Gleason.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Propose and Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting; confirm date of next meeting (Action).

John McBeth initiated and led this discussion beginning at 10:56 A.M.

No specific items were mentioned. Next meeting was set for July 28.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Adjourn (Action).

MOTION Jim Cline moved to adjourn.

SECOND Ken Fickes seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously at 10:57 A.M.

Meeting adjourned 10:57am

Prepared by:

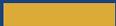
Approved by:

Josh Ribakove
Public Transportation Division

John McBeth, Chair
Public Transportation Advisory Committee

AGENDA ITEM 5

Presentation and discussion on rural ridership trends. (Action)



Texas Rural Ridership Trends

July 28, 2020



**Texas A&M
Transportation
Institute**



Key Takeaways

- Rural ridership is generally decreasing since 2014
- There is no singular identifiable cause for rural transit ridership decline
- Each region is unique and poses different challenges and outcomes for transit ridership



Background

- Texas rural ridership (unlinked passenger trips) trended down since 2014.
- TTI conducted research to determine reasons for decline. Research included:
 - Literature review of ridership trends across U.S.
 - Analysis of Texas rural ridership data.
 - Review of contributing factors.
 - Transit agency perspectives.

Texas Rural Ridership Analysis

Rural Analysis

Ridership Data
(Reviewing for errors/outliers)
2014-2018

Ridership Change by Funding
Source

Population Change
2014-2018

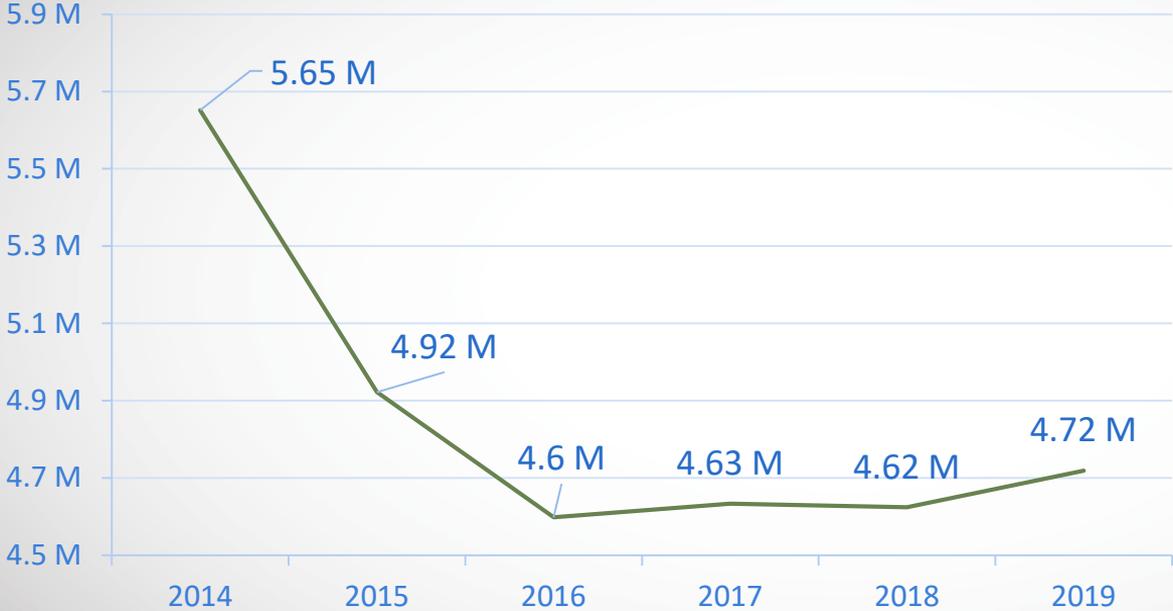
Total Passenger Trips 2014 vs. 2018

	2014 Passenger Trips	2018 Passenger Trips	Total Change	Percentage Change
Original Total	6,512,765	4,624,135	-1,888,630	-29%
Without Galveston*	5,651,843	4,624,135	-1,027,708	-18%

*Galveston counted as rural transit district in 2014; not a rural transit district in 2018.

Quality Review: Removing Galveston

Rural Ridership Trend



Gradual upward trend since 2016 for total ridership.

Remaining analysis focuses on 2014-2018 trend.

*Does Not Include Galveston

Total Passenger Trips 2014 vs. 2018

	2014 Passenger Trips	2018 Passenger Trips	Total Change	Percentage Change
Original Total	6,512,765	4,624,135	-1,888,630	-29%
Without Galveston*	5,651,843	4,624,135	-1,027,708	-18%
Without Identified Data Issues**	4,917,642	4,624,135	-531,659	-6%***

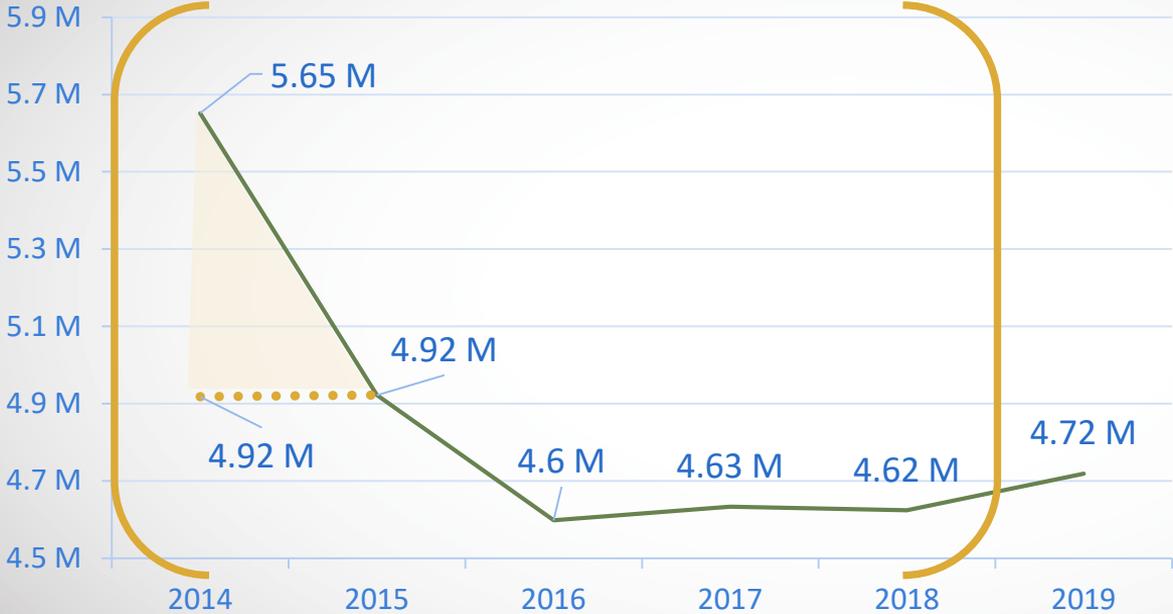
*Galveston counted as rural transit district in 2014; not a rural transit district in 2018.

**Removal of transit districts with data reporting problems in 2014.

***Represents a floor for ridership loss. Actual ridership loss falls between 6% and 18%

Quality Review: Removing Data Issues

Rural Ridership Trend



Gradual upward trend since 2016 for total ridership.

Remaining analysis focuses on 2014-2018 trend.

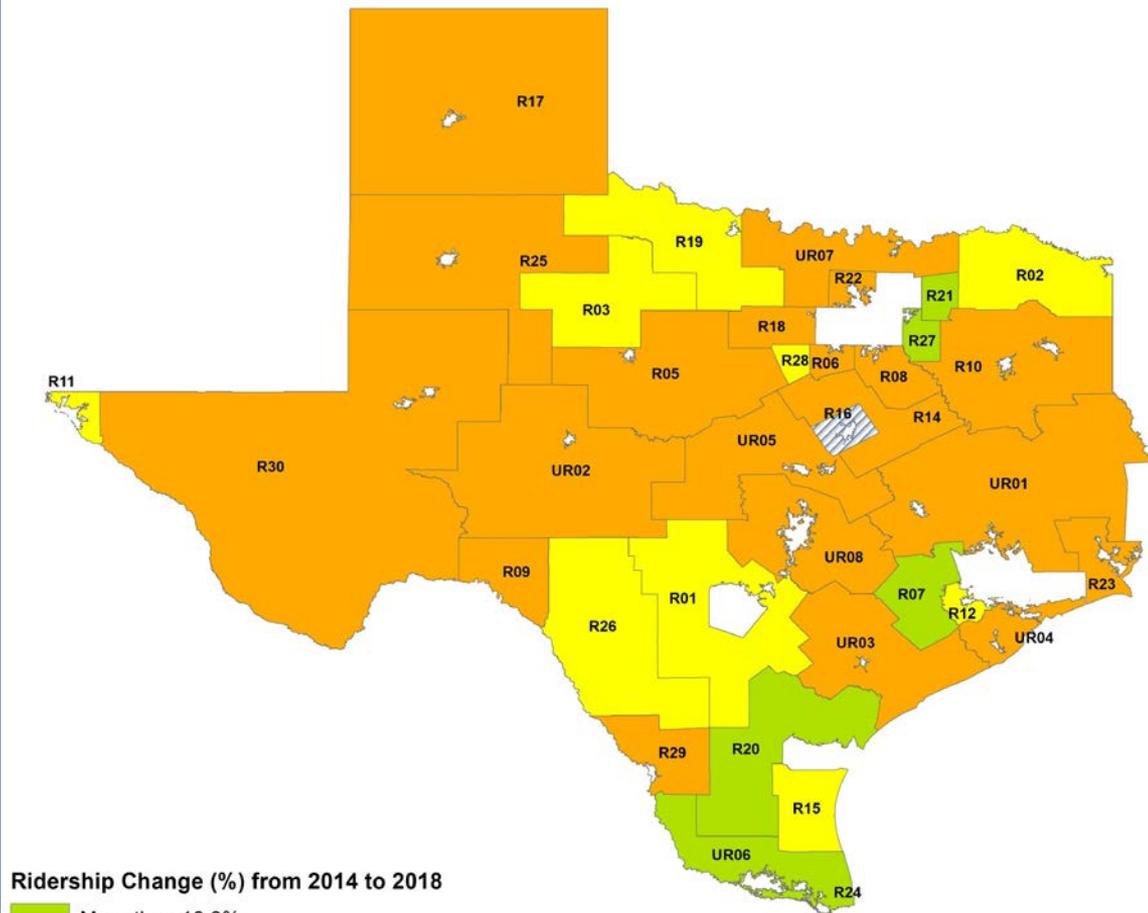
*Does Not Include Galveston

Percentage Change in Ridership 2014 vs. 2018

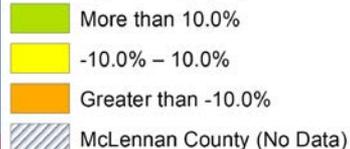
- McLennan County Rural (R16) has no data in 2014
- Map does not include Galveston.

Transit District Name Reference on Slide 21

Texas Rural Ridership Analysis



Ridership Change (%) from 2014 to 2018



* R16 McLennan County Rural has no data in 2014.

Funding Sources 2014-2018

Funding Sources	
General Public	Medical Transportation Program
Section 5310 Elderly & Disabled	DADS
Section 5316 JARC	DARS
Section 5317 New Freedom	Head Start
CMAQ	Local Contracts

- Transit districts used a variety of funding sources

*Does Not Include Galveston

Funding Sources 2014-2018

Funding Sources	
General Public	Medical Transportation Program
Section 5310 Elderly & Disabled	DADS
Section 5316 JARC	DARS
Section 5317 New Freedom	Head Start
CMAQ	Local Contracts

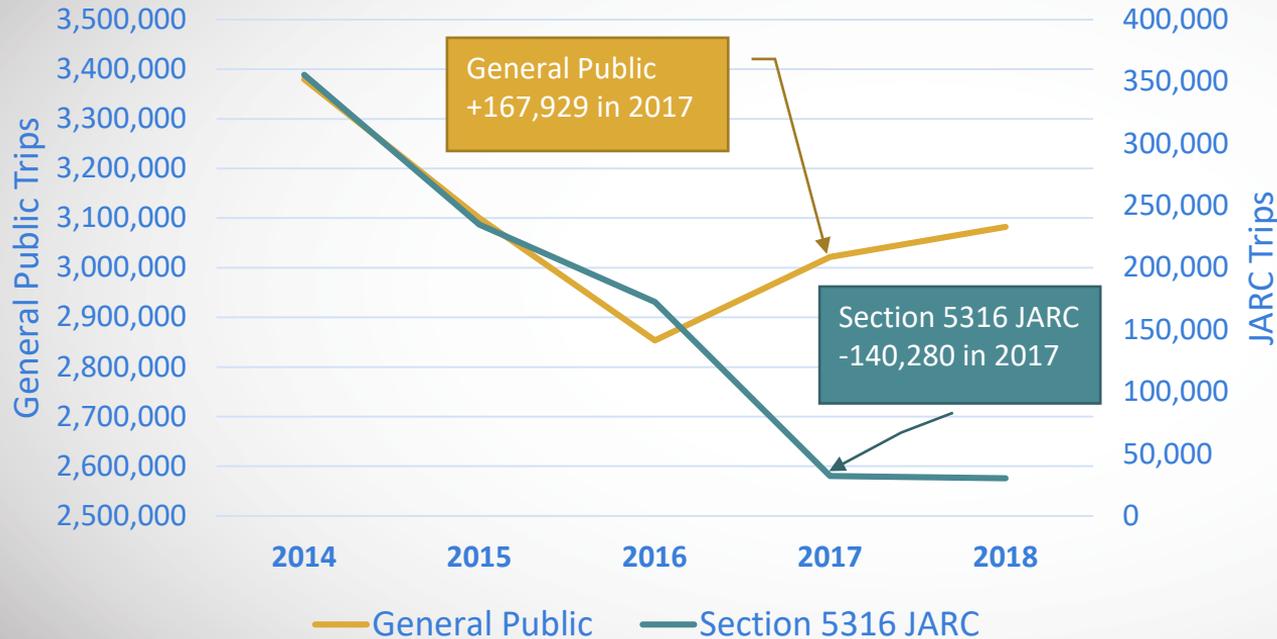
- Decrease in general public trips
- Decrease in MTP trips
- Decrease in JARC (discontinued program)

These three programs accounted for **93%** of ridership loss

*Does Not Include Galveston

General Public vs. JARC Trend

General Public and JARC Trips*



- JARC trips decrease in 2017.
- General public trips increase in 2017.
- Funding for JARC was consolidated into 5311 and 5307.

*Does Not Include Galveston

Texas Transit District Population Change 2013 vs. 2017

Transit District Type	2013 Total Population	2017 Total Population	Total Change	Percentage Change
Rural	7,217,389	8,155,485	938,096	13%
Urban	5,222,619	5,550,945	328,326	6.3%

Population increased in both rural and urban areas from 2013 to 2017.

- Rural: +13%.
- Urban: +6.3%.

TTI used existing transit district population data from 2013 and 2017; data for 2018 were not readily available at the time of analysis.

Analyzing Contributing Factors

Contributing Factors

Strong economy

Shifting demographics

Transit service quality

Alternative modes

Delivery services

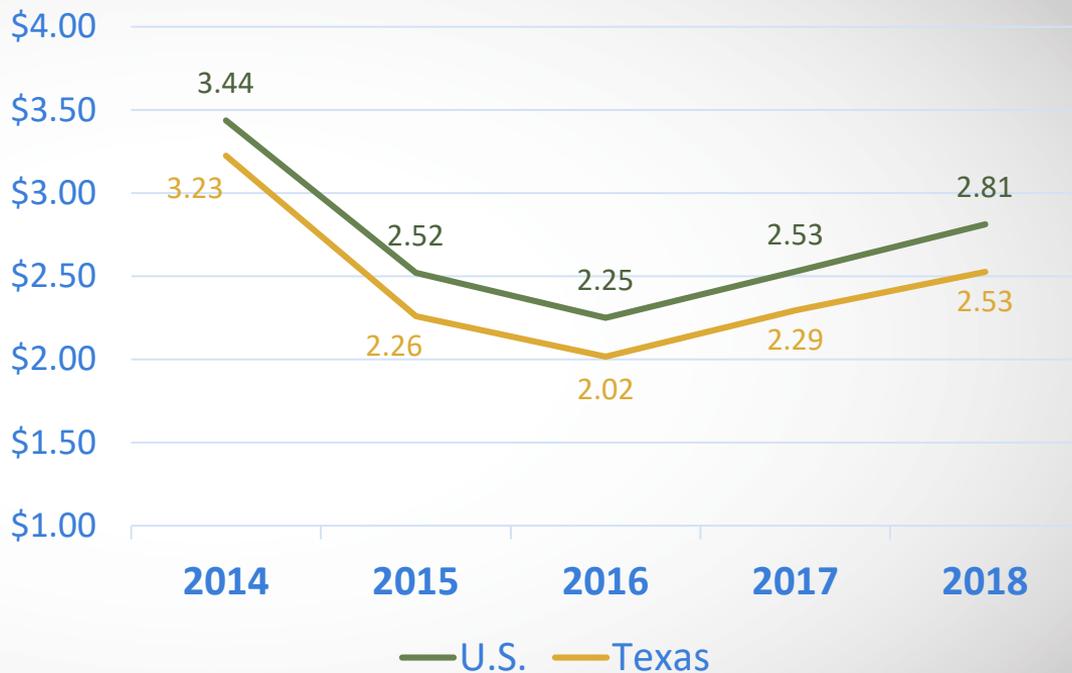
National Highlights

- 1 Rise in car purchases (low gas prices and low interest rates).
- 2 More service days, low fares, short reservation periods (DR) can increase ridership.
- 3 Alternative modes of transportation and delivery services might reduce transit trips.

Texas Highlights

- Texans' personal income grew at 3.7% annually.
- Gas prices followed national trend (see chart).
- Wider availability of delivery services in rural areas; TNCs are limited.

Average Gas Price 2014-2018



Transit Agency Perspective

- Reached out to 15 transit agencies based on ridership trends, and effectiveness trends (passengers per revenue hour/ revenue mile).
- Four agencies sat for a phone interview.
- Statewide Trend - Agency Perspectives:
 - Rural population decline.
 - Increased car ownership.
 - Cost of fares.
 - Increase in rideshare services.
 - Lack of awareness of transit service.
 - Perceived safety concerns on transit.

Transit Agency Perspective

Agency	2014 Passenger Trips	2018 Passenger Trips	Total Change	Percentage Change
Community Services, Inc.	94,647	56,213	-38,434	-41%
East Texas Council of Governments	122,295	92,117	-30,178	-25%
El Paso, County of	367,299	384,881	17,582	5%
West Texas Opportunities, Inc.	141,175	103,746	-37,429	-27%

Targeted Agency Perspective:

- Some agencies have been more impacted by reducing their Medical Transportation Program trips.
- Marketing services is important.
- Service area and demographics are unique to each transit district and may contribute to ridership declines or increases.

Summary

- Rural ridership loss is occurring, but it is not as large as it appeared:
 - Appeared to be 29% loss from 2014 vs. 2018, but after removing Galveston & data issues, the range falls between 6% and 18% loss.
 - Gradual upward trend since 2016.
- Several contributing factors for ridership loss:
 - Personal income growth in Texas.
 - Low gas prices, national trend of car purchases.
 - More delivery services may be replacing some trips.
- Ridership trends vary across rural transit districts.

Questions?



Transit District Map Reference:

TDID	NAME	TDID	NAME
R01	Alamo Area Council of Governments	R20	Rural Economic Assistance League, Inc.
R02	Ark-Tex Council of Governments	R21	Senior Center Resources & Public Transit, Inc.
R03	Aspermont Small Business Development Center	R22	Span, Inc.
R05	Central Texas Rural Transit District	R23	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
R06	City of Cleburne	R24	City of South Padre Island
R07	Colorado Valley Transit	R25	South Plains Community Action Association
R08	Community Services, Inc.	R26	Southwest Area Regional Transit District
R09	City of Del Rio	R27	STAR Transit
R10	East Texas Council of Governments	R28	The Transit System, Inc.
R11	County of El Paso	R29	Webb County Community Action Agency
R12	County of Fort Bend	R30	West Texas Opportunities, Inc.
R13	Galveston County Rural	UR01	Brazos Transit District
R14	Heart of Texas Council of Governments	UR02	Concho Valley Transit District
R15	Kleberg County Human Services	UR03	Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission
R16	McLennan County Rural Transit District	UR04	Gulf Coast Center
R17	Panhandle Community Services	UR05	Hill Country Transit District
R18	Public Transit Services	UR06	Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council
R19	Rolling Plains Management Corporation	UR07	Texoma Area Paratransit System
		UR08	Capital Area Rural Transportation System

Thank You



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