

## MINUTES FOR ADOPTION

Public Transportation Advisory Committee – Teleconference Meeting  
3712 Jackson Avenue, Room 325  
January 23, 2013

### **Committee Members Participating:**

Michelle Bloomer, Chair  
J.R. Salazar, Vice Chair  
Glenn Gadbois  
Rob Stephens  
Brad Underwood

### **TxDOT Present and Participating:**

Eric Gleason, Director, Public Transportation Division (PTN)  
Bobby Killebrew, PTN  
Kelly Kirkland, PTN

### AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order.

Michelle Bloomer called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. One member participated via conference call.

### AGENDA ITEM 2: Election of officers. Bobby Killebrew conducted this item.

**MOTION** Brad Underwood nominated Michelle Bloomer to continue as Chair.

**SECOND** J.R. Salazar seconded the motion.

There were no other nominations. The committee unanimously elected Michelle Bloomer.

**MOTION** Glen Gadbois nominated J.R. Salazar to continue as Vice Chair.

**SECOND** Brad Underwood seconded the motion.

There were no other nominations. The committee unanimously elected J.R. Salazar.

Bobby Killebrew turned the meeting over to Michelle Bloomer.

### AGENDA ITEM 3: Approval of Minutes from November 8, 2012 meeting.

**MOTION** Brad Underwood moved to approve the November 8, 2012 meeting minutes.

**SECOND** J.R. Salazar seconded the motion.

The committee unanimously approved the motion.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Director's report.

- Eric Gleason explained that an upcoming Commission rule-making action concerning transportation development credits will clarify that, at the beginning of the fiscal year, a total of \$15M in TDCs are available for transit projects. TxDOT Finance Division is concerned that the current wording could be interpreted to mean that \$15M are added to whatever balance may be available.

Glenn Gadbois raised the question about the need to "promote" the availability of TDCs and a role for PTAC in that activity. The consensus became that this is not necessary for PTAC to focus on a more extensive role in the administration of TDCs at this time.

- The Leadership Texas program, now in its third year, has trained approximately 75 individuals. Eric indicated he feels this is sufficient for the immediate future and wants to redirect those funds to convening forums to seek solutions and promote best practices in areas of pressing concern.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Medical Transportation Program (MTP)

At the conclusion of the November meeting, the Committee directed the chair to write a letter to HHSC conveying its strong feelings that existing public transportation operators can provide MTP services in an efficient and cost effective manner. The letter was to recommend that in lieu of moving to a statewide broker, HHSC conduct pilot programs with transit operators. The letter, while drafted, was never sent.

Early in January, TxDOT Executive Director Phil Wilson met with the head of HHSC; and several members of the Texas Transit Association are about to meet with the deputy director. Under those circumstances and in light of Phil Wilson's letter of December 18, 2012, PTAC members decided to table the letter idea.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Rulemaking to implement MAP-21

Bobby Killebrew gave a summary of two discussion sessions the department recently conducted with rural and small urban transit operators. One occurred within the context of the January semi-annual business meeting. The second occurred the following day in multiple 75-minute sessions devoted to specific programs. Committee members received copies of the comments from the sessions in advance of the meeting.

The Public Transportation Division also hosted a webinar in advance of the semi-annual meeting. The purpose was to acquaint small urban and rural transit agencies with MAP-21 program changes before the 90-minute discussion planned for the semi-annual.

PTAC members spent considerable time talking about various aspects of the Section 5310 and 5311 program, and to a lesser extent, safety, asset management and capital investment.

They endorsed the idea of preparing a survey to gather additional input and of PTN hosting "listening sessions" in some format. After looking at the synopsis of comments, each PTAC member identified 3-4 items for each program that s/he thought most important. PTN is to craft a survey around these items and send it out, individually, to each member for comment. Staff was asked to administer the survey and compile results in advance of a general discussion at the next meeting.

*NOTE: The committee took a 5 minute recess during Agenda Item 6.*

AGENDA ITEM 7: PTAC Work Plan.

The discussion on MAP-21 included elements of the work plan.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Public Comment.

None

AGENDA ITEM 9: Next meeting date.

The Committee decided it would be beneficial to establish a "standard" quarterly meeting. A quick poll of members presented several work schedule availabilities/conflicts; however, PTN will contact all members and report on findings for future meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Adjourn

**MOTION:** Glenn Gadbois moved to adjourn.

**SECOND:** Brad Underwood seconded the motion

The meeting adjourned at 3:09 P.M.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bobby Killebrew  
Public Transportation Division

3/19/13  
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Date

  
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Michelle Bloomer, Chair  
Public Transportation Advisory Committee

3/19/13  
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Date