

MINUTES FOR ADOPTION

Public Transportation Advisory Committee Teleconference Meeting
January 29, 2010

Committee Members Present:

Michelle Bloomer, Chair
J.R. Salazar, Vice Chair
Al Abeson
Frank Castellanos (via teleconference)
Christina Melton Crain (via teleconference)
Vince Huerta

TxDOT Present and Participating:

Eric Gleason, Director, Public Transportation Division (PTN)
Suzanne Mann, Office of General Counsel (OGC)
Kelly Kirkland, PTN
Cheryl Mazur, PTN
Ginnie Mayle, PTN

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order.

Michelle Bloomer called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Roll was called with four members participating in Austin and ~~three~~ participating by telephone.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Approval of Minutes from March 4, 2009 and October 23, 2009 meetings.

After a brief explanation as to why the March 4, 2009 minutes have been brought before the committee for a third time, the committee took the following action.

MOTION: Al Abeson moved to approve the March 4, 2009 minutes.

SECOND: Christina Crain seconded the motion.

The committee approved the March 4, 2009 minutes.

After discussion regarding the need for more detail in the October 23, 2009 minutes, the committee took the following action.

MOTION: Al Abeson moved to approve the October 23, 2009 minutes with the caveat that language be added to the minutes reflecting the committee's discussion and concern regarding language in the rules pertaining to delegating authority to "individuals whom the organization knows or should know have a propensity to engage in illegal activities."

SECOND: J.R. Salazar seconded the motion.

The committee approved the October 23, 2009 minutes.

AGENDA ITEM 3: In accordance with 43 TAC §1.83(c) final review of draft revisions to 43 TAC §1.8 concerning internal ethics and compliance program, as it relates to those amendments to Chapter 31

Suzanne Mann, with the Office of General Counsel, presented the rules to the committee. After the presentation, the committee discussed the rules. The committee wanted to be sure that the transit agencies would have assistance developing their own compliance programs and was assured that

TxDOT would assist in that effort. Suzanne also emphasized that the rules don't take effect until January 2011 and would only apply to grants from that point forward.

MOTION: J.R. Salazar moved to approve the proposed rules.
SECOND: Christina Crain seconded the motion.

The committee unanimously approved the motion.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Discussion and possible action on the department's Draft 2011-2015 Strategic Plan Vision, Mission, Values, Goals, and Focus Area Statements

Kelly Kirkland explained the department's Draft 2011-2015 Strategic Plan process to the committee. Eric Gleason further explained that this is the opportunity for PTAC to make comments and/or recommendations while the department is still developing a draft plan and he encouraged the committee to particularly look at the goals, objectives, and strategies. The committee agreed to look at the draft plan and comment on it as whole and then submit those comments to the commission before the draft plan is presented to the public and the final plan is adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Update from the Planning & Policy Technical Subcommittee and the Program Management Technical Subcommittee regarding work program topics

Neither subcommittee had met since the last full committee meeting so there were no updates to report. However, Michelle Bloomer did mention the effort of the planning and policy subcommittee regarding the letter Eric Gleason sent to all transit providers about the Section 5311 discretionary cap. The department received no response to the letter.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Division Director's Report to the Committee regarding general public transportation matters

Eric Gleason updated the committee about the possibility of a second stimulus package (ARRA II), the number of proposals received for the coordinated call, organizing a PTAC workshop and upcoming commission topics. There was also discussion around the yet-to-be appointed ninth member of the committee. The Speaker of the House has not yet made that appointment. Eric also solicited a volunteer to serve on the selection committee for the 2009 Friend of Texas Transit Award. There was some conversation about a survey that was sent to the transit providers asking how they would spend any new stimulus money. Additionally, J.R. Salazar brought up the issue of the medical transportation program (MTP) contracts expiring in August and the possibility of the transportation providers across the state struggling with local match issues if they aren't awarded future MTP contracts.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Public comment.

In response to J.R.'s comments, Lyle Nelson with CARTS offered comments regarding the MTP and how the infrastructure around MTP has been focused on customer service and it would be a shame to lose that in a transition.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Confirm Date of Next Meeting.

A meeting date of February 26, 210 was set for a conference call.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Adjourn.

The committee unanimously agreed to adjourn without a motion.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Ginnie Mayle
Public Transportation Division

Chair
Public Transportation Advisory Committee