

MINUTES FOR ADOPTION

Public Transportation Advisory Committee Teleconference Meeting

April 7, 2010

Committee Members Present:

Michelle Bloomer, Chair

J.R. Salazar, Vice Chair

Al Abeson

Frank Castellanos

Christina Melton Crain

Claudia Langguth

Vince Huerta

TxDOT Present and Participating:

Eric Gleason, Director, Public Transportation Division (PTN)

Kelly Kirkland, PTN

Ginnie Mayle, PTN

Cheryl Mazur, PTN

AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to Order.

Michelle Bloomer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Seven members participated.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Explanation and discussion of role and responsibilities of the Public Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC), as described in Transportation Code §455.004 and 43 Tex. Admin. Code §§1.80 through 1.84(b)

Eric Gleason directed the committee to a binder that was prepared for their benefit. The binder includes all statutes and rules governing the advisory committee. There was brief discussion on the department's expectations of the committee and Eric also mentioned that the committee meetings are governed by the Open Meetings Act. There was also talk about tying the committee's work efforts into the department's strategic plan.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Brief overview of department and division organizational structure

Eric Gleason provided a general overview of the way the department is structured and where PTN fits in that structure. He went on to provide background information about the division and its responsibilities. The additional information in the binder was briefly discussed – maps, phone lists, the rule making process, grant program descriptions, and a glossary.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Discussion on funding formula history and applicable law, as set out in Title 49 United States Code Chapter 53; Transportation Code Chapter 456; and 43 Texas Administrative Code §§31.11 - 31.13

Linda Cherrington with the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) presented historical information on how the current formula used to allocate funding to the rural and small urban transit agencies came into existence with input from the PTAC. The presentation included data on where all the transit agencies now stand with respect to the amount of funding each receives based on the elements of the formula.

AGENDA ITEM 5: Discussion of the Impact of the 2010 Census on Funding Formula

Linda Cherrington presented data that TTI and The State Data Center at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) researched for PTN. The research objectives looked at projecting population to target impact on the funding formula, identifying what issues that meant, and suggesting possible strategies to approach. The presentation showed the areas of the state that are most likely to be affected by population changes and which public transportation providers will be most impacted by these changes as they relate to the funding formula.

At 12:15 p.m., the committee recessed for lunch.

MOTION: Al Abeson moved to recess for lunch.

SECOND: J.R. Salazar seconded the motion

The committee unanimously approved the motion to recess for lunch for 30 minutes. The committee reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 7: Discussion of requirements related to subgrantee program income and how it affects transit grant funding, as described in Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 18 and FTA Federal Circular 9040.1F for the Section 5311 program

The committee took the next two agenda items (6 and 7) out of order. Agenda item 7 was discussed before agenda item 6.

J.R. Salazar led the discussion and informed the committee that the current medical transportation grants are set to expire in August 2010 and that there will be ramifications if the current providers are not re-awarded the new contracts. The providers who have the medical transportation contracts are eligible to use those funds as local match to draw down federal funds and would lose that ability if they lose the contract. The medical transportation program (MTP) is under the purview of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and HHSC has to meet statutory requirements of Rider 55 as it relates to a pilot project in the Houston and Beaumont areas using a broker model. There was also discussion about level of service and coordination of service between MTP and the state's public transit providers.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Review and discussion of PTAC Work Plan and Technical Subcommittees, as described in 43 Texas Administrative Code §1.84(b)(5)

Eric Gleason introduced the item and then Kelly Kirkland and Cheryl Mazur updated the full committee on the conversations that occurred within the two subcommittees. After discussion of the various areas of focus for the two subcommittees, it was agreed by the full committee to abolish the two subcommittees and continue work as a whole committee on all the issues discussed by the subcommittees. The committee also decided to focus on one issue at a time and once an issue had been resolved, move to the next. The first issue of interest was funding and how it's allocated. There was general consensus that the committee would provide input into the department's Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) by advising the Commission of the "needs" of the public transportation community.

AGENDA ITEM 8: Division Director's report to the committee regarding public transportation matters, including an update on items the department has been involved with and a recap of Texas Transportation Commission action regarding public transportation projects

Eric Gleason briefed the committee on the State Management Review that was conducted the first week of March. Out of 200 specific areas, there were only seven findings, six of which had already been closed by the beginning of April. He mentioned that the annual Texas Transit Association

conference would be held in Corpus Christi from April 16 – 20, 2010 and then discussed past and upcoming commission meeting agenda items – adoption of ethics and compliance rules in March; approval of proposed draft of the 2011-2015 Draft Strategic Plan in April; and four funding awards and final adoption of grant sanction rules in May.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Public comment.

There were no comments from the public.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Adjourn.

MOTION: Christina Crain moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Frank Castellanos seconded the motion.

The committee unanimously approved the motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Ginnie Mayle
Public Transportation Division

Michelle Bloomer, Chair
Public Transportation Advisory Committee