

**Regional Public Transportation Coordination  
IMPLEMENTATION SUB-COMMITTEE**

Meeting Summary

Thursday, July 12, 2007

10:00 am– 12:00 pm

Houston-Galveston Area Council-Conference Room A

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ATTENDEES: Beverly Bradley(TxDOT-Medical Transportation), Donna Shea (TxDOT), Kelly Buchanan(Goodman Corp), Lyle Nelson(Brazos Valley Transit), Mary Ann Dendor(METRO), Becky Jasso(United Way and Bay Area Transportation Partnership), Paula Warren (for Rose Hernandez, Harris Co. Judge's office), Darla Walton (TxDOT), Matt Lamon (ARC Consulting), Anthony Cochran(TxDOT Beaumont District), John Blackman (for Martha Mayes, American Red Cross), Kelly Kirkland (TxDOT), Yvonne Feder(Goodman), Linda Cherrington (TTI), Tony Koosis (for Charmane Barrow-Brazoria County, CIL-Houston), Steve Wright(TxDOT). H-GAC Staff: Lydia Abebe, Kari Hackett, Ashby Johnson, Ursula Williams,

- I. Becky Jasso welcomed the group and asked for self-introductions
- II. Update of Regional Service Planning, Ms. Linda Cherrington, TTI: Ms. Cherrington reviewed best practices identified through the state-wide process. Based on reports on Barriers and Constraints, some changes have been made. Regulations regarding Alternative Fuel vehicles have been revised to an emissions-based requirement. Concerns about vehicle aging have led to increases in the Transportation Development Credits available to meet the local share requirements. Ms. Cherrington also reviewed some best practices on addressing constraints identified throughout the state. Among the topics covered: Vehicle maintenance, fuel access, recruiting and training of drivers, increasing capacity to meet demand, integrating medial and public transit, Coordinating Para transit services, providing seamless service and fare coordination, outreach programs and communication with users, statewide transportation services handbook, communication with users, sustainability and mentoring/program sharing skills. For a copy of Ms. Cherrington's presentation go to [http://www.regionalserviceplanning.org/study\\_group/workshops/05\\_03\\_2007/review\\_update.ppt#7](http://www.regionalserviceplanning.org/study_group/workshops/05_03_2007/review_update.ppt#7). White papers on specific topics are available on the website [http://www.regionalserviceplanning.org/clearinghouse/white\\_papers/](http://www.regionalserviceplanning.org/clearinghouse/white_papers/).
- III. H-GAC/METRO JARC and New Freedom Call for Projects: Kari Hackett reminded everyone that H-GAC and Metro will be doing a proposal conference on July 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm at HGAC offices on the Urbanized funds for JARC and New Freedom. Additionally, TxDOT will do a proposal conference on July 26<sup>th</sup> for non-urbanized JARC funds. Non-Urbanized proposals for New Freedom are currently being scored and JARC is expected to go before the TxDOT commission on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Members presented knew of proposals submitted from Ft. Bend and Galveston. Members discussed the various program options provided under these two programs.
- IV. TxDOT Continuation of Funding for Coordination Grant: Kari reported on the proposed work-plan for the \$60,000 TxDOT is providing each region to continue the coordination process. Emphasis is on having TTI support transit planning activities in Montgomery, Liberty and Chambers Co., using H-GAC Buy Vendors for assistance with pilot projects and support applications for JARC/NFF. Although the funding cycle for JARC/NFF will not allow for support this cycle, having the activity in the plan will allow support during future funding opportunities.

Also, TTI has been approved to work through their TxDOT contract on implementation of some of our projects through August.

Ashby Johnson addressed some concerns about the continuing role of the subcommittee in providing a broad range of input to policy decisions. He stressed the need for a clear

definition of action of the committee. These questions will be taken up at another point in the agenda.

V. Advancing Proposed Pilot Projects, H-GAC Staff and Project Sponsors

- Liberty, Montgomery, Chambers Counties/Sam Houston State University (SHSU) Shuttle: Kelly Buchanan noted that state funding cuts are expected to hurt Liberty Co. Demand Response service. This service does not meet the requirement for NFF. Lyle Nelson noted that Brazos Valley Transit is looking at ways to revamp services, despite changes in the funding formula. . Brazos Valley Transit will be ready to report at the next meeting on various projects in the works in Liberty and Montgomery Co., some involving private-sector funding sources. Lyle urged TTI to become more active in the planning group in Montgomery Co
- Transportation Mobility Manager/2-1-1 Transportation Specialist: Harris Co. Rides is working with United Way, American Red Cross, Care for Elders, MHMRA and Center for Independent Living-Houston on a NFF proposal for expanding Rides services using a Mobility Manager. 211-Transportation Specialist project is possibility for a later date.
- Harris and Fort Bend Counties JARC Projects: No clear details available on these proposals, although there are proposals in the works by Fort Bend Transit and Island Transit.
- Kari Hackett noted that letters of support are available from H-GAC for proposals to both JARC and NFF.
- Questions addressed to Kelly Kirkland (TxDOT) on change in Public Transportation Grants funded by TxDOT; although federal funds have been increased, a coincidental amount has been reduced due to the legislature not continuing to fund these grants through general revenue. Lack of funds for the match portion may result in having to return Federal funds. Governor is currently considering the request by the Chairman of the Transportation Commission to transfer state highway fund six money from construction to public transportation. Becky requested that Ashby disseminate information to the Sub-Committee members on any action they can take to help promote this action. Ashby will consult with Alan Clark on the best course of action.

VI. Other Business- Prairie View University (PVU) Potential Transit Expansion: Kari reported on discussion with Colorado Valley Transit on opportunity to expand on PVU's efforts to provide transportation option for students and staff.

VII. Next Steps for Subcommittee: Becky Jasso opened the floor for discussion on the future of this subcommittee with a historical review of how the coordination process came to be under H-GAC and the need to maintain a regional organizational structure to keep the proposed projects moving forward. Other members noted the progress in communication that has occurred with the diverse group assembled for this regional coordination planning process. Proposed role: monitoring progress on the implementation of the proposed pilot; prioritize activity, develop detailed implementation plan and identify parties responsible for each proposed pilot; maintain communication; identify priorities at a regional level with local impact; keep coordination efforts going; maintain neutral ground for discussion of concerns; promoting local action on transportation coordination.

VIII. Other information:

- Kari noted that the [www.ridethegulfcoast.com](http://www.ridethegulfcoast.com) website has been transferred to H-GAC and all the project materials are available through that website.
- Paula Warren proposed a thank you to H-GAC for their support of the coordination efforts of the committee. The group concurred.

Next Meeting: August 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 am-12 pm. American Red Cross, 2700 Southwest Freeway (77098)