

**Regional Transit Coordination (RTC)
Special Subcommittee Meeting
Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor, Conference Room B/C
Thursday September 6, 2018
2:00-3:30 p.m.**

Revised Agenda

1. Introductions and Certification of Quorum (8) – Vernon Chambers,
Harris County Transit, Chair.
2. Action Items:
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Approval of RTC Subcommittee Meeting Summary of July 19, 2018
 - Proposed Methodology for Regional Transit Asset Management Targets --Lydia Abebe (30 minutes)
3. Information Item:
 - Regional Online Interactive Database Update—Kari Hackett (10 minutes).

Next RTC Quarterly Meeting- January 10, 2019, (Tentative) H-GAC Conference Room B/C.

REGIONAL TRANSIT COORDINATION SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, July 19, 2018 – 9:30 a.m.

Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments

3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor, Houston, Texas 77027 (Meeting Held in Room 2A)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brazos Transit District – Wendy Weedon
Fort Bend County – Paulette Shelton
Harris County – Vernon Chambers, Chair
Houston Center for Independent Living – Jason Jones
American Red Cross – Steve Atchison
Texas Vocational Rehabilitation – Betty Evans-Klappenbach

ALTERNATES PRESENT

City of Conroe – Shawn Johnson
City of Sugar Land – Rick Ramirez
Harris County – Ken Fickes
Harris County Community Services – Vincent Morrison
Central Houston, Inc. – Katrina Bayer

H-GAC STAFF PRESENT

Lydia Abebe
Phillippe Anchondo
Adam Beckom
Laurie Chandler
Kari Hackett

Patrick Mandapaka
Michael Onuogu
Karen Owen
Alan Rodenstein
Chris Van Slyke

BRIEFING

Overview

The RTCS Members and Alternates were presented with the following information: Regional Onboard Survey Presentation; Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan Study Focus Groups Study Summary Report; Transit Asset Management Update; a Regional Interactive Database Demonstration; and concluded with updates to the CMAQ Call for Projects and Evaluation Criteria and agency reports.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 3A. – Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Vernon Chambers entertained a motion to adopt the agenda. *Action Item Motion Passed Unanimously*

ITEM 3B. – Approval of Meeting Summary

Chairman Vernon Chambers entertained a motion to pass the RTC and Transportation Air Quality (TAQ) Combined Meeting Summary for the April 12, 2018 meeting as presented. *Action Item Motion Passed Unanimously*

AGENCY HIGHLIGHT

ITEM 4 – HK Express Transit now LAJ Transport Services (Larna Brown)

Larna Brown introduced the transport provider's new name, LAJ Transport Services 501(c) (3). Formerly HK Express Transit, LAJ will continue to provide demand response transport services within Pasadena, Houston, Galveston, and Harris County for Medicaid and Medicare patients needing a ride to non-emergency medical appointments. LAJ is looking to expand its service area and is seeking partnership opportunities. The provider website is down, but Larna can be reached by phone, 832-574-4348.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 5.

a. Regional Onboard Transit Survey (Linda Cherrington, Texas A&M Transportation Institute)

Linda Cherrington reported on the *2017 Regional Fixed Route Transit Rider Survey* sponsored by Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) in partnership with the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO). There were several objectives for the survey amongst which were to compile statistically accurate information about transit passengers and how they use transit in the region. The target sample size was 20,079 completed surveys across all transit services and modes. The actual number of completed surveys was 22,446. Interviewers conducted the survey on local bus and rail by intercept interviews of passengers. The survey on commuter bus routes (park and ride) was conducted by self-administered paper surveys. Interviewers distributed the paper surveys as passengers boarded the bus for the morning inbound trip. The resulting data was used to profile

regional transit riders and understand regional transit trip characteristics. A key finding is that public transit is important to the region's economy.

b. Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan Focus Group Summary (Becky Jasso and Ronnie Haggerty, United Way Nonprofit Connection)

Becky Jasso and Ronnie Haggerty presented findings from a qualitative study conducted in small focus groups. This was a small survey focused on reaching underreported populations. The study took place in September 2016 –right after METRO launched “Re-Imagine” METRO (major route, schedule changes). The goal was to have small groups of 8-10 individuals. There were 67 participants total. The survey was administered in English and Spanish. Demographic information was self-reported. Most participants were working/employable age group. Study participants use regional transportation for ordinary business of everyday life—employment, doctor appointments, personal errands—entertainment and recreational activities. Participants expressed concern over schedules/routes, safety, and road construction—especially as it pertains to work in front of METRO stops. When road work happens near METRO stops, it makes stops inaccessible or less accessible for those with disabilities and mobility problems. The presentation concluded that when using public transportation, the goal is simple: you want to be able to go where everybody else goes—to make the world accessible.

c. Transit Asset Management (TAM) Update (Lydia Abebe)

Transit Asset Management is a business model that prioritizes funding based on condition of assets to maintain transit network in a state of good repair. It was established by MAP-21 to make asset management uniform in the industry. Under the rule, Transit Providers are required to provide performance measures, local preliminary targets, coordinate with TxDOT and H-GAC, develop a TAM Plan, and report to the National Transit Database. The final rule applies to both Tier I Providers (Operates rail, >101 vehicles across all fixed and non-fixed routes) and Tier II Providers (sub-recipients of 5307, 5310 and 5311, <101 vehicles across all fixed and non-fixed routes). The final rule requires MPOs to update interagency MOU, coordinate with transit providers and TxDOT, set regional performance targets, prioritize investments and update TIP and RTP. Performance targets are due to H-GAC by August. H-GAC will reflect performance measures and targets in the RTP and TIP updates no later than 180 days after the Provider(s) set targets (October 1, 2018). Transit Agencies complete their TAM plans by October 1, 2018. At a minimum, the TAM plan must include: 1. Asset Inventory 2. Condition Assessment, and 3. A Prioritized list of investments.

d. Regional Interactive Database Demonstration (Phillipe Anchondo)

Phillipe Anchondo demonstrated the Regional Interactive Database currently under development. The database is comprised of transportation providers providing on-demand or demand and response (DR) services. Its focus is primarily Health and Human Services agencies transportation-related needs for non-emergency medical transportation and other non-work-related travel providers. The database is intended for the general public and for transportation advocates--such as social workers and health management case workers--to access online information about available transportation options for their clients.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 6A. – Updates to the CMAQ Call for Projects and Evaluation Criteria

Alan Rodenstein discussed updates on the CMAQ Call for Projects and Evaluation Criteria. H-GAC is close to releasing its Call for Projects. The Call for Projects has been extensively reviewed internally and by TxDOT. As a result, H-GAC has revised the Call for Projects, which is expected to be released at the end of this month or early August. It was requested that the RTC review the Call for Projects information before it is released, however that may not be feasible due to the required coordination with TxDOT. H-GAC anticipates hosting a workshop in August to present the final Call for Projects. H-GAC anticipates the deadline for the first round of applications to be early in October. H-GAC has \$4.015 MM in funding for first round of projects.

ITEM 6B. – Supplemental Funding for Regional Fare Collection System with METRO

Attendees discussed H-GAC Proposed Supplemental funding of \$5 million per year for four years for a regional fare collection system. The METRO Board authorized their staff to move forward with the procurement. An email

was sent to regional transit providers from METRO seeking a regional representative to participate on the review committee for their fare card system RFP when the proposals start coming in.

ITEM 7. – Agency Reports

Significant Agency Reports should be submitted to H-GAC by email.

Next RTCS Quarterly Meeting – October 11, 2018.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 11:25 a.m.

TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT

Background

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) mandated the Federal Transit Administration to develop a Transit Asset Management (TAM) Final Rule to establish a systematic process of operating, maintaining, and improving public capital assets. The Final Rule was reinforced with the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and requires all transit agencies that are designated recipients and subrecipients of federal funds to develop initial State of Good Repair targets in January 2017 and complete a TAM Plan by October 1, 2018. The Final Rule also requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) such as the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) to set regional targets for four performance measures (Rolling Stock, Equipment, Facilities and Infrastructure) by October 1, 2018.

Current Situation

In May 2018, the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) for the Houston-Galveston area approved an interagency Memorandum of Understanding for regional collaboration to implement performance-based planning and programming between transit operators, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and H-GAC. H-GAC staff has been coordinating with the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee (RTCS) and meeting with a working group to discuss strategies to set up regional targets. Transit agencies and TxDOT submitted preliminary agency-level targets for FY 2018, 2020 and 2022 to MPO staff. Based on the data received, H-GAC proposes targets by asset categories as described in the table below.

The Transportation Policy Council will be asked to adopt a set of regional targets for transit asset management, as required under federal performance-based planning rulemaking for providers of public transportation and metropolitan planning organizations.

Action Requested

Staff requests the RTCS members' approval of regional transit asset management targets as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1
Regional TAM Performance Measures and Targets
by Asset Category

Asset Category & Performance Measures	FY 2018	FY 2020	FY 2022
Rolling Stock – Revenue Vehicles - Age			
% of revenue vehicles that have met or exceeded their ULB			
Tier I Target	10%	10%	10%
Tier II Target	18%	16%	17%
TxDOT Target	15%	15%	15%
Total Regionwide Target	12%	12%	12%
Equipment – Non – Revenue Vehicles – Age			
% of non-revenue vehicles that have met or exceeded their ULB			
Tier I Target	46%	46%	46%
Tier II Target	0%	0%	0%
TxDOT Target	15%	15%	15%
Total Regionwide Target	41%	41%	41%
Facilities – All buildings/Structures – Condition-TERM			
% of facilities have a condition rating below 3.0			
Tier I Target	56%	54%	54%
Tier II Target	60%	2%	1%
TxDOT Target	15%	15%	15%
Total Regionwide Target	40%	19%	14%
Infrastructure – Fixed Rail Guideway, tracks, signals & Systems - % with performance (speed) restrictions, by mode			
METRO Light Rail	0%	0%	0%

Note: Useful Life Benchmark (ULB) is the expected lifecycle of a capital asset for a transit provider’s operating environment, or the acceptable period of use in service for a transit provider’s operating environment. Transit Economic Requirements Model (TERM) Scale: Facility condition assessments reported to the NTD have one overall TERM rating per facility. TERM Rating –Excellent – (4.8-5.0); Good – (4.0-4.7– 3.0-3.9); Adequate – (3.0-3.9); Marginal – (2.0-2.9); Poor (1.0-1.9)