

**Regional Transit Coordination (RTC)
Subcommittee Meeting
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Online Meeting/Conference Call
Thursday January 13, 2022
9:30-11:00 AM**

Agenda

1. Introductions and Certification of Quorum (9) – Perri D’Armond, Fort Bend County Transit, Chair
2. Public Comments
3. Action Items:
 - 3.1 Approval of RTC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2021
4. Information Items: (10 minutes or less each)
 - 4.1 Regional Transit Asset Management Performance Targets – Jamila Owens, H-GAC
 - 4.2 Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP) 2022 Draft Report – Sandy Klanfer, H-GAC
 - 4.3 Regional Transit Connectivity Workgroup Update – Sandy Klanfer, H-GAC
 - 4.4 Survey of Effects of Coronavirus Pandemic on Regional Transit Providers: Update and Further Action – Thomas Gray, H-GAC
 - 4.5 High Capacity Transit Task Force (HCTTF) Priority Network: Updates for RTP and Proposed Phase II Studies – Thomas Gray, H-GAC
5. Agency Reports (5 minutes or less each)

Next RTC Subcommittee Meeting: February 10, 2022 (Special Call)

Other 2022 RTC Subcommittee Meetings:

April 13, 2022

July 14, 2022

October 13, 2022

REGIONAL TRANSIT COORDINATION SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 14, 2021 – 9:30-11:00am
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Virtual Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT

Perri D'Armond – Fort Bend County Transit (Chair)
Sharon Moses-Burnside – City of Houston
Elizabeth Whitton – Energy Corridor
Vernon Chambers – Harris County Transit
Shain Eversly – METRO
Taslina Khandaker – Brazos Transit District
Sean Middleton – Connect Transit
Dave Lewis – Harris County Veterans Services
James Oliver – Island Transit

OTHERS PRESENT

Brenda Bustillos – TxDOT
Darla Walton – TxDOT
Paula Haley-Polk – TxDOT
Ted Ross – Gulf Coast Transit District
Kim Judge – City of Dayton
Denise Wendler – METRO
Alan Clark – METRO
Delilah Babin – City of Houston Health Department
Danny Silva – Metropia

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Krystal LaSrape – City of Sugar Land
Shawn Johnson – City of Conroe
David Douglas – Liberty County

H-GAC STAFF PRESENT

Patrick Mandapaka
Jamila Owens
Thomas Gray
Mike Burns
Alan Rodenstein
Sandy Klanfer
Chris Whaley
Adam Beckom
Vishu Lingala
Karen Owen
Lucinda Martinez

BRIEFING

Overview

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the need to maintain social distance, RTCS Members and Alternates met virtually by teleconference. This regular meeting included updates to several regional transit efforts, including the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP), Regional Transit Connectivity, TxDOT's ConnectSmart platform, the Commuter and Transit Pilot Program, and the ongoing monthly survey of the pandemic's effect on regional transit providers. Updates regarding the upcoming TIP Call for Projects, the City of Pearland Transit Needs Assessment, and ongoing subregional studies in Liberty County and Southeast Harris County were also presented.

INTRODUCTIONS AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

ITEM 1 – Ms. Perri D'Armond, Chair, Fort Bend County Transit, convened the meeting at 9:32 AM. Roll was called by H-GAC staff and quorum was certified.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ITEM 2 – There were no public comments presented to the Subcommittee.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 3.1 – Approval of RTC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2021

Ms. D’Armond requested a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2021 Subcommittee meeting.
Action Item Motion: moved by Vernon Chambers, seconded by Sharon Moses-Burnside. Action Item approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 4.1 – RCTP Workgroup Update – Sandy Klanfer, H-GAC

Mr. Sandy Klanfer updated the Subcommittee on the progress of the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan, including the results of the provider inventory, needs assessment and gaps analysis efforts, the results of the first round of public outreach, and upcoming milestones including focus groups. There were no questions or comments.

ITEM 4.2 – Regional Transit Connectivity Workgroup Update – Thomas Gray, H-GAC

Mr. Gray provided a brief update on the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between H-GAC, METRO and other regional transit providers. All regional transit providers have signed the MOU and the document is now being processed for final signature by H-GAC and METRO. Once those two signatures are obtained, the MOU will be effective.

Mr. Thomas Gray reminded Subcommittee members that a meeting of the Regional Transit Connectivity Workgroup would be held immediately following this meeting.

ITEM 4.3 – Update on Survey of Effects of Coronavirus on Regional Transit Providers – Thomas Gray, H-GAC

Mr. Gray presented the results (through August 2021) of the survey, which has been answered by all the region’s transit providers. The survey has tracked changes in ridership brought on by the pandemic as well as changes in service and other measures providers have implemented in response. There were no questions or comments.

ITEM 4.4 – ConnectSmart Update – Brenda Bustillos, Texas Department of Transportation

Ms. Brenda Bustillos provided a update on the status of the ConnectSmart Mobility as a Service (MaaS) platform. Bustillos demonstrated some of the ConnectSmart app’s features and encouraged Subcommittee members to download and test the app.

Discussion ensued. Perri D’Armond said that he had downloaded the app to her smartphone and was eager to try it. Sharon Moses-Burnside noted ConnectSmart’s similarity to METRO’s trip app and said that she would also download and try it. Alan Clark said that he had been using the app and thought that it did well with access links to transit (e.g. pedestrian paths to bus stops). Bustillos said that future integration is desired with BCycle and Tow & Go.

ITEM 4.5 – TIP Update – Vishu Lingala, H-GAC

Mr. Vishu Lingala presented an update on the TIP Call for Projects Development, including the process, screening and readiness criteria, and schedule. The first phase of the Call for Projects is anticipated to begin towards the end of April 2022.

Sharon Moses-Burnside asked for a copy of Vishu’s presentation. Thomas Gray said that all presentations, including this one, would be available on the RTCS web page on the H-GAC website.

ITEM 4.6 – Commuter and Transit Pilot Program Update – Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC

Mr. Alan Rodenstein provided an update on the Transit and Commuter Pilot Project, which is funded by Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. The most recent Call for Partners in 2018 has not resulted in any executed projects yet; this is at least partly due to disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The current Request for Applications closes on August 31, 2022, at which time the guidelines for the program will be reevaluated. Mr. Rodenstein said that suggestions and input would be welcomed. There were no questions or comments.

ITEM 4.7 – Pearland Transit Needs Assessment Update – Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC

Mr. Rodenstein presented an update on the Pearland Transit Need Assessment and Plan. The first Steering Committee meeting was held on September. The next steps for the study are to review existing conditions and develop an online engagement tool. There were no questions or comments.

ITEM 4.8 – Liberty County Mobility Study Update – Thomas Gray, H-GAC

Mr. Gray presented an update on the Liberty County Mobility Study, including some preliminary recommendations for thoroughfares, a bypass around Dayton, transit, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and policy updates. The study is expected to conclude in early 2022. There were no questions or comments.

ITEM 4.9 – Southeast Harris Subregional Study Update – Mike Burns, H-GAC

Mr. Mike Burns presented an update on the Southeast Harris Subregional Study, including priority corridors and intersections, and transit recommendations. In addition to new routes, more bus shelters and bus stop lighting is being recommended in the study area. The study is expected to conclude in early 2022. There were no questions or comments.

AGENCY REPORTS

ITEM 5 – Due to time constraints, agency reports were deferred. Mr. James Oliver noted in the chat box that Island Transit was restoring its streetcar service.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. D'Armond adjourned the meeting at 11:00 AM.

Next RTCS Quarterly Meeting – January 13, 2022, 9:30 AM

PERFORMANCE REPORTING AND TARGET SETTING

Transit Asset Management 2022

Performance Measure: Transit Asset Management
Name: Christopher Whaley and Jamila Owens
Date: January 10, 2022

Biennially, H-GAC reviews the Transit Asset Management Plans for the region, reports on transit asset performance, target achievement, and sets targets for future years. Staff worked with the two Tier I agencies (METRO and Island Transit) and all six Tier II regional agencies: Harris County Transit, Fort Bend Transit, Brazos Transit, Gulf Coast Transit District, Conroe Connection Transit, and The Woodlands Township. Colorado Valley Transit, as a rural provider, chose to report its data to TxDOT State TAM Plan.

Transit Asset Management Plans were submitted from each agency. The Woodlands Township and Island Transit submitted 2020 Plans. METRO submitted their 2018 plan. All other agencies submitted 2021 plans.

Below is a summary of data collected:

Rolling Stock

Some Changes – Regional target met for 2022

The regional target for 2022 was to have no more than 10% of rolling stock/vehicles in revenue service beyond their useful life. We met this target as a region and most agencies showed improvement in the condition of their rolling stock.

There were some changes in fleet size from what was reported in 2020: Fort Bend Transit's number moved from 114 to 57 vehicles. We anticipated in 2020 that by this time, the new service to downtown would start. Supply chain issues with buses have delayed the start of that service. Brazos Transit moved from 21 to 5 vehicles in the region. One of the factors in this shift was that Brazos no longer operates the Woodlands Trolley routes. There were other small shifts, but revenue fleets remained fairly stable.

Equipment

Minor Changes – all targets met for 2022

The regional equipment target was to have no more than 46% of non-revenue vehicles exceeding their Useful Life Benchmark, and the region met the target. There were very few equipment changes in the region. Brazos Transit District no longer has equipment in the region, downsizing from 1 piece of equipment to none. Fort Bend moved from

having no equipment in the 2020 TAM plan to listing six pieces of equipment in their most recent plan.

Facilities and Targets

Some Changes – The region exceeded the target for 2022.

The regional facilities target was to have no more than 54% of the region's facilities below a TERM score of 3. The region exceeded this target by 9%. Two of the larger changes were that Brazos Transit no longer has facilities in the UZA. Island Transit's Plan also reports four facilities instead of the five we included in 2020. All four facilities were listed with a TERM score of 3 or higher. Finally, Fort Bend Transit added one new facility.

Infrastructure (Rail) – Tier I (only)

No changes – all targets met for 2022

Looking ahead, H-GAC expects transit asset conditions to improve or maintain State of Good Repair in the Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area. There are over \$40 million in transit investments in the regional Transportation Improvement Program over the next few years. There are also additional asset investments listed within the agency TAM plans that should come into revenue service by the next update including new paratransit vans in Conroe and commuter buses in Fort Bend. One item to watch will be METRO's TAM plan. It may be updated in time for the 2024 performance review, and since it has been a while since the update of that plan, there could be some fairly large swings in performance.

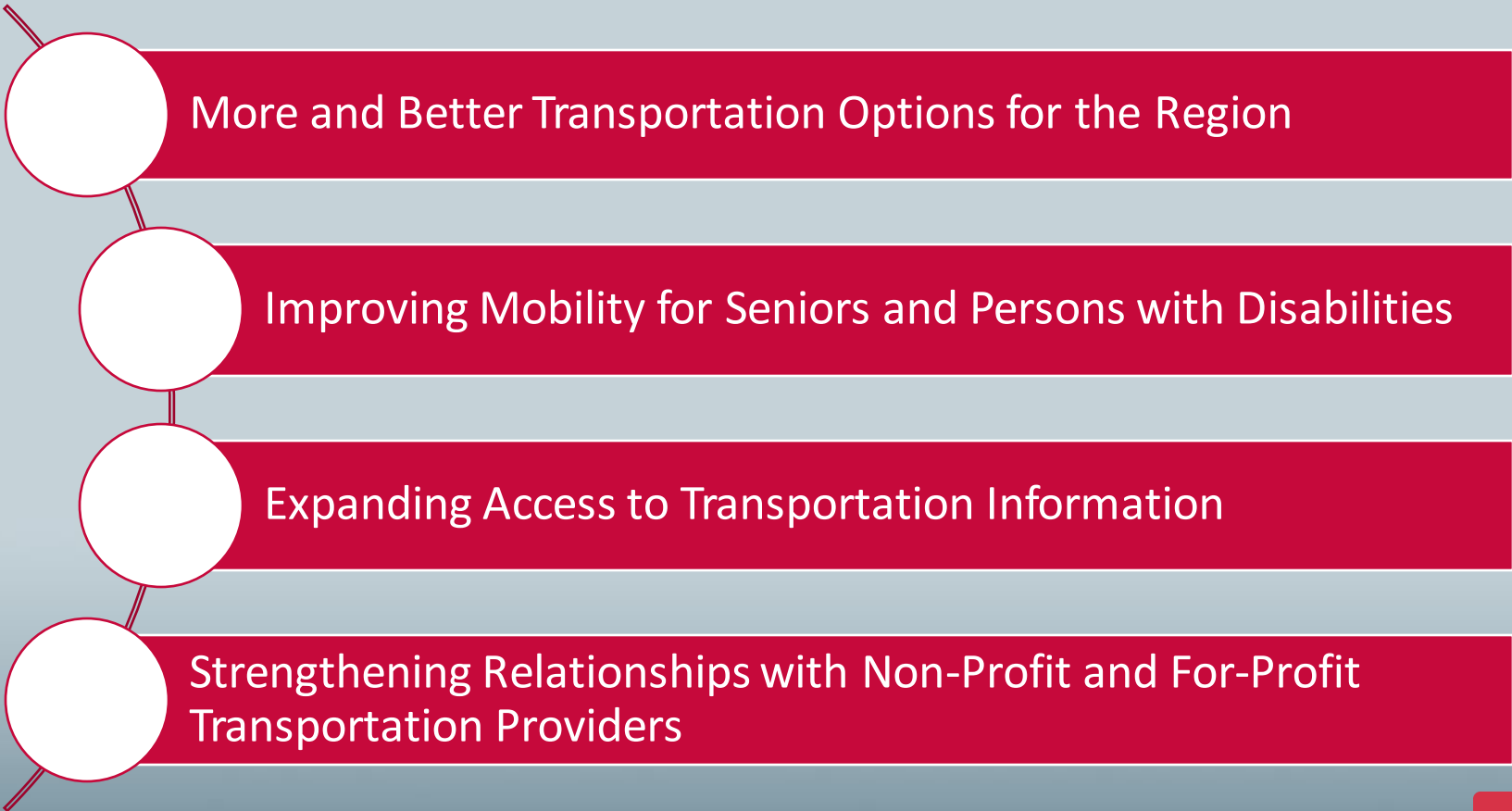
Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan Update

January 2022

Draft Plan Update is Complete!

- Draft Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan 2022 Update is complete, and 30-day public comment period is now open
- Includes a variety of recommendations centered around four key themes
 - Key themes were developed based on analyses and feedback from stakeholders and public
 - Some recommendations carried over from 2017 update, some new

Four Key Themes



Selected Recommendations

- Improvements to Mobility Links
 - Originally implemented out of recommendations from 2017 RCTP
 - New recommendations include:
 - Integrated trip planning tool
 - Development of provider portal



Selected Recommendations

- **Transportation Information Initiatives**
 - Better understand traveler information needs
 - Develop regional best practices guide for transportation information
 - Support provider initiatives to improve how they communicate with the public



Selected Recommendations

- **Transportation Ambassador Program**
 - Give community leaders and members of the public the tools they need to be ambassadors for public transportation
- **Invest in better bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure**
 - Maximize access to existing transportation services



Selected Recommendations

- Regional Paratransit/NEMT advisory group
 - Including both users and service providers
 - Develop strategies to address gaps for those reliant on these services
 - Provide opportunity for providers to work together to solve shared problems



Opportunities for Public Comment

- Draft Plan available for public comment through Feb. 4
- Materials available on project engagement site, <https://engage.h-gac.com/rctp>
- Comments can be left on site, via phone, email, or physical mail
- Three open houses:
 - January 20, 6:30-8:00 PM
 - January 25, 2:30-4:00 PM
 - January 26, 2:30-4:00 PM
- Will request final approval from TPC in February 2022

A light blue map of the Houston-Galveston Area Council region, showing county boundaries. The map is semi-transparent and serves as a background for the text.

Questions?

Sandy Klanfer

Sanford.Klanfer@h-gac.com