

**Regional Transit Coordination (RTC) Subcommittee
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Online Meeting/Conference Call
Thursday, January 12, 2023
9:30-11:00 AM**

Agenda

1. Introductions and Certification of Quorum (9) – Ruthanne Haut, The Woodlands Township, Chair
2. Public Comments
3. Action Items:
 - 3.1 Approval of RTC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2022
4. Information Items: (10 minutes or less each)
 - 4.1 Coordinated Planning
 - 4.1a RCTP Objectives and Performance Metrics – Sandy Klanfer, H-GAC
 - 4.2 Other Efforts
 - 4.2a Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans – Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC
 - 4.2b Commute Solutions Update – Emanuel Andrews, H-GAC
5. Agency Reports (5 minutes or less each)

2023 RTCS Meeting Dates

February 9, 2023 (special call)

April 13, 2023

July 13, 2023

October 5, 2023 (moved from second Thursday to avoid conflict with APTA)

REGIONAL TRANSIT COORDINATION SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 13, 2022 – 9:30-11:00am
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Virtual Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ruthanne Haut – The Woodlands Township (Chair)
Monique Johnson – City of Sugar Land
Jildardo Arias – City of Friendswood
De’Andre Guin – City of Conroe
Perri D’Armond – Fort Bend County Transit
James Oliver – Island Transit

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Brandon Mosley – City of Houston PD
Ameena Padiath – City of Missouri City
Vernon Chambers – Harris County Transit
Rachel Die – METRO
Ted Ross – Gulf Coast Transit District

OTHERS PRESENT

Melaine Beaman – City of Sugar Land
Travis Madison – TxDOT
Brenda Bustillos – TxDOT
Paula Polk - TxDOT
Plus other unidentified listeners

H-GAC STAFF PRESENT

Jamila Owens
Thomas Gray
Sandy Klanfer
Alan Rodenstein
Chris Whaley
Shirley Li
Mike Burns
James Garland
Karen Owen
Cassandra Marshall

BRIEFING

Overview

RTCS Members and Alternates met virtually by teleconference. This meeting included presentation and discussion of several items related to coordinated planning, including priority recommendations of the Regionally Coordinated Transit Plan (RCTP), an update on the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Workgroup, and an update on regional transit connectivity. Presentations regarding Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans (PTASPs) and the Liberty County Mobility Study were provided to the Subcommittee as well.

INTRODUCTIONS AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

ITEM 1 – Ms. Ruthanne Haut, Chair, The Woodlands Township, 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 14, 2022

Ms. Haut requested a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2022 Subcommittee meeting.

Action Item Motion: moved by Perri D'Armond, seconded by De'Andre Guin. Action Item approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 4.1a – RCTP Priority Recommendations Progress Report – Sandy Klanfer, H-GAC

Mr. Sandy Klanfer provided the Subcommittee with an update on the prioritization of recommendations included in the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP). Based on feedback from members of the Subcommittee, the RCTP's recommendations were classified into high, medium and lower priority groups. Mr. Klanfer discussed the progress made to date in advancing some of these recommendations, discussed next steps, and reminded transit providers to complete the RCTP performance metrics survey.

James Oliver noted that Census data coming out in December will likely change UZA designations and therefore federal funding distribution. This could in turn affect the ability of the region to advance some of the RCTP's recommendations.

ITEM 4.1b – Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Workgroup Update – Sandy Klanfer, H-GAC

Mr. Klanfer provided an update on the Paratransit and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Workgroup, which last met in September. At that meeting, Workgroup members participated in a visioning exercise to develop opportunities for improving NEMT services. Workgroup members expressed a strong interest in learning from peers, both within and outside the region. The next Workgroup meeting is scheduled for December, and additional participants are still welcome to join.

There were no questions or comments.

ITEM 4.1c – Regional Transit Connectivity Update – Sandy Klanfer, H-GAC

Mr. Klanfer provided an update on the status of the Regional Transit Connectivity project, including the status of agency assessments being performed by METRO's consultant, the need for Interlocal Agreements (ILAs) between METRO and each participating agency, and the status of discussions with the Federal Highway Administration regarding the inclusion of funding to allow the Brazos Transit District and Colorado Valley Transit District to participate in the project.

Perri D'Armond asked what agency assessments will consist of and when final reports for each assessment will be available. Mr. Klanfer responded that they should be available by the end of November.

4.2 Other Efforts

ITEM 4.2a – Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans – Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC

Mr. Alan Rodenstein provided the Subcommittee with a preview of the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) process. Federal regulations require that H-GAC develop regional safety targets by April 2023 that tie into the updated 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Regional targets will be developed and presented to the Subcommittee for information and approval prior to TAC and TPC approving the targets by the April 2023 deadline. Mr. Rodenstein asked transit agencies to please provide their current PTASPs to H-GAC by the end of October.

Perri D'Armond and Vernon Chambers asked H-GAC staff to confirm that they had received the most recent PTASPs for their agencies.

ITEM 4.2b – Liberty County Mobility Study – Thomas Gray, H-GAC

Mr. Thomas Gray presented the recommendations of the recently-completed Liberty County Mobility Study. The study's transit recommendations include flex zone operations in Cleveland, Dayton and Liberty, a new park and ride facility near Dayton, and countywide demand response service.

There were no questions or comments.

AGENCY REPORTS

ITEM 5 – Ms. Haut invited Subcommittee members to briefly give updates on their agency efforts. She began by announcing that The Woodlands Township will be operating a shuttle service for the 2023 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Vernon Chambers announced that Harris County RIDES has signed an ILA with the Gulf Coast Transit District to serve the City of Pearland. Harris County Transit will also be implementing wi-fi and AVL technology on their fixed-route buses. Service enhancements will be made on the Generation Park microtransit zones as well.

Perri D'Armond announced that Fort Bend County Transit continues to move forward on the Westpark park and ride facility, with construction expected to begin in early 2023. They are also adding new staff and working with the Energy Corridor on a potential service partnership.

De'Andre Guin announced that the City of Conroe was running a shuttle for the Catfish Festival and was receiving new vehicles. Ridership on local and paratransit service continues to increase, as does ridership on the commuter service.

Alan Rodenstein announced that H-GAC is updating its CMAQ Pilot Projects Call for Partners (CFP), and is interested in convening a focus group to discuss potential changes to the program.

Jamila Owens reminded Subcommittee members about the second round of RTP 2045 Update public meetings, which began that evening in Chambers County and will run through December 1.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Haut adjourned the meeting at 10:32 AM.

Next RTCS Meeting – 9:30 AM on Thursday, January 12, 2023 (A Special Call meeting originally scheduled for November 17, 2022 was canceled)



Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee

Thursday, January 12, 2023

Meeting Agenda

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 - 4.2b Commute Solutions Updates – Emanuel Andrews, H-GAC
5. Agency Reports (5 minutes or less each)
6. Adjourn

1. Introductions, Roll Call, and Certification of Quorum

2022 Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee

Nominated Position	Primary-Name	Organization	Alternate-Name	Organization
Local Government	Monique Johnson	City of Sugar Land	Rick Ramirez	City of Sugar Land
Local Government	Sharon Moses-Burnside	City of Houston-Planning	Brandon Mosley	City of Houston - Planning
Local Government	Jildardo Arias	City of Friendswood	Jeremy Davis	City of Missouri City
Business Interests	Elizabeth Whitton, AICP	Energy Corridor	Jim Thompson	The Center for Pursuit
Citizens Interests	Charles Noble	Fontaine Place and Scenic Woods Civic Club	Huey German-Wilson	Trinity-Houston Gardens Super Neighborhood
Social Services/HHS	Alan Watkins	Houston Housing Collaborative	Sasha Marshall-Smith	Houston Housing Authority
Social Services/HHS	Tandelyn Weaver	Lift Fund/TIRZ 9 South Post Oak	Amina Padiath	City of Missouri City
Social Services/HHS	Paula Johnson	City of Houston - Health Dept.	Vacant	
Social Services/HHS	Jason Jones	Houston Center for Independent Living	Vacant	
Transit Agency	Ken Fickes	Harris County	Vernon Chambers	Harris County
Transit Agency	De'Andre Guin	City of Conroe	Shawn Johnson	City of Conroe
Transit Agency	Perri D'Armond	Fort Bend County	Sarah Coulter	Fort Bend County
Transit Agency	Shain Eversly	METRO	Rachael Die	METRO
Transit Agency	Ruthanne Haut	The Woodlands Township	Matt Kouns	The Woodlands Township
Transit Agency	Vacant	Brazos Transit District	Jo Marlow	Brazos Transit District
Transit Agency	Claudia Wicks	Colorado Valley Transit	Antonio Salazar	Colorado Valley Transit
Transit Agency	Sean Middleton	Gulf Coast Transit District	Ted Ross	Gulf Coast Transit District
Transit Agency	James Oliver	Island Transit	Vacant	
Ex-Officio	Travis Madison	TxDOT- HOU	Brenda Bustillos	TxDOT-HOU
Ex-Officio	Arnold Vowles	TxDOT-BMT	Vacant	TxDOT-BMT

2. Public Comments

- Please click the small “hand” icon at the bottom of your screen to raise your hand in order to be recognized to speak.

3.1. Action Item - Approval of RTC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2022

(The minutes of the October 13, 2022 meeting minutes are contained in the subcommittee packet posted in the chat box)

4.1 a. Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RTCP) – Objectives and Performance Metrics

Sandy Klanfer, H-GAC Staff



Updating RCTP Objectives and Performance Metrics



Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee
January 12, 2023

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Objectives and Performance Metrics

- As part of the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP) process, H-GAC developed a set of objectives for the plan
 - Each objective has one or more performance metrics used to track progress
 - These performance metrics require data from a variety of different sources
- RCTP, as approved, includes 10 objectives and 22 performance metrics

Objectives and Performance Metrics

- In the last few months of 2022, H-GAC tried to collect necessary information to evaluate progress for the March 1-September 30, 2022 time period
- Encountered several concerns:
 - Sheer amount of information needed
 - Some performance metrics are vague or overlapping
 - Some of the information is difficult to collect
- In 2023, H-GAC staff will be proposing edits to RCTP objectives and performance metrics



Measuring Public Knowledge on Transportation

- Objective: Increase awareness among officials and public of need for increased transit and human transportation services in Gulf Coast region.
 - How do we measure the growth in the public's knowledge of transit services?
 - How does your agency measure how effectively it informs the public about their services?



Microtransit/Demand Response Transit

- Currently have separate objectives for growing each of these kinds of services
 - Expect to combine these into a single objective containing both
 - Some services in the region blur the boundaries between these two types of services
- Proposed distinction: Microtransit refers to services dispatched rapidly by mobile app, while Demand Response requires advance booking (at least 24 hours)
- What do you think of this distinction?

Regional Cooperation

- Objective to enhance regional coordination for transit and human service transportation
 - Performance metric: Number of examples of inter-agency cooperation
- How do we define inter-agency cooperation?
- How do we ensure inter-agency initiatives are accounted for?



Next Steps

- Your feedback informs our draft edits to RCTP objectives and performance metrics
- Will return to RTCS with draft edits for further feedback
- We will also be working internally to improve the Transit Need Index we developed as part of the RCTP
- Will likely need to provide opportunity for public comment on any edits we make

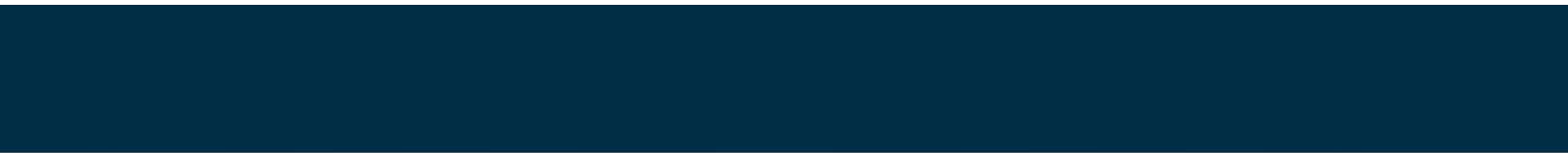
Questions?



Sandy Klanfer
Sanford.Klanfer@h-gac.com

4.2a. Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans

Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC Staff



4.2b. Commute Solutions Updates

Emanuel Andrews, H-GAC Staff



Commute Solutions Updates



Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee
January 12, 2023

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Looking for Commute Solutions



- Co-promotional campaign with METRO
- Year of initiatives
 - Introducing new technology (RideMETRO app)
 - Fun public events that encourages transit use
 - Will tie into Earth Day and Ozone Action
 - METRORail
 - Bike & Ride



Ozone Action Campaign

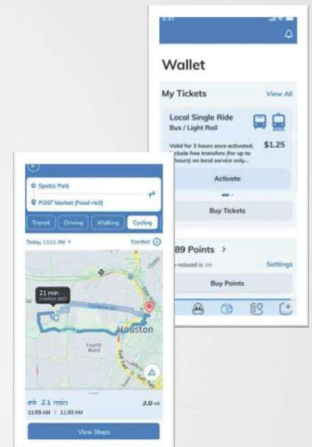


- Objectives include:
 - Encourage alternative modes by providing info, resources, and guidance during peak ozone season
- Expected outcomes
 - Behavior change during a portion of the peak ozone season
 - Increased ridership
 - Improved air quality
- Achieved through fare subsidies and collaborations will include employers, transportation agencies, local governments, and community organizations
- FHWA approved and CMAQ funded for one month
- Coming September 2023

ConnectSmart



- Mobile app launched in September
 - Intermodal trip planning and navigation tool
 - Encourages trip logging and provides rewards
 - Suggests routes for bike commuting
 - Makes forming or joining a carpool easy
 - METRO integration allows ticketing and payment option
- Growing list of collaborations and partners



Expansion of Emergency Ride Home (ERH)



- “Safety net” will provide a free or low-cost ride home in case of a qualifying emergency
 - Illness, unexpected overtime, family emergency, driver illness
- Effective component of any TDM program
- Arrange a ride, or get reimbursed
- Eligibility requirements
- RFI on procurement calendar

Regional Bike Engagement Campaign



- Love 2 Ride approved as contractor
- Provide regionally-based platform to encourage biking
- Will plan and coordinate two public education, awareness and marketing campaigns
 - Based in behavioral science
 - Collaborations will increase engagement



TDM Redesign and Evaluation



- Adapt to changing needs of region
- Services provided by AECOM
 - Leads TDM industry
 - Will leverage research and behavioral science to best serve the region
- Provide assessment of:
 - Program's services and effectiveness
 - Internal and external structure
 - Funding distribution

How Can you Help?



- Register as a partner
- Invite Commute Solutions and partners for onsite engagements
- Participate in campaign push
 - Marketing kits will be provided

5. Agency Reports

(Please limit to five minutes or less per agency)

2023 Meeting Dates

- Thursday, February 9 (Special Call)
- Thursday, April 13
- Thursday, July 13
- Thursday, October 5*

*Moved from October 12 to avoid conflict with APTA

All meetings are at 9:30 AM

Meeting Adjourned

RTC Subcommittee Staff Contacts:

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Jamila Owens, Manager, Jamila.Owens@h-gac.com