

**Regional Transit Coordination (RTC) Subcommittee
Special Call Meeting
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Online Meeting/Conference Call
Thursday February 10, 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 January 13, 2022
 - 3.2 Endorsement of Regional Transit Asset Management Performance Targets – Jamila Owens, H-GAC
 - 3.3 Endorsement of Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP) 2022 Submittal to TxDOT – Sandy Klanfer, H-GAC
4. Information Items: (10 minutes or less each)
 - 4.1 Future of Survey of Effects of Coronavirus Pandemic on Regional Transit Providers – Thomas Gray, H-GAC
 - 4.2 Pearland Transit Needs Assessment Update – Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC
5. Agency Reports (5 minutes or less each)

Next RTC Subcommittee Meeting: April 14, 2022

Other 2022 RTC Subcommittee Meetings:

July 14, 2022

October 13, 2022

REGIONAL TRANSIT COORDINATION SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Perri D'Armond – Fort Bend County Transit (Chair)
Monique Johnson – City of Sugar Land
Sharon Moses-Burnside – City of Houston
Elizabeth Whitton – Energy Corridor
Paula Johnson – City of Houston Health Department
Vernon Chambers – Harris County Transit
Shain Eversly – METRO
Taslina Khandaker – Brazos Transit District
James Oliver – Island Transit

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Shawn Johnson – City of Conroe
Rachel Die – METRO
Ted Ross – Gulf Coast Transit District

OTHERS PRESENT

Travis Madison – TxDOT
Arnold Vowles – TxDOT
Andy Mao – TxDOT
Ken Fickes – Harris County Transit
Plus other unidentified listeners

H-GAC STAFF PRESENT

Jamila Owens
Thomas Gray
Mike Burns
Sandy Klanfer
Chris Whaley
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 Transit Asset Management (TAM) Performance Targets, the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP), Regional Transit Connectivity, and the ongoing monthly survey of the pandemic's effect on regional transit providers. A plan by H-GAC staff to update the High Capacity Transit Task Force's Priority Network (in concert with the RTP update) and begin some "Phase II" studies was 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 October 14, 2021

Ms. D'Armond requested a motion to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2021 Subcommittee meeting.

Action Item Motion: moved by Vernon Chambers, seconded by Sharon Moses-Burnside. Action Item approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 4.1 – Regional Transit Asset Management Performance Targets – Jamila Owens, H-GAC

Ms. Jamila Owens presented the regional performance targets for agency Transit Asset Management Plans. The region's transit providers met regional targets for 2022. Performance targets for 2024 were also discussed. This item will return to the Subcommittee for endorsement next month.

Vernon Chambers asked if agencies need to report modifications to their plans. Ms. Owens responded that updated TAM Plans were received from all agencies last November and do not need to be modified.

ITEM 4.2 – Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan Update – Sandy Klanfer

Mr. Sandy Klanfer provided an update on the Regional Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP), the draft of which is now complete. The draft plan contains a variety of recommendations, centered around four key themes. A 30-day public comment period on the draft plan is now open, and three virtual open houses will be held later this month.

Sharon Moses-Burnside expressed that she was particularly interested in ways to address gaps in medical non-emergency and non-medical trips.

ITEM 4.3 – Regional Transit Connectivity Workgroup Update – Sandy Klanfer, H-GAC

Mr. Klanfer provided a brief update on the status of the ILA template to be used between METRO and regional providers for the regional fare assessments: METRO and H-GAC are still working on the template language. He also reported that the GTFS feed for The Woodlands is now live and has been shared with ConnectSmart.

Vernon Chambers added that Harris County Transit's first meeting with METRO and its consultant for the regional fare assessment occurred last December.

ITEM 4.4 – Update on Survey of Effects of Coronavirus on Regional Transit Providers – Thomas Gray, H-GAC

Mr. Gray presented the results (through November 2021) of the survey. 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. However, Mr. Gray noted that the survey has been conducted for 21 consecutive months and that "survey fatigue" among respondents was setting in. Changes to the survey are being considered by H-GAC staff, including its elimination. Gray noted that H-GAC would like to continue gathering monthly ridership and service change information from providers, but that it doesn't necessarily have to occur through this survey instrument.

Ken Fickes noted that the Coronavirus survey is just one more item agency staff have to fill out at a time in which they are receiving numerous requests for information from governments. Mr. Fickes suggested that, in lieu of filling out a survey, agencies simply forward H-GAC a copy of their monthly NTD reports.

Perri D'Armond noted that, after some delay, Fort Bend County Transit was finally getting driver shields installed in their vehicles.

ITEM 4.5 - High Capacity Transit Task Force (HCTTF) Priority Network: Updates for RTP and Proposed Phase II Studies – Thomas Gray, H-GAC

Mr. Gray presented a plan for updating the High Capacity Transit Task Force's Priority Network, which serves as the transit component of the RTP, concurrent with the RTP update process itself. Updates would include the addition of new services that have been implemented since the Priority Network was adopted, the incorporation of recommendations from current subregional studies, and the consideration of additional services along corridors that are not currently part of the Network. Mr. Gray also listed proposed transit studies that will comprise a "Phase II" of the Task Force's effort, including feasibility studies for Outer Westpark, the US 90A corridor, Dayton and US 90, and a possible regional bus network.

Ken Fickes noted that funding for regional bus service comes from TxDOT's Intercity Bus Program, whose future is uncertain. Perri D'Armond asked for clarification on the difference between regional bus and express bus services. She also noted that Fort Bend County Transit's Westpark park and ride project is ongoing, and that it would be nice if it connected to a BRT alignment. Andy Mao provided a brief update on the TxDOT REAL Plan and offered to provide the subcommittee with a briefing at a future meeting.

AGENCY REPORTS

ITEM 5 – Ms. D’Armond invited subcommittee members to briefly give updates on their agency efforts. She noted that Fort Bend County Transit was undergoing the FTA triennial review. Ken Fickes mentioned that Harris County Transit was doing the same.

Sarah Coulter has left The Woodlands township to become assistant director at Fort Bend County Transit.

The CMAQ-funded commuter service running from The Woodlands to the Energy Corridor has begun operating at the beginning of January. Elizabeth Whitton noted that ridership has been slowly increasing.

Vernon Chambers announced that METRO has released a call for projects for 5310 grants but that the deadline was approaching soon.

Jamila Owens informed the subcommittee that H-GAC staff is already working on events for Commute Solutions Month in September.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. D’Armond adjourned the meeting at 10:45 AM.

Next RTCS Meeting – February 10, 2022, 9:30 AM (Special Call)

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.

A light blue map of the Houston-Galveston Area Council region, showing county boundaries and major water bodies like the Gulf of Mexico and Galveston Bay. The map is centered in the background of the slide.

Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan Update

February 2022

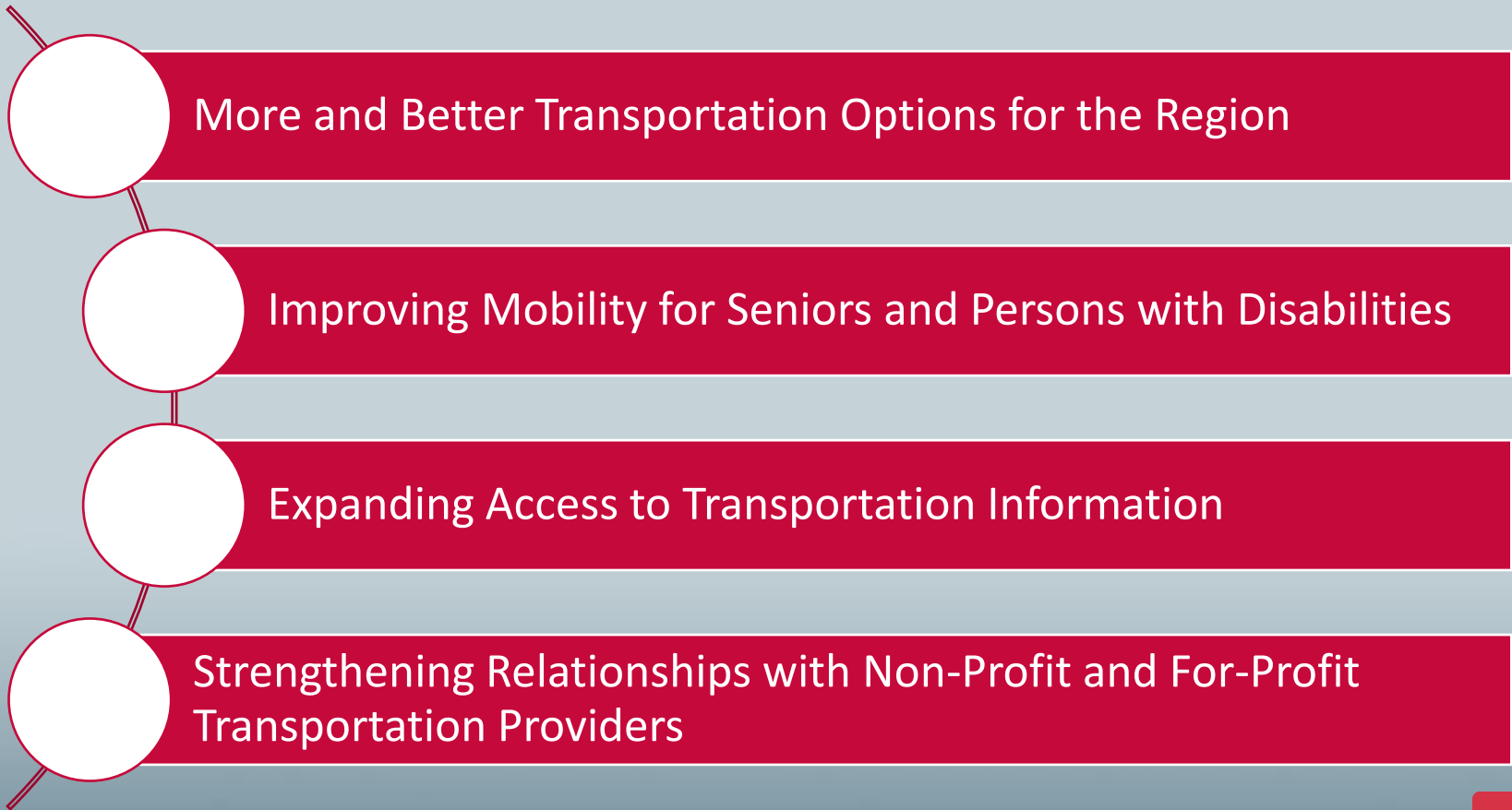
Contents

- Project Wrap-Up
 - Purpose and Status
 - Key Themes
 - Recommendations
 - Public Comment
 - Recent Edits
- Request for Action

Purpose and Status

- RCTP required to be updated every five years
- Covers 8-county MPO region plus five additional rural counties
- Emphasis on transit and coordination gaps
- Draft plan has been completed
- 30-day public comment period completed Feb. 4
- Must be submitted to TxDOT by Feb. 28

Four Key Themes



Sample Recommendations

- New services that reflect community needs
- Improvements to existing services
- Bike/ped improvements



Sample Recommendations

- Transportation information initiatives
- Improvements to Mobility Links
- Paratransit/NEMT advisory group



Public Comments

- 30-day public comment period ended Feb. 4
- Comments submitted through:
 - Virtual open houses
 - Engagement website
 - Email
 - Phone



Public Comments

- Public comments focused on
 - Specific locations or origin-destination pairs in need of transit service
 - Quality of existing transit services
 - Questions about Mobility Links



Recent Edits

- Minor edits made to plan documents in recent weeks
 - Additional responses to provider survey
 - Additional needs assessment analyses
 - Expansion of recommendations to include implementing agencies and potential funding sources
 - How the RCTP relates to other plans created by H-GAC
 - How the RCTP furthers racial justice efforts

Action Requested

The Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee endorses the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan 2022 Update.

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

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