



**Partners' and Stakeholders' Meeting
June 8, 2016 Minutes**

Stakeholders Present

Patricia Albarado
Rina Bale
Mike Bates
Michael Black
Soeli Erazo
Karen Faulkner
Eric Garcia
Jenny Gibson
Alfredo Gonzales
Deanne Hamilton
Kim Henderson
Stephanie Lewis
Michelle Manjarrez
Gary Redwine
Jeannie Reeves
Gabriela Reyes
Regina Swafford
Sohnna Williams

Organization Representing

Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities
Permian Basin MPO
Advocate for individuals with disabilities/ABLE Center Board Member
Permian Basin Community Centers MHMR
Texas 2-1-1
West Texas Opportunities, Inc.
TxDOT – Lubbock District
West Texas Opportunities, Inc.
TxDOT – Odessa District
TxDOT – Odessa District
Aphasia Center
Silver Star Senior Transportation
Crisis Intervention Unit – Midland County Sheriff's Department
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Area Agency on Aging
Crisis Intervention Unit – Midland County Sheriff's Department
Aging and Disability Resource Center
Aging and Disability Resource Center

AGENDA ITEM

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting of the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Planning committee was called to order at 11:35 a.m. by Rina Bale.

2. Public Comment & Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves. Rina passed around a contact list containing contact information for each stakeholder. She asked that everyone review the information and make any necessary changes.

3. Review/Approve May 11, 2016 Minutes

A motion was made by Jeannie Reeves and seconded by Karen Faulkner to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2016 RCTP meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentation by West Texas Opportunities, Inc.

Karen Faulkner gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the responsibilities of the Transportation Department including a map of each county indicating the locations to which WTO, Inc. provides transportation.

Rina asked for volunteers to present at the next RCTP meeting, Midland County Crisis Intervention Unit volunteered to do so.

5. Comprehensive Needs Assessment

Reminded the committee that Outreach/Education were determined as priorities during the May 11 RCTP meeting. One priority that came up during the Citizen Advisory Committee meeting and survey results was the need for longer service hours. A public comment was made at the last Midland Odessa Urban Transportation District (EZ-Rider) Board meeting to request expansion of the hours. The Board directed EZ-Rider to begin exploring what needs to be done to get a study completed. The MPO has discussed this with the General Manager of EZ-Rider and plans to assist with some of the funds needed to perform the study. Alfredo expressed that the study needed to be comprehensive as to identify all needs/solutions within one study. Additional planning funds are available through the TxDOT Coordinated Call but must receive stakeholder approval. Rina will begin contacting the agencies in order to get survey information regarding client transportation needs. Committee members will be updated and directly involved in the study.

6. Citizen Advisory Committee

The first Citizen Advisory Committee meeting was held on April 25 at the EZ-Rider Administration Building. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 27 and more thoughts and ideas regarding solutions will be discussed.

7. Stakeholder Updates

Texas 2-1-1

Soeli Erazo – Working on the database update; still need updates from some agencies

Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities:

Mike Bates – There are currently 450,000 visually impaired persons in Texas and it is expected there will be approximately 1 million by 2030. This population much depend on each other for support, advocacy, and resource information. The RCTP committee has assisted in addressing some of the needs brought on a daily basis. Plans to give those in his network the contact information for Silver Star Senior Transportation.

Patricia Albarado – Secretary/Treasurer for the Permian Basin Marines and currently working on on a Marine Corps Birthday Ball coming in November. Rina invited her to join the Military Coalition meetings.

Aging and Disability Resource Center:

Sohnna Williams – No updates

Aphasia Center of West Texas:

Kim Henderson – Passed around postcards about a free concert for Aphasia Awareness happening at the Horseshoe Arena on June 17th. It will feature a Bob Segar tribute band, concessions, and children's activities.

Area Agency on Aging:

Jeannie Reeves – Rolling along waiting to get funding that has been delayed.

Crisis Intervention Unit, Midland County Sheriffs' Office:

Gabriela Reyes – Two vans used to pick up crime victims (i.e. family violence), stranded drivers, and kids and the elderly who need a ride. Riders must live in Midland County and have no warrants or they will be arrested. The service is not crisis response unit, that is for mental health cases. The vans are not currently wheelchair accessible.

Permian Basin Community Centers for MHMR:

Michael Black – Received the new wheelchair van purchased with 5310 funds [the van was onsite for committee members to view after the meeting]; commended WTO, Inc. for assisting in working out problems faced. Proud of this committee and the partnerships and resources that are available and seeing how the funds are used.

Permian Basin MPO:

Rina Bale – Continue work with consultants for an I-20 Corridor Study and the Travel Demand Model; expecting the TIP will be approved at the next Policy Board meeting on June 20. Increasing activity with the bicycle association. A public meeting was held on May 24 regarding the Northeast Midland Corridor Feasibility Study. A public meeting was held on June 2 for the Fairgrounds Rd. & Loop 250 overpass.

RCTP:

Attended eGrants training in Lubbock; same day attended WTO's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Part of a work group to test the new website forum which will help Lead Agencies work together and share information and best practices. Currently preparing for the next CAC; attended Hope for the Homeless even in Odessa; reminded the committee that the transportation survey is located on the Permian Basin MPO website. Another survey will be available for agencies. ABLE Center will host an open house on June 29 from 12am – 2pm at their new location.

Gabriela informed the committee that Midland has a similar event quarterly called Hope in Action. The Salvation Army is the main sponsor but many agencies are involved.

Silver Star Senior Transportation:

Stephanie Lewis – Provides personal transportation for seniors; provides transportation outside EZ-Rider hours and more affordable than a taxi. Fills several gaps in transportation when it is needed outside the public transportation hours. Mainly serves Seniors and Persons with Disabilities; vans are not wheelchair accessible. Several users are visually impaired and do not feel needs are being considered in transportation planning. Silver Star provides more than “just a ride” but provides support as well.

Gabriela with Midland County Crisis Intervention Unit explained that they had a client who was visually impaired but was able to use the “talking” crosswalks while living in San Antonio.

Patricia expressed her appreciation for this organization's commitment to provide more than just the basic needs of transportation.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice:

Gary Redwine – Needs transportation assistance from new Texas Department of Criminal Justice Parole office. The office recently relocated and the nearest bus stop is three miles away. Looking to find a solution for clients with transportation challenges so they remain in society and do not end up incarcerated again.

TxDOT:

Alfredo Gonzales – TxDOT business is now all electronic including all grant applications. The first group to use the updated system will be applicants of 5311 funding. At the June meeting of the Texas Transportation Commission, the 5310 applications will be considered and possibly approved. Joanne Mundy of the Texas Department of State Health Services requested to give a presentation on how applicants can improve their 5310 applications; she was a scorer for the FY 2016 applications. During the last RCTP committee meeting, it was suggested to have a

transportation workshop, TxDOT supports this idea and we will begin discussions in future meetings. Approximately \$3 million was awarded to agencies in this district through the Coordinated Call.

Deanne Hamilton – West Texas Opportunities, Inc. was awarded funding from the Coordinated Call for the new Odessa office location and for concrete work in Marfa and Presidio. All Aboard America was approved for everything they applied for.

West Texas Opportunities:

Karen Faulkner – Attended eGrants training in Lubbock; met with TxDOT in Austin regarding the Coordinated Call projects; working on employee evaluations, continuing hiring, training, updating Medicaid records, etc.

8. Future Discussions & Meeting Dates

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.

9. Adjourn

A motion was made by Jeannie Reeves and seconded by Michael Black to adjourn at 1:00 p.m.