



**Partners' and Stakeholders' Meeting
March 9, 2016 Minutes**

Stakeholders Present

Rina Bale
Willie Barber
Mike Bates
Michael Black
Martha Caballero
Karen Faulkner
Stan Galarza
Victoria Galindo
Eric Garcia
Donna Greaves
Deanne Hamilton
Marilyn Hancock
Joanne Mundy
Mary "Tita" Nunez
Audriana Prieto
Armando Rodriguez
Thomas Sie
Nanette Stephens
Rob Stephens
Regina Swafford
Sunshine Thompson
Britni Veretto
Cameron Walker
Sohnna Williams

Organization Representing

Permian Basin MPO
Advocate for individuals with disabilities/MOUTD Board Member
Advocate for individuals with disabilities/ABLE Center Board Member
PBCC MHMR
Midessa Transportation
West Texas Opportunities, Inc.
Carol's Ambulance, Inc.
ABLE Center
TxDOT – Lubbock District
Ector County Senior Centers
TxDOT – Odessa District
ABLE Center
Department of State Health Services
Big Bend Community Action Committee
ABLE Center
Ector County
Midessa Transportation
MOUTD/EZ-Rider
MOUTD/EZ-Rider
Aging and Disability Resource Center
Ector County Veterans' Services
ABLE Center
Permian Basin MPO
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.

3. Review/Approve February 10, 2016 Minutes

Eric Garcia is from the Lubbock District of TxDOT, not Odessa. Willie Barber and Mike Bates requested to be associated with their respective Board positions as well as Advocates for individuals with disabilities. Rob Stephens was inadvertently left off the attendees list.

A motion was made by Willie Barber and seconded by Michael Black to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2016 RCTP meeting with the changes discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approve Amended Regional Plan

During the February RCTP meeting, the committee suggested changes to the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan. These changes were made and the committee asked for additional changes before approval:

1. Add \$20,000 to EZ-Rider's Capital amount to include the additional funds for the ABLE Center Mobility Management Program. This increases the total of funds requested by all entities applying for 5310 funding to \$332,725.
2. Corrections/additions to some of the names under the *Acknowledgements* section.

A motion was made by Karen Faulkner and seconded by Nanette Stephens to approve the amended regional plan with the changes noted above. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Section 5310 Presentations

Karen Faulkner provided a PowerPoint presentation to describe West Texas Opportunities, Inc.'s projects for which they are requesting 5310 funds.

Marilyn Hancock also gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the mobility management program they will be utilizing using 5310 funding. This will be submitted with EZ-Rider as the direct recipient.

Nanette Stephens defined EZ-Rider's second project using 5310 funding to the committee. Two additional buses will be purchased to continue providing service to senior citizens to and from the senior centers in both Midland and Ector Counties.

A motion was made by Willie Barber and seconded by Sunshine Thompson to approve committee support for all projects being submitted for FTA Section 5310 funds.

6. FY 2016 PGA – Transportation Resource Inventory

Rina asked the committee members who have not submitted a Transportation Provider Profile to please do so as soon as possible. An extension was requested to have the inventory completed and submitted to TxDOT by the end of March instead of the original date of February 2016. This will give Rina more time to dedicate to the document to create a more accurate depiction of transportation resources throughout Planning Region 9.

7. Emergency Management Planning

Discussions continued on Emergency Management Planning and how it can be incorporated into regional planning. None of the entities in attendance had an agreement with emergency management personnel to use their vehicles in case of an evacuation. Mike Bates suggested that transportation providers know where their clients are so they can relay that information to emergency management personnel in case of disaster. Jo Mundy informed the group that caregivers can call 2-1-1 and get the client registered so there is information regarding their specific disabilities (i.e. wheelchair bound, need assistance getting out of bed, oxygen dependent,

etc.) This also can be useful in an urgent situation. She will provide information on how to get information in order to prepare for an emergency.

8. Stakeholder Updates

ABLE Center: by Britni Veretto

Date to move into new building has been delayed by one week; federal entity reporting period open and over 700 individualized services were offered to clients in 2015 including mobility management.

Advocates for individuals with disabilities: by Mike Bates and Willie Barber

Willie: Elated that the visually impaired community has advocates on the RCTP committee to work to meet the transportation needs; would like to see representation for those who are hearing impaired.

Mike: Ready to see the transition and what is going to happen when DARS services are moved to the Workforce Commission and Independent Living Centers.

Aging and Disability Resource Center: by Sohanna Williams

No update

BBCAC: by Tita Nunez

Drivers still needed in Alpine; two Marfa drivers resigned so only have one, drivers from Presidio and Van Horn are driving the Marfa routes as needed until those positions are filled. Adan Estrada was appointed as the new Executive Director of BBCAC.

Carol's Ambulance: by Stan Galarza

First meeting and just getting acclimated with meeting structure; 15-20 years ago gained Emergency Management experience so familiar with the process.

Dept. of State Health Services: by Jo Mundy

Health and Human Services state agencies are moving to independent living centers; lots of unknowns but full-time employees will keep their jobs; intent is to make services more efficient; unsure of how connect to DARS. Will let agencies know information as it become available. Changes coming as early as June 1. Will send out e-mail regarding webinars and encourage agencies to get on the mailing list to be kept up to date. Lots of changes but a lot of decisions have not been made.

Ector County Senior Centers: by Donna Greaves

Excited about the continued partnership with EZ-Rider since 21 more clients have signed on to use the transportation services to and from the centers; All Aboard America transported 89 senior center clients to Hobbs for a fun-filled outing.

EZ-Rider: by Rob and Nanette Stephens

Rob: Texas Transit Association Roadeo & Conference April 22-26 in Waco; looking to increased transit funding from the FAST Act; Ford CEO Mark Fields using innovation to be included in a Smart Mobility Plan.

Nanette: Requested that any changes in address be submitted to EZ-Rider to update their records; this will prevent taking clients to the wrong address. Big impact using 5310 purchased buses; vans are difficult for seniors to get in and out of but buses are much easier.

Midessa Transportation: by Thomas Sie

In the process of updating vehicles - two passenger vans that will accommodate two wheelchairs; UBER is not in Midland any longer due to safety concerns.

PBCC MHMR: by Michael Black

Still struggling to maintain staff; this month will transport 100 staff/clients to Big Spring using 5310 purchased vehicles to transport some of them; Hoops, Dreams, & Goals event in March at Dorothy Garrett Coliseum in Big Spring.

Permian Basin MPO & Mobility Manager: by Rina Bale

Mobility Manager: Continuing to work on Transportation Resource Inventory; trying to develop a Citizen Advisory Committee which will meet in April and July; planning ride alongs on EZ-Rider next week.

MPO: Completed Federal Certification Review (FCR); last year MPO received 17 recommendations during the Mock FCR and only five recommendations during the formal FCR held on Feb. 23 and 24. The Travel Demand Model kickoff meeting was on February 11.

TxDOT – Odessa District: by Deanne Hamilton & Eric Garcia

Deanne: Reminder that 5310 applications are due to TxDOT Public Transportation Coordinators on March 21 by 5:00pm; ...webinars...

Eric: Questions regarding the 5310 application have not been posted yet.

WTO: by Karen Faulkner

Completed and submitted the TxDOT Coordinated Call for Projects; began research and site visits for projects to be completed using funding from the Coordinated Call. Two buses will be given to BBCAC; the WTO, Inc. fleet manager has been very busy on maintaining vehicles.

10. Future Discussions & Meeting Dates

The committee was asked to consider an alternative date for the July meeting. Rina will be out of the office the second week. The first deliverable will be submitted to TxDOT at the end of March and information regarding the billing will be provided at the April meeting. The committee will begin discussing the Comprehensive Needs Assessment next month and Dale Little, Midland County Emergency Management Coordinator, will make a presentation next month.

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.

11. Adjourn

A motion was made by Michael Black and seconded by Willie Barber to adjourn at 1:06 p.m.