



**Partners' and Stakeholders' Meeting
October 12, 2016 Minutes**

Stakeholders Present

Patricia Albarado
Rina Bale
Willie Barber
Camille Bowler
Beth Carrell
Janet Everheart
Karen Faulkner
Isaac Garnett
Marilyn Hancock
Kim Henderson
Stephanie Lewis
Christina Odenborg
Jeannie Reeves
Robert Stephens
Regina Swafford
Cameron Walker
Sohnna Williams

Organization Representing

Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities/Permian Basin Marines
Permian Basin MPO
Advocate for individuals with disabilities/MOUSD Board Member
ABLE Center for Independent Living
Vocational Rehabilitation Services – Texas Workforce Solutions
Advocate for senior citizens
West Texas Opportunities, Inc.
City of Midland – Community Development Division
ABLE Center for Independent Living
Aphasia Center of West Texas
Silver Star Transportation
City of Midland – Community Development Division
Area Agency on Aging
EZ-Rider
Aging and Disability Resource 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 11:31 a.m. by Rina Bale.

2. Public Comment & Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

3. Review/Approve August 10, 2016 Minutes

A motion was made by Jeannie Reeves and seconded by Patricia Albarado to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2016 RCTP meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Review FY 2016 Final Billing

As the Mobility Manager, Rina submitted the final *Request for Reimbursement* to TxDOT, which was approved. This request includes the Mobility Manager wages, food for meetings/events, supplies, and travel amounts from March – August. The total amount spent was \$22,728.02, which is \$318.39 less than budgeted. As the fiscal agent, the City of Odessa has paid for these expenses and TxDOT will now reimburse the City.

5. Presentation by the ABLE Center for Independent Living

Camille Bowler presented on the services offered by ABLE Center and described the newest program, *Accessibility Options Program*, which allows specific funding to be used to purchase equipment for ABLE clients. It also includes home and vehicle modification projects.

Marilyn Hancock then presented on the history and long-standing services offered by ABLE Center including computer & employment classes; advocacy & referral programs; and peer support, transition and travel training services.

6. FY 2017 Regional Plan Update – Goals & Objectives

The current Goals and Objectives from the 2013 Regional Plan update were reviewed by committee members for discussion at the September meeting. The changes suggested were made by the Mobility Manager and brought back to the committee for approval. Patricia asked for clarification on Goal #3 and Cameron asked for a detailed description of Goal #2.

A motion was made by Willie Barber and seconded by Jeannie Reeves to approve the Goals and Objectives as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Transportation Workshop Ideas/Suggestions

Discussion on a spring 2017 transportation workshop continued. The committee suggested “piggy backing” onto another event happening around the same time; the Home and Garden Expo was suggested at the July meeting. Rina tried to find events that we could become involved with but none of the agencies had 2017 calendars updated on their websites. It was suggested that Rina call the Permian Basin Builders’ Association to find out the date of the 2017 Home & Garden Expo. Once the date is set, more planning can be completed. It was also suggested to contact Nancy Wells and inquire about the HEB Feast of Sharing event. Agencies can attend the event and give out informational material. Another suggestion was to find information regarding Health Fairs, Veterans’ Associations’ events, etc.

8. Rural Public Meetings

Public meetings are currently being planned to provide the rural communities the opportunity to express their transportation needs via the Transportation Survey. The meeting in Crane County was held on Oct. 4 at the WTO facility in Crane. Seven individuals were in attendance. Meetings will be held in Andrews, Big Spring, Ft. Stockton, and Monahans throughout October and November. West Texas Opportunities, Inc. will allow use of their facilities at every location except Monahans; waiting to secure the location to determine a date for that meeting.

9. Stakeholder Updates

ABLE Center:

Marilyn Hancock – On Oct. 20 and Nov. 17 from 1:30 – 3:30 ABLE will host a wellness class; just completed building a ramp for a client and would like to build two more ramps before the end of the year. Attending a Region 18 transition fair to provide information on services for students with disabilities transitioning from high school to post education or the workforce.

Camille Bowler – Provided an example of a success story regarding a visually impaired woman from Monahans. She was referred to a support group & has been very satisfied with ABLE’s services. On September 1, began visiting current and potential clients in the rural areas.

Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities:

Patricia Albarado – Working on her Triple Associate’s Degree and has also completed her driving assessment for her newly modified vehicle. The Marine Ball is occurring on November 5 at the American Legion in Odessa; tickets are \$10. Beginning a Spina Bifida or other disabilities support group.

Willie Barber – Attended the MOUTD (EZ-Rider) Board Retreat training on Sept. 30. Assisting Rob on a locating a program which will inform paratransit riders of the approximate bus arrival time.

Aging and Disability Resource Center:

Sohnna Williams – ADRC will attend the Veterans’ Resource Fair on October 15 in Midland.

Aphasia Center:

Kim Henderson – Gave kudos to Karen and WTO for their solution to a transportation issue a client was experiencing. October 18 there will be a Talking Tour from 5:15 – 6:15pm; wine and cheese will be served and attendees will tour of the facility located at Illinois and Thomason will be given.

Area Agency on Aging:

Jeannie Reeves – Open Enrollment for Medicaid Part D is Oct. 15 – Dec. 7 and AAA will be working on events to promote Open Enrollment for 2017 benefits.

City of Midland:

Isaac Garnett – Working on programs to help citizens with the down payment and closing cost of a home as well as home reconstruction and repair. Working with EZ-Rider on the downtown Transfer Station project.

Cristina Odenborg – No updates

EZ-Rider:

Rob Stephens – Route changes in both cities are in progress. This is a result of on-board surveys of riders and measures the traffic of vehicles throughout the cities. This usually doesn’t suggest new programs but improvements to the current system. Received good feedback from the Midland City Council and will be working with area agencies to assist in determining what other improvements should be made.

The “Where’s My Bus?” application is available on the website which gives the real-time location of each fixed route bus. Working on setting up a Google Transit account for EZ-Rider users to access.

Permian Basin MPO:

Cameron Walker – The second Public Meeting regarding the Northeast Midland Corridor Study was held on Oct. 11; over 60 people attended and it gained media coverage as well. The MPO is expecting the final report on the I-20 Corridor Study in November or December and the Travel Demand Model should be completed by the summer of 2017. Encouraged the group to volunteer at the Feast of Sharing event.

RCTP:

Rina Bale – Working on organizing the Rural Public Meetings; attended the Permian Basin Community Service Organization meeting in Odessa; will begin taking the Transportation Surveys

to the Hope for the Homeless monthly events in Odessa; will attend training in Austin Nov. 3-4. The Mission Center will have its annual Clay Shoot on Veterans' Day, Nov. 11. RCTP member agencies are encouraged to present at future RCTP meetings to inform the other members of services their agency provides; members can inform Rina of their desire to present.

Silver Star Transportation:

Stephanie Lewis – One client was selected as an advocate to be a part of a SILC panel. Will be attending the Feast of Sharing as a member of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services – Texas Workforce Solutions:

Beth Carrell – No updates

West Texas Opportunities:

Karen Faulkner – Throughout October, WTO is having driver training at four different locations; the TIGER grant was fully executed to purchase new vehicles. Big Bend Community Action Committee will receive 10 Ford Transit vehicles and WTO will purchase two buses and 11 low floor vans.

8. Future Discussions & Meeting Dates

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.

9. Adjourn

A motion was made by Jeannie Reeves and seconded by Willie Barber to adjourn at 1:13 p.m.