



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

Stakeholders Present

Rina Bale
Willie Barber
Mike Bates
Beth Carrell
Janet Everheart
Karen Faulkner
Eric Garcia
Jenny Gibson
Deanne Hamilton
Blas Zenteno

Organization Representing

Permian Basin MPO
Advocate for individuals with disabilities/MOUTD Board Member
ABLE Center Board Member/Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities
Vocational Rehabilitation Services – Texas Workforce Solutions
Advocate for senior citizens
West Texas Opportunities, Inc.
TxDOT – Lubbock District
West Texas Opportunities, Inc.
TxDOT – Odessa District
Texas 2-1-1

AGENDA ITEM

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting of the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Planning committee was called to order at 11:36 a.m. by Rina Bale.

2. Public Comment & Introductions

No public comment; everyone knew each other so no introductions were made.

3. Review/Approve October 12, 2016 Minutes

A motion was made by Willie Barber and seconded by Karen Faulkner to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2016 RCTP meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentation by ECISD Teen Parent Program

Earlier in the week, the representative sent an e-mail that she had a conflict and would not be able to attend and present. Another speaker was not scheduled due to the timing. This item was not completed.

5. FY 2017 Regional Plan Update – Mission & Vision

The committee reviewed the Mission as understood in the FY 2013 Regional Plan update. When the agenda was sent to committee members, it included sample Mission and Vision statements for the committee's review. After discussion, the final Mission and Vision statements are as follows:

Mission: To identify the unmet transportation needs throughout the 17 counties of Planning Region 9; to coordinate with our members to find efficient and reliable solutions; and to educate the public on transportation resources.

Vision: The vision of the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Planning committee is to collaborate to effectively, efficiently, and safely get citizens where they need to go. Partnerships will continue to be established and the focus will remain on the goals and objectives set forth in the Regional Plan. Regional planning will adhere to a process that is continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive.

A motion was made by Karen Faulkner and seconded by Beth Carrell to approve the Mission and Vision statements with the changes discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Update on 5304/Coordinated Call Funding

Rina explained to the committee that the time limit for Section 5304 funding has expired and that funding for regional planning will now be through a Coordinated Call process. The call is expected to open this month with applications due in March 2017. Rina attended the RCTP meeting hosted by TxDOT PTN in Austin. During this event, it was described that all the applications for coordinated call must be for Pilot Projects and is opened to all eligible applicants, not just lead agencies. Projects cannot be capital investments. There was some concern over agencies competing with the lead agencies for funding. Jenny Gibson committed to NOT apply for the funding so Rina and the MPO could more likely receive necessary funding to continue regional planning via a pilot project.

Willie Barber asked if these funds could be used to put WiFi on the EZ-Rider buses. Rina explained that it must be a study but applying for funding to perform a study of costs to put WiFi on the buses would be an eligible project.

The committee must submit the project with the application so the committee will continue this discussion each month until a project is approved at the January meeting. This will ensure that the project is laid out in the Regional Plan as required by TxDOT.

7. Transportation Workshop Ideas/Suggestions

Due to the funding restrictions for the last 6 months of FY 2017, the committee will have to cease on planning the spring transportation workshop. Once the needs, gaps, and strategies are identified in the Regional Plan, the committee can re-visit this idea and it could perhaps be part of the Coordinated Call project.

8. Rural Public Meetings

The last rural public meeting will be tomorrow, Thursday, November 10 in Andrews beginning at 5:30 p.m. The participation at the other locations was minimal; this will be the final public meeting in the rural areas this fiscal year.

9. Stakeholder Updates

Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities:

Willie Barber – EZ-Rider staff has been in negotiations with Greyhound. Since Greyhound plans to close the location in Odessa, EZ-Rider will potentially begin selling Greyhound tickets through their own Administration Offices. Upon execution of a contract, Greyhound will also use EZ-Rider's facilities to pick-up/drop-off travelers utilizing Greyhound services. Greyhound will also be a partner in the new multi-modal facility currently being planned by EZ-Rider. The Midland Community Development Block Grant is currently being used to improve the Midland EZ-Rider transfer center. The project is partially complete and a pavilion is desired and may become part of the project.

Mike Bates – Currently assisting individuals with EZ-Rider Paratransit applications.

Permian Basin MPO:**RCTP:**

Rina Bale – Have been working on the Rural Public Meetings; Crane, Ft. Stockton, Big Spring, & Monahans completed, final one in Andrews tomorrow. Attended the RCTP workshop in Austin on November 3 & 4; discussion was in reference to the Regional Plan and Section 5304 funding.

Texas 2-1-1:

Blas Zenteno – The 2016 community resource update is complete.

TxDOT:

Eric Garcia – Section 5310 meetings are being planned across the state through TxDOT's Public Transportation Division (PTN). The Odessa meeting is scheduled for January 17; more information will be distributed as it becomes available. 5310 applicants are still encouraged to present their projects to the RCTP committee for support.

Deanne Hamilton – No update.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services – Texas Workforce Solutions:

Beth Carrell – DARS is now part of Texas Workforce Solutions and the program has been renamed the *Vocational Rehabilitation Services*.

West Texas Opportunities, Inc.:

Karen Faulkner – FY 2016 Coordinated Call funds are ready to be received for the new Ector County location of WTO, Inc. There was a recent Board Meeting and currently performing employee evaluations.

10. Future Discussions & Meeting Dates

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at 11:30 a.m.

11. Adjourn

A motion was made by Karen Faulkner and seconded by Willie Barber to adjourn at 12:47 p.m.