



**Partners' and Stakeholders' Meeting
December 14, 2016 Minutes**

Stakeholders Present

Patricia Albarado
Rina Bale
Willie Barber
Mike Bates
Michael Black
Beth Carrell
Karen Faulkner
Deanne Hamilton
Kay Hathcox
Kim Henderson
Consuelo Lujan
Tita Nunez
Cristina Odenborg
Julie Patino
Gary Redwine
Sunshine Thompson
Sohnna Williams
Blas Zenteno

Organization Representing

Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities
Permian Basin MPO
Advocate for individuals with disabilities/MOUTD Board Member
ABLE Center Board Member/Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities
Permian Basin Community Centers for MHMR
Vocational Rehabilitation Services – Texas Workforce Solutions
West Texas Opportunities, Inc.
TxDOT – Odessa District
Advocate for Senior Citizens
Aphasia Center
Amerigroup
Big Bend Community Action Committee
City of Midland
EZ-Rider
Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Ector County Veterans Service Office
Aging and Disability Resource Center
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 11:30 a.m. by Rina Bale.

2. Public Comment & Introductions

No public comment; everyone introduced themselves.

3. Review/Approve November 9, 2016 Minutes

Willie Barber expressed his concern with the way the minutes read regarding EZ-Rider's commitment from Greyhound. A contract is under negotiations but has not been executed. Willie asked that the minutes add the word "potentially" and the phrase "Upon execution of a contract" to avoid any assumptions that a contract has been already implemented.

A motion was made by Karen Faulkner and seconded by Beth Carrell to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2016 RCTP meeting with the changes suggested. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentation by Amerigroup

Consuelo Lujan presented information to the group about the services offered by Amerigroup, a Medicaid Health Plan. She described the services offered, eligibility, and several of the perks offered through Amerigroup as opposed to the other four plan options. Any attendees who may have clients, family, or friends needing a health plan or those seeking to change their current plan is urged to contact Consuelo.

5. Review/Approve Gap Analysis

As a supplement to the previously approved Comprehensive Needs Assessment, the Gap Analysis was sent to the committee prior to the meeting for review. Two agencies recommended changes and the new, updated document was e-mailed to RCTP members. There were no further comments on the contents of the document.

A motion was made by Willie Barber and seconded by Michael Black to approve the Gap Analysis as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Coordinated Call Pilot Projects

Continuing last month's discussion, the committee considered projects that would complete a strategy as laid out in the updated Regional Plan due to TxDOT in February. The two possible projects that would be proposed for funding is a study to determine the cost to expand transit service times/days, including the rural provider or a study to determine the cost and need to add WiFi to transit buses. Another comment was made by Kim Henderson to review the cost of making all bus stops handicap accessible. Willie Barber explained that sometimes the stops are based on City regulations and EZ-Rider may not have the authority to improve the stops. Karen Faulkner expressed her appreciation for the information regarding Veterans' transportation in the Gap Analysis. This is another major gap in service and could possibly be considered in a study.

The committee will vote on what project will be submitted for Coordinated Call funding in January. The application will be due to TxDOT in March 2017 with funding beginning in FY 2018.

5310 Public Meeting Information

This was not an item on the agenda but after conversations with TxDOT, it was imperative that this information was provided to the committee members. Materials were provided to the committee for informational purposes only.

In previous years, the public meetings required for 5310 funding applicants were organized by regional planning Lead Agencies and members of RCTP committees would score the projects and submit to TxDOT. The Public Involvement division of TxDOT will now be in charge of setting up public meetings and the Public Transportation division will be scoring projects across the state. The public meeting for this area will be held on Tuesday, January 17 at the TxDOT Odessa District office. The meeting will be broadcast via Webinar with satellite locations at the TxDOT El Paso District office and at the Big Bend Community Action offices in Marfa. Providers were encouraged to prepare a 2-5 minute verbal presentation about the organization's services. They should also acknowledge their intent to apply for 5310 funding. All applicants will still present their projects at the February RCTP meeting so the group can officially concur with the plans.

7. Stakeholder Updates

Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities:

Patricia Albarado – Worked with Odessa College to put ramps on both sides of the graduation stage as opposed to it being only on one side, which is the former set-up.

Willie Barber, EZ-Rider Board Member – EZ-Rider personnel met with the Executive Director of Greyhound to continue negotiating a contract. A final decision should be made between March and July 2017; there will be a meeting with Greyhound personnel in Lubbock on January 19.

Mike Bates, ABLE Center Board Member – Will send an e-mail and asked Rina to forward to the rest of the committee.

Big Bend Community Action Committee:

Tita Nunez – Recently hired three new drivers; interviewing three more.

Ector County Veterans Service Office:

Sunshine Thompson – Cloudy Something is now officially the permanent director of the Big Spring VA Medical Center.

EZ-Rider:

Julie Patino – The Midland Downtown Transfer Center is complete. EZ-Rider buses will not run on Dec. 26th.

Permian Basin Community Centers for MHMR:

Michael Black – Everything is going good; currently going through audits.

Permian Basin MPO:

Rina Bale – The I-20 Workgroup met for the 4th time on Dec. 6; recommendations will be presented to the MPO Policy Board at their Dec. 19 meeting. Amendment No. 3 of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) will also be presented for approval. MPO staff submitted population and employment projections to the consultants working on the Travel Demand Model per information gathered at the last Dephi meeting held on Nov. 10

RCTP:

Rina Bale – Continued working on the 2017 Regional Plan update; became a member of the MOUTD (EZ-Rider) Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) through approval of the MOUTD Policy Board. TxDOT's semi-annual meeting will be held in January.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services – Texas Workforce Solutions:

Beth Carrell – Region 1 was the first to combine blind services with vocational rehab services.

West Texas Opportunities, Inc.:

Karen Faulkner – WTO will be closed on Dec. 26 and 27 in observance of Christmas. However, Medicaid medical transportation services will be available on the 27th.

8. Future Discussions & Meeting Dates

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 11:30 a.m.

9. Adjourn

A motion was made by Michael Black and seconded by Willie Barber to adjourn at 12:49 p.m.