



**Partners' and Stakeholders' Meeting
January 11, 2017 Minutes**

Stakeholders Present

Rina Bale
Willie Barber
Mike Bates
Bert Beall
Virginia Belew
Michael Black
Beth Carrell
Beth Donnell
Soeli Erazo
Karen Faulkner
Eric Garcia
Alfredo Gonzales
Deanne Hamilton
Marilyn Hancock
Kim Henderson
Tita Nunez
Audriana Prieto
Jeannie Reeves
Gabriela Reyes
Rebecca Rodriguez
Regina Swafford
Sunshine Thompson
Sohnna Williams

Organization Representing

Permian Basin MPO
Advocate for individuals with disabilities/MOUSD Board Member
ABLE Center Board Member/Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities
All Aboard America!
Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission
Permian Basin Community Centers for MHMR
Vocational Rehabilitation Services – Texas Workforce Solutions
MOUSD/EZ-Rider
Texas 2-1-1
West Texas Opportunities, Inc.
TxDOT – Lubbock/Odessa District
TxDOT – Odessa District
TxDOT – Odessa District
ABLE Center
Aphasia Center
Big Bend Community Action Committee
ABLE Center
Area Agency on Aging
Midland County Sheriff's Office – Crisis Intervention Unit
Midland County Sheriff's Office – Crisis Intervention Unit
Aging & Disability Resource Center
Ector County Veterans Service Office
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 11:34 a.m. by Rina Bale.

2. Public Comment & Introductions

No public comment

3. Review/Approve December 14, 2016 Minutes

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

4. Review draft Regional Plan Update

The committee was sent the draft plan prior to the meeting for review. Rina Bale summarized the Plan contents and reviewed on the projector. There was a discussion about performance measures and what is required by TxDOT. The committee suggested research regarding what other transportation entities use to measure the effectiveness of their programs. The Plan will be up for approval at the February meeting.

5. Approve Pilot Project for Coordinated Call Funding

As discussed in previous meetings, the Section 5304 funding is becoming a Coordinated Call for Projects. TxDOT is requiring that all applicants must submit a pilot project to submit for this type of federal funding. The committee initially agreed upon a study to determine costs associated with expanding route days/times. After discussions with TxDOT and EZ-Rider, performing a larger-scale comprehensive study covering aspects of the urban, rural, and intercity bus systems. This study would look at many different parts of the local transportation systems and would study out the identified deficiencies and gaps in service. The goal would be to provide recommendations on improving services throughout the region.

A motion was made by Willie Barber and seconded by Michael Black to approve a comprehensive study to be submitted as a pilot project for Coordinated Call funding. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Stakeholder Updates

2-1-1 Texas:

Soeli Erazo – Looking to complete another update by the end of March/beginning of April. Hoping to have the information by the 3rd or 4th week of February. The Outreach position will be open for applicants in February.

ABLE Center:

Marilyn Hancock – Received a new grant which has helped to purchase technology used to demonstrate at the ABLE center including laptops, iPads, and magnifiers. Clients can use the items for up to 30-days for free. Another grant received can be used to purchase equipment for individual clients.

Advocate for Individuals with Disabilities:

Willie Barber, EZ-Rider Board Member – EZ-Rider personnel are still in talks with Greyhound regarding the new multi-modal facility. The accessible sidewalks are completed and shelters are near completion at the Downtown Transfer Center in Midland; currently discussing enhancements needed at the Odessa Transfer Center.

Mike Bates, ABLE Center Board Member – Continues to assist blind community with filling out Paratransit application. Attending a summit in Austin in February as a panel member for the CATS (Citizen Advocacy for Transportation Services)

All Aboard America:

Bert Beall – No update

Aphasia Center:

Kim Henderson – No update

Big Bend Community Action Committee:

Tita Nunez – No updates

City of Midland:

Isaac Garnett – The Downtown Transfer Center is complete with minor touch-ups needed; Includes six permanent benches; the pads are ready to go for the shelters. There will probably be a ribbon cutting once the work is complete.

Ector County Veterans Service Office:

Sunshine Thompson – No update

EZ-Rider:

Beth Donnell – EZ-Rider staff met with the mayor of Odessa regarding the Downtown Transfer Center and improvements needed.

Midland County Sheriff's Office Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU):

Gabriella Reyes – Explained that the CIU can transport individuals who become stranded and or those who need to get out of a situation but have no transportation. Looking for referrals that can be provided to those who need assistance. Services in Midland but can transport individuals to the Greyhound station in Odessa as well. Since the CIU is unable to accommodate persons with disabilities due to not having accessible vehicles, the committee members offered any bus that reaches its mileage "life" can be donated to the CIU. Volunteer program begins on Jan. 20.

Rebecca Rodriguez – Also, provides victims compensation for those affected by a violent crime.

Permian Basin Community Centers for MHMR:

Michael Black – No update

Permian Basin MPO:

Rina Bale – Changes are coming to the MTP project list and will be discussed at the next Policy Board meeting on Jan. 23. The staff will participate in a training for the Travel Demand Model on Jan. 17 & 18.

Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission (PBRPC):

Virginia Belew – If anyone needs to get information out to the public, PBRPC wants to help.

RCTP:

Rina Bale – Provided 5310 information including the upcoming public meeting (Feb. 17), changes in scoring, and the requirement of applicants to present their project to the RCTP committee for concurrence. Continued working on the regional plan update and possible pilot projects.

American Red Cross will be installing smoke detectors on Saturday, Jan. 14. A flier was presented at the meeting for anyone interested in volunteering.

TxDOT – Odessa District

Eric Garcia – The meeting for 5310 applicants will be held Jan. 17 at the TxDOT Odessa District office. The El Paso TxDOT District Office and Big Bend Community Action Committee (BBCAC) will host meetings via satellite/conference call. The Lubbock meeting will be Jan. 18

Alfredo Gonzales – Reminded 5310 applicants to give a brief presentation at the public meeting.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services – Texas Workforce Solutions:

Beth Carrell – Attending the meeting on Jan. 17

West Texas Opportunities, Inc.:

Karen Faulkner – Informed the committee of the passing of one of their drivers.

7. Future Discussions & Meeting Dates

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. The final Regional Plan update will be approved for submittal to TxDOT. Those applying for Section 5310 will present their project to the committee during the next meeting.

8. Adjourn

A motion was made by Jeannie Reeves and seconded by Michael Black to adjourn at 1:02 p.m.