

MEETING NOTES
CAPITAL AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT COORDINATION COMMITTEE (RTCC) MEETING

Terrazas Branch Library
1105 East Cesar Chavez Street
Austin, Texas

May 10th, 2010, 3-5 PM

Attendees:

Committee Members

Mayor Bill Hamilton (Chair)
Dave Marsh, CARTS (Vice-Chair)
David Bartels, City of Round Rock
Carline Geiger, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
Rodd Gibbs, Austin-Travis County Integral Care
Jenn Golech, Capital Metro (Alternate for Linda Watson)
Stevie Greathouse, CAMPO (Alternate for Maureen McCoy)
Paul Hamilton, Texas State University
Joyce Lauck, AGE
Jackie McLaughlin, Health and Human Services Commission
Vanessa Owens, TxDOT-PTN
Elizabeth Prestwood, TxDOT-Austin District (Alternate for Ed Collins)
Amy Price, United Way Capital Area
Beth Ann Ray, Austin Chamber of Commerce
Mark Sweeney, CAPCOG (Alternate for Betty Voights)
Jeanie Teel, Faith in Action Caregivers - West Austin
Hector Vera, Hill Country MHDD

Others in Attendance

1 additional representative from United Way
2 representatives from Bluebonnet Trail Community Services
Reyes Barboza, KFH Group
David Fowler, CAPCOG
Beth Hamby, KFH Group
Ken Hosen, KFH Group
Edna Johnson, CARTS
Alex Kone, CAMPO
Allison Phillips, CTS
Bennett Powell, KFH Group
Betty Voights, CAPCOG

Mayor Hamilton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

1) Welcome and Introductions.

Mayor Hamilton, Chair, tabled Item 2 until Dave Marsh, Vice-Chair, could arrive.

3) Action: Appoint new members to fill vacancies on RTCC

There were two applications for four vacancies on the RTCC. The Executive Committee had reviewed the applications and determined that the United Way fit the slot for Agencies that

Provide Services for Clients who Need Transportation. Stevie Greathouse stated that since CTS provides for more than just students, it would not be the best fit for the vacancy for *Student Transportation*. She added that the RTCC will inform CTS when an applicable position is available.

Jackie McLaughlin moved to approve the Amy Price, United Way, as a RTCC member for *Agencies that Provide Services for Clients who Need Transportation*. Hector Vera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Amy Price stated that the United Way did track the data regarding its clients in need and can provide that for future monitoring.

4) Action: Discuss and approve possible revised quarterly meeting dates for August and November

Mayor Hamilton stated the RTCC has been looking for a while for another elected official to join. He added that CARTPO had just nominated Commissioner Ronny Hibler from Burnet County. There is a scheduling issue, however, since the RTCC meets on the same day as the Burnet County Commissioners Court.

Stevie Greathouse added that Sherri Fleming also has a conflict with Travis County Commissioners Court. She stated that she had polled the RTCC via Doodle to determine these two options for the next couple of meetings. First, Monday, August 15th, 10 AM to 12 PM was preferred over the previously scheduled meeting time of Tuesday, August 9th, 3 to 5 PM. Second, Monday, November 14th, 10 AM to 12 PM was preferred over the previously scheduled meeting time of November 8th, 3 to 5 PM.

Stevie Greathouse stated that the schedule for meetings in 2012 would be determined at the November meeting.

5) Action: Discuss special meeting date for June or July

Mayor Hamilton requested to bring up Item 5 with Item 4. He asked why a special meeting date in June would be necessary.

Stevie Greathouse replied that the draft plan would be up for public review at that time. She said that such a meeting the RTCC would review the draft plan and draft strategies report (if not approved today). The preferred time, as polled, was Friday, June 24th, 10 AM to 12 PM.

Dave March moved to the meeting times for August, November and the special meeting in June. Beth Ann Ray seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2) Action: Appoint Chair and Vice-Chair for the remainder of 2011

Stevie Greathouse informed the RTCC that action was not taken in February, as previously scheduled. Mayor Hamilton and Dave Marsh indicated that they would be willing to continue to serve as Chair and Vice Chair for the remainder of 2011 if no one else was nominated. They also indicated that they would like the committee to consider formal nominations to allow others to serve in 2012. Mayor Hamilton asked any interested persons to speak with him or Dave Marsh, Vice-Chair. Dave Marsh suggested a call for nominations at the November meeting.

Joyce Lauck moved to nominate and approve Mayor Bill Hamilton as Chair and Dave Marsh as vice chair for the remainder of 2011, and to hold a call for nominations for 2012 at the November RTCC meeting. Hector Vera seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6) Update on Coordinated Plan, Community Meetings, and Speakers Bureau; and
7) Presentation on Needs, Resources, and Strategies**

(Items 6 & 7 were taken up together)

Stevie Greathouse provided an update on RTCC website additions and the round of community meetings seeking input on public transit needs. Mayor Hamilton asked if there was active participation by RTCC members during those meetings. Stevie Greathouse assured him that there was.

Ken Hosen asked for feedback on the draft strategies and for input on direction from the RTCC. He stated that strategies and potential projects will be included in the draft plan. The draft plan will be sent out for review then guidance received will be compiled into the final plan. Tech memos will become appendices in the final plan.

Stevie Greathouse asked the committee to seek out additional speakers bureau requests and offered to provide the presentation for any group that was interested.

Mayor Hamilton asked Stevie Greathouse to provide a summary about the most substantive issues. She responded:

1. The growth of the urbanized area not in the Capital Metro service area. In those areas, there is limited urban transit service and no longer any rural transit service. Stevie Greathouse highlighted Round Rock's recent RFP to contract service.
2. Relative Need map: showed areas where a significant percentage of population per Census Tract displayed transportation-needs characteristics. For example, one tract in north Pflugerville has no service and is growing rapidly.
3. Unmet or Underserved Destinations map: The map included suburban areas such as Cedar Park and Round Rock, as well as Downtown Austin. Possible explanations include that there is no service at the trip's origin, the timing does not work for riders, amongst others.
4. 60% reported at least one place they could not get to without driving.
5. A closer bus stop was top ranked strategy amongst survey respondents.

Dave Marsh reiterated that the survey is subjective and not scientific.

Beth Ann Ray stated that the top challenge amongst Spanish respondents was safety concerns and asked if there was any explanation. Stevie Greathouse said that there was none but added that there were only 12 responses in Spanish.

Jackie McLaughlin asked what is the stand out issue. Stevie Greathouse responded it is how to provide service to suburban issues. The second is getting land use controls to encourage medical and other facilities that serve transit-dependent populations to develop along transit lines.

8) Action: Approve Needs Memorandum

Stevie Greathouse reiterated that the Needs Memorandum was provided to the committee at the previous quarterly meeting. An executive summary was provided with the agenda for the current meeting.

Mayor Hamilton asked what happens to the Needs Memorandum after approval. Stevie Greathouse replied that it becomes an appendix in the final plan.

Dave Marsh motioned to approve the Needs Memorandum. Jeanie Tell seconded the motion.

Dave Marsh expressed his opinion that the committee should approve the memo but consider its conclusions fluid so that they could be discussed again. Stevie Greathouse added that if someone has comments now, they will go into plan. Mayor Hamilton added that the committee could settle any major issues at its July meeting.

Dave Marsh stated that he does not want to preclude any future project that is not stated in the final plan. Vanessa Owens stated that State funding requires alignment only with general strategies in the Coordinated Plan and does not have to be explicitly listed.

Jackie McLaughlin asked where input coming in from public will be in the final plan. Stevie mentioned that they will go into a separate memo and the Needs Memo itself include any new comments but cited that no public comments have been connected to the draft documents to date.

Vanessa Owens inquired if projects funded through the current CAMPO Call for Projects would be connected to the RTCC Plan. Stevie Greathouse replied that RTCC plan is referenced in 2035 Plan, which inclusion of is a requirement for all projects. Beth Ann Ray asked if the RTCC could speak on the rated list of projects. Stevie Greathouse replied that the RTCC could provide comments but added that there is nothing in the selection criteria that requires projects to align with RTCC Plan specifically. Vanessa Owens stated that she does not want to have two projects that overlap and wants to be informed of STP projects so that TxDOT funding can be complimentary and coordinated. Stevie Greathouse added that there is nothing that precludes entities from applying for both sets of funding.

David Bartels asked for an explanation of Figure 4.13. Ken Hosen replied that the map is based on need of the relative populations. Although there may not be a lot of people in those Census Tracts there are still high needs. Dave Marsh added that there is, in fact, a need in those rural areas and that they have very few assets proportionately.

The motion passed unanimously.

9) Action: Approve Resources Memorandum

Stevie Greathouse mentioned that the Resources Memorandum will become a technical appendix and that any comments will be included in final plan.

David Bartels cited that the population of Round Rock is only 99,000, compared to previously higher estimates. Stevie Greathouse responded that the consultants had originally used American Community Survey data and will ensure that all final figures utilize the since-released 2010 Census data.

David Bartels added that the funding cited under Section 3 of the Resources Memorandum that was provided by CapMetro has been eliminated and it will be questionable whether the City will be able to maintain the same LOS as is provided by contract with CARTS.

Dave Marsh motioned to approve the Resources Memorandum with the two modifications identified by Round Rock staff. Paul Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10) Discuss draft Strategies Memorandum and provide input to KFH Group on Strategies Implementation and Priorities

Stevie Greathouse stated that since there will be a meeting in July, there is no need to take action at the present meeting. There can be a discussion and there should be set a deadline for comments. The committee can approve a final version at its July meeting. She added that it is important to hone done this list of strategies because they will guide funding for the next five years. The current list is the consultant's draft of an unprioritized set of strategies.

The following comments were discussed:

Dave Marsh: #5 should say 'continuing' since it has not yet been accomplished.

Vanessa Owens: The City of Kyle would be included in the potential San Marcos Small Urbanized Area.

Stevie Greathouse: Strategy 1 should acknowledge Capital Metro's Out-of-Service policy.

Jenn Golech mentioned that Cedar Park ACC has been the only entity that has entered into an agreement in the year that the policy has been in place.

Dave Marsh stated that the committee needs to plan for transit gaps before they occur. He cited San Marcos as a success story that required five years of work with CARTS, TTI and the City of San Marcos. There should be transition plans should be in place for growing cities.

Paul Hamilton said that the City of San Marcos and TSU are working on issues coming with next census designation. Strategies in the plan should state what it should do to prepare. Vanessa Owens suggested keeping Georgetown as a separate topic from San Marcos.

Stevie Greathouse asked the committee if it thought it should merge strategies 3c and 3d. Jenn Golech added that Capital Metro's ServicePlan 2020 provides analysis to meet these goals such as working with the City of Austin's SMART Housing to locate housing near transit. Stevie Greathouse suggested that Strategies 3c and 3d would become full strategies not sub-strategies.

David Bartels asked what age the plan is using as a baseline for seniors. Jeanie Teel stated that providers tend to use what the definition is in the grant providing funding, typically 60.

Dave Marsh stated that Strategy 4 should be a general statement for all services beyond the region's borders and coordinating with other services. Ken Hosen informed the committee that this was an issue brought up by Hill Country Transit. Stevie Greathouse stated that the strategy could be generalized and HCT could be a bullet underneath it.

Regarding Strategy 5, Jackie McLaughlin stated that there is the new MedID card coming. It would be efficient if it could be used for transit and be programmed to determine eligibility. Dave Marsh added that HHSC funding is this region's largest issue. Stevie Greathouse asked how, if possible, the RTCC can strategically position itself in the issue.

Dave Marsh requested that Strategy 6d reference the need for increased connecting service between transit systems.

Ken Hosen then asked for the committee's view for mobility management, whether they preferred a singular mobility manager or to have the responsibility broken up and handled by individually agencies. He added that Mobility Manager could be given up to 80% funding by the federal government. Dave Marsh replied that an answer is not feasible at this meeting. He stated that it would be necessary to get Capital Metro, CARTS, CAMPO, CAPCOG and TxDOT together as a in

a separate setting. Jeanie Teel added that other regions then have additional mobility counselors. Mayor Hamilton stated that this might be the first time that the RTCC might know the scope of what is entailed with that position. Ken Hosen offered to provide a sample job description.

11) Action: Approve (draft) Strategies Memorandum (with modifications)

Item 11 was Tabled until the next meeting.

12) Other Business.

There was no other business.

13) Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

14) Adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.