

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

**Capital Metro Board Room  
2910 E 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas**

**February 3, 2009– 2 PM**

Attendees: Vanessa Owens, Paul Hamilton, Joe Holland, David Bartels, Sean Moran, Katie Hutchins, Hector Vera, Joyce Lauck, Bill Hamilton, Jeanie Teel, Dave Marsh, Vanessa Sarria, Meredith Highsmith, Stevie Greathouse

1. Bill Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order at 2:15PM and committee members and other attendants provided introductions. Vanessa Owens, TxDOT attended the meeting in place of Ed Collins

Quorum was not present. The meeting continued on an informal basis.

2. **Presentation of Materials relating to RTCC 2008-2009 Work Plan, Goal 2, Overcoming Jurisdictional Boundaries**

Linda Cherrington from Texas Transportation Institute gave a presentation on the existing and future census defined urbanized areas in the region and the impact on transit delivery/funding.

Joyce Lauck and Vanessa Sarria joined the meeting, and Bill Hamilton noted that a quorum had been established.

Linda Cherrington provided a presentation on case studies of how other regions approached funding and governance of regional public transportation within the context of jurisdictional boundaries. The group discussed the case studies and requested clarification on funding approaches and goals.

Linda Cherrington briefly presented a list of strategies that had emerged from the September Transit forum to address the issue of regional public transportation service delivery.

The group discussed the role of these strategies and the extent to which they coincided with the RTCC mission and goals.

Stevie clarified that the TTI research and the forum were both occurring under RTCC Goal 2, Overcoming Jurisdictional Boundaries, and that the strategies should be seen as a subset of that goal. Stevie also clarified that the RTCC is not being asked to agree with the strategies from the forum at this point—the RTCC is being asked to look at and consider them and then take action on item 4.

Dave Marsh stated that more strategies and barriers have been added and the original issues have not been addressed. The RTCC has made no progress towards resolving any issues. D. Marsh stated that the only applicable case study from the presentation is the NCTCOG example.

Stevie Greathouse indicated that the RTCC needed to identify ways to address jurisdictional boundaries in the long term as well as short term, and stated that Capital Metro was already addressing some of the major short term concerns through their work on agreements with jurisdictions outside of the Capital Metro service area. Stevie Greathouse added that the urbanized area will be defined at the federal level, and Federal funding allocation will be determined at the federal level. The RTCC can play a role in what happens at the regional level.

### **Capital Metro provides information on progress toward service agreements outside Capital Metro boundaries**

Meredith Highsmith updated the RTCC on progress that has been made by Capital Metro regarding service expansion and jurisdictional barriers. In August 2008, Capital Metro changed its policy and is now considering providing negotiated levels of service to jurisdictions that do not pay into the 1 cent sales tax. Meredith Highsmith explained that Capital Metro is making draft for jurisdictions to consider if they wish to buy various levels of Capital Metro service. Ultimately, the decision to provide/receive these services will be made by policy makers. Meredith Highsmith indicated that Capital Metro is working with TTI to determine the cost of various service plans. Within the next few years, additional jurisdictions will be included in the service area.

Dave Marsh expressed that he felt like CMTA's progress is key to the solution and would like to know the mechanics of developing cost allocation by level of service. Meredith Highsmith replied that there are many ways of running the numbers on the cost figures that are determined by population, community characteristics and needs—each community's needs will vary. At this time, the cost allocation models are still under development.

Dave Marsh asked if Capital Metro has been seeking out the municipalities for additional service.

Meredith Highsmith replied that the communities contact Capital Metro for service; Capital Metro has not been going to them. She also informed the RTCC that municipalities will have to choose a level of service that it wants then decide whether it wants to move forward with Capital Metro. In some cases, municipalities will have to have a vote in favor of the service addition in order to move forward.

Bill Hamilton explained that if sales taxes were enacted to pay for transit services then municipalities would have to have voter approval. If not, then a municipality may use a nonbinding referendum. Municipalities will not necessarily be reconsidering the sales tax option but will have the option of choosing different services from menu and pay as the go.

Vanessa Sarria asked for information about the amount of staff and resources that Capital Metro using for the mission of expanding services.

Bill Hamilton asked for an update about the cost allocation model and time schedule for expanding services to additional jurisdictions at the next RTCC quarterly meeting in May.

**3. Action: Approve Chair and Vice Chair for 2009**

Sean Moran nominated Bill Hamilton for RTCC Chair and Dave Marsh for Vice Chair. The motion was seconded and approved.

**4. Action: Identify and approve initial priority strategies based on Public Transit Forum and TTI findings**

Bill Hamilton asked the Committee to select goals or issues from the September Transit Forum that would keep the Committee moving forward over the next quarter. TTI has been asked to help the RTCC walk through issues and find solutions.

Vanessa Sarria expressed that the September forum was very powerful because leaders and decision makers from all over the region identified the previously mentioned goals, and the RTCC should find a way to synchronize its goals with theirs to find solutions that work for them.

Several members of the group expressed concerns that the results of the September forum did not mesh with the RTCC mission and did not address short term issues.

After discussion, the group agreed to not commit to specific strategies at this point. Instead, the RTCC Technical Subcommittee would work over the next couple of months to pull all of the research and forum results together and to develop a set of strategies that the RTCC could approve at the May quarterly meeting.

No action was taken.

**5. Legislative Issues**

Stevie Greathouse introduced agenda item 5. She stated that the information presented was for information sharing purposes and clarified that the RTCC cannot use Federal funding to lobby for a particular legislative agenda.

Tina Bui from Capital Metro provided an overview of legislative issues that Capital Metro is pursuing.

Celia Israel from the Alliance for Public Transportation provided information to the RTCC regarding a Central Texas alliance focused on State legislation that would allow for the creation of a local option regional funding source for transportation.

#### **6. JARC/New Freedom Grant Award Status**

Stevie Greathouse informed the RTCC that the Transportation Policy Board approved all JARC/New Freedom Funding requests at the December board meeting.

Meredith Highsmith announced that Capital Metro had developed a new Program Management guide for JARC and new Freedom. She noted that comments and feedback could be taken and changes could be made to the guide.

Jeanie Teel stated that the grant process from the 2006-2007 call for projects was very imposing and that recipients endured an excessive time delay between when they were given notice of award and when they actually received funding. She commented that task of managing the JARC/New Freedom grant process and developing the Program Management guide should have been given to someone at Capital Metro who could dedicate more time and attention to it and be more responsive to grant applicants.

#### **7. Other Business.**

Bill Hamilton presented a letter to the editor he had authored, as well as information on a statewide United We Ride initiative he is involved in on behalf of the RTCC.

#### **8. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

9. Meeting adjourned at 4:22 PM. **Next Meeting: 2-4pm May 5, 2009, Capital Metro Board Room**