



**Capital Area
Regional Transit Coordination
Committee
(RTCC)**

**Stakeholder
Involvement Plan**

Updated May 5, 2010



RTCC Stakeholder Involvement Plan

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Stakeholder Involvement Plan

Capital Area Regional Transit Coordination Committee (RTCC)

1. OVERVIEW¹

A reliable and comprehensive public transportation network is vital to Central Texans, especially those who have no personal means of transportation. There are several providers that operate public transit or client-based transportation services. However, the current demand for services is far outweighing the resources available. Therefore, coordination of services is greatly needed.

Recognizing this issue to be crucial not only for Central Texas, but also for regions across the state, the Texas Legislature, through H.B. 3588, amended the state's Transportation Code to add Chapter 461—Statewide Coordination of Public Transportation. The intent is to ensure that resources are maximized through coordination of services. The goals of the legislation are to eliminate waste, generate increased efficiencies, and attain Texas' clean air goals.

The Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) assigned development of regional transit coordination plans in compliance with Chapter 461 to the Regional Planning and Public Transportation Study Group. The Study Group concluded that each region in the state, as defined by council of government boundaries, should develop a regional coordination plan. Each region has been instructed to develop a planning strategy, estimate the resources required to prepare the plan, and designate an agency to lead the region's efforts. The strategy was presented to the Study Group and the original plan for the Capital Area was submitted to the TTC in September 2006.

The Capital Area Regional Transit Coordination Committee (RTCC) was created in June 2005 under the combined leadership of the Capital Area Council of Governments (CAPCOG) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Austin District. The RTCC is supported by the RTCC Executive Committee and CAMPO (which currently serves as administrative lead agency for the effort). The RTCC has also been supported by grant funding provided through the TxDOT Public Transit Division to support staff work and retention of outside consultants, where appropriate.

The goal of the RTCC is to develop a seamless transportation system that achieves efficiencies, eliminates duplication, increases coordination, and addresses service gaps. With a coordinated system, transportation programs would share resources, facilities, and information; and coordinate trip reservations, scheduling, dispatching, and passenger trips.

The area covered by the RTCC is defined by the CAPCOG boundaries and includes a ten county area located in Central Texas. The area covers Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Llano, Lee, Travis and Williamson counties. The area is about 8,480 square miles and the population from the Census 2000 population was 1,346,833. About half of this population is within the City of Austin limits.

VISION STATEMENT:

To provide full mobility and access to healthcare, human services, employment, education, commerce, social, and community services for all persons in the region.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To foster the development of a seamless public transportation system that achieves efficiencies, eliminates duplication, increases coordination, and addresses service gaps.

¹ *Source: Capital Area Regional Transit Coordination Strategy for a Regional Transit Coordination Plan*

2. CAPITAL AREA RTCC ANNUAL WORK PROGRAM,

September 2009-August 2012 (as Approved 05/2010)

The focus areas identified below are intended to represent emphasis areas for regional transit coordination in the Capital Area over the upcoming 3 year period; however, various agencies may undertake other work related to implementation of the Regional Transportation Coordination Plan during this time period. Throughout the time period, the RTCC will be provided with status reports on work occurring under the focus areas, as well as work occurring under other action items.

Focus Area # 1: Involve stakeholders and the public in public transportation coordination.

Relationship to Plan: Plan calls for continued involvement by stakeholders and the public in all implementation and coordination activities.

Methods:

- Quarterly RTCC Meetings
- Community Action Network Meetings and other Coordination Venues
- RTCC Website
- E-Notification to Stakeholders Database
- Press Releases
- Speakers Bureau
- Articles in Newsletters
- Contact information through RTCC website

Point of Contact: Stevie Greathouse, CAMPO; Meredith Highsmith, Capital Metro

Focus Area # 2: Update Capital Area Regional Transportation Coordination Plan

Relationship to Plan: State requirements mandate that the region's plan be updated by August 31, 2011.

Methods:

- Retain consultant in FY 2011 to develop technical materials and conduct outreach
- Conduct public survey and 2 additional rounds of public involvement
- Reaffirm vision, mission, goals, objectives
- Identify performance measures
- Update information and data on resources and needs
- Incorporate specific planning work and accomplishments since 2006
- Identify new strategies and action items including priority geographic areas; focus areas for JARC/New Freedom funding; and potential pilot projects

Point of Contact: Stevie Greathouse, CAMPO;

Focus Area # 3: Client Eligibility Requirements

Relationship to Plan: Action Item #7

Methods:

- Inventory existing family of transportation services
- Identify performance measures related to customer satisfaction and system efficiency
- Administer baseline survey to caseworkers

- Develop training curriculum for front line case workers
- Administer training curriculum
- Conduct follow up survey

Point of Contact: Stevie Greathouse, CAMPO; Sherri Fleming, Travis County;

Focus Area # 4: Select projects to be funded with Job Access Reverse Commute/ New Freedom funding available to urbanized area

Relationship to Plan: SAFETEA-LU (Federal Transportation Authorization) requires that projects for these programs be "derived from" the regional transportation coordination plan.

Methods:

- Revise competitive selection process, grant application, and instructional materials with input from RTCC as appropriate
- Provide special information and outreach to potential applicants through RTCC, Speakers Bureau, and other events
- Develop a ranked list of projects based on scoring
- RTCC develops a recommendation
- Present ranked project list and RTCC recommendation to CAMPO Transportation Policy Board

Point of Contact: Stevie Greathouse, CAMPO

Focus Area # 5: Implement Mobility Management in Region

Relationship to Plan: Relates to multiple action Items including Item #8.

Methods:

- Create position
- Hire position
- Develop detailed work plan
- Implement activities based on work plan
- Develop accomplishments report

Point of Contact: Dave Marsh, CARTS; Meredith Highsmith, Capital Metro; Stevie Greathouse, CAMPO

Focus Area # 6: Consider and Recommend Mechanisms to Overcome Jurisdictional and Boundary issues.

Relationship to Plan: Plan identifies this as Action Item #1

Methods:

- As resources allow, develop and implement an approach for advancing local and regional strategies and analyze the effects of Census 2010 on the definition of the Urbanized area and develop additional strategies as needed.

Points of Contact: Stevie Greathouse, CAMPO; Meredith Highsmith, Capital Metro; Dave Marsh, CARTS

Key to meeting these goals is getting input from important stakeholders. Planned outreach activities ensure that the voices of those whose lives are impacted directly by transportation issues are heard and that their needs are incorporated into transportation planning initiatives.

