

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

**February 12, 2008– 2 PM**

**1. Introductions**

Bill Hamilton, Chair called the meeting to order and committee members and other attendants provided introductions. See attached attendance list.

**2. Revise Meeting Dates for 2008.**

By consensus the Committee agreed to revise the quarterly meeting dates for 2008 to accommodate Veteran's Day. Based on the revision, the remaining quarterly meetings will occur from 2-4 pm on the following dates:

- Tuesday, May 20, 2008;
- Tuesday, August 12, 2008; and
- Tuesday, ~~November 11, 2008.~~ Tuesday, November 18, 2008.

Meetings will be held in Room 325 of One Texas Center. The group also requested that staff send out a meeting reminder 3-4 weeks ahead of the meeting.

**3. Discussion of participation of future public transportation providers.**

The committee discussed RTCC membership in general, and several members expressed a strong concern that not all health and human service providers were participating as active members of the RTCC and that meeting attendance included an increasing number of proxies. The committee discussed expanding participation to future public transportation providers including the City of Round Rock, who is embarking on plans to operate a commuter service connecting to Capital Metro's Tech Ridge Park and Ride, and the Austin San Antonio Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District, who is charged with designing and implementing commuter rail service connecting Georgetown to San Antonio. Round Rock staff were present in the audience and indicated that they would be interested in participating on the committee if it would advance their interests of better coordinating their planned transportation services. Stevie Greathouse reported that she had spoken with staff from the Austin San Antonio Rail District and that they had expressed interest in receiving information and attending meetings as needed, but felt that it was premature to include them as a voting member of the Regional Transit Coordination Committee.

Jeanie Teel moved approval of a motion to direct staff to prepare an amendment to the bylaws that would provide an additional membership slot for representation of Round Rock as a transportation provider.

Sean Moran seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **4. Presentation on JARC/New Freedom Grants and Collaboration on Future Projects**

Stevie Greathouse provided an overview of the awards timeline for the current round of Urban JARC/New Freedom grants, and a tentative timeline for the next round. The earliest possible deadline for the next round of applications would be June 2008; however, the deadline could shift later to coordinate with TxDOT deadlines for rural projects. Stevie indicated that based on the performance of the application this time around, it was likely that any changes to the application would be fairly minor for the next call. Stevie also indicated that TxDOT was considering issuing a more targeted call for the rural funding, where they would actively solicit applications to implement a particular project list. The group discussed whether this type of approach might be appropriate for the urbanized area grants, and several members expressed concern that it would not yield successful projects because agencies that applied might not be fully invested in implementation of the projects. The group brainstormed approaches for getting potential grantees involved in developing project applications early in the process. Edna Johnson suggested that folks should approach City Councils for support early, as most were in the midst of their budget processes. Vanessa Sarria identified the CAN Issue Area Group leaders as a good venue for beginning to work on potential collaborations around identified needs. Stevie indicated that she had heard from several organizations on potential ideas for grant applications and she would work with RTCC membership and CAN issue area group leadership on identifying potential collaborative strategies between now and the next quarterly meeting of the RTCC in May. The RTCC will use that meeting to discuss any project proposals that emerge.

#### **5. Existing Conditions Analysis Supporting RTCC Work Plan Focus Area 2**

Stevie Greathouse provided the group with a brief overview of the approved annual work plan and how it relates to the action items identified in the Regional Transportation Coordination Plan that was finalized in early 2007. CAPCOG has hired an intern to support development of the existing conditions component of this work. Chris Ramser presented the preliminary results of CAPCOG's work documenting existing conditions. Two primary elements of this work include an analysis of sales tax throughout the CAPCOG planning area, and development of a framework and initial data collection for analyzing transit "level of service". These analyses will provide information about the supply side of transit in the region, as well as information about how sales tax currently funds transit, and whether it could fund transit service expansion in the future. The group discussed the preliminary information and how to improve it, the group also began to discuss the meaning of the information and how it might be used by the RTCC. Several members expressed interest in figuring out how to better reflect paratransit and client-based transportation services in the analysis. CAPCOG staff indicated that they would work with providers to get appropriate data. Edna Johnson commented that cobbling together a taxing system for transit jurisdiction by jurisdiction might not be sustainable over time. The

members of the group began to discuss what would be considered an “acceptable” level of service, and staff indicated that it would need to be considered with the demand side (population density, etc) in mind. Staff indicated that additional draft information would be provided to committee members in advance of the next quarterly meeting, and that the Technical Subcommittee would be asked for input and feedback on agency interviews and other parts of the existing conditions analysis. Staff intended to present a first draft of an existing conditions report at the May Quarterly meeting.

#### **6. Other Business.**

- The RTCC website has been transitioned over to Capital Metro for hosting and maintenance, and will be relaunched with a new look and additional functionality soon.
- Meredith Highsmith and Stevie Greathouse attended the January Annual Meeting of the Transportation Research Board in Washington, DC, where a poster about the RTCC public involvement effort was displayed during a very well attended poster session. Many visitors from other regions around the country stopped by the RTCC poster to share information about coordination efforts in other places.
- Stevie Greathouse provided a brief overview of related CAMPO Planning Activities including several Board-level committees which are tackling various aspects of transit planning.
- Members indicated that the 2008 APTA meeting would be happening in May in Austin.
- Jeanie Teel announced that she had talked to her counterparts in other parts of the state and country, and that out of more than 800 volunteer driver organizations nationwide, to her knowledge, the Central Texas FAIC program was the only one with representation on a regional transit coordination committee.
- Vanessa Sarria and Chairman Bill Hamilton presented information to the group on recent United Way decision to reduce funding to multiple recipient organizations. An upcoming meeting of Austin City Council will include discussion.

#### **7. Adjourn. Next Meeting:** May 20, 2008, 2-4 pm One Texas Center Room 325.