

Meeting Minutes

See Quarterly Meeting Attendance Tracking for who was present, excused or absent.

Lunch was served at 11:30 AM. The meeting was called to order by Bobby Sharpe at 12:05 PM.

Minutes of the September 27, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Debra Turner moved, and Alison Covington seconded, that the September 2019 minutes be approved as presented.

2020 Meeting Dates were thoroughly discussed. To garner more involvement by the stakeholders the group will meet at lunch on the 2nd Wednesday of the second month of the quarter—February, May, and August. This change will hopefully also avoid some standing Friday conflicts such as our TxDOT folks have. The Stakeholders requested that the meeting calendar dates/notices be sent out now so it can get on everyone's calendars.

Performance Metric Report April 2018-March 2019 update was presented by Bobby Sharpe. As reported at the September meeting the draft report had discrepancies. The proper program manager at TxDOT in Austin was contacted. They were going to follow up with Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI). After a considerable amount of time passed without any information from TxDOT another contact was made. At this time, it was learned that the program manager was no longer with TxDOT and Sharpe was directed to contact TTI. TTI has asked for time to complete their review of the Region 7 report. With the timing issues for the close out of the funding window of FY18/19 roll-over, Sharpe sought TxDOT guidance on billing for the Metric Report. TxDOT has approved invoicing for Metric Report if the Stakeholders take action to approve the draft report. A motion was made by Rhonda Kelton to accept the draft report, contingent on the resolution by TTI to reflect the data which was properly submitted but not reflected in the draft. The motion was seconded by E'Lisa Smetana. Motion carried unanimously.

RCTP Contract Budget Management Discussion Bobby Sharpe provided additional details on where things stand with FY-18/19 funding. It appears that potentially \$20K of the FY-18/19 RCTP7 Planning funds will not be used. Robust discussion followed. Ideas centered on how to get more of the stakeholders to be active participants. Also discussed the purchase and use of flash drives and plastic cards with card holders to disseminate information about Region 7 Plan, contact information for issues/questions relating to travel within the region and how to participate in the Region planning efforts through the Stakeholders Meetings. Sharpe will present the groups suggestions to TxDOT.

Plan 2017-21 Tracking Discussion

Regional Mobility Management update was made by Rhonda Kelton. A test email from the WctxRides.com was worked. More improvements in processes were discussed such as creating a WctxRides email address with multiple people receiving the email for redundancy and timely response. Rhonda Kelton will be primary responder. All correspondence will be cc'd to the other members of the regional mobility email team for continuity of communication. Bill Dean asked how we can begin letting riders know of this trip coordination service. Following a lot of discussion, it was decided that a flyer will be developed in English, Spanish, and French introducing the concept. Bill Dean will take the lead creating the flyer. "Connecting Outside the Box" is the working title of the flyer. The image of Region 7 that shows which rural transit covers which county will be created for the flyer.

There was agreement that a regional pricing model/pass system needs to be established so that costs for trips can be calculated appropriately. The transits will need to enter into MOUs for this agreed upon rate before such a process can go into effect.

Medicare's Access to Care was discussed. The stakeholders believe that the funding is so low—only 6 trips allowable each year—that seniors will be more frustrated than anything, especially people with chronic illness such as those needing dialysis.

Leah Beltran reported that Disability In Action (DIA) has funding to pay for rides for dialysis. People in need of this aid would need to do a DIA intake. The transits provide the ride and DIA pays for the ride for those who qualify.

WctxRides.com Kathy Turner reported that we've entered into two agreements with Good Works for making the website a more effective transportation information sharing tool. The initial focus is to get the site more robust to get the regional trip planning functions fully operational.

To collect the data needed to be successful in seeking the private funding it will take to get the website doing what the stakeholders believe is needed, a "widget" will be added to the homepage to collect survey information of where people in Region 7 would like to travel.

Transit Updates focused update: Transit Goals for 2020

At 12:45 PM, in the interest of time and not wanting to curtail the important discussion that was underway, Bobby Sharpe entertained a motion to table this agenda item. Katherine Ballard so moved; and E'Lisa Smetana seconded, the motion was approved.

Plan 2017-21 Tracking Discussion--Continued

Multi-Modal Transit Facility Proposition background briefing was provided by Bobby Sharpe. Even though the need for a multi-modal facility is in the current Plan and everyone agreed that this needs to remain as a focus item, according to TXDOT, RCTP funds cannot be used for consultant planning efforts that involve moving forward with a multi-modal facility in Abilene. The stakeholders felt that RCTP funds had been previously used for this purpose. Rhonda Kelton will check with CARR leadership, the previous RCTP lead agency, to get that recollection confirmed or debunked.

[Rhonda sent the following update via email at 4:45 PM, 12/13: "I spoke to Joe about the money that was used for the study of the multi modal in Abilene. He said it was separate from Regional but that it was planning money. He said Delma and him were talking about it the other day and Delma said she didn't think it had been completed. Joe said it was the Goodman Cooperation that was working on it and that you may want to contact them."]

TxDOT no report.

Adjourned at 1:45 PM by a motion made by Barbara Meksch and seconded by Kathy Turner. The next quarterly meeting of the Stakeholders will be Wednesday February 12, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Cooksey