

Houma – Thibodaux
Metropolitan Planning Organization
Regional Transit Committee
(CHSTP)

South Central Planning and Development Commission Office
5058 West Main Street, Gray, LA 70359
985-851-2900

M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

Regional Transit Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 17th, 2020 10:00 AM

Meeting Location: SCPDC’s Pelican Room, Gray, LA.

In Attendance

Committee:	<p><u>St. James Parish</u> No Representative Present</p> <p><u>Assumption ARC</u> Ellen Daigle</p> <p><u>Assumption COA</u> Sarah Olivo</p> <p><u>Lafourche ARC</u> Anita Webb</p> <p><u>Lafourche COA</u> Linda Pertuit</p> <p><u>SED #1</u> Torie Lee</p>	<p><u>St. James Parish ARC</u> Cheryl Jessie</p> <p><u>Arc of St. Mary</u> Kristal Hebert Cheryl Doiron</p> <p><u>St. Mary CAA</u> No Representative Present</p> <p><u>Terrebonne ARC</u> Rodger Shelton</p> <p><u>Terrebonne COA</u> Trudy Bergeron</p> <p><u>Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government Transit</u> Wendell Voisin</p>
Other Attendees:	<p>Stephen Abernathy, Greyhound Lines Marilyn Schwartz, Terrebonne Parish Adult Education Program Ann Vail, Louisiana Clean Fuels Hester Serrano, LA Dept of Corrections, Division of Probations & Parole</p>	
Staff:	<p>Shannon Edgeron, SCPDC Josh Manning, SCPDC Cassie Parker, SCPDC</p>	

J. Manning welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reviewed the Housekeeping Rules.

Agenda Item # 1
Introductions

J. Manning introduced S. Edgeron to the forum who will eventually take over facilitating the Regional Transit Committee meetings. S. Edgeron gave a brief overview of his duties at SCPDC and career/educational background.

Agenda Item # 2

Adoption of the October 27th, 2020 Meeting Minutes

After a brief review of the minutes, ***it was motioned by K. Hebert, seconded by C. Jessie to approve the Regional Transit Committee Meeting Minutes of October 27th, 2020. There being no objections, motion passed.***

Agenda Item #3

LA DOTD Updates – Karen Harris

A representative from LADOTD was not available to provide an update.

Agenda Item #4

Transit Agency Reports

ARC of St. Mary: Nothing new to report.

LARC: Running at limited capacity.

GET: Revised TAM Plan, has decided to replace their fleet of fixed route transit busses. They currently have a fleet of twelve of which all will be replaced. The new fleet of busses will be equipped with health/ionic safety features which will make them safer from viruses and such. Currently in discussion with SCPDC in regards to conducting a Transit Study of the Urbanized area in which GET serves to find ways in which to better serve the Parish.

TARC: Running at limited capacity due to COVID-19. Busses are sanitized after each route.

St. James ARC: Maintaining busses. Clients are expected to return February 22nd, 2021. Following OCDD and CDC guidelines.

Assumption ARC: Limited ridership due to COVID-19. Following OCDD and CDC guidelines for transportation vehicles. Experienced issues with busses but believe it may be due to the recent cold temperatures.

Lafourche COA: Limited ridership due to COVID-19. Drivers are sanitizing buses after each route. Riders are required masks.

Agenda Item # 5

Other Partner Updates

Greyhound Lines: Operations continue in Houma and throughout the State. Ridership in Louisiana has somewhat returned pre-COVID. Following all CDC guidelines. Each bus is sanitized after each trip.

LA Clean Fuels: Has been awarded a grant called “Drive for EBs in the USA”. One of the tasks is to form a “Drive Electric Louisiana” program which they are currently working on logos and outreach elements. They plan to form “Drive Electric” Chapters throughout the State. Initially, these will be volunteer chapters but they do hope to eventually fund them. Currently, LA Clean Fuels is looking for volunteers to join the advisory committee as well as lead the local chapters.

Agenda Item # 6

Other MPO Updates

a. MPO Annual Report

J. Manning briefly explained the HTMPO 2020 Annual Report. For those who want to study further, he provided a link to the complete listing of all MPO projects. He reviewed the transit portion which he includes in the HT-MPO Annual Report and explained that data used is from the National Transit Database.

b. Amtrak/Southern Rail Commission

P. Gordon was unavailable to attend meeting; no update was provided.

c. Travel Demand Management Program

Still trying to meet with Fletcher Community College to discuss narrative and collect background data.

Agenda Item # 7

Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan

J. Manning relayed the CHST Plan has been adopted by the HT-MPO Policy Committee. In December a comment was received from a member of the public in regards to the CHST Plan. Ms. L. Fleagle concern pertained to transportation of patients from the MPO area to service providers in larger metropolitan areas, such as New Orleans and Baton Rouge. She stated the MPO area has many patients who need transportation for advanced treatments. She suggested that the inability of these patients to find transportation to these treatment centers should be studied and addressed. J. Manning stated he will research if there are state programs which can assist with these needs.

J. Manning stated the CHST Plan is now required by LADOTD to be adopted by the HT-MPO Policy Committee every two years. It was recently adopted at the HT-MPO Policy Committee meeting held in January. The same procedures were used to adopt the CHST plan as all other MPO plans are adopted. With the new requirement it has been suggested to formalize the adoption process by amending the HT-MPO Public Participation Plan with additional language that would detail the steps used to give the public an opportunity to comment. He shared on the screen and reviewed HT-MPO's Public Participation Plan. It was suggested to create a Transit Technical Advisory Committee; however, this would require an amendment of the HT-MPO Bylaws, formally bringing the Regional Transit Committee (RTC) under the HT-MPO. Currently, the RTC makes recommendations that are brought to the HT-MPO TAC. If accepted by the HT-MPO TAC it is then brought to the Policy Committee to adopt or reject. The formalization of a Transit TAC would report directly to the HT-MPO Policy Committee. J. Manning requested Committee members email him with any suggestions or comments on the matter.

Agenda Item # 8

Review of Casey Lewis email from 10/30/20

J. Manning reviewed an email received from Casey Lewis of LADOTD. The email was in regards to regional CHSTP meetings. Service providers are required to attend two out of four coordination meetings within the fiscal year to maintain FTA funding eligibility. The email also reviewed the MPO role and responsibilities.

Agenda Item # 9

Training Opportunities for 2021-2022

J. Manning stated he did not have anything to report. He requested feedback on any trainings or guest speakers Committee Members may be interested in.

There being no other business to discuss, W. Voisin motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by K. Hebert. There being no objections, motion passed.