

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, June 18, 2013 10:00 AM

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

In Attendance

Committee:	Wendell Voisin, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government Transit Lester Adams, Lafourche ARC Kyle Soignet, Lafourche ARC Sherry Douglas, Assumption ARC Rosa Lou Molaison, Assumption COA Rose Grabert, SED #1 Mona Danos, SED # Linda Pertuit, Lafourche COA Kayla Dardar, Terrebonne COA Randy Manning, Terrebonne COA Sheila Clayton, St. James Parish Jamie Ainsworth, DOTD
Other Attendees:	Randall Domingue, LA Workforce Commission Frank Lewis, LWIA 31 John Schweitzer, LWC/OWD/LRS Joni Tuck, LPF Jeffery Leuenberger, LPF
Staff:	Kevin Belanger, SCPDC Scott Leger, SCPDC Leo Marretta, SCPDC Cassie Parker, SCPDC

Call to Order

S. Leger called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at South Central Planning and Development Commission Pelican Room in Houma, LA.

Agenda Item # 1

Introductions

Introductions took place. S. Leger suggested that the committee name be changed from The Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan (CHSTP) Committee to The Regional Transit Committee.

S. Leger motions to change the name of the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan (CHSTP) Committee to The Regional Transit Committee, L. Pertuit seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 2

Approval of the February 07, 2013 Meeting Minutes

R. Melancon motions to approve the February 07, 2013 meeting minutes, S. Douglas seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 3

HCR 181 Human Services Coordinated Transit Work Group Report to the Legislature

L. Marretta explained that the State Legislature informed DOTD that transit transportation planning needs to be improved. He informed the committee that DOTD gave its Human Services Coordinated Transit Workgroup report to the State Legislature in April. He briefly reviewed the report with the committee.

Agenda Item # 4

NO RPC CHSTP meeting minutes re: our Agenda Item #3 & #5

L. Marretta stated that the New Orleans RPC meeting minutes are included in the packet. He pointed out that there are similarities between the New Orleans RPC and our Regional Transit Committee.

Agenda Item # 5

LA Workforce Commission, Office of Workforce Development

John Schweitzer introduced himself to the committee. He informed everyone that one of the committees that he sits on has been working for two years on an effort to improve networking. He briefly explained how LA Workforce Commission assists individuals with transportation solutions. J. Schweitzer stated that he is imbedded in the Louisiana Rehabilitation Service (LRS), working closely with the Regional Managers, trying to find more efficient solutions.

Randall Domingue introduced himself as the Local Area Coordinator for Workforce Investment area 31, which is Terrebonne, Lafourche and Assumption parishes. He explained that he is tasked with satisfying business demands for workers. Frank Lewis, Director of the LAT Workforce Investment Board, stated that services are offered to dislocated workers, youth and adults through the Career Solutions department.

Agenda Item # 6

Urbanized Area Update

S. Leger reviewed the Urbanized Area map with the committee. He explained to the committee that the FTA has informed him that the census designated boundaries are to be referred to when determining if trips are rural or urban. L. Marretta reminds the committee that the origin of the trip defines if the trip is urban or rural. J. Ainsworth informed agencies that are receiving 5311 funding that urban originated trips are not going to count in ridership for rural dollars.

W. Voisin requested that J. Ainsworth clarify trips from rural to urban areas further. He inquired about the eligibility of trips involving individuals riding from rural areas into urban area. She clarifies that DOTD is following the client who lives in rural areas assuming that that roundtrip is still a rural trip. She stated that the hope is that by following the true census data not the softened, it will open up ridership.

K. Belanger introduced himself and commended the transit committee for the fabulous work it has done trying to expand transit to the rural areas in the region. He specified that one of SCPDC's goals is to see how much we can coordinate through a collaborative effort in order to do more with less. He stated that, through the support and efforts of the committee, we are able to pull these plans together and share information and initiatives. He thanked all of the participating agencies, as well as SCPDC staff for making things happen.

Agenda Item # 7

Lafourche Transit Start Up Efforts

J. Tuck, Director of the Department of Community Services, stated that they would like to leverage the existing transportation system, particularly Good Earth Transit. Their goal is to have the ability to transport individuals to education facilities and jobs. Another item they will be looking into is expanding into Assumption Parish. She stated that public and private collaboration is needed. J. Tuck explained that one challenge for Lafourche Parish is that it consists of a 100 mile long corridor and most of that corridor is not considered urban. She requested that South Central Planning and Development Commission provide cost data from the planning process used to connect the City of Thibodaux to the Good Earth Transit System. K. Belanger stated that SCPDC needs a formal request by Lafourche Parish giving SCPDC direction in order for SCPDC to try and find funding on Lafourche Parish's behalf.

K. Belanger also stated that a silent motivation may be air quality. He informed the committee that later this year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be changing their emission standards. He informed the committee that Lafourche Parish has a monitor in Raceland. At this time, the monitor illustrates that the parish is at 74 parts per million, which is considered in attainment. The EPA's standards will be dropped to at least 70 parts per million, when this happens, it will place Lafourche Parish in non-attainment status. K. Belanger stressed that non-attainment status is not a good thing. He explained that any capital improvement that takes place within the parish has to vet out an attestation as to how that capital improvement will improve air quality within the parish. He stated that the MPO is taking a wide view of this issue, and transit is a component to minimizing the impacts of air quality.

Agenda Item # 8

Follow up on Emergency Evacuation Webinar & local efforts (BARR, Daily Comet Article, Lafourche press release)

C. Parker requested information about the BARR meetings. J. Tuck informed her to contact Peggy Case (Trac) or Rob Bullman (Catholic Charities) for more information.

Agenda Item # 9

Contact Information Updates/New Contact List

C. Parker informed the committee that there were contact updates and distributed the updated contact list to the committee.

Agenda Item # 10

Other business

a. 2013 Community Transportation of America (CTAA) Expo

S. Clayton stated that the professional development training that she attended was very beneficial. J. Ainsworth stated that the Expo was comprehensive.

Agenda Item # 11

Future Meeting Dates

September 17, 2013, December 17, 2013, and March 18, 2014

Agenda Item # 12

Adjournment

S. Douglas motions to adjourn the meeting at approximately 12:20 p.m., W. Voisin seconds the motion. Motion carried unanimously.