

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, October 22, 2019 10:00 AM

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

In Attendance

Committee:	<p><u>Assumption ARC</u> Ellen Daigle Sarah Olivo</p> <p><u>Assumption COA</u> Angel Authement</p> <p><u>Lafourche ARC</u> Edna Foret</p> <p><u>Lafourche COA</u> Marilyn Collins Linda Pertuit</p> <p><u>SED #1</u> Mona Danos</p>	<p><u>St. James Parish</u> Alicia James Melvin Moses</p> <p><u>Arc of St. Mary</u> <i>No Representative Present</i></p> <p><u>St. Mary CAA</u> Tishoma Loston</p> <p><u>Terrebonne ARC</u> Rodger Shelton</p> <p><u>Terrebonne COA</u> Kayla Dardar</p> <p><u>Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government Transit</u> Wendell Voisin</p>
Other Attendees:	<p>Sarah Arceneaux, City of Thibodaux Jacques Thibodeaux, City of Thibodaux Rebecca Brupbacher, Fletcher TCC Karen Harris, LADOTD Hester Serrano, LADPS&C Becky Prejeant, Reentry Program – Goodwill Lorey Owens, Louisiana Workforce Commission Marilyn Schwartz, Terrebonne Adult Education Jonathan Lester, Southeast Trans</p>	
Staff:	<p>Pat Gordon, SCPDC Josh Manning, SCPDC Emma Bergeron, SCPDC</p>	

P. Gordon welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that he would be chairing the RTC meeting in M. Cazaboun’s absence.

Agenda Item # 1

Introductions

Introductions took place.

Agenda Item # 2

Adoption of the July 23, 2019 Meeting Minutes

After a brief review of the minutes, ***it was motioned by J. Thibodeaux, seconded by R. Sheldon to approve the Regional Transit Committee Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2019. There being no objections, motion passed.***

Agenda Item #3

LADOTD Updates – Karen Harris

K. Harris relayed Grant Applications for 5310 and 5311 funding are due November 1st. She requested all originals be addressed to her attention and to be sure all uploads are included. Can be sent in electronically; however, the originals must be mailed and postmark no later than November 1st. A PASS Class is now available online; LADOTD will pay for the class code. An MPO Coordination meeting will be held at the upcoming Louisiana Public Transit Conference. The Louisiana Public Transit Conference will be held on November 20-22nd in New Orleans, LA at the Intercontinental Hotel. She encouraged anyone with any questions or concerns, to please not hesitate in contacting her.

Agenda Item #4

Driver Salary Survey

a. LA Workforce Commission Presentation – C. Chaisson

Ms. C. Chaisson was unable to attend meeting; therefore, the presentation will be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Agenda Item # 5

Flexible Routes/Deviated Routes and Creation of Regional Hubs

a. Should we form a Committee to discuss further?

It has been found there's a need for Regional Hubs within rural areas of the Region. These areas are not being addressed. It was suggested a Committee be formed to discuss this issue further. The Committee unanimously agreed to table the discussion until next meeting when M. Cazaubon has returned.

Agenda Item # 6

Update of Committee Email List

It was requested Committee Members review the most current Committee Email list for additions, deletions, corrections. Please send M. Cazaubon any changes.

Agenda Item # 7

Update of Vendor's List

It was requested Committee Members review the most current Vendor list for additions, deletions, corrections. Please send M. Cazaubon any change

Agenda Item # 8

Upcoming Training Programs

P. Gordon briefly reviewed the upcoming training programs being offered to Transit Providers.

- ***2019 Louisiana Public Transit Conference***
Will be held on November 20-22, 2019 in New Orleans, LA at the Intercontinental Hotel New Orleans.
- ***American w/Disabilities and Title VI Training***
December 2, 2019, invite for ADA and Title VI Training to be held on January 27-28, 2020, American with Disabilities and Title VI Training, OMNI New Orleans.
- ***Director's Meeting***
Will be held on May 12th, 2020 in Natchitoches, LA and Many 19-20 in Baton Rouge, LA.

Agenda Item # 9

SCPDC Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update – Josh Manning

J. Manning briefed Committee Members on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update. The HT-MPO Policy Committee will be holding it's meeting on October 24th, 2019. He stated transit support letters have been placed on the HT-MPO Policy Committee Meeting agenda for approval. Approved transit support letters will be available for pick up following the conclusion of the HT-MPO PC meeting. The Public Outreach for the MTP has been completed, staff is currently working on analyzing all data received. The MTP is due May 2020. He also relayed that staff has been working on the Bike & Pedestrian Plan which is still an ongoing initiative and encompasses the seven parish region

Agenda Item # 10

Southern Rail Commission/Amtrak Update

P. Gordon gave a brief update on the Southern Rail Commission/Amtrak. He stated they were waiting on Terrebonne Parish to decide upon placement for the directional signage. Amtrak has donated directional signage to both Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes. P. Gordon stated Amtrak, LADOTD, and the MPO's would like to upgrade their rail stations. It is hoped that forces can be joined to create a nicer multi-transit hub facility in Schriever.

Agenda Item #11

Ridesharing – TDM Update

P. Gordon stated M. Cazaubon has completed the final TDM report and has submitted it to LADOTD. She is in the process of applying for additional funds and joining with a statewide effort of utilizing a rideshare software for rides throughout the state.

Agenda Item #12

Agency Reports

Assumption ARC: Currently working on grant application, no major issues to report.

Good Earth Transit: Business as usual, no major changes are being planned at moment. They are planning to soon begin on rehabilitation project for their heavy duty bus fleet. Their (8) eight 2008 models will be rehabilitated first. Currently in the process of gathering preliminary cost estimates. They are still experiencing a shortage of drivers. In the meantime, they are awaiting the arrival of (5) five new (cut-away) busses to arrive.

Fletcher Technical Community College: The CDL guidelines will reflect changes being implemented in 2020 due to the new federal regulations. A CDL student must first obtain a permit before they can begin training. The training must be through a certified training facility and must be registered with the federal government. Currently, FTCC is seeking new CDL instructors.

TARC: Have 3 vehicles out of service, hoping for a new shuttle.

TCOA: All is well at the current moment.

SED #1: Recently experienced an issue with a bus which wouldn't stop running even once the key was out of the ignition.

Reentry Program: In the process of building their program; transportation is a big barrier and a top priority.

Assumption COA: Up to full-staff with drivers. Experienced van repair issues.

Adult Ed: Seeking answers on transportation issues stemming from the recent move of Technical Programs from the Terrebonne Campus to the Thibodaux Campus located on Tiger Drive. What part of transportation plays a barrier in a potential student not participating in the programs? The relocation of these technical programs are not efficient for many citizens located in the rural areas of the region.

Work Connection: Offers a program which can reimburse 50% of salaries for drivers who have not worked as a driver before. Also, offers a program which can fund a 100% of training for potential drivers.

Medicaid: Announced there will be some big changes coming into the state in regards to Medicaid in 2020.

City of Thibodaux: The City of Thibodaux and NSU are expanding their working relationship and looking at the regional aspects: regional transit hub, ridesharing opportunities, express service hubs, etc.

Agenda Item # 13

Other New Business

Discussion ensued about the need for Regional Hubs/Express Routes within the region for technical students. Funding is lacking for these needs. The HT-MPO plans to study these particular needs within the MTP. A Feasibility Study was suggested for Transit Hubs.

There being no other business to discuss, W. Voisin motioned to adjourn the meeting, A. Authement second. There being no objections, motion passed.

The next meeting date is January 28, 2020 at 10:00am.