

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 2, 2020 10:00 AM

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

In Attendance

Committee:	<p><u><i>Assumption ARC</i></u> <i>No Representative Present</i></p> <p><u><i>Assumption COA</i></u> Angele Authement</p> <p><u><i>Lafourche ARC</i></u> Edna Foret</p> <p><u><i>Lafourche COA</i></u> Linda Pertuit Marilyn Collins</p> <p><u><i>SED #1</i></u> Torie Lee</p>	<p><u><i>St. James Parish</i></u> Shanitra Jasmin</p> <p><u><i>Arc of St. Mary</i></u> <i>No Representative Present</i></p> <p><u><i>St. Mary CAA</i></u> <i>No Representative Present</i></p> <p><u><i>Terrebonne ARC</i></u> Rodger Shelton Trudy Bergeron</p> <p><u><i>Terrebonne COA</i></u> Kayla Dardar</p> <p><u><i>Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government Transit</i></u> Wendell Voisin Gayle Voisin</p>
Other Attendees:	Karen Harris, LADOTD Alyssa Avet, LDH Region 3 Jonathan Lester, Meditrans Heather Bunn, Goodwill Ann Vail, Louisiana Clean Fuels Lily Paul, CalStart	
Staff:	Adam LeFort, SCPDC Emma Bergeron, SCPDC Cassie Parker, SCPDC Martha Cazaubon, SCPDC Josh Manning, SCPDC Pat Gordon, SCPDC	

M. Cazaubon welcomed everyone to the meeting. Participants were checked in online. M. Cazaubon reviewed housekeeping notes for the online meeting. The Notice and Certification to Hold Video Conference Meeting was read.

Agenda Item # 1

Roll Call with Introductions took place.

Agenda Item # 2

Adoption of the January 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes

After a brief review of the minutes, it was noted that Ellen Daigle had been left off the draft minutes ***it was motioned by R. Shelton, seconded by J. Manning, to approve the Regional Transit Committee Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2020. There being no objections, motion passed.***

Agenda Item #3 - Agency Reports

Assumption COA- A. Authement said they reduced transportation to medical only due to social distancing and it is going to be a challenge how to move forward with 12 passenger vans. They installed glass behind the drivers to give extra protection for the drivers. It is also a challenge with drivers not wanting to drive due to concerns about contracting the virus. She believes it will continue to be a challenge for the next several months.

Lafourche ARC- E. Foret said they have staff going into take care of things at the group centers. They are trying to figure out what to do like everyone else. Other than glass shields she wondered if anyone had used the clear shower curtains.

Lafourche SED 1: T. Lee said they are temporarily closed and not providing any services at all.

Lafourche COA: L. Pertuit transporting dialysis and started taking clients for medical appointments. They only allow 5 people on a vehicle.

St. James Transit: S. Jasmin said they are providing trips for dialysis, medical and clients going to work. It has been hard with the social distancing. They installed Plexiglas behind and on side. Their drivers are scared of contracting the virus.

Terrebonne ARC: R. Sheldon texted message stating they are not transporting at this time. They for vehicles and building are looking into an electrostatic fogging machine that can treat virus and provides a microshield for up to one year. They also received four new shuttles.

Terrebonne COA: K. Dardar said they are still providing dialysis and medical trips only. They are transporting one wheelchair at a time and roped off every other seat to ensure clients. They will continue to do so until guidance changes.

Good Earth Transit: G. Vaughn said they are not operating right now. They plan to resume using the holiday schedule on June 8th. They will be disinfecting between runs. They are only operating paratransit for medical, grocery and work right now.

Agenda Item #4

LADOTD Updates – Karen Harris

K. Harris said she is still working from home but does go into office periodically to work on documents. CARES Act contracts did go out and be sure to sign and return to DOTD. No training is scheduled besides doing PASS on the web, if you have needs contact Juanita Crotwell. For Title VI, some 2019 reports had issues and she will contact the individual agencies about what needs to be corrected. If anyone has questions have about CARES Act please let her know, they did start paying 100% for the 5311 operating funds. DOTD sent out general guidance regarding social distancing, etc., at the beginning of May. In response to a question, she said DOTD has asked if viral protection systems can be fund through the CARES Act but they have not gotten an answer yet. She said right now 5310 providers can not get reimbursed through the CARES Act.

Agenda Item # 5

Other Partner Updates

LDH Region 3: A. Avet – She is an outreach specialist working with first time moms. If you know anyone who is a first time mom, you can refer to her. Right now visits with self-help. Her email is alyssa.avet@la.gov

Meditrans: J. Lester - All facing similar struggle, still operating essential trips only. They are starting to see an increase and want to partner with agencies for trips in their area if they have van capacity. Their rates are more competitive, paying around \$80/trip while the standard is normally \$40/trip.

Goodwill/LA Reentry Program: H. Bunn – She will be the new Reentry. Goodwill offices closed since March. Many of their employees furloughed or working part time. They will return into the office with Phase 2. Working from away.

Louisiana Clean Fuels: A. Vail:-Happy to hear everyone is trying to keep services going. They are a Clean Cities Coalition, which is a Dept. of Energy program. Supported by the LA DNR and their members. They are a nonprofit and work with communities to help find ways to reduce emissions through transit and reducing congestion on highways. They are working on grant proposal with St. Mary and CalStart, who is leading the project

CalStart: Lily Paul: They are a national nonprofit for clean transportation, they work on policy and other programs to provide clean transportation. They are working on a few different projects with St. Mary and A. Vail.

Agenda Item # 6

Flexible Routes/Deviated Routes and Creation of Regional Hubs

M. Cazaubon said they had a committee meeting with anyone interested. The thing that generated interest is the layout of urban/rural boundaries and relocation of some training programs making it difficult for people who rely upon transportation to get to work or training. While no one seemed ready to jump into it yet, the impact of the pandemic on public transportation at this time is an additional hindrance. We should probably continue to have a conversation about the problems and revisit in the future.

Agenda Item # 7

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 # 8

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 changes.

Agenda Item #9

Upcoming Training Programs

K. Harris said no updates at this time. Probably have to wait until after Phase 2 opens to see what happens.

Agenda Item # 10

SCPDC Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update – Josh Manning

They adopted the updated the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) in mid-May to meet the required deadline. The plan is on the website either through the SCPDC.org or HTMPO.org website. Will have first amendment with

regard to the transit funding based on new data that has become available. They used the average operations cost from the NTD and projected 1.5% inflation per year through 2045 to generate an estimate of what the operations cost will be in the future. They also assumed a 50/50 federal/local split. They now have transit asset management plans and he will be able to look at the asset inventory in these plans for useful life of vehicles now available by agency. In the MTP they will be able to project the costs of replacing vehicles through 2045 by assuming similar vehicles will be acquired when it is time to replace each and he again used a 1.5% increase per year to project what the replacement costs through 2045. He also said the agencies that were used are those in the MTP area and report in the NTD. On June 11th they will have another TAC meeting and go over this.

Agenda Item # 11

Southern Rail Commission/Amtrak Update

P. Gordon said there have been no actions taken on this. But they do expect to meet in the next month.

Agenda Item #12

Ridesharing – Information on Commute with Enterprise Presentation

M.Cazaubon said SCPDC was refunded to do another year of this with regard to RideShare. They will look at establishing Park and Ride and reach out to the operators. The only official one is at the Farmers Market under Hwy. 90 overpass. She said they want to look at spots that are along routes and coordinated where it will help improve transit.

Agenda Item # 13

Other New Business

R Shelton said they are hearing a lot of echo. M.Cazaubon said there is an echo in the conference room. P. Gordon said there are three mics open and people need to mute microphones when not speaking.

M. Cazaubon said this is the first Go To or Zoom kind of meeting with the transit committee. She asked if the format works for all or a combination there of in the future. She acknowledged a lot of participants have to travel to the meetings. P. Gordon said they will move to Zoom Plus. SCPDC will keep the July 28th meeting to online or in person participation plan. P. Gordon said they are considering sound boards to cut down on the echo.

There being no other business to discuss, it was unanimously motioned to adjourn the meeting. There being no objections, motion passed.

The next meeting date is October 27, 2020 at 10:00am.