

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:** Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 10:00 AM

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

**In Attendance**

|                         |   |   |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Committee:</b>       | <u><b>Assumption ARC</b></u><br>Elaine Daigle   | <u><b>St. James Parish ARC</b></u><br>No Representative Present                                   |
|                         | <u><b>Assumption COA</b></u><br>Angele Authement<br>Sarah Olivio<br>Wilbert Giron   | <u><b>Arc of St. Mary</b></u><br>Kristal Hebert   |
|                         | <u><b>Lafourche ARC</b></u><br>No Representative Present  | <u><b>St. Mary CAA</b></u><br>No Representative Present   |
|                         | <u><b>Lafourche COA</b></u><br>Joseph Triche  | <u><b>Terrebonne ARC</b></u><br>Rodger Sheldon<br>Trudy Bergeron                                  |
|                         | <u><b>SED #1</b></u><br>Torie Lee   | <u><b>Terrebonne COA</b></u><br>No Representative Present   |
|                         | <u><b>St. James Parish</b></u><br>No Representative Present   | <u><b>Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government Transit</b></u><br>Wendell Voisin<br>Gayle Vaughn |
|                         |   |   |
| <b>Other Attendees:</b> | Ann Vail, LA Clean Fuel Coalition<br>Ed Elam, Alliance Transportation<br>Hester Serrano, Division of Probation & Parole<br>Karen Harris, LADOTD<br>Marilyn Schwartz, Terrebonne Adult Education<br>Sherry Willmore, Goodwill Industries<br>Tim McCarthy, Alliance Transportation Group<br>Tina Athalone, LADOTD |   |
| <b>Staff:</b>           | Josh Manning, SCPDC<br>Shannon Edgerson, SCPDC<br>Jared Picou, SCPDC  |   |

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

**Agenda Item # 1**

**Introductions**

J. Manning requested everyone in attendance to type their names into the online chat box and then to introduce their selves for the recording

#### **Agenda Item # 2**

##### ***Adoption of the May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting Minutes***

After a brief review of the minutes, it was notated that several members were inadvertently listed as present or not present. With those revisions being made, ***it was then motioned by R. Sheldon, seconded by K. Hebert to approve the Regional Transit Committee Meeting Minutes of August 18th, 2021 as amended. There being no objections, motion passed.***

#### **Agenda Item #3**

##### ***Public Comment***

J. Manning open the floor to accept Public Comment; however, there were no comments received from the Public.

#### **Agenda Item #4**

##### ***LA DOTD Updates – Karen Harris***

K. Harris stated the application process is open for 2022-2023. She reminded Committee members, if applying for a new vehicle all originals must be turned in by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Use the Public Notice located in the STARRS. Upcoming trainings are as follows: Drug and Alcohol and Compliance Review, August 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. No vehicles will be disposed of between October 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>. Site visits will soon begin, be prepared.

#### **Agenda Item #5**

##### ***Statewide Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Update***

Ed Elam of the Alliance Transportation Group gave a brief update on the Statewide CHSTP. They are currently working through the GAP Analysis and are planning coordination meeting visits across the state. Major Goal Themes across all plans include: improving convenience of transit service to customer and expanding service, improving the ease of use and public awareness of service, and ensuring services is cost effect and feasible to sustain. A review of transit needs based upon a variety of data that was available through the census was conducted. A total of eight elements were found where transit is needed: older adults, disabled population, low income housing, minority populations, households without vehicle access, and rural populations. Their next steps are to: identify and prioritize coordination opportunities, agency and stakeholder interviews, providers and public survey, and coordination with regional committees.

#### **Agenda Item # 6**

##### ***Transit Agency Reports***

TARC: Still operating a reduced passenger headcount, assigned seating, and post route sanitation.

Assumption ARC: Running reduced routes, check temps, everyone must wear a mask. Still struggling with trying to maintain transportation due to the shortage of drivers.

GET: Extremely short on drivers, had to reduce services, running only on weekdays and running the weekend schedules on weekdays. Very basic services right now. Increased pay rate but has not made a difference in receiving driver applicants. Still conducting the necessary COVID measures.

SED #1: Same issues as others in regards to ridership and conducting the necessary COVID measures.

ARC of St. Mary: Running reduced ridership, conducting the necessary COVID measures.

Lafourche COA: Only transporting four passengers at a time, they have enough drivers to run their regular routes but are still seeking two substitute drivers. Conducting the necessary COVID measures.

Assumption ARC: experiencing the same issues as the other transit providers.

H. Serrano stated there are individuals currently enrolled in the CDL course at Fletcher Technical Community College who are seeking job opportunities in the driving industry. The difficulty they are facing is finding an agency who is willing to hire someone that has been justice involved. A letter is needed from three agencies stating they would be willing to hire a justice involved individual. Though agencies may have hiring policies this may be something for agencies to consider if the driving shortage continues to be an issue.

#### **Agenda Item # 7**

##### ***Other Partner Updates***

LA Clean Fuels: a Webinar on electric transit vehicles will be held on Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### **Agenda Item # 8**

##### ***Other MPO Updates***

***a. Amtrak/Southern Rail Commission***

Updates are continuing to be made. A package for Capital Improvements is being developed. A list of projects have been requested of the HT-MPO.

***b. Travel Demand Management Program***

Still seeking funding for the implementation of a vanpool program.

***c. Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan***

Continuing to work on the development of the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for SCPDC's seven parish region. Currently conducting sidewalk inventory and checking compliances.

#### **Agenda Item # 8**

##### ***Training Opportunities for 2021-2022***

J. Manning stated training opportunities were discussed by K. Harris under LADOTD updates. K. Harris stated Wheelchair Securement Training on Demand in October.

#### **Agenda Item # 9**

***Next Meeting Date: November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021***

***There being no other business to discuss, W. Giron motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by G. Vaughn. There being no objections, motion passed.***