

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, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 10:00 AM

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

In Attendance

Committee:	<u><b>Assumption ARC</b></u> Ellen Daigle	<u><b>St. James Parish</b></u> No Representative Present
	<u><b>Assumption COA</b></u> Wilbert Giron	<u><b>Arc of St. Mary</b></u> Cheryl Doiron
	<u><b>Lafourche ARC</b></u> Kyle Soignet	<u><b>St. Mary CAA</b></u> No Representative Present
	<u><b>Lafourche COA</b></u> Marilyn Collins	<u><b>Terrebonne ARC</b></u> Rodger Shelton
	<u><b>SED #1</b></u> Torie Lee	<u><b>Terrebonne COA</b></u> Mary Jane Walker
		<u><b>Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government Transit</b></u> Wendell Voisin Gayle Vaughn
Other Attendees:	Steve Abernathy, Greyhound Lines Wilbert Giron, LA DOTD Tyler Herrmann, LA Clean Fuels (985) 857-3648, unidentified caller Lori Owens, Workforce Development Commission Marilyn Schwartz, Terrebonne Parish Adult Education Program Stephen Abernathy, Greyhound Lines	
Staff:	Josh Manning, SCPDC Shannon Edgerson, 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 August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting Minutes***

After a brief review of the minutes, ***it was then motioned by R. Sheldon, seconded by G. Vaughn 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 Project Updates***

K. Harris was not present online to give the LADOTD Projects Update.

**Agenda Item #5**

***Transit Agency Reports***

TARC: Still in recovery mode, rolling four busses with busted windows, one fixed and three others waiting on window orders to come in. Perimeter fencing damages due to fallen trees, trees have been removed, awaiting fencing and contractor quotes.

GET: Still operating at limited service, running their weekend/holiday schedule: Monday – Friday with no weekend or holiday services provided due to short staff. They haven't received any bus driver applications lately. They are back to approximately 95% recovery of transit assets. They still have a few benches, shelters, and poles that need to be reinstalled.

Assumption ARC: Received minor damages from the storm. They are still not 100% back with doing outings or using their transit, as they were pre-Covid that they are trying to get back to at the moment.

SED #1: Has resumed their normal operations, no busses sustained damages from the storm. They are still operating as per Covid guidelines; reduced capacity, cleaning protocol.

Lafourche COA: Riding at full capacity and continuing to wear masks.

Greyhound Lines: About 70% back to what they were scheduled product wise in the region. They are still limited in adding their full schedule and driver resources. They are having a challenging time refilling those positions. They are still operating under the CDC guidelines with masks on board. They are operating at full capacity. The busses are going through the CDC cleaning protocols as well as all of their terminals.

Lafourche ARC: They are at 41% of the participants that they had before the pandemic. They have currently 49% of the direct support professionals that they had pre pandemic. Struggling with being able to find staff to hire; however, they have seen some improvement with the increase in the wage floor – from minimum wage at \$7.25 to \$9 an hour. Had one bus flooded to the driver seat in the Bayou Bouef area. This bus was only three months old; it was a 2021 cutaway and was a total loss. The insurance company is going to provide them with a check to replace that vehicle. They have found a new vehicle that they can put in its place within their fleet. They had one bus and a van sustain broken windows. They are expecting to get a new van but it will be delayed. Struggling with limited staff and drivers. Waiting for CDC Covid guidelines to loosen up so they can bring back more employees.

ARC of St. Mary: Has no issues.

Terrebonne COA: Running at full capacity.

**Agenda Item # 6**

***Other Partner Updates***

LA Clean Fuels: They will be closely watching the funding being passed down from the new infrastructure bill. LA Clean Fuel offers their assistance to any agencies that are interested in any of the alternative fuel fueling infrastructures, UV transit bus deployment efforts, and the partnering grants that will stem from the new infrastructure bill.

**Agenda Item # 7**

***MPO Updates***

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

LADOTD plans to apply for Capital Outlay Funds to make ADA improvements at the Amtrak Station. Unfortunately, the MPO is not able to match what they thought they could match with their Federal Funds.

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

No update given.

**Agenda Item # 8**

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

J. Manning shared the 2022 RTAP Training Calendar with the Transit Agencies. J. Manning plans to email it to the Region's Transit Agencies. Please reach out to LADOTD if you have any questions.

**Agenda Item # 9**

***Next Meeting Date: February 16, 2022 @ 10am.***

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