

Houma – Thibodaux
Metropolitan Planning Organization
Regional Transit Committee
(CHSTP)

Terrebonne Parish Library – North Branch
4130 West Park Avenue,
Gray, LA 70359

M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

Regional Transit Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, August 17th, 2022, 10:00 AM

Meeting Location: Terrebonne Parish Library – North Branch.

In Attendance

Committee:	<u>Assumption ARC</u> Sarah Olivio	<u>St. James Parish</u> Shanitra Jasmin Melvin Moses
	<u>Assumption COA</u> Angele Authement	<u>Arc of St. Mary</u> Kristal Hebert Cheryl Doiron
	<u>Lafourche ARC</u> Anita Webb	<u>St. Mary COA</u> No Representative Present
	<u>Lafourche COA</u> Marilyn Collins	<u>Terrebonne ARC</u> Trudy Bergeron
	<u>SED #1</u> Mona Danos	<u>Terrebonne COA</u> Kayla Dardar Randy Manning
		<u>Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government</u> <u>Transit</u> Wendell Voisin Gayle Vaughn
Other Attendees:	Sherry Wilmore, Goodwill Marilyn Collins, Lafayette COA Karen Harris, LA DOTD	
Staff:	Josh Manning, SCPDC Shannon Edgerson, SCPDC Thomas Rhodes, SCPDC LeeAnn Rucker, SCPDC	

Agenda Item #1

Roll Call and Introductions

S. Edgeron called the meeting to order

Roll call took place

Agenda Item #2

Adoption of the February 16th, 2022, Meeting Minutes

It was pointed out that the minutes for Agenda Item #5 is incorrect. The update for SPED #1 should be the update for Lafourche ARC and the update on Lafourche ARC should be the update for SPED #1. It was then motioned by Kristal Hebert, seconded by Gayle Vaughn to approve the Regional Transit Committee Meeting Minutes of February 16th, 2022, as corrected. The vote was unanimous, motion passed.

Agenda Item #3

Opportunity of Public Comment

S. Edgeron opened the floor to accept Public Comment; J. Manning asked if there were any public comments at that time. However, there were no comments received from the Public.

Agenda Item #4

Virtual Presentation Virtual presentation by Camille El-Kadi with Spare -- Transit Planning, Micro-Transit, Ridesharing, and NEMT.

S. Edgeron and J. Manning introduced the virtual guest speaker Camille El-Kadi, but J. Manning spoke more on the virtual guest speaker's background and purpose for this meeting. Camille El-Kadi was not able to make it to the meeting, but while speaking virtually he wanted to create a partnership by presenting his software to those who are within the HTMPO regional transit area. The software is focused on increasing the number of riders with diversity and a cheaper budget by using Transit Planning, Micro-Transit, Ridesharing, and National Emergency Medical Transportation. Wendell Voisin of the Good Earth Transit Services has a continuous interest in this software, primarily the Micro-Transit component. J. Manning also has an interest in this software.

Agenda Item # 5

LA DOTD Project Updates

Karen Harris, Regional Program Manager stated that all Regional Transit Committee partners should receive letters from Division of Administration for approval of a 30 percent increase in which the cost of vehicles will be going up. She also stated that the contracts were to be returned to all by mail if not otherwise and there was a DOTD Meeting in June. Also, Karen stated that there will be site visits beginning the FY 22-23 year.

Agenda Item # 6
Transit Agency Reports

ARC of St Mary: There were no issues, but gas and diesel prices are higher than usual in which trips that are further away puts a financial burden on them.

Assumption ARC: They were getting ready for their FTA review, and they have been short of drivers, who are also direct service workers.

SED#1: They had another catalytic converter stolen and they have been dealing with air-condition issues with two vehicles that were in the shop.

Terrebonne COA: Diana Edmonson retires on June 30, 2022. Michel Claudet will be the new Executive Director and plans to be at the next Regional Transit Committee meeting. There has been slow clientele, but it is on the rise.

Terrebonne ARC: There has been a shortage of drivers and two shuttles down that still has broken windows from the storm. One bus is down with side window blown out.

Lafourche ARC: Two buses that had the windows blown out, which were replaced with Plexiglass. The plexiglasses were found by Kenny's Accessible Vans and were installed. Three vehicles with back air-condition problems, two have been fixed and one is in the shop. The ramp on the floor not working, will get checked out. They also have driver shortages, which are also regular staff members.

Lafourche COA: They have been dealing with driver shortages and air-condition problems.

Good Earth Transit: No vehicle problems, transitioning to 12 new buses along with waiting for radios and other equipment, also short in the office.

Assumption COA: Ridership is coming up, having trouble hiring drivers, and have been waiting for months for bus parts. Van was returned after having seat belt issues.

St. James Parish Government: Ridership has increased, has a lot of theft with the converters, air-condition issues. Dealing with majority of the same issues as the other agencies.

Agenda Item # 7
Other Partner Updates

There were no other partner updates.

Agenda Item # 8
MPO Updates

J. Manning discusses the new MPO Updates

a. Amtrak/Southern Rail Commission

There have not been any changes since last Regional Transit Committee meeting.

b. Travel Demand Management Program

L. Rucker attended a few meetings that were related to the Travel Demand Management Program. She stated that she has been corresponding with Sherry Wilmore and Hester Serrano about vanpooling to get

people to and from work and to different places within our region. She has been looking at different kinds of funding to help with the program.

Agenda Item # 9

Training Opportunities for 2022

Karen Harris, the Regional Program Manager for DOTD announced a few trainings including a two-day virtual training which focuses on ADA policies, a transit leadership training in New Orleans, and a marketing training in Baton Rouge.

Agenda Item # 10

Next Meeting Date: August 17th, 2022

There being no other business to discuss, Angelle Authement motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Wendell Voisin. All were in favor, motion passed.