



**CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY GROUP  
(CTR TAG)**

Thursday, August 10, 2023  
9:30 a.m.

Central Texas Council of Governments  
(CTCOG) 2180 North Main Street  
Belton, TX

**Voting Members Present**

George Losoya, AREA AGENCY ON AGING REP.-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Thomas Wilson, AREA AGENCY ON AGING REP. (PROXY)-HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Connie Quinto, KILLEEN-TEMPLE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REP.  
Darrell Burtner, HILL COUNTRY TRANSIT DISTRICT REP.-PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER  
Tim Hancock, ARROW TRAILWAYS REP.-PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER  
Ebony Jackson, BELL COUNTY INDIGENT HEALTH CARE REP.-COUNTIES  
Walter Murphy, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CENTRAL TEXAS REP.-EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES  
Staci Kinnear, DRIVING HOPE OF TEXAS REP.-PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDER  
Elysa Franklin, FAITH COMMUNITY HEALTH REP.-MEDICAL FACILITIES

**Non-Voting Members and Additional Attendees Present**

Dominic Elizondo-Economic Development Planner, CTCOG  
Uryan Nelson-Director, Planning Division, CTCOG, Non-Voting Member\*  
Anita Janke-Regional Planner, Public Engagement, KTMPO  
James McGill-Transportation Manager, KTMPO, Non-Voting Member\*  
Alisha Alvarez-Public Transportation Coordinator, TxDOT, Non-Voting Member\*  
Hope Davis-Regional Planner, KTMPO  
Todd Lutz-Vice President for Finance & Administration/CFO, Texas A&M University – Central Texas  
Tane'ya Floyd-GIS Planner, KTMPO

*\*Denotes online attendee*

Dominic Elizondo opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** Terry Mustapher had notified the Board he would be unable to attend the meeting, and Dominic Elizondo asked that the Board nominate someone to preside over the meeting. George Losoya nominated himself to preside, and the Board voted unanimously in favor. Quorum was met and the meeting was called to order.

**2. Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

**3. Staff Update:** Dominic Elizondo announced that CTCOG was applying for FY 2024 Regional Public Transportation Coordination Planning funds from TxDOT, and would need letters of commitment from each individual stakeholder organizations on the Board with no letter representing the CTRTAG Board as a whole. The funding amount will be \$40,000 for September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023-August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The next CTRTAG meeting will be November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**4. Discussion and Action Item:** Approve minutes from the May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 CTRTAG meeting

**Thomas Wilson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Darrell Burtner; the motion passed unanimously.**

**5. Discussion and Action Item:** Regarding Updates on Coordination and Implementation of FY 22-26 Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan

Dominic Elizondo provided an update on staff and HOP coordination of the implementation of the 2022-26 RCTP. Mr. Elizondo noted that staff had been creating HOP marketing material and was continuing to distribute transportation newsletters and other public transportation information, such as the Central Texas Transportation Resources document, which contains public/private transportation entities, tools, and funding sources and was sent out to transportation stakeholders across the region for collaboration. Darrell Burtner provided an update on HOP activities that would expand service to special populations through 2022-26 RCTP strategies, including the securing of county contributions from six of nine counties served, with two rejecting contributions and one working to be able to allocate funds. For the counties that were unable to contribute funds, the HOP may continue providing service up to the amount the State funds the counties. Mr. Burtner also discussed an RFP for 50-90 new microtransit vehicles and a new software program for trip planning being sent to TxDOT for approval. Mr. Burtner provided a brief reiteration of how the microtransit program will work. The app will also collect data to create heatmaps on where ridership is highest, which will serve to eventually reestablish fixed routes. Mr. Burtner also noted that HCTD's application for \$29.9 million for FY 2023 Bus and Bus Facilities and Low/No Emission grant to replace several buses with hybrid vehicles was not approved. Mr. Burtner also brought up the potential for Transit Management Associations to fund transportation services in the industrial area of Temple possibly being implemented after microtransit zones. Additionally, microtransit fares are expected to be around \$2, higher than the current fares of around \$1. Lastly, Mr. Burtner mentioned interest from Fort Cavazos in expanding microtransit service on the fort.

Mr. Elizondo asked if there was potential for the HOP to sublet any of the microtransit vehicles from the RFP to other entities such as Driving Hope of Texas. Mr. Burtner said that Driving Hope of Texas or Integrity Care can bid and act as subcontractors or Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) and follow federal and state guidelines for vehicles and drivers as far as inspections and trainings. Mr. Elizondo asked about ADA accessibility for the leased microtransit vehicles, and Mr. Burtner responded

that 25-30% of them will be ADA accessible, with the trip planning software automatically routing ADA vehicles to passengers who need it. George Losoya asked if most of Driving Hope's customers came from out of Bell County or within it, and Staci Kinnear responded that they bring a lot of people from Copperas Cove to Harker Heights for dialysis three days a week. Mr. Losoya asked if the subcontractors and TNCs would have their cost of service subsidized, and Mr. Burtner detailed how Driving Hope and other TNCs would cover gap hours where the HOP is not operating, and that fares would still be \$2 but the remaining cost of providing the ride can be invoiced to HCTD and reimbursed at the end of the month. Mr. Losoya noted that the eclipse will occur in April 2024, the same month HCTD plans to implement the microtransit zones, and Mr. Burtner stated that HCTD may change the implementation date. Ms. Kinnear asked if subcontractors would be trained on the app, and Mr. Burtner said they would.

**6. Discussion Item:** Regarding Quarterly Report, Urban and Rural Committees, and Service Study Update from the Hill Country Transit District

Darrell Burtner provided the quarterly report for Q3 of 2023, including fixed route ridership for Killeen and Temple, which was 8.4, lower than the target of 10 passengers per service hour. Paratransit ridership met the goal of 2 passengers per service hour in both Killeen and Temple. The percentage of trips missed was significantly lower than 2%, thus meeting HCTD's goals of keeping them under 2%. Customer complaints and traffic accidents also met their target rates. However, they missed their goal of having less than 10 road calls per 100,000 miles due to HCTD's aging fleet, air conditioning issues, and supply chain issues. Customer complaints, safety performance, road calls, travel training, and advertising all met their metric goals.

**7. Discussion Item:** Regarding TxDOT's Public Transportation Division (PTN) Director's Report to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee on Public Transportation Matters

Dominic Elizondo discussed the PTN Director's report to the State PTAC on July 18<sup>th</sup>, which discussed the development of the State's first multimodal transit plan addressing connectivity issues with multimodal solutions and a framework for funding.

**8. Discussion Item:** Regarding Federal Updates

Dominic Elizondo gave an update on various transit related programs, including the FY 2023 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG) with the MEGA, INFRA, and Rural funding for regional or national transportation projects that provide safety or economic benefits. Mr. Elizondo also covered the TCEQ Texas Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Program (TxVEMP) All Electric Program for funding replacement of diesel fueled vehicles and infrastructure with electric powered vehicles and infrastructure, the Texas State Infrastructure Bank for financing capital projects for transportation infrastructure, the FHWA PROTECT Program, which funds planning and engineering for resiliency projects for transportation infrastructure, as well as the USDOT Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods program for removing and renovating transportation infrastructure that inhibits connectivity.

**9. Discussion Item:** Regarding Discussion of Any New Unmet Transportation Needs, Gaps and Inefficiencies for Special Populations and Strategies for Implementing the FY22-26 RCTP

Dominic Elizondo asked that members email new updates from the region as far as transportation needs, gaps, or inefficiencies to his email address.

Staci Kinnear asked if there will be age requirements to utilize the microtransit service, and Darrell Burtner responded that it will be for all users, but students, seniors, and veterans may pay half price. George Losoya noted that it may be possible for entities such as Driving Hope to expand contracts with health care systems to offer rides for those who could not be served by local hospitals to out of region systems if the HOP is covering current non-emergency medical rides through microtransit.

**10. Other Business:** George Losoya stated that Bell County Expo had expressed interest in having the HOP have an informational booth and Darrell Burtner said they could probably do that. Dominic Elizondo asked if Driving Hope had elected an executive director, and Staci Kinnear said that she was the new executive director. Mr. Burtner stated it might be useful to show the microtransit zones and vehicles next meeting while Mr. Losoya emphasized the need to discuss what is needed to prepare future subcontractors for federal and state training and vehicle requirements before microtransit zones are implemented. Next meeting date Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 10:48 AM

**11. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM**

  
Terry Mustapher, CRTAG Chair

  
Uryan Nelson, CTCOG Planning Director