



CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY GROUP (CTRTAG)

Thursday, November 18, 2021

9:30 a.m.

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

Voting Members Present

Michael Boyd, City of Killeen-CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
Kendra Coufal, KTMPO-METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION REP.
Thomas Wilson-AREA AGENCY ON AGING REP.
Walter Murphy, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY CENTRAL TX – EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES REP.
Jesse Hennage, CTCOG HOMELAND SECURITY-EMERGENCY ASSIST./MGMT AG.
Holly Doggett, CEDAR CREST HOSPITAL- MEDICAL FACILITIES
Terry Mustapher, BRINGING EVERYONE IN ZONE- MILITARY AND VETERANS ORG.
Darrell Burtner, HCTD-TRANSIT DISTRICT
Alicia Dunn, UNITED WAY CENTRAL TX- CHILD ADVOCACY GROUP
Ben Lopez-WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS OF CENTRAL TEXAS

Non-Voting Members Present

Uryan Nelson -CTCOG
Hope Geiger-CTCOG
Dominic Elizondo-CTCOG
Debbie Tahiri- TxDOT
Dan Malsom- KIMLEY-HORN

Terry Mustapher opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** Terry Mustapher called the meeting to order, and quorum was met.
- 2. Public Comments:** No comments were made by the public.
- 3. Staff Update:** Dominic Elizondo announced the grant was fiscally on track along with its deliverables being met. The latest monthly progress report to TxDOT was submitted for November.
- 4. Action Item:** Approve minutes from the Aug.26, 2021 CTRTAG meeting

Darrell Burtner made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Alicia Dunn; the motion passed unanimously.

5. Action Item: Regarding Initiation of a Public Comment Period for FY22-26 RCTP.

Dominic Elizondo discussed the proposed timeline for public involvement in the draft 2022-2026 RCTP- the public input period would begin Nov.20, 2021, and end Dec.4, 2021, with a Public Hearing on Nov.23, 2021, both virtually and at CTCOG offices. Dan Malsom provided an overview of the draft update and updates since the August CTRTAG meeting, including changes to the RCTP Vision and Mission statements. To coincide with the end of the Public Comment Period, he changed the final date for Board comments on the draft to Dec.4th, 2021. Kimley-Horn is planning to have the draft finalized by mid-December, 2021. Darrell Burtner mentioned that HCTD recently received comments from the FTA in their most recent triannual audit regarding the 2017-2021 RCTP that he will need to go over and include as a comment on the draft 2022-2026 RCTP. Darrell Burtner made a motion to approve the initiation of Public Comment, seconded by Alicia Dunn; the motion passed unanimously.

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

Darrell Burtner presented and provided the committee with supplemental information regarding the Hill Country Transit District's (HCTD) quarterly report for July-Sep., 2021 with updates for October, including data on HCTD's fixed route ridership. Average passengers per service hour for the routes in Killeen and Temple were still around 38% lower than previous years, below the goal of 10 due to the pandemic, but higher than in other transit agencies, which saw an average 70% dropoff in ridership. Total missed trips and complaints per 100 passengers met their target ranges. The Urban and Rural Committees are working on making a decision on a new interim general manager selected from proposals made by management companies. These committees will also make a recommendation to the HCTD Board on using a smartphone app named GoPass.

7. Discussion and Action Item: Regarding TxDOT's Public Transportation Division (PTN) Director's report to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee on public transportation matters

Dominic Elizondo presented on the two TxDOT PTN Director's reports to PTAC since the previous CTRTAG meeting. He discussed PTN's focus on the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which includes a 30% across the board increase for transit programs. PTN intended to hold a conference call this week with transit providers supported by TxDOT discussing the bill. The FTA published a NOFO for \$2.2 billion of additional funding relief through ARPA for operating costs including sanitation for transit systems, which closed Nov.8, 2021. The FTA also had another NOFO for the 5339(b) Bus and Bus Facilities grant to assist in the financing of bus and bus related facilities, including replacing, rehabilitating, or purchasing buses and bus related facilities, which PTN applied for using their application for the USDOT RAISE program.

8. Discussion Item: Regarding Federal Updates

Dominic Elizondo discussed recent federal updates for transportation funding. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed by President Biden on Nov.15, 2021, providing \$110 billion for roads, \$11 billion for safety, \$39 billion for public transit, and \$66 billion for freight and passenger rail. \$15.6 billion will go towards the Highway Safety Improvement Program, and \$1.2 billion for improving rail crossings. \$5 billion will go to a new grant program called Safe Streets and Roads for All to help local Vision Zero initiatives, and \$25 million for grants to improve pedestrian safety. On Nov.16, 2021, the FTA opened

another NOFO for \$2 million in grant funding for projects that improve experience and mobility for transit users. The Enhancing Mobility Innovation Program supports innovations that encourage people to use public transportation, including integrated fare payment systems and user friendly software for on-demand public transportation.

9. Discussion Item: Regarding Discussion of Any New Unmet Transportation Needs, Gaps and Inefficiencies for Special Populations and Strategies for Implementing the FY17-21 RCTP.

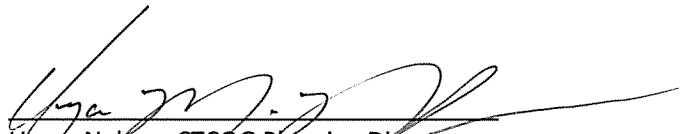
Dominic Elizondo asked that members email new updates from the region as far as transportation needs, gaps, or inefficiencies to his email address.

10. Discussion Item: Regarding Board updates.

11. Other Business; Next meeting date Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 9:30am

12. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:14 AM


Terry Mustapher, CRTAG Vice-Chair


Bryan Nelson, CTCOG Planning Director

