

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: Tuesday, September 15, 2015 10:00 AM

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

In Attendance

Committee:	<u>Assumption ARC</u> Sherry Douglas	<u>SED #1</u> Mona Danos Rose Grabert
	<u>Assumption COA</u> Rosa Lee Melancon Angelle Authement	<u>St. James Parish</u> Melvin Moses Cassandra Bailey
	<u>LADOTD</u> Jamie Ainsworth Stephanie Barthelemy	<u>St. Mary COA</u> Jeffery Beverly
	<u>Lafourche ARC</u> Lester Adams Kyle Soignet Peggy Krieg	<u>Terrebonne ARC</u> Mikki Lodrigue
	<u>Lafourche COA</u> Linda Pertuit	<u>Terrebonne COA</u> Kayla Dardar
Other Attendees:	<u>Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government Transit</u> Gayle Vaughn Wendell Voisin	
	John Schweitzer, LWC/LRS	
	Charlotte Randolph, Lafourche Parish Government	
	Jeremy Leuenberger, Lafourche Parish Government	
Staff:	Angela Matherne, Lafourche Parish Government	
	Chris Pulaski, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government	
	Kevin Belanger, SCPDC	
	Scott Leger, SCPDC	
	Cassie Parker, SCPDC	
	Joshua Manning, SCPDC	
	Adam Tatar, SCPDC	
Leo Marretta, SCPDC		
Emma Bergeron, SCPDC		

A. Tatar welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda Item # 1

Introductions

Introductions took place.

Agenda Item # 2

Approval of the September 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

A. Tatar requested that the committee review the meeting minutes from September 15, 2015.

S. Douglas motioned to approve the September 15, 2015 meeting minutes, L. Pertuit seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item # 3

Public Hearing on Good Earth Program of Projects

A. Tatar explained that to officially include the Good Earth Program of Projects into the TIP a Public Hearing must be held.

W. Voisin motioned to open the Public Hearing on Good Earth Program of Projects, G. Vaughn seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no public comments, ***W. Voisin motioned to close the Public Hearing on Good Earth Program of Projects, G. Vaughn seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.***

Agenda Item # 4

Welcome St. Mary Parish

- *St. Mary Parish Public Transportation*
- *St. Mary Community Action Agency*

A. Tatar welcomed St. Mary Parish to the Transit Meetings. They will be joining the meetings since they were legislatively moved into SCPDC's planning region. A. Tatar introduced Mr. J. Beverly to the Committee. Mr. Beverly serves as the Housing Director for the St. Mary Parish CAA. They have been providing transportation services since 1969 and have a 10 van fleet.

Due to time constraints of Lafourche Parish President Randolph schedule, A. Tatar requested to switch the order of the agenda and discuss agenda item 6, Lafourche Transit Update while Ms. Randolph was present before discussing agenda item 5, Agency Reports. It was unanimously agreed upon do so.

Agenda Item # 6

Lafourche Transit Update

A. Tatar explained how currently there wasn't any 5311 rural provider in Lafourche Parish and that SCPDC was working with the Parish for a transit service. A great deal of interest and need has been discovered; however, a service provider has yet to be found. SCPDC is considering forming a small demand response transit agency to serve some of the needs of the citizens of Lafourche Parish. K. Belanger thanked Lafourche Parish for partnering with SCPDC to explore the opportunity to provide the Parish with a transit service. He stated how optimistic he was for SCPDC to be able to provide a non-profit entity to provide this service to Lafourche Parish and possibly seek others to partner with in the future.

L. Marretta relayed the different variables and the difficulty of coordination which this project faces – backgrounds, clientele serve, and situations; such as, workforce development, ARCs, COA, medical transportation, special school board districts, etc. He emphasized how they were trying to build something very small to first serve and take care of the

immediate needs of Lafourche Parish with the option to be able to expand it into something that can serve the whole region.

J. Leuenberger informed the Committee that Lafourche Parish was currently conducting a housing transportation study to look at local connections as well as regional connections. Ms. C. Randolph stated how very exciting the partnership between Lafourche Parish and SCPDC for this project was. This project is a tremendous opportunity to design a transportation system that would work very well not just for Lafourche Parish but eventually for the Region as a whole. Good Earth's success led Lafourche Parish to understand there was more people in need of public transportation than realized.

J. Ainsworth stated how she was looking forward to the 5311 program fulfilling the demand and response in the rural transit portion of the project that would be partnered with the urban side of the transit system. J. Schweitzer spoke upon the 5316 program. He explained this program was a JARC funded program to help improve access to transportation services to employment-related activities for low income individuals and to transport residents of urbanized areas and nonurbanized areas to suburban employment opportunities. The application process requires projects in urbanized areas to be included in the MTP and approved by the MPO, the TIP, the STIP and jointly approved by the FHA and FTA. Eligible projects may include capital, planning, and operating assistance.

Agenda Item #7

CHSTP Update

A. Tatar informed the Committee that it has been requested by the State to update the CHSTP. He and S. Leger will begin doing so by reaching out to everyone to gather input and data about services offered in the Region. They hope to have the CHSTP updated by the end of the year.

Agenda Item #5

Agency Reports

Good Earth – The Good Earth Transit System has recently been undergoing a great deal changes and dealing with resource issues as well. They hope by mid-year 2016 things will be back in accordance. There has been some service reductions due to a few Human Resource problems. Service levels has been difficult to maintain.

Lafourche Arc – has approximately 20 vehicles in their fleet. They provide services to 178 individuals at 3 different program locations and run morning and afternoon routes. Currently, they are anticipating new vehicles and are favoring vans instead of the 12 passenger busses which they have now.

Lafourche COA – Their fleet consists of 11 busses, 2 of which are inoperable due to broken lifts that are not repairable. These 2 busses are being used as backups when they have riders who do not need the aid of the lift. They have riders who wished to be taken to New Orleans; however, it is just not feasible to do so. Reported that, Pre-Katrina, they used to make trips to New Orleans. They have since ceased as the VA hospital has closed.

St. James – They have a fleet of 18 and begin services at 5am to 5pm. They provide services to college students, medical patients, shopping seniors, etc. They were having difficulties maintaining drivers.

SED #1 – Currently working on the Compliance Review. Still awaiting the arrival of new busses.

Discussion began on STARS training. Many were having difficulties with entering 5310 into STARS and had a great deal of questions. An additional training was requested. It was decided to hold a training at SCPDC on Wednesday, September 23rd at 10am. It was requested for everyone to bring their own computer equipment ie: laptop, iPad.

St. Mary Parish – Happy to be a part of this organization and would like to explore their unmet need of extending services of bringing St. Mary residents to Chabert Medical Center in Houma. They only do 5311 services.

Assumption COA – They do travel into Houma and beyond with clients who have medical appointments. Received one bus and 2 minivans.

Terrebone ARC – All has been well.

Assumption ARC – have received their two new busses which came equipped with cameras. They begin their routes at 6:30am and do travel beyond their parish boundaries.

Terrebonne COA – having issues keeping driving. Clientele and schedules change daily. They were in the process of implementing new GPS programs.

The DOTD Conference has been scheduled for November 17th, 18th, and 19th in Baton Rouge at the Crowne Plaza. It is not mandatory to attend. The National Transit Database has made some changes. In November additional information may be needed from the entities present for the NTD.

Agenda Item #8

South Louisiana Transit Website

A. Tatar stated he had been working on a South Louisiana Transit website. This web resource is to inform residents about the transportation services available in South Louisiana and how to access them. The web address is www.southlouisianatransit.org

Agenda Item # 9

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services Info

J. Schweitzer reviewed the general guidelines and the purchasing guidelines for transportation for the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. Transportation is a supportive vocational rehabilitation service that is provided to eligible consumers to enable their participation in other substantial/primary vocation rehabilitation services. To determine the availability of public transportation in consumers' community, the Rehabilitation Counselor Associate may conduct a search using the following website: <http://wwwapps.dotd.la.gov/multimoda/publictransportation/transitresources>
If anyone has any concerns or questions they may contact Mr. Schweitzer at the LWC office of Workforce Development 225/219-2406.

Agenda Item # 10

Miscellaneous Items

- *Vulnerable Road Users*
- *Etc.*

A. Tatar explained how he and C. Parker are working on a Vulnerable Road Users Safety Plan focusing on pedestrians and cyclists. Anyone interested in providing input it would be greatly appreciated.

Agenda Item # 8

Next Meeting – December 15, 2015

It was unanimously motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.