



# Public Transportation Advisory Committee

April 18, 2024

Meeting will start at 2:05 pm



# PTAC Meeting Agenda – April 18, 2024



1. Call to order.
2. Guidance on virtual meeting participation.
3. Approval of minutes from January 25, 2024, meeting. (Action)
4. Approval of minutes from March 26, 2024, meeting. (Action)
5. TxDOT Public Transportation Division Director's report to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee regarding public transportation matters.
6. Legislative Appropriations Requests for FY 26/27. (Action)
7. Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan update. (Discussion).
8. Public Comment
9. Propose and discuss agenda items for next meeting; confirm date of next meeting. (Action)
10. Adjourn. (Action)



Please mute yourself upon joining the meeting.

It is important to enter your name when joining the meeting – if you didn't do that, please exit the meeting and rejoin.

To comment on an agenda item, use the meeting's chat feature to let Theo know – he will let you know when to unmute your line.

Please don't place this meeting on HOLD – we'll all hear your hold tone.



# **Approval of minutes from January 25, 2024, meeting.**

# PTAC Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2024.



## MINUTES FOR ADOPTION

Public Transportation Advisory Committee – Webex Meeting  
January 25, 2024 - 10:00 A.M.

### **Committee Members Participating in person:**

James Oliver  
Jim Cline, Vice Chair  
Ken Fickes  
J.R. Salazar

### **Committee Members Participating via WebEx:**

John McBeth, Chair  
Dietrich M. Von Biedenfeld

### **Participating in person:**

Eric Gleason, Director, Public Transportation Division, PTN  
Bonnie Sherman, Section Director, Statewide Planning and Program Development, PTN  
Theodore Kosub, Strategic Programs Development Manager, PTN  
Michael Dietz, Planning and Reporting Manager, PTN  
Robbi Smith, Public Involvement Specialist, PTN  
Tim Sorenson, CDM Smith  
Melissa Hurst, Rifeline

### **Participating via WebEx:**

Jeff Whitacre, Kimley-Horn  
H. David Jones  
Perri D'Armond  
Roger Haynes

### **AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to order.**

John McBeth called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

### **AGENDA ITEM 2: Guidance on virtual meeting participation**

Mike Dietz briefed on meeting protocols that included to keep connections muted when not speaking and to use the chat feature to comment on agenda items. Mike explained the chat feature is being monitored and to raise hands in the chat to comment or ask questions. Eric asked that the meeting not be placed on hold to avoid disturbing tones. There was an in-person briefing on safety protocols should there be an emergency which included medical situations, the office address, CPR certified attendees present and where to find a defibrillator and first aid kit. The evacuation process was explained and where to locate should there be an active shooter, fire, or inclement weather event at 10:10 AM.

# PTAC Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2024.



## **AGENDA ITEM 3: Approval of minutes from July 18, 2023 (Action)**

**MOTION:** Jim Cline  
**SECOND:** J. R. Salazar

## **AGENDA ITEM 4: Approval of minutes from October 3, 2023 (Action)**

**MOTION:** James Oliver  
**SECOND:** Ken Fickes

## **AGENDA ITEM 5: TxDOT Public Transportation Division Director's report to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee regarding public transportation matters**

John McBeth introduces this item at 10:15 AM

Eric begins his report stating there are four items for the committee.

Two sets of proposed rules for public comment:

- State Allocation Formula (Item 6 discussion).
- State Oversight Program (TxDOT overseeing six rail operations).

Semiannual meeting with Transit Operators.

Rules scheduled for final rule adoption at the March/April meeting.

All future committee meetings will be via Zoom.

Eric opens the floor for Committee comments:

Ken Fickes asks about using Zoom and the purpose.

Eric responds: to expand for ADA accessibility to include participation from the community with disabilities in a hybrid meeting environment.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6: Recommendation on proposed rule changes for State Funding allocation (Action)**

John McBeth announces this item at 10:30 AM

Eric provided the Committee with a recap of what led to the need to update the rules. He clarified that we are only changing “the numbers that are in the box”; “not changing how funding is allocated to transit districts within each of those areas”. Some minor changes include:

Flexibility for the Commission to waive or approve an alternate calculation for allocations to an urban or rural transit district, such as in the case of a hurricane or other emergency.

Removing obsolete one-time allocation language.

Update use of funds in the state program Texas Administrative Code (TAC) language to be consistent with federal program language of the TAC.

Tightening up the consistency between the state funding approach to allocations with what is on the federal rural program side.

Expects to use these rules with the June 2024 state funding allocation decision.

# PTAC Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2024.



Eric provides the committee with an opportunity to weigh in on proposed rules as written w/recommendation to commission (to approve or not); share comments to have included during the public comment period; to make that decision today if they wish; if not, looking to schedule a special meeting prior to April commission meeting, to have committee take action on these rules.

John McBeth thanks Eric and opens the floor for questions.  
Jim Cline asked a clarifying question, which Eric answered.

J.R. Salazar asked whether the public comment period has been opened

-Eric responded that it has.

James Oliver indicated that he has concerns that the Small Urban “pot” would take a \$5 million hit, and said he also had concerns over the methodology. He indicated that he wants to “see the numbers” again and does not feel that they have been sufficiently explained.

-Eric responded that the reduction in the Small Urban “pot” is due to three urbanized areas, Amarillo, Bryan-College Station, and McKinney-Frisco, that have now “graduated” into becoming Large Urbanized Areas. He further clarified that he has not understood the direction of the PTAC to be reevaluating the approach used when other agencies have been reclassified.

John McBeth commented that we have always issued state funds to Large Urbans, including those that were Small Urbans beforehand and have now “graduated”. He went on to explain that he believes we would need to reconsider the rules for the Large Urbans entirely in order to change that now. He also indicated that he thought it was appropriate to maintain consistency with how it’s been done in the past and that it was only reasonable to abide by that precedent.

Jim Cline asked if we knew what the impacts to individual districts were the last time this happened.

-Eric responded that we don’t know impacts to the individual districts from last time, but that we do know the level of impact to the overall funding “pot”. He also mentioned that we have shown these impacts to the PTAC before, but do not have them readily available today.

-Eric then explained how the per capita funding levels work and indicated that the Large Urban category is the one seeing by far the most amount of growth, which is why you see the funding reflecting that growth – it’s tied to population.

John McBeth commented that he felt there was a simple solution – additional funding. He mentioned that we had tried that in the previous legislative session and were only partially successfully. However, he indicated that he thought the only solution is to try again and lobby for additional funding during the next legislative session.

Ken Fickes asked if this decision requires public comment, and if so, why they aren’t waiting until the public comment is finished.

-Eric responded public comment is required, and that one option before the PTAC is to postpone this item for now and consider it at a special meeting after public comment has been finalized.

James Oliver made a motion to table the discussion until after public comment; Ken Fickes seconded.

-They took a vote, but only two ayes responded (James Oliver and Ken Fickes). Eric indicated that they may need to poll the Committee individually because of the online contingent.

Jim Cline asked if they could see the individual impacts for later at the special meeting if they do postpone the meeting

-Eric responded yes.

Jim indicated that he thought it was important for the Committee to be unanimous on this

-John McBeth agreed.

John asked the Committee again if they would like to postpone the item

# PTAC Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2024.



The Committee passed James' earlier motion, 5-0 (Dietrich was nonresponsive), to delay the item until after public comment.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7: Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan Update (Discussion)**

John McBeth announces this item at 10:50 AM

Eric introduces the consultant team from CDM Smith assisted by Rifeline (CDM's Tim Sorenson, project manager and Rifeline's Melissa Hurst). This team provides a short presentation that included a timeline of the project and what will be happening over the next few months.

Tim Sorenson: Goal for the outreach and engagement is to build consensus and tell the story of transit in Texas; will be asking the Committee for their feedback about who they should talk to when they consider the emphasis areas for this plan.

Melissa Hurst: Describes the outreach effort; reviewed major themes from the survey and its findings.

At the completion of the presentation, Tim Sorenson informs that "we're going to ask the committee what they think about the emphasis areas and who we might ask to serve on the working groups". Each emphasis area was provided with the opportunity for the committee to comment. Those areas are:

- Growth and Urbanization
- Transit Financing
- Transit Markets
- Service Development
- Technology Advancement
- Making the Case for Transit

Tim Sorenson thanked the committee for their time and said his team would get back to them soon.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: Statewide Active Transportation Plan (Discussion)**

John McBeth announces this item at 11:14 AM

Eric announces to the committee, the Statewide Active Transportation Plan (bicycle, pedestrian & micro-mobility issues, and opportunities for the future) and introduces PTN's new section director, Bonnie Sherman and explains that Bonnie will be overseeing the SATP as well as the SMTP.

Eric then announces Tim Sorenson's counterpart Jeff Whitacre from Kimley-Horn as the consultant project manager for the SATP. Eric provides Jeff the opportunity to provide a brief description of the plan and efforts.

Jeff provides the vision statement for the SATP the covers their outreach efforts: 10 meetings across the state; emailing stakeholders; meeting with MTAs, stakeholders, MPOs, and others; 861 surveys; interactive map with 1,904 comments received; virtual open house with 4,239 unique visitors and 134 interactions during community site visits.

Jeff then shared pictures of their public meetings, stakeholder meetings, and community site visits followed by key takeaways from the outreach efforts: El Paso – interest on health; San Angelo – examples of specific rural investments; Amarillo – community need; San Antonio – connectivity and accessibility; Tyler – safety; Houston – funding; Brownsville – funding; Austin – safety and transit connections; Waco – sidewalk connections to campus; barriers (I-35 and Brazos River); Dallas – intersection design, maintenance, access to DART.

Priorities across the state were recognized: Safety and Comfort; Connectivity; Accessibility; Community Need; Design by Context; Funding.

Jeff provides seven working groups that were developed: Safe Design; Multimodal Integration; Rural and Suburban Design Considerations; Micro-mobility; Community Need, Demand, and Health; Retrofitting Multi-Lane Urban Arterials to Accommodate All Modes; Performance Measures.



# PTAC Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2024.



## **AGENDA ITEM 9: Intercity Bus Program Update (Discussion)**

John McBeth announces this item at 11:25 AM

Eric provides a presentation on the Intercity Bus Program and reminded about the committee's discussion 2 years ago and what came out of that discussion (a list of priority connections). Now two years in, Eric suggests that maybe it's time to take another look how to approach the program.

Eric provides a summary on the purpose of the program and funding with the following points:

The current perspective is that the vast majority of the funds should be used to prioritize connections, although Eric recognized that some funds must be used for capital to support those connections (roughly 80/20 split)

Eric mentioned that we distribute the funding via our coordinated call process.

Eric then provided a map of subsidized and unsubsidized priority connections.

Eric states that during the last coordinated call, PTN funded every connection where an application was received.

Eric then shared charts showing key data points and providing an explanation of data: cost per passenger; cost per mile; average daily passenger count. Eric proposed questions needing to be asked about this data:

Is this what we want from the program?

Is the range and average acceptable?

Is there a different way to approach the investment for yielding better performance?

How are we going to use this data?

Eric states that in six months, there should be a more complete set of data that will provide recommendations for the committee.

## **AGENDA ITEM 10: Public Comment**

John McBeth announces this item at 11:38 PM

Tom Logan asked if TxDOT will be applying for a RAISE grant to support rural transit; Eric responded yes, but he's not sure what yet.

## **AGENDA ITEM 11: Propose and discuss agenda items for next meeting; confirm date of next meeting (Action)**

John McBeth announces this item at 11:45 AM

John McBeth mentions the special meeting needed to consider funding formula. Eric confirms that a special meeting will be scheduled.

## **AGENDA ITEM 12: Adjourn. (Action)**

**MOTION:** Jim Cline  
**SECOND:** J. R. Salazar

Meeting adjourned at 11:49 AM

Prepared by:

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bonita Jennings  
Public Transportation Division

John McBeth, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Public Transportation Advisory Committee



# **Approval of minutes from March 26, 2024, meeting.**

# PTAC Meeting Minutes from January 25, 2024.



## MINUTES FOR ADOPTION

Public Transportation Advisory Committee – Teams Meeting  
March 26, 2024 - 10:00 A.M.

### Committee Members Participating via Teams:

John McBeth, Chair  
Jim Cline, Vice-Chair  
Ken Fickes  
James Oliver  
JR Salazar

### Participating in person:

Eric Gleason, Director, Public Transportation Division, PTN  
Bonnie Sherman, Section Director, Statewide Planning and Program Development, PTN  
Theodore Kosub, Strategic Programs Development Manager, PTN  
Robbi Smith, Public Involvement Specialist, PTN  
Elisa Greenburg, State and Federal Relations Rep, GOV

### AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to order.

Jim Cline calls the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

### AGENDA ITEM 2: Recommendation on Proposed Rule Changes for State Funding Allocations (Action)

**Motion:** Ken Fickes  
Recommends adoption of rule changes to Chapter 31, State Programs, as proposed and forward to Texas Transportation Commission.  
**Second:** James Oliver

Members vote unanimously in favor of the motion. 10:07 A.M.

### AGENDA ITEM 3: Adjourn (Action)

**Motion:** JR Salazar  
**Second:** Jim Cline

Members vote unanimously in favor of the motion. 10:07 A.M.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 A.M.

Prepared by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Theodore Kosub  
Public Transportation Division

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
John McBeth, Chair  
Public Transportation Advisory Committee



# Division Director's Report



- FY 24 Coordinated Call Update

2024 Coordinated Call for Projects Application Status*					
Program:	PLN	RTAP	RD	ICB	TOTAL
Applications Received:	8*	5	21*	7	41
Funding Requested:	\$2,291,000	\$1,636,600	\$30,077,600	\$46,484,145	\$80,489,345

\* Does not include late applications

- FY 24 Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Application – \$33,590,000
  - Replacement of 154 Fleet Vehicles
  - 4 Facility Construction Projects



- Service Expansion Program
  - 21 participating rural transit districts.
  - State funding of \$11,038,386.
  - Participating agencies will contribute a minimum of 40% other funds.
  - Applications currently under review with an independent consultant assisting with refinement of proposals and development of performance measures.
  - Start dates in June (9/21) or September 2024.



# Legislative Appropriations Requests for FY 26/27



- LAR #1 – Additional \$3,770,000: Mitigate Census 2020 Impacts.
- LAR #2 – Additional \$15,000,000: Rural Transit Capital Program.
- LAR #3 – Additional \$45,000,000: Optimize Weekday Transit Service Levels





- LAR #1 – Additional \$3,770,000: Mitigate Census 2020 Impacts
  - A need of \$7,540,000 was identified to mitigate area designation changes associated with the 2020 Census.
  - During the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislative Regular Session, half of the request was funded as a supplemental biennium appropriation in an amount of \$3,770,00. This request would provide the additional funding necessary to maintain per capita funding across sub area types.



- LAR #2 – Additional \$15,000,00: Rural Transit Capital Program
  - Rural Program State of Good Repair
    - Replacement Fleet
    - Facilities
    - Equipment
  - Replaces former funding mechanism that allowed Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds to be flexed over to Section 5311 for use in rural fleet and capital facilities projects.



- LAR #3 – Additional \$45,000,000: Optimize Weekday Transit Service Levels
  - Item would cover weekday service and span gaps throughout the state for rural and urban transit systems.
  - Assumes a 14-hr transit service window during weekdays.
  - Includes an amount of \$4 million dollars for annual fleet replacement.



# Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan (SMTP) Update



## SMTP Emphasis Areas

Growth and Urbanization

Transit Financing

Transit Markets

Service Development

Technology Advancement

Making the Case for Transit

## Alignment with SLRTP Goals

**Safety & Security** ●●●  
A transit network that is safe and secure, strives towards zero fatalities, and fosters a culture of transportation safety and security in Texas.

**Connectivity** ●●●●●  
Provide local and interregional connectivity for everyone that is affordable, accessible, reliable, and easy to use.

**Asset Preservation** ●  
Maintain and preserve a resilient and high-quality transit system that is financially stable and operates in a state of good repair to meet community need.

**Mobility** ●●●●●  
Access for all Texans to a modally integrated transit system to meet community needs by connecting all users to work, school, essential services, and recreation activities.

**Stewardship** ●●●●●  
Embrace a fiscally responsible multimodal approach to preserve natural, cultural and human resources by reducing impacts for a sustainable and resilient transit network.

**Economic Vitality** ●●●  
Ensure the long-term economic competitiveness of Texas through community and workforce development by supporting a holistic and accessible transit system.



## Meeting #1

### KEY FINDINGS

- Desire to make asset purchases more affordable
- Potential for public/private sector collaboration
- Leverage emergency response coordination
- Communicate value of transit
- Utilize technology
- Align transit needs with employment and highway needs



## Meeting #2 (Mid-late April)

**FOCUS:**  
Present findings of analysis and discuss potential strategies



## Meeting #3 (Summer)

**FOCUS:**  
Close the feedback loop and provide information about what is coming next for the SMTP





## Internal Work Sessions

- Developing strategies based on research and feedback received to date

## Steering Committee Outreach

- Gather input on goals and objectives framework
- April 26 Meeting to review Emphasis Area Working Group Feedback/Next Steps

## MPO Outreach

- Meetings being scheduled with all MPOs in April/May
- Focused discussions on multimodal integration and collaboration with transit agencies/TxDOT



## Social Media Campaign

APRIL 22 – May 3

- TxDOT Newsroom article
- Up to 3 social media posts per week on TxDOT channels about SMTP & transit in Texas
- Updated SMTP Website with new video content and comment form to capture feedback
- Community Social Media Sharing Kits distributed to advocacy groups and organizations to amplify outreach efforts

## TN Magazine & TN Network MAY (TxDOT Internal)

- TN Magazine article on SMTP in May/June issue
- TN Network stories, including highlights from interview with Caroline Mays



## Stakeholder Meetings

MAY/JUNE

- Engage with key stakeholders from the business community and statewide organizations

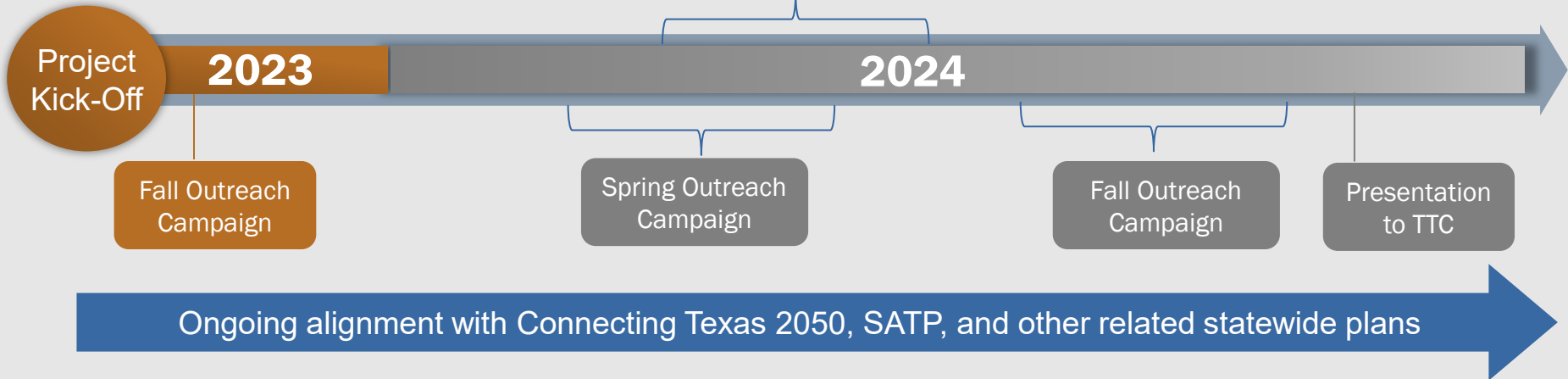


# Texas Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan: Development Timeline



Stakeholder and Public Engagement

Ongoing collaboration with Steering Committee, working groups, transit agencies, other stakeholders, and the public





# Public comment



**Propose and discuss agenda items  
for next meeting; confirm date.**



**Adjourn**