

Ark-Tex Council of Governments

Regional Coordinated Public Transportation Plan

TxDOT Interlocal Agreement #51-06XXF7005

Dates: January, 2006-July, 2006

INTERIM STATUS REPORT #1

Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) transportation staff along with Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) staff combined efforts and previous transportation support and interest group list to compile a comprehensive list of transportation providers, interest groups, concerned citizens and city and county officials to invite them to take part in the first meeting of the Regional Coordination Steering Committee (RCSC). ATCOG sent out 325 invitations to attend the meeting and public interest articles were published in three regional newspapers. The first RCSC meeting was held January 19, 2006, in the Titus County Civic Center and twenty-seven people attended. The committee is diverse and is made up of area Transportation Providers, Medical professionals, MPO staff, City and County elected officials, TxDOT staff, concerned citizens, health and human service providers, and ATCOG staff (see attached list).

ATCOG Transportation staff, as the lead agency, held the meeting and explained the purpose of a Regional Coordinated Public Transportation Plan, the time frame that will be followed. The committee, through consensus polling and brain-storming devised six task that needed to be addressed in the ATCOG Regional Plan. Resolutions were passed that granted ATCOG staff to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a Consultant to work with the public and the RCSC in developing and writing a plan that will be comprehensive to the ATCOG Region.

The RFP was developed in February, 2006 and issued in March, 2006. The RFP was advertised in the *Texas Register*, on the TTI Planning Web-site, and advertised in *The Texarkana Gazette*, *The Mount Pleasant Tribune*, and the *Paris News*. Only one proposal was received by the April 17, 2006, deadline, and due to the time constraints the one proposal was evaluated and selected by the evaluation team. The KFH Group was offered the best and final offer and a Contract for Consultant Services was issued by ATCOG on May 5, 2006. Initiation of services of the Consultant Contract will begin by May 15, 2006 and the final RCSC approved plan is due to ATCOG by November 15, 2006. The kick-off meeting for the Regional Coordination Plan will be held July 26, 2006 at the TxDOT Atlanta District Office. The public and the steering committee will be in attendance.

At the close of each month each task will be presented to the RCSC.
The draft outline and timeframe for the planning process is as follows:

First Month: July, 2006

I. Initial Regional Meetings

- A. Goal Setting
- B. Issues Identification and Historical Perspective
- C. Review of current and previous Studies and Data
- D. Define Stakeholder involvement and Outreach

Second Month: August, 2006

II. Determine Needs

- A. Identify Providers & Determine Available Resources
- B. Demographic Analysis
- C. Potential Land Uses for Transit
- D. Review Travel Patterns & Future Demand
- E. Conduct Public Meetings
- F. Prepare Technical Memorandum Number 1
Goals & Objectives & Outreach Plan
- G. Prepare Technical Memorandum Number 2
Needs Assessment

Third Month: September, 2006

III. Develop Evaluation Criteria

- A. Prepare Technical Memorandum Number 3
Evaluation Criteria and Measures of Effectiveness
- Barriers & Constraints Report Due***

Fourth Month: October, 2006

IV. Propose Alternative Regional Transit Services

- A. Identify Barriers & Solutions to Regional Coordination
 - B. Identify Opportunities to Enhance Regional Public Transit Services
 - C. Prepare Technical Memorandum Number 3
Service and Coordination Alternatives
- Second Interim Progress Report Due***

Fifth Month: November, 2006

V. Recommend Regional Transit Services & Develop Implementation Plan

- A. Present Draft Plan to RCSC for review & comment

VI. Complete Regional Service Plan

- A. Presentation of Final Plan to Stakeholders and Policy Boards.