

***REGIONAL SERVICE COORDINATION PLAN***

***FOR***

***GOLDEN CRESCENT REGIONAL PLANNING***

***REGION:***

***CALHOUN, DEWITT, GOLIAD, GONZALES,***

***JACKSON,***

***LAVACA, AND VICTORIA COUNTIES***

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## **1.0 Transportation Code**

### **Chapter 461. Statewide Coordination of Public Transportation**

#### **§461.001. Legislative Intent and Construction**

- a) Public transportation services are provided in this state by many different entities, both public and private. The multiplicity of public transportation providers and services, coupled with a lack of coordination between state oversight agencies, has generated inefficiencies, overlaps in service, and confusion for consumers. It is the intent of this chapter:
  - 1) To eliminate waste in the provision of public transportation services;
  - 2) To generate efficiencies that will permit increased levels of service; and
  - 3) To further the state's efforts to reduce air pollution.
- b) This chapter shall be liberally construed to achieve its purposes.

Added by Acts 2003, 78<sup>th</sup> Leg., ch. 1325, §13,91m eff, September 1, 2003.

#### **§461.002. Definitions**

In this chapter:

- a) "Public transportation provider" means any entity that provides public transportation services if it is a governmental entity or if it receives financial assistance from a governmental entity, whether state, local, or federal. The term does not include private carriers that do not receive financial assistance from a governmental entity. It also does not include a person who provides intercity rail or bus service, commercial air transportation, water transportation, or nonstop service to or from a point located outside this state. If a person provides both public transportation services and services that are not public transportation services, that person is included within the term only with regard to the provision of public transportation services.
- b) "Public transportation services" means any conveyance of passengers and their hand-carried baggage by a governmental entity or by a private entity if the private entity receives financial assistance for that conveyance from any governmental entity. It does not include intercity rail or bus service, commercial air transportation, water transportation, or non-stop service to and from a point located outside this state.

Added by Acts 2003, 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Chapter 1325, §13.01, effective September 1, 2003.

#### **§461.003. Rules of Texas Transportation Commission**

- a) The commission by rule may:
  - 1) require a state agency that is responsible for ensuring the provision of public transportation services to contract with the department for the department to assume the responsibilities of that agency relating to the provision of public transportation services; and
  - 2) require a public transportation provider to provide detailed information on its provision of public transportation services, including revenues, routes, maps, categories passengers served, number of passengers served, and equipment use and condition.
- b) Except with regard to health and human services programs funded by this state, the commission may not direct the planning or operations of an authority created or operating under Chapter 451, 452, 453, or 460.
- c) The commission shall adopt other rules, including rules defining terms, necessary to implement this chapter.

Added by Acts 2003, 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Chapter 1325, §13.01, effective September 1, 2003.

**§461.004. Duties of Texas Department of Transportation.**

- a) The department shall identify:
  - 1) overlaps and gaps in the provision of public transportation services; including services that could be more effectively provided by existing, privately funded transportation resources;
  - 2) underused equipment owned by public transportation providers; and
  - 3) inefficiencies in the provision of public or private transportation provider for the department to arrange for the provision of public transportation services.

Added by Acts 2003, 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Chapter 1325, §13.01, effective September 1, 2003.

**§461.005. Elimination of Overlapping Service.**

- a) To eliminate waste and maximize efficiency, the department shall encourage public transportation providers to agree on the allocation of specific services and service areas among the providers. The department may incorporate these discussions in planning processes such as the development of the statewide transportation improvement program or a local transportation improvement plan.
- b) If public transportation providers do not reach an agreement on a service plan under Subsection (a), the department may develop an interim service plan for that area.
- c) The department may require that all or a percentage of the vehicles used to provide public transportation services comply with specified emissions standards. The standards may vary among geographic areas based on the need for each area to reduce levels of air pollution. This subsection does not apply to an authority created under Chapter 451, 452, 453, or 460.

Added by Acts 2003, 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Chapter 1325, §13.01, effective September 1, 2003.

**§461.006. Duties of Public Transportation Providers.**

Each public transportation provider shall cooperate with the department in eliminating waste and ensuring efficiency and maximum coverage in the provision of public transportation services.

Added by Acts 2003, 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Chapter 1325, §13.01, effective September 1, 2003.

**§461.007. Incentives for Efficiency.**

- a) Notwithstanding any other law, including a law establishing a formula for the allocation of public transportation grants, the commission may increase or reduce the amount of a grant made to a public transportation provider based on whether the public transportation provider is complying fully with this chapter.
- b) Notwithstanding any other law, the commission may consider whether a public transportation provider in a geographic area of this state is complying fully with this chapter in executing the commission's other responsibilities relating to that area.

Added by Acts 2003, 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Chapter 1325, §13.01, effective September 1, 2003.

## **2.0 Regional Service Coordination Plan Goals**

- 1) Eliminate Waste and Inefficiencies
  - i. Identify overlapping services
  - ii. Underutilized equipment
  - iii. Inefficiencies in accessing transportation services
  
- 2) Maximize Efficiency
  - i. Coordinate Services
  - ii. Share Rides
  - iii. Access a broader range of Funding Sources
  - iv. Improve Service Delivery # of Passengers Transported
  - v. Additional Transportation Options
  
- 3) Reduce Levels of Air Pollution
  - i. Alternative Fueled Vehicles
  - ii. Employee Incentives to Brown Bag
  - iii. Fuel Vehicles after 5pm
  - iv. Use Clean Oil/Fuel Bypass Systems
  
- 4) Identify Barriers to Coordination
  - i. Turf Issues
  - ii. Funding Issues
  - iii. Program Regulations

### 3.0 Timeline

July 7, 2005	Regional Service Planning Meeting (Kickoff)/Identify Lead Agency
September 21, 2005	Regional Coordination Plan Meeting / Development of Draft Plan
October 19, 2005	Presentation of GCRPC Regional Planning Efforts
Nov-Dec, 2005	Apply for Planning Funds through TXDOT
December, 2005	Regional Service Plan Meeting / Development of Agency Coordination Agreements and Service Alternatives
February, 2006	Regional Service Plan Meeting / Meet w/Coordinating Agencies to discuss redirection of resources, funding, and/or services.
March, 2006	Public Meeting to receive public comment on Coordination and Service Alternatives
May, 2006	Regional Service Plan Meeting/ Develop Final Service Plan and Implementation Timelines
July, 2006	Endorsement and Dissemination of Final Plan to Coordinating Agencies
September, 2006	Submit GCRPC Regional Coordination Plan to TXDOT

## 4.0 GCRPC Planning Region Statistics

County	Population	Square Miles
Calhoun County	20,647	512
DeWitt County	20,013	909
Goliad County	6,928	854
Gonzales County	18,628	1,068
Jackson County	14,391	829
Lavaca County	19,210	970
Victoria County	84,088	882

## 5.0 Inventory of Transportation Stakeholders

- 1). Inventory of Public Transportation Providers
- 2). Inventory of Private Transportation Providers
- 3). Inventory of Client Transportation Service Agencies

### SYNOPSIS OF TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE/SERVICES

Agency	Human Service Program Descriptions	Managed by Agency Staff 1	Managed by Local Entity or Included in Unit Rate for all Services 2	Receives Funding from TXDOT (HB3588 & 2292)
Department on Aging	Services and Support for the Elderly: Transportation		X	X
Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse	Contractors can provide transportation assistance to help client's access treatment.		X	
Commission for the Blind	Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living Program, Blind Children's Vocational Discovery and Development	X		
Interagency Council on Early Childhood Intervention	Services for children birth to 3 years of age who have developmental delays or disabilities.		X	
Department of Health	Provides mileage reimbursement to receive dialysis treatments through the Kidney Health Care Program.	X		X
Department of Human Services	Adult Foster Care provides 24 hours living		X	

	arrangements with supervision in an adult foster care home.			
	Day Activity and Health Services		X	X
	Community Based Alternatives/Residential Care/CBA: provides home and community-based services to aged and disabled adults.		X	X
	In-Home and Family Support	X		
	Family Violence: Emergency transportation to shelters and to provide other transportation services (non-emergency) to assist the client obtain other human services.		X	
	Skilled Nursing Facility		X	X
Dept of Mental Health/Mental Retardation	State Mental Health/Mental Retardation Facilities	X		
	Community MH/MR Centers		X	
	Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded		X	X
	Home and Community Services		X	X
	In-Home and Family Support		X	
Dept. of Protective and Regulatory Service	Child and Adult Protective Services/caseworkers coordinate services as needed to remedy or prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation of children or elderly persons and persons with disabilities.	X		
Rehabilitation Commission	Vocational Rehabilitation	X		
	Extended Rehabilitation Services	X		
	Independent Living	X		
	Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services	X		

Dept. of Transportation	Non-Emergency Medical Transportation	X		
Texas Workforce Commission	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families/Choices		X	X
	Welfare-to-Work		X	X

Agency	Transit Program Descriptions	Managed by Staff
TXDOT		
Metropolitan Transit Authorities (MTA)	Provides public transportation to urbanized areas with a population of greater than 200,000. Federal funds provided directly to MTA not eligible for State funds.	FTA
Small Urban Federal 5307 Program	Provides public transportation in areas with populations between 50,000 to 200,000. Federal and state funds are available.	TXDOT FTA
Rural/Non Urbanized Federal 5311 Program	Provides public transportation services in rural areas and cities with populations less than 50,000	TXDOT
Elderly & Disabled Transportation Federal 5310 Program	Provides transportation services designed, planned and carried out to meet special needs of elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities through the state.	TXDOT
Intercity Bus Program	Intercity bus service is regularly scheduled service for the general public operating with limited stops over fixed routes connecting two or more urban areas not in close proximity. Funding is 15% of the rural 5311 program.	TXDOT

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1. Transportation assistance is managed by and arranged for by program case managers. Transportation assistance includes purchase of bus passes from public transit providers; taxi fares, or mileage reimbursement; it does not include transporting clients.
  2. Transportation is an eligible expense that an agency Service Contractor provides if it is needed by the persons receiving the services. The service contractor makes a business decision on whether to perform the actual transportation or to contract with a transportation provider for those services.

## **6.0 Estimate of Financial Assistance Required for Coordination and Planning**

- 1) Expenses related to development of plan, staff time, materials, etc.
- 2) Develop Plan with Local Resources *vs.* Hiring a Consultant
- 3) Costs to Coordinate Existing Services, Improve Access, Technology, etc...