

**Interim Status Report on Coordination of Public
Transportation to TxDOT-PTN Division**

**Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission
7-County Golden Crescent Region
July 2006**



Background

The Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission (GCRPC) 7-County Region is located on the lower Texas Gulf Coast and is home to approximately 200,000. The Golden Crescent Region includes these 7 counties:

Calhoun	DeWitt
Goliad	Gonzales
Jackson	Lavaca
Victoria	

Through a 2004 Presidential Executive Order on Human Service Transportation Coordination, and Texas Legislature (HB 3588), coordination of public transportation services are mandated on a regional and statewide level, with the core building blocks of coordination being laid at the local level. Transportation coordination is necessary to deliver transportation services to the people that need it most in a cost effective manner.

Enhancing Transportation through Coordination

The counties and communities within the GCRPC region have openly accepted the task of identifying gaps in service and coordinating existing services to more efficiently and cost-effectively meet transportation needs in the region. This will be an opportunity to not only create “a plan for coordination”, but also to create a framework for improving real world service delivery to citizens of the region by addressing gaps in service, and the general lack of connectivity within the region. In order to fully assess coordination opportunities and identify unmet transportation needs of our population, a comprehensive analysis of the region’s transit and social service providers operating characteristics and perceived needs, as well as demographic profile and transit needs index of each county will be completed. However, there are real world “barriers” to coordination that impact the ability for services to be coordinated and these will be researched and identified through communication with the stakeholders identified in this planning process. The final goal will be to identify barriers and opportunities that exist for coordination of services within the region.

Moving Forward with a Team

In December of 2005, the Golden Crescent Regional Transportation Coordination Advisory Committee was selected representing the 7 counties in the region to oversee the coordination planning process. This committee represents a variety of agencies and organizations that are responsible for providing public transportation services, providing health and human services, or interested in coordination of public and client transportation in the region. A project team was selected by the committee and the GCRPC through a public procurement process to conduct a comprehensive public transportation coordination study of the region. The project team selected include:

The Goodman Corporation (Prime)
A & R Consulting (Subcontractor)
Texas Southern University (Subcontractor)

Golden Crescent Regional Transportation Coordination Advisory Committee Membership

Lisa Cortinas
Director of Transportation Services
Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission

Lisa Garcia
Operations Manager
Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission

Rosa Linda Garcia
Transportation Accountant
Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission

Wanda Carter-Dyer
Public Transportation Coordinator
Texas Department of Transportation

Councilperson Debra Martinez Briseno
Cities in Calhoun County

Laura G. Sanders
Executive Director
Golden Crescent Workforce Development Board

Pauline Schleinschok
Golden Crescent Workforce Development Board

Mable Hernandez
Goliad County

Patty Grahmann
Lavaca County

Robert Cornett
Gonzales County SCA, Inc.

Jan McLaughlin
DARS Division for Blind Services

Ray Miller, Assistant Director
Planning Department
City of Victoria

Leticia Moreno
Calhoun County SCA, Inc.

Jackie Johnson
Social Security Administration

Stacey Weaver
Victoria College Adult Education Center

Dr. Craig T. Follins
Victoria College

Margaret H. Rice
Executive Director of Student Services & Regional Outreach
The University of Houston-Victoria

Lucinda Cornish
Golden Crescent Area Agency on Aging

Mary Garcia
Affectionate Arms Adult Day Health Center

Patsy Wagner
Health and Human Services Commission

Don Polzin
Gulf Bend Center

Yvonne Smith
Victoria County SCA, Inc.

Barbara Chambers
Amour Adult Day Health Center

Linda Clay
Friends of Elder Citizens, Inc.

Rusty Rose
Friends of Elder Citizens, Inc.

Goals and Objectives Established To Date

Goals

- To improve the delivery of transportation services
- To generate efficiencies in operation that can lead to increased levels of service
- To enhance customer service/satisfaction
- To encourage cooperation and coordination

Objectives

- Develop a coordination public transportation plan
- Identify resources required to develop the plan
- Provide policy guidance to lead the planning and coordination effort
- Implementation plans (short and long term) for coordinated service
- Create a usable database of stakeholders and assets to support future planning efforts

These goals and objectives will be met by the specific tasks that have been identified in the scope of work.

Project Outline

The following tasks and associated subtasks provide a general outline of the major activities that are being undertaken in the project.

*Task 1 – Goals, Stakeholder Involvement and Outreach Plan
Peer Review*

*Stakeholders
Stakeholder Involvement Plan*

Task 2 - Determine Needs

*Draft and Review Survey
Administer Survey*

Determine Current and Future Transportation Demands

Task 3 - Develop Evaluation Criteria for Recommended Regional Public Transportation Services

Develop Evaluation Criteria and Measures of Effectiveness

Task 4 - Propose Alternative Regional Public Transportation Services

Identify Barriers to Coordination

Identify Opportunities to Enhance Regional Public Transportation Services

Task 5 - Recommend Regional Public Transportation Services and Develop Implementation Plans

Evaluate Opportunities for Regional Services

Develop Costs for Implementation Plans

Develop Other Resource Needs

Identify Candidate Lead Agencies

Task 6 - Evaluate the Feasibility of Developing a Regional Transportation Agency

Task 7 - Transit Traveler Information System and Marketing Strategy

Develop a Transit Traveler Information System

Develop a Marketing Strategy

Task 8 - Reduce Levels of Air Pollution for the Region through Eligible Pilot Projects

Task 9 - Complete Regional Service Plan

Prepare Draft Regional Service Plan

Develop Draft Report and Presentation of Findings

Develop Performance Monitoring Plan

Project Schedule

The table below represents the overall schedule for the project.

Task	Description	Timeframe for work	Est. Completion Month - 06
0	Project Management	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Oct-06</i>
1	Mission and Goals	<i>Apr-May</i>	<i>May</i>
---	<i>1st Interim Report to TxDOT</i>	---	<i>15-Jul</i>
2	Regional Assessment/Determine Needs	<i>Apr-Jul</i>	<i>Jul</i>
3	Develop Evaluation Criteria	<i>Apr-Jul</i>	<i>Jul</i>
4	Propose Alternative Regional Public Transportation Services	<i>May-Aug</i>	<i>Aug</i>
5	Recommend Regional Public Transportation Services and Develop Implementation Plans	<i>Jul-Oct</i>	<i>Oct</i>
6	Evaluate the Feasibility of Developing a Regional Transportation Agency	<i>Sept</i>	<i>Sept</i>
7	Transit Traveler Information System and Marketing Strategy	<i>Sept-Oct</i>	<i>Oct</i>
8	Reduce Levels of Air Pollution for Region through Eligible Pilot Projects	<i>Sept-Oct</i>	<i>Oct</i>
---	<i>2nd Interim Report to TxDOT</i>	---	<i>01-Oct</i>
9	GCRPC Coordination Report Complete for Committee Approval	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Nov</i>
---	<i>Submittal to TxDOT-PTN</i>	---	<i>01-Dec</i>

Progress To Date

There has been significant progress on survey related activities, the gathering of existing services information, and demographic data/transit needs index analysis of the region. Although it will not be the only determinant, the transit needs index, coupled with comments from the public will help to identify specific areas of the region that are particularly underserved, and may be candidates for pilot projects.

- Updated and sent out TTI Public Transportation Provider Survey to the region's providers
- Began work on a consumer based survey
- Began to create a valuable inventory of existing services
- Transit providers interviewed and evaluated

- Various peer reviews are being examined based on specific regional issues that have arisen from stakeholder input
- Demographic profiles and transit needs index created for region
- Barriers being identified through stakeholder input and public meetings
- Some initial pilot project opportunities have been identified
- Two successful public meetings in the region on June 27 in the City of Port Lavaca and June 28 in the City of Gonzales.

Next Scheduled Meetings

July 25, 2006, 11:30am – Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission office, 568 Big Bend Drive, Victoria, Texas 77904

August 29, 2006, 11:30 am - Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission office, 568 Big Bend Drive, Victoria, Texas 77904

Interim Report Conclusions

The Golden Crescent Region has made significant headway into the coordination planning process by initiating meaningful dialogue between public transportation providers, social service agencies, and other interested parties. It is anticipated that the continuation of gathering data from those who have not been reached by survey and the completion of detailed demographic analysis will provide additional insights into the challenges that the region faces, as well as opportunities for improvements in both coordination and connectivity.