

## **PLAN TO WORK IT!**

Regionally Coordinated Transportation Planning  
Workshop ♦ February / March 2015



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- FOCUS: 5-Year Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan
  - Guidebook
  - FY 2016-17 Funding Application Packet
  - Performance Measures
  - Best Practices & Guidance
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## State & Federal Mandates

### Transportation Code 461.004

- ID overlaps & gaps in provision of public transportation services
- ID underused equipment owned by public transportation providers
- ID inefficiencies in provision of public transportation services

### MAP-21

- Minimum elements of regional plans
  - Inclusive process for developing & adopting plans
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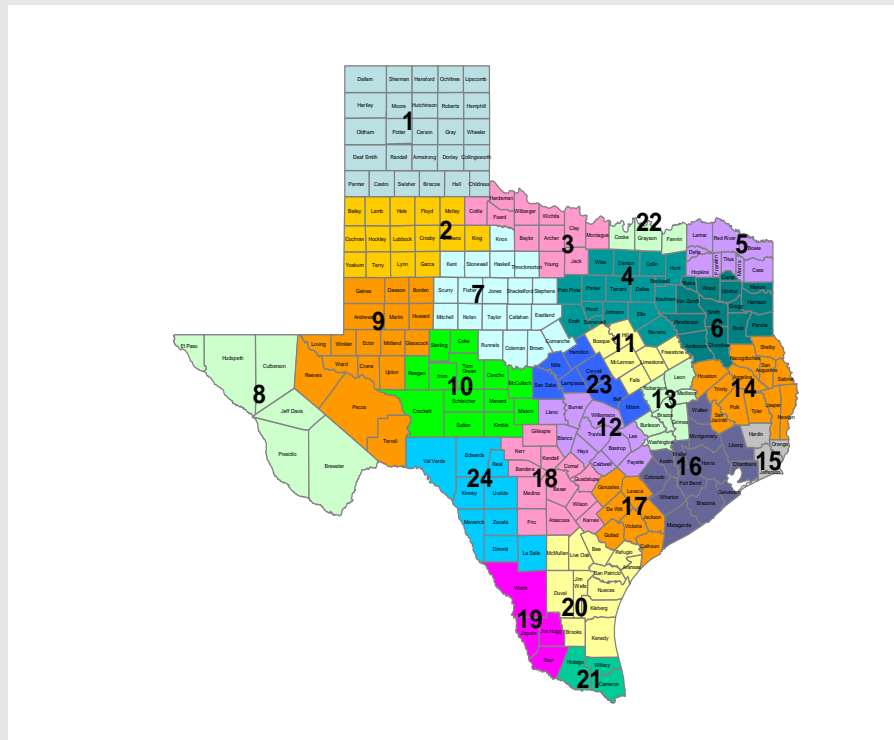




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## Texas Planning Regions

- 24 regions; 24 plans
- Locally driven process
- Lead agency in each region





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## Future Direction

- Statewide Working Group
  - Diverse Interests & Geographic Areas
  - Purpose
    - Assess existing efforts
    - Input on future direction
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## What Works Well

- Stakeholder engagement
  - Data collection
  - Outreach
  - Other
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## Future Direction Recommendations

- Funding
  - Membership / Engagement
  - Metrics
  - Definition of Stakeholder
  - Outreach
  - TxDOT Role
  - Selection, Expectation & Role of Lead Agencies
  - Content of Regional Plans
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## Recommendations: Funding

- TxDOT offer (1) adequate funding every 5 yrs for 5-yr-plan, (2) consistent funding in interim years, and (3) flexibility & competitive funding opportunities for add'l planning activities
- Lead agencies leverage other resources
- TxDOT ED & other state agency EDs agree to track, compile & report data on how much money each agency spends on transportation & who decides how dollars are spent
- TxDOT & lead agencies identify examples of how other funds have been leveraged





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## Recommendations: Membership/Engagement

- TxDOT update stakeholder resources & provide to each region
  - Each state agency's ED encourage staff participation at local level
  - TxDOT ED encourage TxDOT staff & lead agencies to participate on HHS & other committees
  - Lead agencies & other stakeholders participate in other planning processes
  - Lead agencies assure a transparent & inclusive process for developing & adopting the plan
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## Recommendations: Metrics

- Local stakeholders define priorities, include in plan
- Local stakeholders develop a metric for measuring whether each local transportation service priority or gap is met/filled
- Local stakeholders develop *local* metrics to demonstrate that individuals have improved access to an efficient network of transportation services
- State & local stakeholders develop *statewide* metrics to demonstrate that individuals have improved access to an efficient network of transportation services





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## Recommendations: Stakeholder Definition

- “Stakeholders” includes seniors (individuals 65 and older), individuals with disabilities, representatives of public, private & nonprofit transportation & human services providers, representatives of workforce agencies, education agencies, veterans’ organizations & other members of the public.
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## Recommendations: Outreach

Stakeholders collaborate to develop effective strategies for informing:

- Specific audiences about available transportation services
  - The public on the purpose & value of the regional planning process
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## Recommendations: TxDOT Role

- Provide guidance & share best practices on how to develop & adopt the next 5-year plan (through workshops, webinars, & other means)
  - Conduct quality assurance measures for developing & implementing plans
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## Recommendations: Selection & Expectation of Lead Agency

- Local determination; confirmation every 5 years
  - Role:
    - Continuously ID & engage stakeholders; facilitate discussion
    - Manage stakeholder meetings
    - Manage development of plans using a collaborative process
    - Assess whether activities in plan move forward
    - Provide staff support
    - Participate in TxDOT-sponsored workshops & conferences
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## Recommendations: Plan Content

In addition to state & federal requirements:

- Vision, mission, goal(s), objectives
  - Methodology
  - Financial component
  - How this plan will
    - Complement other metro, regional & statewide planning processes
    - Seek to integrate services of various programs from multipole agencies
    - Transportation needs of veterans; people needing transportation to & from work; children
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## Recommendations: Plan Content

- Identification of underused equipment
  - Assessment of region's capacity to:
    - Sustain regional planning activities
    - Implement the regional plan
    - Update the plan
  - Performance measures to evaluate progress & effectiveness in achieving goals & objectives
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## Additional Input

- Public Transportation Advisory Committee
  - Lead agencies & other stakeholders
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Overarching Message: “Work the Plan”

- Identify resources to implement plan
- Prioritize
- Implement performance measures



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## Funding Cycle Changes

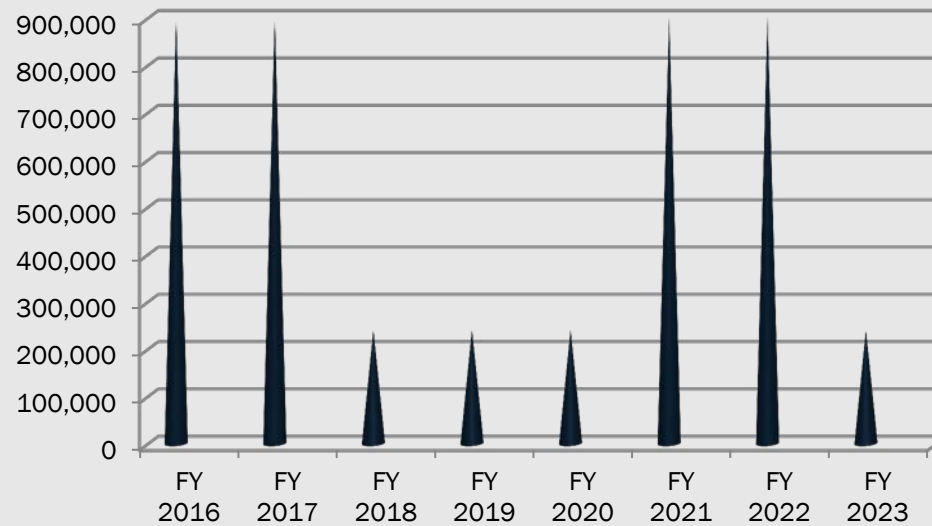
- Increased funding every 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> year for 5-year-plans
  - Interim funding for pilot projects that address priorities ID'd in regional plans
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## Funding Cycle Changes





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## Funding for Interim Years

- Demonstration projects that address priorities identified in regional plans
  - Competitive awards as part of TxDOT's annual coordinated call for projects.
  - Any eligible applicant may apply (not limited to lead agencies)
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## Funding for Interim Years

- Emphasis on projects with:
    - Measurable outcomes
    - Letters of support from lead agencies
    - Local match
    - Demonstrated relevance & replicability in other regions
  - Limited, non-competitive funding will be awarded to lead agencies to cover collecting and reporting performance metrics data
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## Purpose & Emphasis

- To improve access for individuals throughout Texas to an effective and efficient network of public transportation services
  - Emphasis remains on priority populations, in particular
    - Individuals with disabilities
    - Persons 65 and older
    - People with low incomes
  - Funding for Section 5310 Program directly linked to regional plan
  - Scope of plan not *limited* to services for priority populations
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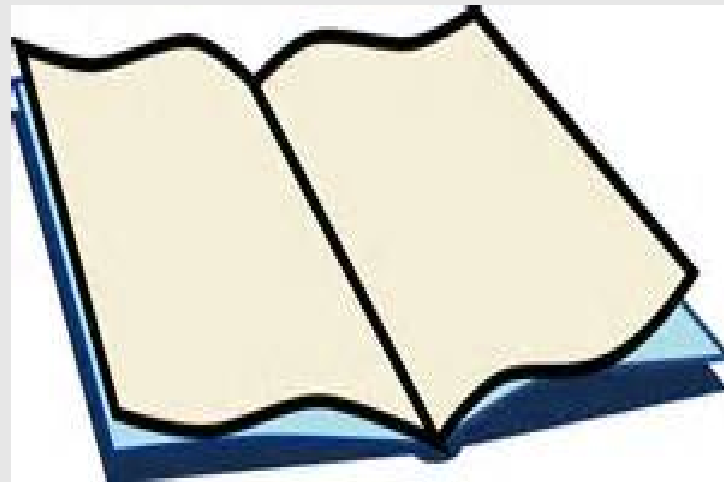




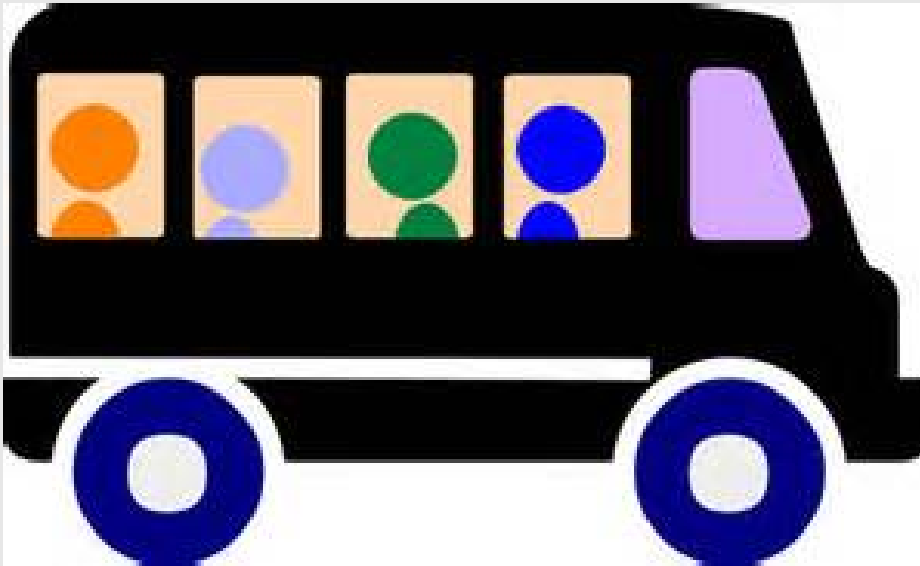
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## Guidebook

- Lead Agency responsibilities
- TxDOT responsibilities
- Reference materials







**Thank You!**

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