

# RTCC Meeting Notes

08-12-21

## Attendees:

Misty Hendon (HOTCOG)  
Rep Pledger (HOTCOG Rural Transportation)  
Russell Devorsky (HOTCOG)  
Jeff Watkins (filling in for Judge Jay Elliott - Falls County Judge)  
Bennett Powell (KFH Group)  
Debbie Tahiri (TxDOT)  
Carey Amthor (HOTR – MHMR)  
Serena Stevenson (General Manager for Waco Transit Systems)  
Annette Polk (Waco MPO)  
Jonathan Mize (Texas Workforce Solutions – Vocation Rehabilitation Services)  
Susan Baker (Bosque County Senior Center)  
Susan Wilson (Director of Head Start - EOAC Waco)  
Judge Cindy Vanlandingham (Bosque County Judge)  
Debbie King (Executive Director Meals on Wheels for Falls and Hill counties)  
Kari Banta (TxDOT Program Manager Regional Public Transportation)  
Chelsea Schultz (Interim Director for Waco MPO, senior planner)  
Julie Talbert (HOT Workforce Board, Childcare Services Program)  
Commissioner Will Jones (McLennan County)

Rep – Recap from last meeting. Everyone should have received the suggested changes made to the by laws. Was everyone in agreement with the changes or were there any suggestions?

Russell – Has read them and agrees with them.

Judge Vanlandingham – Agrees with changes.

Serena – Agrees with everything as is.

Rep – Next board meeting will be on August 26<sup>th</sup> and Russell will present them for approval. Once approval is received, we need to think about who we want to fill those positions. We have transportation filled but specifically need health and human services. For judges, we have Commissioner Will Jones who was appointed by Judge Felton, which covers McLennan County.

Julie Talbert – Why isn't there a spot for workforce on those that are represented – what was the discussion that led to that decision?

Carey – At the last meeting we discussed having Gary Luft fill one position that would cover several subgroups, workforce being one of those groups. This would alleviate the issue with not having enough members show up for meetings by having the subgroups meet with Gary and then he would be the voting member representing them.

Julie is ok with that.

Russell – The key is we do not want to exclude anyone. The purpose was to get away from having issue with quorum numbers. This idea was to make things streamline so we can get business completed.

Carey – We can invite as many people as we need and include as many groups as wanted, they just would not be considered voting members.

Rep – Will get with Bennett and see if Ken would list the groups that each department is representing.

Carey – We should do this as an addendum so that we don't have to change the bylaws every time there is a change/addition.

Rep – Agreed. This concluded the main part of our meeting. At the next meeting we will send out the tech memo on demographics from KFH Group. Once we get the bylaws finalized, we can do subgroups and anyone can contact him for virtual meetings that aren't part of our regularly scheduled monthly RTCC meetings. We also want to start thinking about small projects that we'd like to accomplish with our committee. Ideally these would be projects that are more attainable, closer to home, and don't take years to complete. We want to make sure RTCC continues to be productive and proactive and doesn't get set aside.

Kari – This is exactly what we want to do. There is a coordinated call coming up and it combines several groups into one meeting – rural discretionary program, planning program, RTAP (technical assistance for rural transit), among others. As far as what can receive funding – it doesn't have to be just transporting "here to there", it can be training, technology, a lot of different options. It is crucial that we continue to meet regularly, as this will help get our projects funded. When we can demonstrate our willingness to work, it helps get funding approval. For example, service in kind helps (providing a meeting space or matching dollar amounts). There is also funding provided to help continue the planning continuation activities so we will be able to keep meeting. Mentioned that the next 5310 call will be an opportunity to get some projects started. If you'd like to contact Kari direct, you can reach her at [kari.banta@txdot.gov](mailto:kari.banta@txdot.gov)

Rep – To wrap up – our next meeting let's decide who we want to fill these spots. We'll get the addendum squared away. Think about small projects, RTAP, and pilot projects.

End of meeting

Next meeting is in one month – no more than one hour.