

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

TO: THE AD HOC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE OF THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP AND TO ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

Notice is hereby given that the Ad Hoc Transportation Committee of The Woodlands Township will hold a meeting **on Monday, November 11, 2013, at 10 a.m., at the Office of The Woodlands Township, 2801 Technology Forest Boulevard, The Woodlands, Texas**, within the boundaries of The Woodlands Township, for the following purposes:

1. Call meeting to order;
2. Receive, consider and act upon adoption of the meeting agenda;
3. Public comment;
4. Receive, consider and act upon approval of the October 14, 2013 Ad Hoc Transportation Committee meeting minutes;
5. Receive, consider and act upon Park and Ride schedule changes;
6. Receive, consider and act upon renewal of Township membership in the Transportation Advocacy Group (TAG) for 2014;

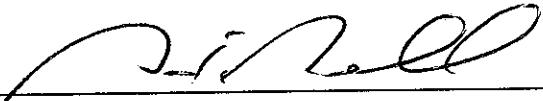
### **CLOSED MEETING (if applicable)**

7. Recess to Executive Session to discuss matters relating to real property pursuant to §551.072, Texas Government Code; deliberation of economic development negotiations pursuant to §551.087, Texas Government Code; discuss personnel matters pursuant to §551.074, Texas Government Code; and to consult with The Woodlands Township's attorney concerning pending litigation pursuant to §551.071, Texas Government Code;
8. Reconvene in Public Session;
9. Receive, consider and act upon matters regarding possible joint funding of transportation improvements within The Woodlands Township;
10. Receive, consider and act upon matters regarding representation on the H-GAC Transportation Policy Committee;
11. Receive, consider and act upon outside committee and meeting updates;
  - Conroe/The Woodlands Urbanized Area (UZA);
  - The Woodlands Township Transit Plan
  - Chamber Mobility Committee;
  - Montgomery County Precinct 3;
  - H-GAC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC);
  - Bicycle Advisory Task Force
  - South Montgomery County Mobility Study

12. Consideration of items to be placed on the agenda for the next committee meeting;

13. Adjournment.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President/General Manager for The Woodlands Township

**THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP  
AD HOC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
OCTOBER 14, 2013  
MINUTES**

**THE STATE OF TEXAS   §  
COUNTIES OF HARRIS & MONTGOMERY   §**

The Ad Hoc Transportation Committee of The Woodlands Township Board of Directors met in regular session, open to the public, on October 14, 2013, posted to begin at 2 p.m. The committee meeting was held in a meeting room at the office of The Woodlands Township Town Hall, 2801 Technology Forest Boulevard, The Woodlands, Texas, within the boundaries of The Woodlands Township.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Jeff Long, Mike Bass, Bruce Tough

**STAFF/ADVISORS:** Don Norrell, President/ General Manager, Monique Sharp, Assistant General Manager for Finance and Administration, John Powers, Assistant General Manager for Community Services, Miles McKinney, Director of Legislative Affairs and Transportation, Attorney Mike Page, Barry Goodman, The Goodman Corporation

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** None

**1. Call to Order:**

Chairman Long called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. As there was a quorum of members present, the committee proceeded to conduct business regarding the following matters:

**2. Receive, consider and act upon adoption of the meeting agenda:**

**MOTION:** Motion by Director Bass to adopt the agenda; second by Director Long.

**VOTE:** **Ayes:** Mike Bass  
Bruce Tough  
Jeff Long

**Nays:** None

**Abstentions:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**3. Public comment:**

There was no comment.

**4. Receive, consider and act upon approval of the September 12, 2013 Ad Hoc Transportation Committee Meeting minutes;**

**MOTION:** Motion by Director Bass to accept the minutes as presented, second by Director Tough.

**VOTE:** **Ayes:** Bruce Tough

Mike Bass

**Nays:** None

**Abstentions:** Jeff Long

**ACTION:** Motion passed (2-0)

**5. Receive and review proposed County WRUD road improvements;**

This item is deferred until the November committee meeting.

**6. Receive, consider and act upon a discussion of Sterling Ridge Park and Ride options;**

Wendy Whedon and Bill Coulter discussed Sterling Ridge Park and Ride route changes due to lower ridership compared to the other locations. Some proposed options include cancelling the direct Texas Medical Center express run and extending other runs from downtown to the Med Center; as well as instituting an earlier morning and return run. Surveys will be taken of the Sterling Ridge riders.

No action necessary.

**7. Receive, consider and act upon a Brazos Transit District discussion of standing passengers on Woodlands Express buses;**

The District discussed proposed changes to park and ride runs to alleviate the issue of passengers standing on the buses, including combining runs, making direct runs and operating double decker buses.

No action necessary.

**8. Receive, consider and act upon a presentation by The Goodman Corporation regarding policies and certifications required by the FTA for the Township to receive government grant funds;**

Barry Goodman, and David Bartels and Wendy O'Brian (both via phone) discussed individual components of bid procurement policy required for potential funding, along with various reporting requirements in general.

TGC will be coordinating drafting a comprehensive procurement policy and expediting a November 4, 2013 public meeting concerning the ADA policy plan.

**9. Receive, consider and act upon a discussion of a resident request regarding student discount rate for Woodlands Express Park and Ride fares;**

No action necessary, but staff was directed to respond to the request.

**10. Receive, consider and act upon a proposal for the City of Conroe to serve as the Designated Recipient for the FY 2014 FTA Sec. 5310 funds granted to the UZA;**

**MOTION:** Motion by Director Bass to recommend to the Township Board to propose that the City of Conroe serve as the Designated Recipient for the FY 2014 FTA Sec. 5310 funds granted to the UZA; second by Director Tough.

**VOTE:** **Ayes:** Bruce Tough  
Jeff Long  
Mike Bass  
**Nays:** None  
**Abstentions:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**11. Receive, consider and act upon a recommendation to the Township Board of Directors to extend the term of the Ad Hoc Transportation committee;**

**MOTION:** Motion by Director Bass to recommend to the Township Board to extend the term of the Ad Hoc Transportation Committee until December 2014; second by Director Tough.

**VOTE:** **Ayes:** Bruce Tough  
Jeff Long  
Mike Bass  
**Nays:** None  
**Abstentions:** None

**ACTION:** Motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**12. Receive, consider and act upon matters regarding representation on the H-GAC Transportation Policy Committee**

The committee discussed procedures for submitting a request to H-GAC Transportation Policy Committee. This item will be considered at the November committee meeting.

No action taken.

**13. Receive, consider and act upon outside committee and meeting updates;**

- **Conroe/Woodlands Urbanized Area (UZA)**
- **Chamber Mobility Committee**
- **Montgomery County Precinct 3**

- **H-GAC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC);**
- **Bicycle Advisory Task Force**
- **South Montgomery County Mobility Study**
- **The Woodlands Township Transit Plan**

Updates were provided for the above groups.

**14. There was no executive session.**

**16. Consideration of items to be placed on the agenda for the next committee meeting;**

Proposed WRUD improvements  
H-GAC Transportation Policy Committee representation

**17. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

# The Woodlands Express

## Scheduling Issues and Proposed Changes

### October 21, 2013

#### **Issue #1: Standees on the 3:20 pm Medical Center run to Research (Research #23)**

- The 3:20 pm departure from the Medical Center currently picks up at all Medical Center and Downtown stops and frequently has Standees

#### Proposed Changes:

- Make the current run an “Express” run with no stops downtown
- Add another bus to start at Downtown @ 3:50 pm, which is the same time that the current 3:20 pm run begins its downtown pickups
- This change will not affect any of the scheduled pick up times, but will double the seat capacity for these times

#### **Issue #2: Improve the utilization of the current Sterling Ridge Medical Center Express bus while still providing service from Sterling Ridge to the Medical Center**

- The current morning and afternoon Medical Center Express runs from Sterling Ridge are averaging less than 20 passengers per trip

#### Proposed Changes:

- Discontinue the current Medical Center Express buses from Sterling Ridge (Sterling Ridge #4 & 12)
- Add Medical Center service to three current morning and afternoon runs from Sterling Ridge

#### **Issue #3: Provide later morning service from Sterling Ridge to Downtown**

#### Proposed Change:

- Utilize the existing morning Medical Center Express bus to begin a 7:25 am departure from Sterling Ridge. Currently, the latest Sterling Ridge departure time is 7:05 am

**Issue #4: Eliminate Standees on the Research Forest 6:00 am and 6:10 am runs (Research Runs 5 & 6)**

Proposed Change:

- Move the 7:25 am Research Forest departure (Research #15), which is currently averaging 23 passengers, to a 6:05 am departure time

**Issue #5: Reduce Standees on the 4:10 pm departure from Greenway Plaza to Sawdust (Sawdust #18)**

- Move Sawdust #17 to a 4:25 pm departure from Downtown to reduce the headway between runs 17 & 18 and possibly move passengers from Sawdust #18 to Sawdust #17.



# **The Woodlands Express Schedule Changes Effective Monday, November 4, 2013**

## **Research Forest Service Changes**

### **1. New Service to Downtown at 6:05 am**

- An additional departure at 6:05 am will be added to reduce over-crowding on the 6:00 am and 6:10 am buses.

### **2. Conversion of Run 23, the 3:20 pm run, to a Medical Center Express Run**

- Run 23, the 3:20 pm departure from the Medical Center, will become an Express run to reduce over-crowding and will no longer make stops in Downtown

### **3. Additional Downtown Service at 3:50 pm**

- An additional bus will be added to the afternoon schedule to provide service from Downtown Houston beginning at 3:50 pm
- This new run will make all Downtown stops at the same time as the current Run 23, which will become a Medical Center Express run

### **4. Discontinuance of Run 15 – 7:25 am Departure**

- Run 15, the 7:25 am departure, will be discontinued. The 7:20 am and 7:30 am departures will continue.

## **Sawdust Road Service Changes**

### **1. Run 17 – 4:20 pm departure time changed to 4:25 pm**

- The departure time for Run 17, the 4:20 pm departure from Downtown will be changed to 4:25 pm

## **Sterling Ridge Service Changes**

### **1. Additional Service to/from the Medical Center and Sterling Ridge**

- Service to the Medical Center will be added to the three runs departing at 5:25 am, 5:45 am and 6:25 am
- Service from the Medical Center to Sterling Ridge will be added with departures at 3:40 pm, 4:00 pm and 4:40 pm

### **2. Additional Departure at 7:25 am to Downtown**

- A 7:25 am departure to Downtown will be added to provide later a morning departure from Sterling Ridge

## Goals and Objectives

### Goals:

- Establish a consistent and effective presence in the Houston region, Austin and nationally to secure and ensure long-term funding for our region's transportation needs
- Advocate for ALL modes of transportation
- Obtain the authority to develop local funding options – we understand that state and federal funds alone will never fully meet the infrastructure needs of our region
- Define and support a unified regional transportation plan that includes all mobility modes, is interconnected, reduces congestion and improves safety

### Objectives:

Goal 1 (Establish a consistent and effective presence in the Houston region, Austin and nationally to secure and ensure long-term funding for our region's transportation needs)

- Review, endorse and support local projects on behalf of local governments, H-GAC, METRO, The Port of Houston, etc.
- Partner with specific project coalitions such as the 290 partnership, 288 coalition, BAYTRAN, 249 coalition and others to secure funding and educate the public
- Provide educational events and programs that feature local, state and federal leaders in transportation
- Testify in Austin on transportation measures that support our legislative priorities and promote our mission and goals
- Develop an overall advocacy plan that unites businesses, community leaders and elected officials to promote the Houston region
- Regularly communicate with our local, state and congressional delegations to educate and communicate our region's transportation needs and offer our support for their leadership
- Support statewide and national organizations in educating, communicating and advocating on behalf of sustainable transportation funding

Goal 2 (Advocate for ALL modes of transportation)

- Review, endorse and support local projects that provide multi-modal options
- Provide educational resources and programs that outline the importance of transportation options for our region's overall quality of life

Goal 3 (Obtain the authority to develop local funding options – we understand that state and federal funds alone will never fully meet the infrastructure needs of our region)

- Work with local and state leaders to find creative and sustainable local funding options
- Meet with key state leaders to obtain support for granting local funding authority to the Houston region
- Provide programmed events aimed at educating civic and business leaders on various local funding options
- Solicit opinions for additional funding ideas and solutions

Goal 4 (Define and support a unified regional transportation plan that includes all modes, is interconnected, reduces congestion and improves safety)

- Work with regional partners and local officials to create a master mobility plan that connects major points in the Houston region
- Develop a priority list of projects and their funding sources
- Educate the general public and private sector on the importance of a regional mobility plan that reduces congestion and improves safety
- Provide online and print resources with information related to the master mobility plan



## List of Accomplishments

- Hosted kick-off meeting in January 2013 with over 50 attendees representing the private and public sectors, elected officials and local governments to solicit input for TAG's mission and advocacy plan
- Hosted TxDOT Commissioner Jeff Moseley with 100+ attendees to discuss TxDOT funding the outlook for the 2013 legislative session
- Hosted Congresswoman Corrine Brown (FL-5), Congressman Al Green (TX-9) and Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18) for a luncheon focused on federal transportation funding and Houston's needs
- Hosted TxDOT Houston District Engineer Mike Alford for an intimate discussion around the regular and special sessions for 2013 and the outlook for transportation funding for TxDOT
- Partnered with Texas Future to endorse comprehensive transportation funding legislation introduced by Rep. Patricia Harless during the 83<sup>rd</sup> regular legislative sessions
- Partnered with statewide advocacy groups such as Texas Good Roads, TAoT and TRTC to call legislators to action to support major transportation funding legislation introduced in the regular and special sessions
- Testified before the Senate Finance and House Appropriations committees in support of numerous transportation funding bills
- Increased annual memberships to include the Woodlands Township, Woodlands Area Chamber of Commerce, LAN, Principle Partnering Group, Parsons and Uptown Houston District
- Secured over 15 event sponsorships for quarterly luncheons held at the HESS Club
- Doubled social media presence on twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook
- Designed new website to be launched in September 2013
- Provided presentations on current state of transportation funding to regional civic organizations
- Formally endorsed the Uptown Houston Transit plan
- tripled newsletter subscription list and provided up-to-the-minute information and updates on legislation, events and regional transportation issues

*. . . most importantly, we have created a voice for the Houston region where once there was just silence. Statewide groups and other regional coalitions from San Antonio and Dallas recognize TAG as Houston's regional and collective voice for transportation.*



# TRANSPORTATION ADVOCACY GROUP HOUSTON REGION

**CHAIR**

*Billy Cooke*

November 6, 2013

**VICE CHAIR**

*Jack Drake*

**SECRETARY**

*Ravi Yanamandala*

Mr. Miles McKinney  
Manager, Intergovernmental Relations  
& Transportation Services  
The Woodlands Township  
2801 Technology Forest Blvd.  
The Woodlands, TX 77381

**TREASURER**

*Gary Montgomery*

*Jeff Collins*

*Wayne Klotz*

*Gregg Reyes*

*Gary Trietsch*

Dear Mr. McKinney,

**Executive Director**

*Andrea French*

Transportation Advocacy Group—Houston Region (TAG) needs your voice and membership to continue our mission to secure adequate transportation infrastructure funding for our region. We have made great strides in bringing the Houston region to the conversation in Austin, but our work is not done.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> special session, we joined advocates statewide in supporting the passage of SJR1 – a constitutional amendment that, if approved by voters in 2014, will allocate excess oil and gas tax revenues to the highway fund that are currently directed towards the state’s Rainy Day Fund. This proposal, upon approval, is estimated to provide \$1.2 billion annually to the state’s highway fund. TAG is working closely with our regional delegation and partner organizations statewide to ensure voters are properly informed and prepared to support this measure in 2014 – but we need your help too. With TxDOT’s reported \$3-4 billion annual funding shortfall, this is just the first step in meeting the transportation needs of our state and region.

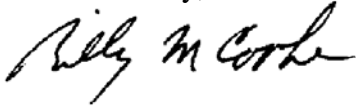
Our transportation infrastructure is in serious jeopardy and industry advocates alone will not solve this crisis. TAG is proud to have the support of over 40 members comprised of major companies, local governments and civic organizations – but our region is big and so is the challenge facing our quality of life. Join us today and help support our mission with your voice and membership.

Your TAG membership will help support:

- Our regional and statewide advocacy efforts,
- Programs and Events aimed at educating leaders in the public and private sectors
- Grassroots campaigns to educate the public on our current funding crisis
- Online and print resources filled with important facts and news related to mobility and infrastructure needs

Attached is a membership enrollment invoice along with TAG's comprehensive list of goals and objectives for your review. Please let me know if you have any questions. Your consideration is most appreciated.

Most sincerely,



Billy M. Cooke, P.E.  
Chairman  
TAG – Houston Region



Jack Drake  
Vice Chairman  
TAG – Houston Region



# STATEMENT

Houston On The Move

Date: November 8, 2013

## ANNUAL STATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP DUES For Local Governments

Miles McKinney  
The Woodlands Township  
2801 Technology Forest Blvd.  
The Woodlands, TX 77381  
281-210-3811

**Please remit payment by January 15, 2014**

Description	Amount
Please choose from the following and select the appropriate level of membership: (dues payments/statements are calculated based on each government's fiscal year)	
<input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL DUES FY 2014 - HARRIS COUNTY	\$10,000
<input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL DUES FY 2014 - OTHER HOUSTON REGION COUNTIES	\$5,000
<input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL DUES FY 2014 - Cities with population below 50,000	\$2,500
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL DUES FY 2014 - Cities, population 50,000 to 1,000,000	\$5,000
<input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL DUES FY 2014 - Cities, population 1,000,000 and above	\$10,000

**AMOUNT ENCLOSED:**

### FOR TAG OFFICE USE

Statement #						1
Date						
Amount Enclosed						
Current	1-30 Days Past Due	31-60 Days Past Due	61-90 Days Past Due	Over 90 Days Past Due	Amount Due	
X						

Make all checks payable to Transportation Advocacy Group

Thank you for your support and commitment to transportation needs for the Houston region!

1160 Dairy Ashford, Suite 500 Houston, TX 77079 Phone 443 386-6493 Andrea.French@taghouston.org