

**THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP  
AD HOC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2015  
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 September 10, 2015, posted to begin at 2:00 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 and Mike Bass

**STAFF/ADVISORS:** Don Norrell, President/General Manager; Monique Sharp, Assistant General Manager for Finance and Administration; Robin Cross, Township Attorney; Karen Dempsey, Assistant to the President; Miles McKinney, Director of Intergovernmental Relations; Chris LaRue, Transit Program Manager; and Nick Wolda, President of the CVB.

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Bruce Tough

**1. Call to Order;**

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 2:00 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 Long to adopt the agenda; second by Chairman Bass;

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

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

3. **Public comment; None**

4. **Receive, consider and act upon the consent Agenda;**

**MOTION:** Motion by Director Long to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Chairman Bass

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

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

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

- Conroe/The Woodlands Urbanized Area (UZA) – Don Norrell briefed the Committee on the meeting that was held on September 8, 2015. UZA discussed the funds on the Senior Rides program, and the other municipalities that could contribute. The City of Shenandoah budgeted \$5,000 for 2016, and the City of Oakridge budgeted \$4,000. These two contributions would not reduce the funding that the Township or Conroe would provide, however it would enhance the program and allow Senior Rides to accomplish more. The UZA also approved the Resolution to Montgomery County requesting that they consider allocating some of their local initiatives project funding to the UZA for transit support.
- Montgomery County Road Bond Status – Miles McKinney briefed the Committee on the latest developments on the Montgomery County Road Bond. One main difference in the November Road Bond is that it does not contain a list of binding projects. Also, the Woodlands Parkway extension from FM 2978 to Texas 249 and the expansion of Robinson Road in Oak Ridge North has been removed. The new proposed amount is \$280,000 with the same allocation at each precinct. Each Commissioner can determine which projects they want to fund.
- Chamber Mobility Committee – No update.
- H-GAC Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), relating to Montgomery County and The Woodlands – TIP meeting was held September 9, 2015; discussed approving projects and methodology for evaluation and recommendation of projects. Process is ongoing with another TIP meeting planned for early October to finalize project recommendations. TAC meeting will be held September 16, 2015.

- Bicycle Advisory Task Force – The Township submitted an application for a bicycle friendly community. The American Federation of Cycling asked for resident feedback. Starting a new project by the Bike Woodlands Coalition, which is a safety and awareness program. Beginning to put together concepts in October, and roll out the program in January. The group is sponsoring a candidate forum for candidates, for the Board of Directors, of the Township on September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Meals on Wheels Montgomery County Senior Rides - Ridership / statistics update and fleet management update. Slight decrease in the numbers this past month, and an accident with the bus driver. Two passengers were on board, however no one was injured. The bus is currently getting repaired.
- Interfaith – Out of 360 rides, 340 of them were in the Woodlands. One trip was to the Star Spangled Salute. They are on track to meet the goals for this year.
- Woodlands Express Park & Ride update – Ridership and operations statistics update. Chris LaRue briefed the Committee on the improvement of average riders per day and increased efficiency in run times as a result of modifying the schedules. Research Forest still has the highest performance numbers. The 5:20 a.m. coach run was maintaining a 95% average capacity, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> run was running at 70%+ average capacity for the month of August. Chris was asked why the increase and he stated that advertising assisted with the numbers. Sunsetter bus is also up to 31%.
- Woodlands Road Utility District (RUD) – Update from Chairman Bass regarding status of projects – completed the engineering study on the Kuykendahl Bridge and the road widening from Indian Springs to Timarron. It has been approved by Harris County, and the next step is to wait and see when Harris County will secure the bids.
- Master Pedestrian and Cycling Planning Project – The contract with Jones and Carter has been finalized. Chris conducted a preliminary meeting with Jones and Carter, in which data was gathered, and the planning of a kickoff and steering committee meeting. It was requested that Jones and Carter give an update at the next meeting.

**6. Receive, consider and act upon a briefing on Local Initiatives Program (LIP) funding for transportation projects;**

The UZA did make the proposal to the County, and this will reinforce it, should the Committee want to take action or not. Goodman is in the process of determining whether the Senior Rides programs qualifies, and will not have the results for several weeks, therefore it was recommended to move this item to the October agenda.

**MOTION:** No action was taken.

**7. Receive, consider and act upon an update on the purchased of commuter coaches for The Woodlands Express Commuter Bus Service;**

An update from Chris on the purchase of commuter coaches for The Woodlands Express Commuter Bus Service was discussed to the Committee. Chris stated that five new coaches will be delivered between November and December 2015. An additional 10 coaches will be delivered in January 2016. The coaches will need to be licensed and brand wrapped. This was a FTA funded project.

**MOTION:** No action was taken.

8. **The Committee recessed to Executive Session at 2:45 p.m., with counsel, staff and/or affected third parties to discuss matters relating to real property, deliberation of economic development negotiations, discuss personnel matters, consult with The Woodlands Township attorney, discuss funding alternatives and potential agreements with other local, state or federal agencies;**
9. **The Committee reconvened in public session at 3:39 p.m.;**
10. **Consideration of items to be placed on the agenda for the next committee meeting;**

To reinstate the Transportation Initiatives that was proposed in the 2016 Budget.

11. **Adjournment: 3:47 p.m.**