

**THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP
AD HOC TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 11, 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 November 11, 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, Mike Bass and Bruce Tough (arrived at 2:28 p.m.)

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

1. Call to Order;

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 2:03 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 Committee Chairman Bass;

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

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously (2-0).

6. **Receive, consider and act upon a review of Roadway Projects pertaining to Montgomery County approved as part of the H-GAC 10 year Transportation Plan;**

The Committee noted that it was difficult to determine exactly who was participating in the funding of the projects based on the information released to date. It only showed construction, and did not show the property right-of-way or engineering. In addition, the report showed time phase over the years, as opposed to when it was planned. Committee Chairman asked Chris LaRue to contact H-GAC and find out what the discrepancies are and request better information.

MOTION: No action was taken.

7. **Receive, consider and act upon an update regarding status and ridership of Demand Response System;**

- Meals on Wheels Montgomery County/Senior Rides: De'Andre Guin read the October 2015 report: 1,200 rides, including 699 UZA Rides, and 329 were from The Woodlands. Director Long requested tracking information on rides that are not provided, and Senior Rides can provide this data. Also, the number of rides per month, and year-to-date.
- Interfaith of The Woodlands: The total of the year has been 3,102 rides; 2,834 were in The Woodlands. Interfaith does not turn anyone away. A request was also made to track data monthly on the percentage used of taxi rides vs. volunteers.

MOTION: Motion made by Director Jeff Long to receive and accept the reports, second by Committee Chairman Bass.

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

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously (2-0).

Director Tough enters the meeting at 2:28 p.m.

8. **Receive, consider and act upon a briefing to the Committee regarding modifications of the existing Waterway Trolley route to provide improved service based on approved budget;**

HDR presented proposed improvements to the existing Waterway Trolley to improve service frequency and reduce the overall length of the route by 1.1 miles. Committee Chairman Bass proposed that a three month survey on the new route be conducted to obtain feedback from the riders. He further stated that we have the capability to tweak

stops along the way. Don Norrell stated that this modification would create a service change, and he suggested that the Waterway Trolley route change go before the Township Board of Directors for their approval. He further stated that the change could be set up with Brazos fairly quickly. Chris LaRue suggested setting up some temporary stop markers, until permanent ones could be installed. Committee Chairman Bass prefers to inform the Township Board of Directors about the Pilot program, then based upon the results of the survey that will be administered towards the end of the three months; ask for approval of the final route. Director Long agreed to have a Pilot program for three months, and then with the results of the survey; determine which route the people prefer. Chris LaRue suggested that The Township advertise for 30 days the proposed changed route, so that people can get accustomed to it.

MOTION: Motion made by Director Jeff Long to receive and accept the report, and include information on the Board Update for a three month pilot program, then based on results forward to the Township Board of Directors to permanently implement, second by Director Tough.

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

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously (3-0).

9. **Receive, consider and act upon a briefing to the Committee on an evaluation of Park and Ride routes to determine which if any, should be combined or eliminated;**

HDR presented proposed improvements to The Woodlands Express schedule in order to make operations more efficient and reduce operational costs.

MOTION: Director Long made a motion to approve and recommend to the Board these adjustments, second by Committee Chairman Bass.

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

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously (3-0).

10. Recessed to Executive Session at 2:57 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;

11. The Committee reconvened in public session at 3:36 p.m.;

Director Long left the meeting.

12. The Committee recommended that the Board of Directors consider a proposed fare increase for The Woodlands Express, with associated public participation for implementation in spring of 2016. This item is to be placed on the December 10th meeting.

MOTION: Committee Chairman Bass made a motion to move this forward to be placed on the December 10th meeting, second by Director Tough.

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

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously (2-0).

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

None

14. Adjournment: 3:39 p.m.