



Public Transportation Advisory Committee

Meeting will begin at 10:05 am



October 23, 2025

Agenda

1. Call to order.
2. Guidance on virtual meeting participation.
3. Approval of minutes from July 23, 2025, meeting. (Action)
4. TxDOT Public Transportation Division Director's report to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee regarding public transportation matters.
5. Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan update. (Action)
6. Chapter 31 rulemaking update - Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) changes, FTA circular updates and obsolete references. (Discussion)
7. Public Comment
8. Propose and discuss agenda items for next meeting; confirm date of next meeting. (Action)
9. Adjourn. (Action)

Please mute yourself upon joining the meeting.

It is important to enter your name when joining the meeting – if you didn't do that, please exit the meeting and rejoin.

To comment on an agenda item, use the meeting's chat feature to let Elizabeth know – he will let you know when to unmute your line.

Please don't place this meeting on HOLD – we'll all hear your hold tone.

Agenda Item 3

Approval of minutes from July 24, 2025, meeting.

MINUTES FOR ADOPTION

Public Transportation Advisory Committee – Teams Meeting

July 24, 2025 - 10:00 A.M.

Committee Members Participating via Teams:

Jim Cline

Participating in person:

Ken Fickes, Chair

James Oliver

JR Salazar

Dietrich Von Biedenfeld

Eric Gleason, Director, Public Transportation Division, PTN

Bonnie Sherman, Section Director, Statewide Planning and Program Development, PTN

Greg Reininger, Planning Lead, Statewide Planning and Program Development, PTN

Theo Kosub, Strategic Programs Development Manager, PTN

Robbi Smith, Public Involvement Specialist, PTN

David Kolovson, Vice President – Strategy and Growth, [Rifeline](#)**AGENDA ITEM 1: Call to order.**

Chair Fickes calls the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Guidance on virtual meeting participation.

Theo gives meeting guidance for those participating virtually.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Approval of minutes from January 23, 2025, meeting. (Action)**Motion:** Fickes

Recommends approval of minutes from the January 23, 2025, meeting with clarification to page 7 language.

Second: Cline

Members vote unanimously in favor of the motion. 10:07 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Approval of minutes from April 22, 2025, meeting. (Action)**Motion:** Salazar

Recommends approval of minutes from the April 22, 2025, meeting.

Second: Oliver

Members vote unanimously in favor of the motion. 10:08 A.M.

AGENDA ITEM 5: TxDOT Public Transportation Division Director's report to the Public Transportation Advisory Committee regarding public transportation matters. (Discussion)

Director Gleason gives an update on upcoming Texas Transportation Commission (TTC) awards including federal and state program funding for FY 25 rural area funds and first year Section 5310 funds. The division director also mentions an upcoming minute order for the Transportation Alternatives Program.

Director Gleason provides an update on July's Semiannual Operators Meeting attendance and discusses topics that were addressed including Service Expansion Program (SEP), a presentation on measuring success in transit, informational video about transit worker assault, and the Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan (SMTP).

Finally, he mentions that 225 detailed applications requesting almost a billion dollars in funding for the Transportation Alternatives Program Call have been received. These transit-related projects help build out pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

AGENDA ITEM 6: Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan Update. (Discussion)

Theo and David provide an update on the SMTP fall outreach plans. The plan is for 4-10 ten public meetings to begin in October. Locations will be selected with an emphasis on comprehensive statewide reach. The project team will touch base with the steering committee and with stakeholder groups when the plan is in a draft final format.

Member Cline asks about the timeline for finalizing the plan.

Kosub answers that once internal administrative reviews are complete, the plan will go out for a 30-day comment period.

Director Gleason mentions the committee should expect another update at October's meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7: 89th Legislative Session Update (Discussion)

Director Gleason gives an update on the legislative session, noting that it was mostly uneventful from PTN's perspective. Several legislative bills were introduced, but most failed to advance from their respective House or Senate Committees. The proposed DART specific legislation that would have reallocated 15% of DART's budget to local mobility improvements failed to advance. The proposed PTAC appointment bill also failed to advance out of committee, so the current appointment process (members selected by the executive branch) will continue.

Gleason mentions two PTN exceptional items that failed to receive funding during the 89th Session, \$25 million in state funding for rural fleet and facility replacement and a census 2020 impact mitigation funding request.

AGENDA ITEM 8: FY 2025 Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Application Update. (Discussion)

Director Gleason provides an overview of the department's FY 2025 application including a total request of approximately \$40 million across all funding sources. The application is comprised of \$24 million in fleet replacement, \$3 million for service expansion fleet, and nearly \$3.2 million for an El Paso County maintenance facility. The maintenance facility totals about \$16 million, with a \$12.8 million federal ask and \$3.2 million state match. The fleet replacement request would utilize nearly 5 million in Transit Development Credit (TDC).

Member Cline asks about State of Good Repair (SoG) relative to years for small buses and larger buses.

Director Gleason clarifies there are age and mileage-based Altoona standards, but the department's standards typically allow for between 130% to 150% of Altoona standards based on historical usage and maintaining a SOG. He mentions the department's Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan will be updated in FY 2026, so standards may be reevaluated at that time.

AGENDA ITEM 9: Public Comment. (Discussion)

Peter LeCody, Texas Rail Advocate, mentions his interest in the SMTP. He is happy to offer his organization's help and looks forward to the finalized SMTP.

Chair Fickes thanks Mr. LeCody for his comments.

AGENDA ITEM 10: Propose and discuss agenda items for next meeting; confirm date of next meeting. (Discussion)

Chair Fickes suggests looking at the October calendar to determine that next PTAC meeting date. The 23rd is the preferred date for committee members. He also asks about receiving an update on the SMTP at the next meeting.

Director Gleason confirms the SMTP will be discussed at the next regular PTAC meeting.

Chair Fickes inquires about any items of interest in the current special legislative session.

Director Gleason states he is not aware of any items in the special legislative session, but for federal reauthorization, the department will continue to monitor potential actions.

Member Oliver notes Galveston and Gulf Coast Transit District are coordinating to get people on and off the island through public transportation. He hopes service will be established by October or November.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Adjourn. (Action)

Motion: Cline
Recommends adjournment.

Second: Oliver

Members vote unanimously in favor of the motion

Meeting stands adjourned at 10:34 am.

Prepared by:

Theodore Kosub
Public Transportation Division

Approved by:

Ken Fickes, Chair
Public Transportation Advisory Committee

Agenda Item 4

Director's Report

Commission Actions: November – December 2025

- **November:**

- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TA) Award

- **December:**

- Reallocation of FY 21 Section 5339(b) Buses and Bus Facilities Competitive Program EV Pilot funds to SCRPT & STAR
- Section 5304 Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning Program funds to CTRTD

FY 26 Coordinated Call

- Grant Areas
 - Planning Assistance (49 U.S.C. 5304)
 - Rural Transit Assistance Program (49 U.S.C. 5311(b)(3))
 - Rural Discretionary (49 U.S.C. 3511)
 - Intercity Bus (49 U.S.C. 5311 (f))
- Dates of Interest
 - Notice of Opportunity 10/31/25
 - Application Deadline 1/23/26
 - Applications Scored 2/26/26
 - Commission Award: July 2026

Announcements

- Statewide Conference Call for Urban and Rural Transit Districts
- Division staff and organizational changes

Agenda Item 5

Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan update

Texas SMTP 2050 Development Timeline



Public Outreach Overview



Reached over **90,000 Texans** through outreach efforts in fall 2023, spring 2024, and fall 2024



Held **in-person events** in all **25 TxDOT districts**



Nearly 3,000 surveys completed by the public about transit needs and preferences and top challenges and potential strategies around improving transit



Key themes heard included service development, rural transit needs, improved facilities, intercity connectivity and informing Texans about the value of transit

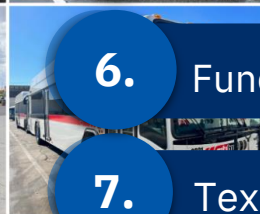
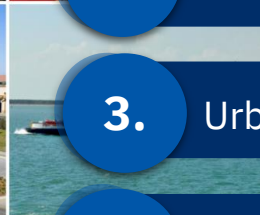
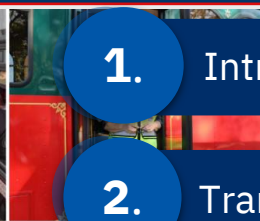




Texas Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan 2050

October 2025

Fall 2025 Outreach



1. Introduction

2. Transit in Texas Today

3. Urban and Rural Transit Service

4. Intercity Connections

5. Planning and Design

6. Funding—Maintain and Expand Services

7. Texas Transit Forward



Needs, Gaps, and Challenges

Technical analysis and feedback from public and stakeholder engagement efforts were used to identify transit needs, gaps, and challenges.



Urban and Rural Transit Services	Intercity Connections	Planning and Design	Funding—Maintain and Expand Services
• Growing urban areas • Transit access to economic opportunities • Congestion driven by growth • Rural and small urban area general mobility networks • Workforce recruitment, training and retention	• Statewide transit service network and connectivity • Intercity connectivity • Governance	• Transit and the transportation planning and design process • Transit resilience • Public awareness of the importance of transit • Inconsistent consideration of transit in economic development • Aligning transit with development and transit-supportive land uses	• Maintain critical assets • Need to maintain and expand service levels • Funding for new and improved service • Funding challenges and constraints

Strategies

Needs, gaps, and challenges were aligned with corresponding strategies intended to address the issues in four main areas. The strategies emerged from a list of over 250 ideas and were crafted with stakeholder feedback at top of mind.



Urban and Rural Transit Services	Intercity Connections	Planning and Design	Funding—Maintain and Expand Services
• Identify priority corridors and estimate minimum levels of service • Integrate all transit modes and mobility options with other transportation modes • Establish institutional and organizational partnerships to promote comprehensive workforce development	• Identify a statewide route and hub network • Develop a governance framework for statewide and regional intercity services • Implement technology to transform seamless travel statewide	• Research and document statewide Texas transit benefits • Integrate transit through local, regional, and statewide planning • Incorporate transportation technology • Prioritize safety and resiliency • Enhanced research, reporting and knowledge sharing	• Maximize use of existing funding • Expand sources, flexibility, and levels of funding • Tie funding to growth and performance

Initial Priority Steps

Priority steps are intended to jumpstart the process and build a strong foundation for realizing *Texas SMTP 2050* by identifying plans, policies, or programs necessary for carrying out the strategies.



1. Establish a community of practice (CoP) to address small urban and rural transit challenges.

TxDOT-led



2. Develop a statewide transit network and hub plan.

TxDOT-led and -facilitated



3. Develop flexible statewide transit planning and design guidelines.

TxDOT-facilitated



4. Develop success metrics, enhance and broaden data collection, and develop consistent reporting.

TxDOT-facilitated



5. Identify options to increase flexibility of funding sources and identify new and innovative funding sources to maintain and expand transit.

TxDOT-supported



6. Formalize a plan for regular outreach and education on the benefits of transit.

TxDOT-led and -facilitated

Fall 2025 Outreach



Holding **7 public meetings** across Texas



Survey and comment period **Oct. 20-Nov. 20**—
feedback on Initial Priority Steps



Presentations to SMTP contributors and key transit
stakeholders on the final plan



Social media campaign and sharing kits for
TxDOT districts, agencies and advocacy
organizations



Texas Statewide Multimodal Transit Plan

Fall 2025 In-Person Public Meetings



Outreach Goals

- Close the feedback loop with the public and with key stakeholders
- Raise awareness of TxDOT's work on the future of transit in Texas
- Galvanize support from transit champions for Initial Priority Steps for implementation

Agenda Item 6

Chapter 31 rulemaking update -
Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
changes, FTA circular updates and
obsolete references.

Rulemaking Two Step

- Today
 - Discuss TAC changes based on CFR updates, Circular changes, obsolete references and reallocation language for 5339 funds
- January Meeting
 - Consider potential modifications to allocations of 5310 funds based on TTI research

General updates

- Delete outdated language, programs and federal references, examples include:
 - Delete JARC, New Freedom, and 5309 grant programs
 - Replace references to FTA circular 5100.1 and 9040.1G with 90401.H (updated in Sept 2025)
 - Remove reference to the Federal Register for publication of annual apportionments
- Streamline language to diminish specificity in some areas, examples include:
 - Remove specific dollar amounts for procurement thresholds, such as \$3k for microtransit. (Specific dollar amounts can be retained in the State Management Plan, which is updated annually as needed.)

Section 5339 Grant Program

- Add language that allows for any remaining, unobligated, or returned funds (“residual funds”) to be re-awarded by the department on a discretionary basis. This would allow flexibility to reallocate funds in a timely manner and prioritize capital projects.
- Considerations for re-award:
 - Demonstrated and documented project readiness
 - Urgent capital needs and safety concerns
 - Ability to obligate and expend funds within the federal time limits
 - Strategic alignment with statewide public transportation goals

Distribution of Disposition Proceeds

- Update language to use FTA Fair Market Value Threshold for vehicle disposition

Current Process

- **Proceeds \$5K or less**
 - Proceeds must be tracked
 - Agencies may use proceeds for any purpose related to public transit and are not required to apply them within the same program
- **Proceeds greater than \$5K**
 - Proceeds must be tracked
 - Agencies shall use proceeds toward the acquisition of a like-kind replacement vehicle/equipment within the same program

Proposed Process

- **Proceeds less than FTA FMV threshold**
 - No requirement to track proceeds
 - TxDOT-PTN will release its interest
 - Subrecipients can treat proceeds as local funds for transit program purposes (Reference SMP)
- **Proceeds greater than FTA FMV threshold**
 - Proceeds must be tracked
 - Remains the same as our current process

January 2026: Section 5310 Grant Program

- TxDOT has contracted with the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) to explore a change to the Section 5310 Grant Program TAC language. The current allocation utilizes TxDOT Districts.
- TTI tasks:
 - ✓ Conducted a peer review of allocation practices in 10 other states.
 - Develop possible alternative allocation methodologies.
- Results will be discussed at January PTAC meeting

Texas Administrative Code Rulemaking

Tentative Timeline:

- Rule Concept/White Paper: July 2025
- Drafting of Rule Revisions: November-January 2026
- Commission Rule Proposal: February 2026
- Public Comment Period: March 2026
- Commission Final Adoption: TBD Spring 2026

Agenda Item 7

Public Comment

Agenda Item 8

Propose and discuss agenda items for next meeting;
confirm date of next meeting

Agenda Item 9

Adjourn