

## **Proposed Transit Action Plan (HB3588)**

TEXOMA Council of Governments was selected as the Transit Regional lead agency at a public meeting on August 18, 2005 and reaffirmed at the follow-up meeting on September 8, 2005. On September 15, 2005 the Board of Directors for the Texoma Council of Governments accepted this responsibility.

The Texoma Regional Coordination Planning approach will be a two-year integrated planning and programming effort. This will require a year for research, outreach, plan development, writing, local approvals, delivery to the Texas Transportation Commission and state level approvals. The second year will begin plan changes/maintenance; development and execution of local agreements with regional health and human services and transit agencies; changes to existing agreements where required; funding allocations changes where needed; grants writing and applications to enable implementation of plan provisions; and requests for waivers and exceptions to remedy regulatory and other barriers identified in the planning process as obstacles to an efficient client and public transportation service delivery in the region.

Cost Estimate first year:

1 – Coordinator/Planner (including overhead/fringe)	\$ 70,000
1- Administrative Assistant (part time)	\$ 40,000
Equipment (computers, printer, phones) <u>1st year only</u>	\$ 10,000
Travel	\$ 5,000
Supplies (pens, paper, postage, advertisement)	\$ 5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>
Second year	\$ 120,000

## **Proposed Action Plan for the First Year**

### SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER

1. Confirm the participants who are committed to participate.
2. Organize
  - a. Define purpose of the group
  - b. Identify any additional stakeholders to ask to participate
    - i. Public providers in the region
    - ii. Agency providers
    - iii. Funding agencies
    - iv. Agency users of transportation services
    - v. Customers, individual users
    - vi. Advocates for users
    - vii. Regional transportation planning agencies
  - c. Decide on business arrangement for the group (who will make arrangements for meetings, send out minutes, track action plan, etc.)
  - d. Agree upon format for collaboration (committees, individual assignments, weekly meetings, workshops, etc.)

3. Agree upon a Vision and guiding principles for the effort
  - a. Coordination is about shared power
  - b. For coordination to succeed, the organizations involved must have shared objectives
  - c. And all discussions must be undertaken with shared respect
  - d. Identify objectives that are feasible and can be monitored, measured
4. Negotiate and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement between the parties.
  - a. Assign responsibilities for the regional planning effort
  - b. Identify resources needed to complete the plan (staff, dollars)

#### DECEMBER/JANUARY

5. Make a regional assessment
  - a. What coordination is ALREADY occurring?
  - b. What resources are available (service providers, services, vehicles, trained professionals, etc.)?
  - c. Identify inefficiencies. What are the duplications? Gaps? Underutilized resources?
  - d. What are the needs of the region that can be addressed by coordination?
  - e. What are the opportunities for coordination? Good examples that can be expected to render benefits?
  - f. What are the obstacles that prevent the coordination?
    - i. Funding
    - ii. Jurisdictional
    - iii. Policy
    - iv. Regulatory
  - g. Are the obstacles real or perceived?
6. Research national examples of successful coordination to address the opportunities identified in the previous task. Good references are the TCRP reports.

#### FEBRUARY/MARCH

7. Reach out to public. Facilitate customers, users, potential users in the discussion of needs and opportunities.

#### APRIL

8. Develop a Strategy for a Regional Plan
  - a. Present the results of the Assessment and the National Examples as well as customer input – perhaps in a workshop
  - b. Develop the strategy for a regional plan for coordination
  - c. Establish priorities for action

#### MAY - SEPTEMBER

9. Develop Regional Plan

### **2<sup>nd</sup> YEAR – IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN**