



**Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition**

2377 Stemmons Freeway  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium  
Dallas, Texas

September 4, 2009  
11:00 a.m.

# **MEETING NOTES**

**Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition  
Executive Committee Minutes  
June 5, 2009**

**Executive Committee Members Attending:**

Douglas Athas (Garland)  
Mike Baggett (Area Chambers)  
Rudy Durham (Lewisville)  
Rob Franke (Cedar Hill & Duncanville)  
John Harper (Rowlett)  
Mary Horn (Denton County)  
Kathy Ward (Collin County)  
Linda Koop (Dallas)  
Steve Mitchell (Richardson)  
Jayne Peters (Coppell)  
Stan Pickett (Mesquite)  
Carl Sherman (Lancaster, DeSoto, Glenn Heights & Hutchins)  
Grady Smithey (Dallas)  
Rick Stopfer (Irving)

**Ex-Officio Members Attending:**

Charles Emery (DCTA) (Kristina Brevard)  
Allen Clemson (NTTA) (Rick Herrington)  
Bill Hale (TxDot) (Cynthia White)  
Michael Morris (COG/RTC) (Dan Kessler)  
Koorosh Olyai (DART)

**Staff:**

John Carpenter  
Christene Wheeler

## OPENING

Chairman Rob Franke called the meeting to order.

## FOCUS TOPICS-

### -Legislative Update

Report given by Rider Scott, John Carpenter and Brian Mays.

Ryder Scott gave his analysis of the recently concluded Legislative Session:

- ◆ The differences in the House of Representatives were underestimated;
- ◆ Relied on key personalities to shoulder the weight of TLOTA;
- ◆ Instead of achieving the goal incrementally we went after all of it;
- ◆ There was no consistency of statutory language in the TLOTA Bill;
- ◆ Ominbus bills may not be the way to pursue the goal of TLOTA;

John Carpenter briefly reviewed items on the legislative agenda. There was a lack of overwhelming support from the region's delegates, key members of the House Transportation Committee. The Special Session will be closely watched. All options will be looked at as well as to what went wrong.

Brian Mayes stated that:

- ◆ There was too much fighting against each other. Advocacy groups were making phone calls, letters and emails to sway the Representatives;
- ◆ There are candidates who are up for re-election who do not want to be known as pro-tax ( what the opposition was pushing TLOTA as);
- ◆ What was done right:
  - Could not have been more unified
  - The Dallas Morning News remained vigilant in its support;
  - The number of chambers and individuals involved and their organizations.
- ◆ What should be done next legislation:
  - Start sooner;
  - Stay vigilant, organized and together as a group;
  - Form a PAC specific to transportation issues, thus giving us the ability to speak with:
    - Support
    - Money
    - Organization and numbers;
  - Advertise the message to inform everyone.

John Carpenter stated that we need to organize at a regional level not just a DRMC or TRTC effort.

Carl Sherman made the observation that down in session the group looked like elitists versus the regular Joes, moms and dads who had the message that the bill was adding taxes to them. Even though that was not the case, the picture painted said a lot.

**MINUTES-** The next order of business was the approval of the minutes of the May 1, 2009 DRMC Executive Committee meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT-** Rick Stopfer presented monthly report for May and a move for approval was made.

Jayne Peters asked about the \$100,000 that was set aside for the lobbyist. John Carpenter answered that no lobbyist was obtained, instead participation in the public education information efforts and expected the cost to be around \$20,000. That amount would be paid to the Arlington Chamber of Commerce. No more funds will be spent until after there is a meeting of the Finance Committee and it is placed before the Executive Committee.

Treasure's report passed unanimously.

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **-By-Laws Committee**

Report given by Douglas Athas.

Reviewed the By-Law changes that were presented at the May meeting and moved for approval.

Grady Smithey second the motion.

Carl Sherman asked about where the population numbers were derived.

Rob Franke stated that it is based on the Council of Governments numbers that are published yearly.

Some discussion about the membership of the private sector took place.

By-Law changes passed unanimously.

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

### **-DART**

Report given by Koorosh Olyai.

-Briefly highlighted the hand out

-HOV facilities continue to perform well

-Reviewed dates in handout

## **-RTC**

Report given by Dan Kessler.

- Reviewed the Local Motion handout
- Discussed upcoming dates and events
- Briefly spoke about the handouts that were given to the Transportation Commission last month
- Reviewed dollar amounts and projects in regards to TxDOT
- Gave future summary of TxDOT and their monetary status
- Suggested that everyone listen to the presentation that James Bass gave to the Transportation Commission in April if possible. It provides insight into TxDOT and where they stand

Grady Smithy suggests taking this message to everyone's council.

Cooksey will provide the presentation that was created for DRMC to the board and also place it on the website. The presentation may be used to get the message out.

Much discussion over TxDOT and their situation with money and the funding of roadways continued. There was also discussion in regards to money available at the federal level.

## **-TxDOT**

Report given by Cynthia White.

- Emphasized that there needs to be public education on the transportation issue
- Highlighted issues in the TxDOT handout
- Updating the look of the TxDOT website and handout
- Announced the opening of the Lewisville toll bridge and the events surrounding it. More information will be posted on the website.

## **-NTTA**

Report given by Rick Herrington.

- Announce the new NTTA executive, Allen Clemson
- Provided an update on projects and lanes

## **-DCTA**

Report given by Kristina Brevard

- Announced the signing of a \$73 million contract for new generation rail vehicles
- Referred to the handouts for other information

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Colby Walton announced that DRMC won the Platinum Hermes Creative Award for the website. The award noted that "the website was a dynamic, new educational tool designed to inform the public and members about critical transportation advocacy efforts and needs among the eastern half of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex

Rob Franke reminded everyone that there is NO MEETING IN JULY and that the Governance Committee will meet in the near future. A date and time will be sent to those on the committee.

**ADJOURNED**

Respectfully submitted,

---

Grady Smithey  
Secretary, DRMC

---

Date



**Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition  
Executive Committee Minutes  
August 7, 2009**

**Executive Committee Members Attending:**

Douglas Athas (Garland)  
Mike Baggett (Area Chambers)  
Rudy Durham (Lewisville)  
John Harper (Rowlett)  
Mary Horn (Denton County)  
Linda Koop (Dallas)  
Ron Natinsky (Dallas)  
Jayne Peters (Coppell)  
Carl Sherman (Lancaster, DeSoto, Glenn Heights & Hutchins)  
Rick Stopfer (Irving)  
Kathy Ward (Collin County)

**Ex-Officio Members Attending:**

Charles Emery (DCTA)  
Allen Clemson (NTTA)  
Bill Hale (TxDot)  
Michael Morris (COG/RTC)  
Koorosh Olyai (DART)

**Staff:**

John Carpenter  
Christene Wheeler

## OPENING

Vice-Chairman Linda Koop called the meeting to order.

## FOCUS TOPICS-

**-State Representative Linda Harper-Brown (R-Irving)** presented her observations on the recently concluded 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature. Among the points she made were:

- ◆ There is now an awareness of transportation needs and that there are problems.
- ◆ TLOTA bill had quite a bit trouble. The primary reason for its failure was the Democrats “chubbing” to avoid consideration of the voter identification bill. This left no time for it to get to the floor.
  - An amendment for TLOTA was added to the Sunset Bill.
  - Transportation Chairman, Sunset Chair, Speaker of the House and the Governor did not want it to be included in the Sunset Bill.
  - In the House, the members did not receive the bill until the day it was heard in committee.
  - There were issues with the revisions in the bill.
  - The Goal of the TxDOT Sunset was to streamline TxDOT so it would be more innovative, efficient and effective.
  - She will be on the next Sunset Committee in the upcoming session.

Douglas Athas asked what we should do at the next legislation to get the region’s needs addressed.

Representative Harper-Brown suggested:

- ◆ Make sure that it is being represented by lobbyist truthfully.
- ◆ Be more involved in Austin and the bill.
- ◆ Get a champion on the Transportation Committee for the bill on the House Transportation Committee.
- ◆ Be transparent.
- ◆ Be specific about wants.

More discussion on how the bill was represented and how it was handled took place.

Rick Stopfer asked what needs to be done in the upcoming months prior to the next legislative session.

Representative Harper-Brown responded:

- ◆ Need to get leadership on board.
- ◆ Keep commitment to the leadership.
- ◆ Make sure the local delegation is in favor of the bill.
- ◆ Find out what the local delegation and the Transportation Committee want to see in the bill.

# COMMITTEE REPORT

## -Governance Committee

Report given by Jayne Peters.

The Governance Committee met on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and discussed the TLOTA Bill and how to regroup with RTC and TRTC and what needs to be done in order to move forward.

Also discussed that Rob Franke, Ken Shetter, Vic Suhm and John Carpenter may meet in a collaborative effort and hosting some new events and possibly, a joint event at the TML Conference in Fort Worth in November.

## AGENCY REPORTS

### -RTC

Report given by Michael Morris.

- ◆ Amanda Wilson provided a summary of the legislature and bills that the RTC followed as well as the special session. She reviewed page 5 on the registration fee and page 9 on the appropriations bill on TERP.
- ◆ Michael Morris stated that :
  - The Transportation Plan is going through Air Quality Conformity.
  - RTC is expecting federal approval any day.
  - When the issue of air quality conformity is approved, the RTC will layout the first of 2 issues:
    1. Plan showing business as usual with no new revenue; and,
    2. Plan showing business with new revenue.
  - The legislature did not provide any new tools for transportation.

### -TxDOT

Report given by Bill Hale

- ◆ There were three things issues in the special session that effected TxDOT. Two passed and one did not.
- ◆ Received \$2 billion of funding.
  - \$1 billion will go into the State Infrastructure Bank.
  - \$1 billion will go into a revolving account.
  - The Dallas area's portion will roughly be around 36 % of what the region receives.
- ◆ Able to continue projects that were mentioned under 792.
- ◆ Remaining projects are on hold until next session.

### -NTTA

Linda Koop welcomed Mr. Allen Clemson to the DRMC.

Report given by Allen Clemson. He reported that:

- ◆ NTTA continues to mover forward on projects.
- ◆ As the 161 project continues to expand, looking to present to the NTTA board the design build construction recommendation in the next month or so. The proposals are in and the staff has made a preliminary selection with the assistance of

## **-NTTA cont**

TxDOT and the Federal Highway Authority. Should be on the awards schedule soon.

- ◆ Lake Lewisville Bridge is open. There are 8,500 cars using the bridge daily. That number will increase to 18,000 cars before the end of the year.
- ◆ Moving to an all electronic collection process.
- ◆ September 1 the toll rate will increase approximately 3-3.5 cents.
- ◆ Successful in getting one bill passed during legislation that dealt with options to collect and enforce toll collecting.

## **-DCTA**

Report given by Charles Emery.

- ◆ Lake Lewisville Bridge opening day was very successful and exciting.
- ◆ Legislation
  - One clean-up bill passed, HB 3070.
  - Suggested the following on moving forward:
    - Start early for the next legislation session.
    - Find a more effective way to communicate our interests.
    - Communicate more to the elected and appointed officials.
    - The legislature needs to hear more from the elected and appointed officials.

## **-DART**

Report given by Koorosh Olyai.

- ◆ Briefly highlighted the hand out and important upcoming dates.
- ◆ HOV facilities continue to perform well.
- ◆ In regards to application for Integration Corridor Management for US -75, the USDOT has forwarded a list of questions for DART. Look to have all questions responded to by August 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

John Harper reviewed the finances

- ◆ Reminded those who have outstanding dues to please pay them.
- ◆ There will be a few items to approve at the next meeting.
- ◆ The associate membership form has been distributed to the board for review.
- ◆ Please submit any suggested changes to Christene Wheeler.
- ◆ The form will be available to everyone at the next meeting.

Linda Koop noted that a quorum was not met. Therefore, approval for minutes and financials will be sought at the next meeting.

## **ADJOURNED**

Respectfully submitted,

---

Grady Smithey  
Secretary, DRMC

---

Date