



MEETING NOTICE

TO: North East Texas Regional Mobility Authority Members
FROM: Linda Thomas, Chair
DATE: May 15, 2012
SUBJECT: **NET RMA SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

The next meeting of the NET RMA is scheduled as follows:

DATE: Tuesday, May 15, 2012
TIME: 1:30 pm
PLACE: Trey-Deuce Saloon
4450 CR SW 3010
Mt. Vernon, TX 75457

Enclosed are the agenda and other pertinent information for your review prior to the meeting. Should you have any questions, please call me at 903.561.6547.

NORTH EAST TEXAS REGIONAL MOBILITY AUTHORITY (NET RMA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
1:30 PM Tuesday May 15, 2012
Trey-Deuce Saloon
4450 CR SW 3010
Mt. Vernon, Texas 75457
PRESIDING: Linda Thomas, CHAIR

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

Notice of this meeting was posted with the Secretary of State's Office, with the County Clerk in Franklin and Smith Counties, on the NET RMA website, Toll 49 website and in the offices of Atkins on May 11, 2012.

A quorum was declared. There were 14 Board Members present. The meeting was called to order by Chair Thomas at 1:40 PM.

2. INVOCATION

Chair Thomas decided that another invocation wasn't necessary for the start of the NET RMA Board Meeting since Mr. Mike Battles gave one at the start of the luncheon that was held before the meeting.

3. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Board Members

Chair Thomas opted to skip the normal introductions due to the fact that the board members were in a very "social setting" already and had time to get acquainted prior to the meeting.

The NET RMA Board Members that were present introduced themselves and some gave brief welcoming remarks. Board Members present at the meeting included: Linda Thomas, Barham Fulmer, Hudson Old, Keith Honey, James Harris, Jim Stephens, Gaylon White, Celia Boswell, Jeff Sandford, Robert Murray, Mike Thomas, Barry Hughes, Dave Spurrier and Andy Vinson.

Absent Board Members included: Walta Cooke, Tim Vaughn and Gary Halbrooks.

4. REMARKS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. Franklin County Judge Paul Lovier

Judge Lovier

Prior to the regular NET RMA Board meeting commencing, during the luncheon, Franklin County Judge Paul Lovier was in attendance learning about what a membership to the NET RMA would do for his county's transportation needs.

Judge Lovier actually gave a presentation to the Board prior to the regular Board meeting regarding what was going on in Franklin County and their transportation needs. Judge Lovier mentioned several highlights including roadway and railway transportation in North East Texas as well as the I-30 corridor that passes through Franklin County.

Titus County Judge Brian Lee was also present at the Board meeting. Judge Lee briefly thanked NET RMA Board Member Hudson Old for inviting him and said that he was glad to be at the meeting.

5. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM / COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments made at this meeting.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Discussion, Consideration and Approval of Minutes for

Action Item

- March 13, 2012 NET RMA Regular Board Meeting

Chair Thomas referred the board to the minutes dated March 13, 2012 from the regular board meeting. The Chair entertained a motion to approve these minutes if there were no edits by the Board.

Board Member Keith Honey moved the approval. Board Member Jeff Sandford seconded the motion. The motion carried and the minutes for the March 13, 2012 meeting were approved.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Thomas

A. Update on Appointment of NET RMA Executive and Standing Committees

NET RMA Board of Directors Chair Linda Thomas stated that this was an exciting time for transportation because money is coming from Austin, and projects are starting up again. Ms. Thomas' remarks were made in reference to the fact that the Texas Transportation Commission had discussed at its April 26th meeting allocating approximately \$2B in state and Federal funding that is potentially available to advance various transportation projects in Texas.

Ms. Thomas also stated that the Longview Multi-Modal Facility and Amtrak Station remodeling projects were moving forward nicely. She noted that there would be a presentation about these projects later in the Board meeting.

Ms. Thomas stated that she had been working to educate herself with respect to what is happening with transportation planning in North East Texas, and she asked the other Board Members to do the same. Ms. Thomas said it is important for the Board Members to visit with their local judges, cities, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Councils of Governments (COGs) to learn what is going on in the region regarding transportation planning. Ms. Thomas reminded everyone that the NET RMA is the only RMA in the State of Texas that has added counties beyond the original founding counties, and in addition the NET RMA has more member counties than any other RMA in the state. She stated that this meant that there is no model or template to follow regarding how the NET RMA should develop its structure. This presents a huge challenge for the NET RMA but Ms. Thomas is confident that the Board will move forward and do what is best for transportation in North East Texas.

Ms. Thomas further stated that the NET RMA "Operations Committee" would also be entering new territory in March of 2013, when the NET RMA takes over the daily operation and maintenance of Toll 49. The Operations Committee will have to have rules and regulations in place for setting and periodically adjusting toll rates, establishing violation procedures and undertaking other steps to see that Toll 49 operates smoothly and efficiently.

Ms. Thomas also noted that the NET RMA would need an "ad hoc" committee to help with the planning and implementation of a "celebration" that will be part of the Grand Opening of Toll 49 Segment 3B early in 2013.

These remarks concluded the Chair's Report.

B. Meetings of Interest

- Texas Transportation Commission Meeting – May 31, June 28 and July 26, 2012 in Austin, TX
- TeamTX – Date Pending

www.dot.state.tx.us

www.team-tx.org

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

Andy Vinson

A. Discussion, Consideration and Possible Action on the Treasurer's Report

Action Item

Chair Thomas called upon Board Member and Treasurer, Andy Vinson, to give the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Vinson then called upon CPA Tom Fitzgerald to give the report.

Tom Fitzgerald gave a summary of the statement of net assets that was in the board books. Mr. Fitzgerald briefly went over Schedules 1 and 2 of the financial statements. They were presented to the Board explaining the change in the Net Assets budget to actual comparison and the change in Construction Budgets to actual comparison.

Board Member Robert Murray moved the approval. Board Member Jim Stephens seconded the motion. The motion carried.

9. PRESENTATION BY Deanne Simmons, P.E. for the TxDOT Atlanta District

Deanne Simmons, P.E.

Mrs. Simmons, TxDOT's District Advance Planning Engineer for the Atlanta District, was asked by Chair Thomas to make this same presentation she had made to the ETCOG prior. The purpose of the presentation being made was to update the Board on TxDOT's process of how projects get onto their priority lists. Mrs. Simmons covered several of TxDOT's different plans that are used to organize transportation projects based on need/importance and funding availability.

Mr. Everett Owen, Project Director, asked Mrs. Simmons what one of TxDOT's plans would implementation of new truck lanes for I-20 and I-30 be listed under. Mrs. Simmons responded that they would be under the 2035 Long Range Plan.

NET RMA Treasurer and Board Member Andy Vinson also posed a question to Mrs. Simmons regarding low public attendance at their public hearings and if TxDOT would potentially partner with the RMA's to hold the public meetings in efforts to increase attendance. Mrs. Simmons answered Mr. Vinson's question by stating that partnering with the RMA's has not been done in the past but TxDOT may consider it in the future. As far as the attendance at their public meetings, it is low because when members of the public come to these meetings, they want specific project information related to the projects in their areas and that is usually not available at this type of meeting or hearing.

A full printout copy of Mrs. Simmons presentation is provided with these Board Meeting Minutes.

**10. PRESENTATION BY the City of Longview Regarding
Longview-Gregg County Intermodal Project**

Mr. Chuck Ewing and Mr. Rob Stephens

The City of Longview and Gregg County approached Chair Thomas to make a presentation to the Board updating them on the status of Longview and Gregg County's Intermodal Project. Mr. Chuck Ewing and Mr. Rob Stephens were present at the Board meeting to give their presentation. Mr. Ewing presented to the Board information on the MMF in Longview as well as the improvements to their Amtrak line.

The City of Longview/Gregg County wants to partner with the ETCOG and the NET RMA to pursue other long range projects in the region. At the end of the presentation, Mr. Ewing asked Chair Thomas and the Board for a letter of support to be written to the TxDOT Transportation Commission regarding the City of Longview's efforts in transportation projects.

A full printout copy of Mr. Ewing and Mr. Stephens' presentation is provided with these Board Meeting Minutes.

**11. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF FEE FOR
MEMBERSHIP IN THE I-69 ALLIANCE
(Resolution 12-17)**

Action Item

Chair Thomas asked Project Director, Everett Owen, to explain Resolution 12-17 to the Board. This particular resolution addressed the need for the NET RMA Board of Directors to authorize the payment of the \$500 fee required for membership into the I-69 Alliance.

Board Member Celia Boswell asked Mr. Owen to explain where the funds would come from in order to pay the \$500 membership fee. Mr. Owen replied that it would come out of the monies collected from the member county dues.

Board Member and Treasurer Andy Vinson asked who the I-69 Alliance was.

Board Member Jim Stephens asked Chair Thomas if she thought it would be possible to have someone from the I-69 Alliance come and present to the Board so they would be more informed before joining therefore spending the \$500 in memberships fees. Chair Thomas said that she was sure that someone could come and talk to the Board. Chair Thomas took a moment to state that the roadway signs have gone up reflecting the I-69 Corridor name and that the roads were up to interstate standards.

Board Member Robert Murray moved for the approval. Board Member Jeff Sandford seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**12. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REQUESTING
TXDOT'S INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE I-30 CORRIDOR
IN THE 2035 PLAN
(Resolution 12-18)**

Action Item

Chair Thomas asked Project Director, Everett Owen, to explain Resolution 12-18 to the Board.

The statewide long-range transportation plan 2035 (the "2035 plan") serves as the state's 24-year "blueprint" for the transportation planning process and guides the collaborative efforts between the Texas department of transportation ("TxDOT"), local and regional decision-makers, and transportation stakeholders. The 2035 plan currently includes only one project in the interstate 30 ("I-30")

corridor. The expansion of the Panama Canal and continued economic growth in North East Texas could lead to a substantial increase in truck traffic on I-30, thereby creating a demand for additional infrastructure improvements in the I-30 corridor.

NET RMA Board of Directors requests that TxDOT consider the inclusion of additional projects to improve mobility and the movement of freight in the I-30 corridor in the 2035 plan.

Board Member Robert Murray moved for the approval. Board Member Jim Stephens seconded the motion. The motion carried.

13. DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE TEXAS GOOD ROADS / TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION (Resolution 12-19) **Action Item**

Chair Thomas asked Project Director, Everett Owen, to explain Resolution 12-19 to the Board.

Texas Good Roads/Transportation Association is committed to educating the Texas public on transportation-related issues, including the need for improving the state highway system and the importance of prioritizing highway funding.

The NET RMA is dedicated to supporting transportation improvements that will enhance the quality of life and improve the economic vitality of North East Texas and educating the Texas public about the need for highway improvements and the importance of highway funding is consistent with the goals and purpose of the NET RMA.

The NET RMA Board of Directors supports the Texas Good Roads/Transportation Association in its educational mission. The NET RMA will cooperate with the Texas Good Roads/Transportation Association in its efforts to educate the citizens of North East Texas about the importance of transportation-related issues when such opportunities arise.

A letter of support was proposed to be written to the Association to show support and cooperation from the NET RMA.

Board Member Jim Harris moved for the approval. Board Member Robert Murray seconded the motion. Board Member Celia Boswell did oppose the resolution. The motion carried with a 13-1 vote.

14. PROJECT DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Toll 49) **Everett Owen**

A presentation was made by Mr. Tom Taylor of Texas Municipal League regarding risk insurance for the NET RMA. The premium for the recommended insurance will be \$794 per year that would be paid out of the member county's dues. Board Member Celia Boswell asked where that money would come from and Everett Owen answered her. Board Member and Secretary Dave Spurrier asked if the NET RMA already had that type of coverage and it was explained to him that the only coverage the Board Members have is the surety bonds and that the NET RMA as a whole does not have coverage.

15. REPORT CONCERNING STATUS OF GEC WORK AUTHORIZATIONS **Mike Battles**

Chair Thomas asked Mr. Mike Battles, Project Director of the GEC, to discuss Agenda Item 15.

Mr. Battles touched on several items that the GEC was working on giving the board an update. Mr. Battles stated that all the GEC work was current and those items included:

- The GEC is preparing an ETHG Feasibility Study and a Smith County MMF study.
- The GEC is beginning to develop information for the FY 2013 Budget that will be discussed in August or September 2012. All other financial studies are complete.
- The NET RMA Administrative activities included: preparing materials for the May 15th Board Meeting, prepared comments and a submittal letter to TxDOT regarding their Texas Rural Transportation Plan 2035, monitoring traffic volumes and potential revenue for Toll 49 and prepared summary reports, maintained the Compliance and Oversight data bases and notified Board Members of needed action if any, assisted TxDOT with design and construction coordination for Segments 3A and 5 on an as-need basis and submitted revised HazMat Trap design to TxDOT Tyler Area office on May 11, 2012.
- Web site www.netram.org went live on May 9, 2012.
- Continued posting press releases, board meeting information and traffic notices to both of the web sites for NET RMA and Toll 49.

- Any information related to past board meetings, board members, NET RMA information or Toll 49 information that the Board may need access to that is over three years old is still accessible even though it is not on either of the web sites. It can be obtained by contacting Erin Lavender.

16. RAIL COMMITTEE REPORT

Celia Boswell

A. Discussion of East Texas Rail Coalition Meeting, March 29, 2012

Board Member and Chair of the Rail Committee gave an update on what was going on with the East Texas Rail Coalition (ETRC) since the last Board meeting. The ultimate goal of the East Texas Rail Coalition, in conjunction with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), is to get a high-speed commuter rail running from Dallas to Shreveport with a few stops in metropolitan areas along the proposed route.

During their last meeting on the 29th of March it was determined that until the group gets a little more substantial that they will remain a "working committee" with regular people on the committee that are willing to donate their time and efforts all in the name of high-speed commuter rail transportation becoming a reality not just a dream. One of the goals for their next meeting, taking place on June 1st, is to come up with a name for the group rather than East Texas Rail Coalition. Celia Boswell stated, "We are onto something good here and hopefully it will happen soon rather than later."

Mrs. Boswell announced that there will be a regional planning meeting regarding the future of the I-20 rail corridor involving the ETRC and other rail stakeholders. It will be on September 7, 2012 at the University of Texas at Tyler's Health Science Center.

Chair Thomas added another reason for pushing the rail corridor through East Texas is to assist veterans in their travel to their VA hospitals. There are a large number of them having to travel from Shreveport to Dallas for their treatments and doctor appointments. Therefore, having a high-speed rail would alleviate some of their travel issues getting to and from their appointments.

17. ADJOURNMENT

The NET RMA Regular Board meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM to go into an Executive Session.
The Executive Session of the NET RMA Board Meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.
Chair Thomas adjourned the Regular NET RMA Board Meeting at 3:31 PM.

BOARD BOOK APPENDIX - COMPLIANCE AND OVERSIGHT

- A. OPEN RECORDS SPREADSHEET
- B. SURETY BOND SPREADSHEET
- C. CONFLICT OF INTEREST SPREADSHEET
- D. TERM EXPIRATION SPREADSHEET
- E. TEC FILING SPREADSHEET



Linda Thomas, Chair



Dave Spurrier, Secretary



Erin Lavender

**EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE,
CHAPTER 551, IF ANY**

- A. **Section 551.071. Consultation with Attorney—**Consultation with, and advice from legal counsel concerning pending/contemplated litigation, settlement offers and negotiations, and other legal issues.
- B. **Section 551.074. Personnel Matters—**Deliberation concerning the designation, reassignment, evaluation, compensation, and duties of personnel.
- C. **Section 551.072. Deliberation Regarding Real Property—**Discussion of real property purchase, exchange, lease, donation, including property to be acquired for right-of-way.

FY 2012 Scheduled Board Meetings / Functions

July 2012
NET RMA Board Meeting
TBA

Budget Workshop
TBD

Non-Scheduled Meetings / Functions - Where a Quorum Could be Present, but No RMA Business Would be Conducted

Date Pending
TeamTX
Austin, Texas
May 31, June 28 and July 26, 2012
Texas Transportation Commission Meeting
Austin, Texas

COURTESY RULES

Thank you for your presence. The NET RMA appreciates your interest. If you wish to address the RMA on any agenda item, Public Participation Forms will be available before the meeting. These forms must be filled out and turned in to the RMA Chairman or secretary *prior* to the time the agenda item in question is addressed by the RMA.

You must be recognized by the Chair. (NOTE: Items will not necessarily be presented in the order they are posted.)

OPEN COMMENT PERIOD

At the conclusion of all other agenda items, the Board will allow an open comment period, **not to exceed one hour**, to receive public comment on any other matter that is under the jurisdiction of the Board. Public comment that does not relate to a specific agenda item must be made during the open comment period.

Each speaker will be allowed a **maximum of three (3) minutes**. Speakers must be signed up prior to the beginning of the open comment period. For subjects that are not otherwise part of the agenda for the meeting, Board members may neither comment nor question speakers during the open comment period, but may direct the Chairman, or a recognized committee to investigate the subject further. No action will be taken on matters that are not part of the agenda for the meeting.

NOTE

Enumerated agenda items are assigned for ease of reference only, and will not necessarily be considered by the Board in that particular order. The Chairman may rearrange the order in which agenda items are considered.

Presenters with audiovisual needs are requested to contact Erin Lavender at (903) 509-1552 ext. 448-1229, at least two working days prior to the meeting.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT FOR DISABLED PERSONS

This meeting site is accessible to disabled persons as follows: wheelchair ramp at the main entrance. If any special assistance or accommodations are needed in order to attend this RMA meeting, please contact Erin Lavender at (903) 509-1552 ext. 448-1229, in advance so accommodations can be made.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services, such as interpreters for person who are deaf or hearing impaired, and readers of large print or Braille, are requested to contact Erin Lavender at (903) 509-1552 ext. 448-1229, at least two working days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.