

Liberty County Transit Plan Public Involvement (2009)

Meetings, Workshops and Open Houses:

Presentation of findings and recommendations for the proposed Liberty County Transit Plan, accompanied by an extended public comment period, February 19 through March 27, 2009:

- **Liberty County South/ City of Liberty** (February 19, 2009): Public meeting/ open house for area officials, stakeholders, and citizens
- **Liberty County North/ City of Cleveland** (March 10, 2009): Public meeting/ open house for area officials, stakeholders, and citizens
- **Liberty County North/ City of Cleveland** (March 10, 2009): City Council meeting; presentation for officials, stakeholders, and citizens

Other Area Meetings and Briefings:

Presentation of recommendations for the proposed Liberty County Transit Plan, with discussions and updated information provided by program directors and administrators.

- **Cleveland Senior Center** (March 10, 2009)
- **Liberty Senior Activity Center** (March 17, 2009)
- **Liberty County Indigent Health Care Program** (March 17, 2009)

General Comments and Concerns on County Public Transportation:

Issues and concerns raised in the 2009 meetings are similar to the 2006 and 2008 outreach efforts, with greater emphasis on the need to advance proposed recommendations for service expansion as soon as possible. Current economic and employment conditions added to rising fuel prices underscore the need for inter-county service to training sites and college campuses in Montgomery County.

Impacts from Hurricane Ike (September 2008) on Liberty County's infrastructure, employment, and revenue base and funding opportunities available through the 2009 economic stimulus package highlight current discussions.

Reader Comments (posted to The Cleveland Advocate story, pub. 2-16-09):

five Oh wrote on Feb 20, 2009 2:07 PM:

"... Dayton P&R facility, I support. Might even consider a line to Baytown for the workers going down there. The rest, not so much. I could support a Cleveland P&R that might have connections to the METRO Townsend P&R, as well as a Conroe or Woodlands Connection if it connects to any public transportation in those areas. Granted some people might hop 2 or 3 busses to reach their locations, but it gives people options to reach some higher paying jobs than are offered in the Cleveland area."

Reader Comments (posted to The Cleveland Advocate story, pub. 2-23-09):

five Oh wrote on Feb 23, 2009 9:48 AM:

"Oh and the article, written for the Cleveland Advocate (news for the Cleveland Area, ahem), failed to mention the following:

(7) A Transit Feasibility Assessment (Phase 2-Transit Plan) of a Park-and-Ride service in Cleveland, Texas with connecting routes along US 59 North, southbound to the Townsend METRO Park and Ride lot and a cross-county connecting route to Dayton/Liberty along FM 321. I think that is news enough to justify being mentioned in the article. Not to mention that HGAC made an error and called it FM 321 when it is SH 321."

Comment Card Received:

From: Mark Bradshaw, Cleveland
Date: March 10, 2009

Think it's great, hope it works.

H-GAC Staff notes related to development of the Liberty County Transit Plan:

Senior Citizens Centers:

Each of the county's three senior centers has unique transportation-related needs. The focus to date has been on replacing vehicles that are past their useful life. There is a process for replacing the vehicles that were purchase through the TxDOT 5310 program (Liberty County Project on Aging). The Cleveland Senior Citizens Center will have to apply as a new purchase, when the next 5310 call for projects is issued.

There is a need to develop a Transit Coordination Action Plan to guide the centers' collective next steps. The Action Plan should also include the Tri-County MHMR organization, which has numerous vehicles, and the Liberty County Indigent Care program, which receives more transportation funding directly from the County's budget than the three senior centers combined.

Veterans Transportation:

This issue is more complex because veterans in Liberty and Chambers counties cannot get to their medical appointments “easily,” although there is a VA component at the medical center in Houston that has been providing hundreds of trips each month.

Education and Employment Travel:

In addition to services included in the draft transit plan, there is a growing need for a connecting service to and from Montgomery County for access to the colleges there. That kind of service would also provide access to more cross-county employment opportunities.
