

EXHIBIT 5

Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural Transit District (ATCOG RTD) Transportation Programs Public Participation/Involvement Plan

Introduction

The purpose of this plan is to establish procedures that allow for, encourage, and monitor participation of all citizens in the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural Transit District service area, including but not limited to low income and minority individuals, and those with limited English proficiency. While traditional public involvement may not reach such individuals, or might not allow for meaningful avenues of input, the intent of this effort is to take reasonable actions throughout the planning process to provide opportunities for historically under-served populations to participate.

This plan outlines procedures to provide opportunities for all area citizens to participate in the development of Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural and Small Urban Transportation programs. The Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural Transit District is comprised of the following counties: Bowie, Cass, Morris, Franklin, Lamar, Red River, Titus, Delta and Hopkins. The Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural Transit District has an Interlocal Agreement to provide transportation services in the small-urban City of Texarkana. ATCOG RTD coordinates and is a member of the Texarkana Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The Texarkana MPO is the agency charged with Transportation Planning for Texarkana and the development of plans such as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program.

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural Transit District is also the designated Lead Agency in Texas for Regionally Coordinated Transportation Planning for the ATCOG RTD region covering Bowie, Cass, Delta, Hopkins, Franklin, Lamar, Morris, Titus, and Red River counties. The purpose of regionally coordinated transportation planning is to improve transportation services for everyone that uses them in the region-including, but not limited to, people with disabilities, seniors and individuals with lower incomes. A locally developed comprehensive service plan is currently in place that addresses the current transportation service infrastructure and the future transportation needs of our region. A steering committee made up of stakeholders throughout the service area meet regularly to discuss the transportation needs and issues of our region.

Dissemination of Plan:

A notice will be posted in the local newspaper noting the existence of this public participation plan and a copy of the public participation plan will be sent, at a minimum to the Regional Coordination Stakeholders identified in Appendix A.

Goals and Objectives for the Public Participation/Involvement Plan:

1. Goal:
The goal of the Public Participation/Involvement Plan is to offer opportunities for the engagement of all citizens of ATCOG RTD's service area to participate in the development of ATCOG RTD's transportation programs.
2. Objectives:
 - a. To determine what Non-English languages and other cultural barriers exist to public participation.
 - b. To provide a general notification of meetings particularly forums for public input, in a manner that is understandable to all populations in the area.
 - c. To hold meetings in locations which are accessible and reasonably welcoming to all area residents, including, but not limited to, low-income and minority members of the public.

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- d. To provide avenues for two way flow of information and input from populations which are not likely to attend meetings.
- e. To provide a framework of actions appropriate to various types of plans and programs, as well as amendments or alterations to any such plan or program.
- f. To use various illustrative visualization techniques to convey the information including but not limited to charts, graphs, maps and the internet.

Identification of Stakeholders

Stakeholders are those who are either directly, or indirectly, affected by a plan, or the recommendations of that plan. Those who may be adversely affected, or who may be denied benefit of a plan's recommendation(s), are of particular interest in the identification of specific stakeholders. Stakeholders are broken down into several groups: general citizens, minority and low-income persons, public agencies, and private organizations and businesses.

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural Transit District has a stakeholders group in place--Regional Coordination Steering Committee which is made of regional stakeholders with a vested interest in public transportation services. ATCOG RTD has made extensive efforts to include representatives from as many organizations from health and human services, education, city and county planning, senior services, workforce, and state government.

Strategies ATCOG RTD may utilize to engage the following Populations and increase Outreach efforts:

- Public Notices in local newspaper and making special notations or notices in appropriate non-English languages;
- Public "open house" format meetings;
- Public surveys both on-board and nonuser surveys;
- Use of local news media;
- Focus groups for the purpose of gaining input from a particular defined portion of the Community; and
- Informal interviews;
- Advocacy groups to disseminate or gather information for minority and low-English proficiency populations;
- Presentations to professional, citizen, and student organizations;
- Articles in community newsletters;
- Press releases and meeting with local media representatives;
- Presentations by experts on various transit-related subjects; and
- The use of various illustrative visualization techniques to convey the information including but not limited to charts, graphs, photos, maps and the internet.

General Population:

There are over 300,000 residents in the ATCOG service area (U.S. Census, 2010), 76.2 percent of the population consider themselves to be of a solely white race. In Texarkana, 71.3% of the households speak English only and 28.7 percent speak a language other than English, of that 28.7 percent on 18.1 percent do not speak English "very well.

In the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural Transit District Region of Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus counties 80.7 percent of the population consider themselves to be of a solely white rate. (U.S. Census 2010) In 2000 the census reported that in the Region, 25 percent of the households speak another language other than English.

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Minority Population:

Minority populations make up about 69 percent of the population in the City of Texarkana. Hispanics make up the largest minority with 45 percent of the total minority population. Black and Asian persons account for 7.2 and 0.2 percent of the population, respectively. There is also a small number of American Indian/Alaska Native which represents 1.1 percent of the population. We also have 15.6 percent of the population who identified themselves as some other race. (U.S. Census 2010)

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In the Region the Minority population makes up about 48.1 percent of the population, and Hispanics make up the largest minority with 38.9 percent of the total minority population. Black persons account for 6.8 percent of the population 2.4 percent of the population are made up of other races. (U.S. Census 2010)

Low Income Populations:

In the city of Texarkana 16.9 percent of all people are below the poverty level. (U.S. Census 2010) In the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural Transit District Region 16 percent of the population are below the poverty level (U.S. Census 2000). The low-income population should be given every reasonable opportunity to provide input on transportation plans and programs, to avoid disproportionate harm, or lack of benefit of transportation programs and projects.

While low-income individuals may have access to all of the traditional means of public involvement, discussed below, they may be less likely to become involved, or offer input.

Public Agencies, Private Organizations, and Businesses:

Public agencies can provide valuable input to the planning process, in addition to assisting in gaining participation from traditionally under-represented populations. Pertinent public agencies include those that have clients who fall into under-represented populations, including but not limited to minorities, low-income, and limited English proficiency households. These agencies have great insight into the transportation needs of their clients and are useful partners in overcoming difficult barriers that may not be understood by professionals dealing with the provision of transportation services.

Private Organizations and Businesses:

Private organizations and businesses offer a number of perspectives that are valuable to the planning process. Often, transportation for employees is of critical concern to private sector employers.

Public Participation/Involvement Plan:

This plan will serve as the Public Participation/Involvement Plan for the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural Transit District's Transportation Programs. Availability of the policy for review will be advertised in a manner reasonably expected to reach the general public, as well as minority populations, low-income persons, and other traditionally under-served populations. People can obtain information about the process from, or submit input to:

Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural Transit District
4808 Elizabeth Street
Texarkana, Texas 75505
903-832-8636
Contact: Lynda Pugh, Public Transportation Manager owalton@atcog.org

Availability of Planning Documents:

During the planning process ATCOG RTD will also make documents available for review on our website at www.atcog.org or at the Transit Operations Center at 4808 Elizabeth Street., Texarkana, Texas 75503. If materials are requested in alternative formats, ATCOG RTD will make a reasonable attempt to accommodate those needs.

Methods of Addressing Comments:

Comments will be documented, presented to decision-making bodies, modified in the contents of the document as necessary, and will be included in the appendices of planning products after they are approved and published. Comments after studies and other planning products are completed and approved will be documented and

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referenced when amending or updating the planning products in the future.

Responses to Information Requests and Comments:

Information can be requested from staff in person and by phone, fax, e-mail, and U.S. mail.

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Appendix A- Stakeholder List

Ark-Tex Council of Governments
Texas Department of Transportation
Department of Human Services
Texarkana Workforce Center
DARS
MHMR Center
Social Security Administration
Area Agency on Aging
Bowie County Probation Department
Opportunities, Inc.
Hope VI
Texas A & M University

Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural Transit District
Planning Efforts in 2012-2013 and Beyond

In September of 2012, ATCOG RTD distributed the recently completed Updated Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan to regional transit stakeholders and local governments. The plan outlines ATCOG RTD's efforts for the next five years for regionally coordinated transportation planning. The initial efforts from the plan that ATCOG RTD undertook in 2012 included expanding the size and reach of the regional coordination stakeholders committee to include more representation from local governments and entities that had not previously participated in the planning efforts. ATCOG RTD has reached out to county and city governments, business, economic development agencies and the general public for Participation in regional transportation planning. ATCOG RTD also developed a Regional Transportation Guide as a public information tool that includes information on all public transit providers in the region. In 2013, ATCOG RTD has begun to initiate a pilot project for travel training and travel ambassadors, which will provide for increased assistance for those that need it while utilizing public transit. If successful, this program can be expanded to the entire region. In the near future, ATCOG RTD plans to develop a full marketing and outreach plan in order to keep the public informed on the full range of services provided through public transit.

TITULO VI ENCUESTA DE PARTICIPACION PUBLICA
Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural Transit District

Completar este formulario es estrictamente voluntaria.

Titulo VI de la ley de derechos civiles de 1964 requiere que programas de la Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural Transit District de planificación de transporte publico provee de oportunidades para todos en las areas afectadas del proyecto para comentar sobre programas de transporte y las actividades que puedan afectar a su comunidad. Titulo VI establece espedficamente. *"Ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos sera por motivos de roza, color o nacional origen excluidos de la participation en negar el beneficia de, o de lo controrio ser sujeto o discriminación bajo cualquier progroma, servicio o actividad que reciba asistencia financiero federal."*

Cumplimentación del presente formulario, ayuda a ATCOG RTD para cumplir con la recolección de datos federal y obligaciones de participation publica bajo el titulo VI y la ley nacional de protección ambiental (NEPA) y mejorar el servicio publico.

Servicio (s) utilizado: (par favor revise todo la que aplican)

- Respuesta de la Demanda Rural
 Servicios de Transporte Medico
 Paratransit Service (ciudad de la **Texarkana**)
 Ruta Fija
 Ruta de Flex (acceso de

trabajo) C6digo postal:_____

Gene
ra:

- Hombre
Mujer

Designación de la raza/etnia:

- Blanco Negro o Afro Americana Indio America no y Nativo de Alaska
Hispano/Latino Asia Hawaiano nativo y 2 o mas (de Carreras) Otros____
otras islas del Pacifico

Edad: 17 afios de edad o bajo de 18-25 de 26-35 de 36-45 de 46-59 de 60 +

Idioma hablado:

Secundaria lengua hablada:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ingles | <input type="checkbox"/> Aleman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Espafiol | <input type="checkbox"/> Hindi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chino | <input type="checkbox"/> Japones |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frances | <input type="checkbox"/> Arabe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coreano | <input type="checkbox"/> Indonesia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No | |

Gracias por participar en esta encuesta.

-) Vietnam ita
-) Otro: por favor indique

—

-) Ingles
-) Espafiol
-) Chino
-) Frances
-) Corea no
-) Aleman
-) Hindi
-) Japones
-) Arabe
-) Indonesia
-) Vietnam ita
-) Otro: por favor indique__

He gusta informacion publica sobre nuestros servicios en otro idioma:

-) Si Si sf, indique elldioma:_____

-) No

Gracias por participar en esta encuesta.

TITLE VI PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT SURVEY
Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural Transit District
Completing this form is strictly voluntary.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires the Ark-Tex Council of Governments Rural Transit District's Public Transportation Programs provide opportunities for everyone in the affected project area(s) to comment on transportation programs and activities that may affect their community. Title VI specifically states. *"No person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color, or national origin be excluded from participation in be denied the benefit of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program, service, or activity receiving federal financial assistance."*

Completing this form helps ATCOG RTD to comply with federal data collection and public involvement obligations under Title VI and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), and improve our public service.

Service(s) Used: *(please check all that apply)*

Rural Demand

Response

Medical Transportation Services

Paratransit Service (city of **Texarkana**)

Fixed Route
 Flex Route (Job Access)

Zip Code:

___ Gender:

Male
 Female

Race/Ethnic

Designation:

White Black or African American Hispanic/Latino American Indian and Alaska Native Asian Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander 2 or more Races) Other

Age: 17 years of age or under 18-25 26-35 36-45 46-59
 60+

Primary Language Spoken:

Secondary Language

English (
 Spanish

Chinese (
 No

French
 Korean
 German Hindi
 Japanese Arabic
 Indonesian Vietnamese

Thank you for participating in this survey.

() Other: please indicate

—

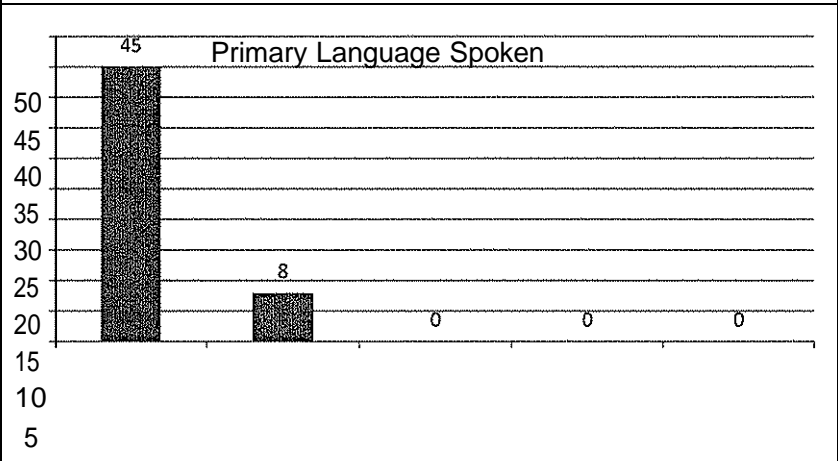
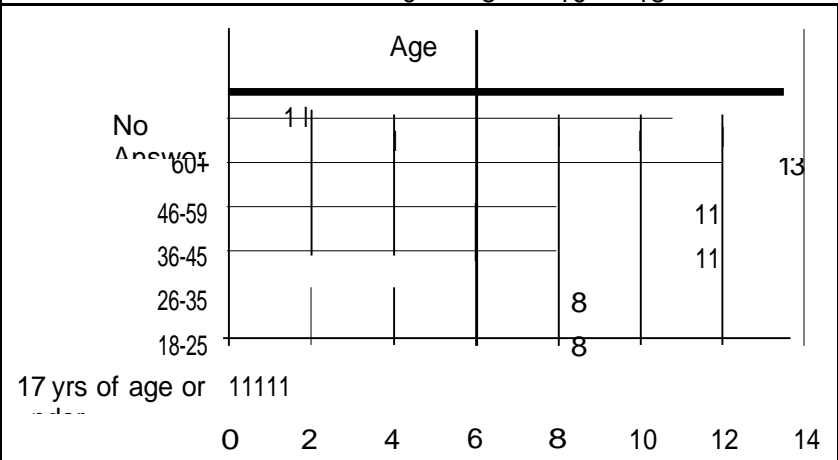
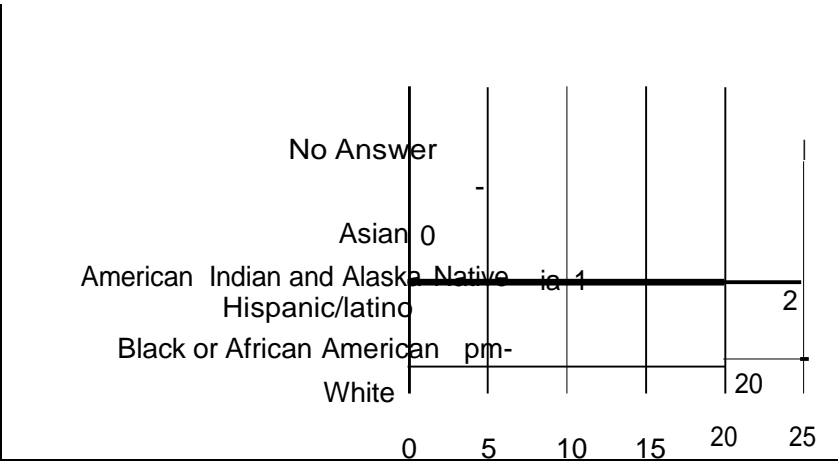
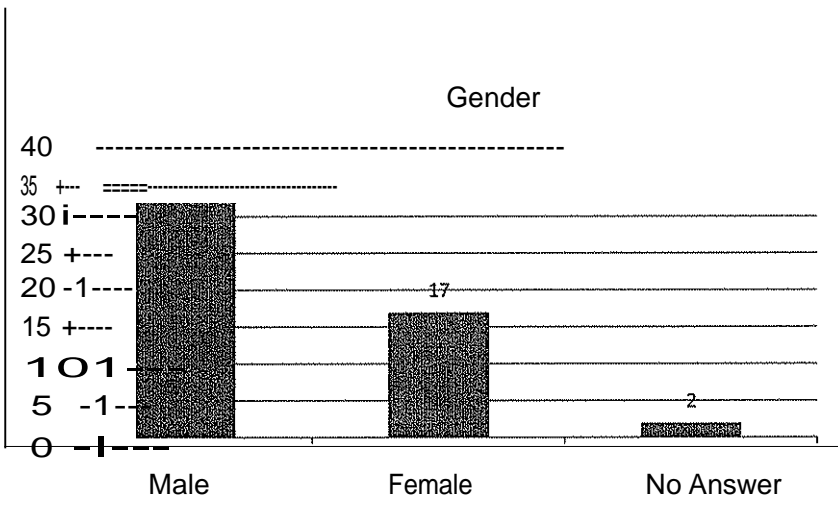
-) English
-) Spanish
-) Chinese
-) French
-) Korean
-) German
-) Hindi
-) Japanese
-) Arabic
-) Indonesian
-) Vietnamese
-) Other: please indicate _____

Would you like Public Information on our services in another Language:

) Yes If Yes, indicate Language: _____

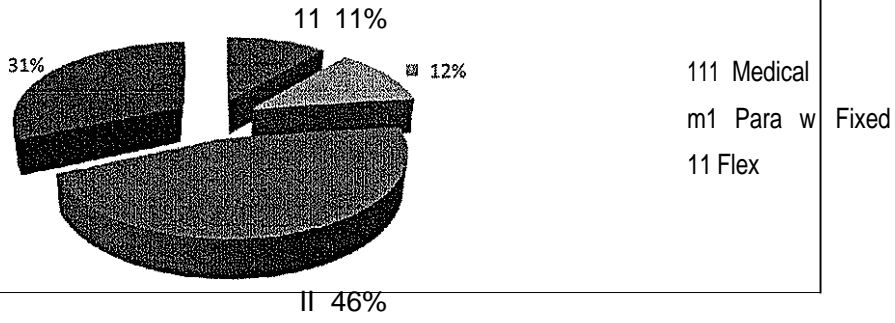
) No

Thank you for participating in this survey.



Program/Service Use

City of Victoria



TEXARKANA URBAN PROGRAM

Male	34	Urban	91
Female	17	Rural	8
No Answer	<u>2</u>		
	53	Rural DR	8

White	20	Medical	19
Black or African American	4	Para	20
Hispanic/latina	23	Fixed	78
American Indian and Alaska Native	1	Flex	54
Asian	0		
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	0		
2 or more races	1		
No Answer	4		
	53		

17 yrs of age or under	1
18-25	8
26-35	8
36-45	11
46-59	11
60+	13
No Answer	1
	53

Primary Language		Secondary language	
English	45	English	5
Spanish	8	Spanish	8
German	0	German	0
Hindi	0	Hindi	0
no answer	0	Sign Langu;	0
	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
	<u>53</u>		<u>13</u>

Public Information in Alternative language	
Yes	4
No	49
	53

Language Format Requested	
Spanish	2
	2

Zip Code	
77901	50
77903	0
77904	3
77905	0
no answer	<u>0</u>
	53

