



## **Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan Virtual Public Meetings March 15 & 17, 2022**

### **Cornerstone project objectives:**

- Comprehensive assessment of transit services within Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, and Orange counties.
- Objective assessment of demand versus available services.
- Identify cost-effective mobility-enhancing opportunities.

### **Plan elements:**

- Transportation Resources Inventory
- Needs Assessment
- Gap Analysis
- Recommendations

### **Summary of public engagement:**

#### **A. Activities:**

- Bilingual interactive project webpage
- Bilingual direct mailer promoting project participation to 20,000 households
- Bilingual community survey (online and printed versions)
- Stakeholder survey (online and printed versions)
- Eight in-person information-sharing “pop-up” events (two per county; nearly 220 participants)
- Virtual community workshops

#### **B. Stakeholder survey key findings:**

- No public transit service in Jasper County (potential Transit Needs Study)
- Absence of connectivity between counties (potential Inter-Community Demand Study)
- Requests for service to Houston area to access medical facilities
- Dialysis patients impacted by limited availability of mobility options on weekends and holidays
- Cost remains a barrier to utilizing transportation for many residents

#### **C. Community survey key findings: nearly 100 valid surveys received.**

- Familiar with public transit (33%)
- Absence of or insufficient public transportation service is a barrier: to work (18%) and healthcare (24%)
- Greatest motivator to potential future use of public transit: “later evening service” (32%), “link between Beaumont and Port Arthur (30%), and “improved access to transit service information” (27%)

- Typical mode of travel: “drive alone” (77%)
- Access to personal vehicle: “all the time” (77%)

**Coordinated Plan recommendations:**

- Implement schedule service linking Beaumont and Port Arthur on a trial basis.
- Design/distribute easy-to-understand public transportation service informational materials.
- Enhance the SETRPC transit webpage.
- Implement an ongoing travel training program.
- Improve connectivity between sidewalks/pedestrian network and bus stops.
- Improve/enhance bus stops (e.g., customer amenities, signage, information displays).
- Increase promotion of reduced/subsidized transit fares among historically transportation-disadvantaged populations.
- Conduct inter-community connectivity study.
- Conduct feasibility/cost-benefit analysis of providing transit service in Jasper County.
- Assess viability of establishing scheduled service between outlying communities and Beaumont.
- Investigate the feasibility of establishing a partnership with local TNCs to address mobility needs outside traditional transit service hours/days.
- Evaluate the practicality of joint recruitment and training of drivers.
- Increase capital (vehicle) funding for non-profit operators.
- Implement “one-stop” transportation information call center.

**Project next steps:**

- Incorporate public feedback/comments into final report.
- Project Steering Committee meeting to approve final Plan report (March 31)