

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2017

10:00 A.M.

200 EAST RIVERSIDE DRIVE, BUILDING 200

CONFERENCE ROOM E

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78704

TAKEN BY OLIVIA MATA, CSR

1 PRESENT:

2 Committee Chair Hibbs

3 Committee Members:

4 Ramiro Gonzales

5 Robert Gonzales

6 David Steiner

7 Shawn Twing

8 Karla Weaver

9 Anne-Marie Williamson

10 DawnElla Rust

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13 TX-DOT PRESENT AND PARTICIPATING:

14 Teri Kaplan - TAP Program Manager PTN

15 Josh Ribakove - Communications Manager PTN

16 Donna Roberts - PTN Section Director

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1           MR. HIBBS: It's 10:00. We'll call the  
2 meeting to order and get going. If I can, I'd like to  
3 ask everybody to silence their cell phones, and for the  
4 benefit of the stenographer, we'd like to remind  
5 everyone again before you make a comment to please say  
6 your name first, so that she'll have a chance to  
7 properly record that.

8           At this time on this historic day, and who  
9 knew that when we booked this meeting on January 20th  
10 that we would be in the midst of a presidential  
11 inauguration, actually, while we sit here and have our  
12 meeting.

13           We're blessed to be part of a great nation  
14 where an outgoing party doesn't wind up with their heads  
15 on a stick. So there's a lot of other countries that  
16 are not quite as peaceful.

17           MS. KAPLAN: When you put it that way.

18           MR. HIBBS: Josh, how about that safety  
19 briefing?

20           MR. RIBAKOVE: Absolutely. My name is Josh  
21 Ribakove. I'm with TxDOT. Welcome to 200 East  
22 Riverside. If we should have to evacuate this  
23 building -- we're not, obviously, anticipating it, but  
24 the way to that is go out the door we came in, turn  
25 right, go down the first corridor to your left. You'll

1 see doors to the outside on the left. Just walk  
2 straight out, walk through the parking lot and out to  
3 the sidewalk and we'll meet up over there.

4           Should we have to shelter in place, the  
5 thing to do is to go out that same door, but instead of  
6 taking that first corridor to the left, take the second  
7 corridor to the left, and make a left turn there, and  
8 keep going until you get to the doors auditorium. It's  
9 an inside room with no windows, and we will be able to  
10 shelter in place there. That's the best spot for that.

11           Restrooms are, again, out that door, first  
12 corridor to the left, right across from the doors you'll  
13 see leading to the outside. Left.

14           We also have a good cafeteria here. That  
15 is down this way as far as you can go and you will see  
16 signs.

17           Please remember that Austin is a hands-free  
18 town these days and don't be on your cell phone while  
19 driving. Thanks.

20           MR. HIBBS: Thank you, Josh. Appreciate  
21 that very much.

22           All right. It's time to approve the  
23 minutes. You guys were forwarded the minutes in  
24 advance. Do we have any changes or corrections to the  
25 minutes? If not, the chair will entertain a motion to

1 accept the minutes.

2 MR. ROBERT GONZALES: I move to approve the  
3 minutes.

4 MR. HIBBS: The motion made by Bobby. Do  
5 we have a second?

6 MR. TWING: Second.

7 MR. HIBBS: Second by Shawn. All in favor  
8 say, aye.

9 MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: I would like to make  
10 a change. I was on the call. That's it.

11 MR. HIBBS: That is right. Your name was  
12 not on there. Could you please add Ramiro's name on the  
13 call? We will accept the minutes with that change.

14 Thank you very much. Next on the list is  
15 the report from the chair. As you all know, the Texas  
16 legislature is gearing up for another contentious  
17 session. The lawmakers get together once every couple  
18 of years. Personally, I think that's a good thing. I'm  
19 not sure that needs to be in the minutes, but  
20 nevertheless, it gives us less of a chance for mischief.

21 So the reality is, the state of Texas,  
22 according to our comptroller is pretty much under  
23 budget. The money is going to be tight and every one is  
24 already laying down markers about potential cuts in  
25 different areas, and with transportation and education

1 being two of the bigger spending items, obviously,  
2 there's going to be a lot of gnashing of teeth and  
3 tearing of clothes over the next 100 plus days when they  
4 figure out what to do.

5           Good news for us is that much of the money  
6 that's going to be used has already been allocated  
7 either thorough prior legislative sessions or is in  
8 various federal grants and different things that are  
9 going on.

10           And some of it, as you're going to find out  
11 from our discussion on the bicycle tourism trail study,  
12 was actually allocated years ago for consulting studies  
13 and all. So I just think about the fact that even  
14 though you might think we're going to be stuck in the  
15 mud here for a year or two while oil and gas prices  
16 recover and the state has a chance to get its budget in  
17 order, I don't think that is necessarily going to be a  
18 slow time for us.

19           So I'm looking forward to that and I'm  
20 looking forward to having another ambitious year here  
21 with the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

22           As we transition into No. 5 here about the  
23 selection of the new chair and vice chair, let me start  
24 with saying a couple things: First of all, if I didn't  
25 get a chance to thank all of ya'll, it has been my great

1 honor to be the chair of this committee. I mean that in  
2 all sincerity. I, typically, know less about bicycles  
3 than anybody in the room. Most of y'all know that. My  
4 day job is the CEO of an insurance holding company. I  
5 don't have the technical expertise that the rest of  
6 y'all do that deal with this in a very serious kind of  
7 way.

8                   And the opportunity to get to work with  
9 you, learn from you, get to know y'all, it really has  
10 been a tremendous time in my life and, frankly,  
11 hopefully, you guys have had a chance to enjoy being a  
12 participant in this committee.

13                   One of the things that I figured out really  
14 quickly is I had so much to learn, and that by people  
15 like Ramiro giving presentations today where he could  
16 talk about what's going on down in south Texas, or going  
17 around the table at the end of the meeting just to hear  
18 what's going on across Texas.

19                   I think letting everybody have a voice and  
20 talk about what is important to you, it's important to  
21 the group, and I think it's important to your region of  
22 the state.

23                   There's a couple of other things that I  
24 want to note that I think all of us should be very proud  
25 of.

1           First of all, that formation of that  
2           strategic plan, I think, was enormously important. From  
3           a strategic standpoint, that is setting the wheels in  
4           motion to have more bike-friendly infrastructure  
5           throughout the state of Texas.

6           It had to start somewhere. For those of  
7           you that you were a part of that deal, it was a lot of  
8           hard work, but we got through that and I think we got a  
9           great document and Eric, do you agree that has been a  
10          really important component of what we've been able to  
11          accomplish here?

12                 MR. GLEASON: Absolutely. This is Eric  
13          Gleason with TxDOT. Absolutely.

14                 MR. HIBBS: The other things I wanted to  
15          mention was, obviously, Bike Stripe. I want to thank  
16          Bobby Gonzalez again for doing all the background work  
17          and coming up with the software and loaning it out and  
18          doing all the different kinds of maps. Eric is going to  
19          brief you on Bike Stripe here, shortly, but I think that  
20          for smaller communities and it's important, I think, to  
21          recognize that Texas is not just comprised of cities  
22          over 10 million in population, that there's a lot of  
23          small, rural areas, too, and they need to be more  
24          bike-friendly. We are making progress towards helping  
25          include all of the parts of the state and I'm very

1 excited that there's this thing coming up that Eric is  
2 going to tell you about that we're going to make that  
3 happen.

4 I want to thank Robin and his group at Bike  
5 Texas. You know, when Mark Stein made that presentation  
6 about what was going on up in Canada, it kind of lit the  
7 fuse for a lot of different things and started us going  
8 off different tracks of discussion, and that has  
9 culminated with a presentation that we're going to have  
10 today on this bicycle tourism trail study.

11 As it turns out, I believe that some moneys  
12 were already allocated back in 2005 for this.

13 MS. KAPLAN: Legislation.

14 MR. HIBBS: Yeah. So we're very excited  
15 that some of those things that we talked about years and  
16 years ago are actually starting to have some fruition.

17 I think that the importance of being able  
18 to engage the TxDOT commissioners personally is really  
19 important for this committee.

20 Two times I've had a chance to go and make  
21 presentations to them about what we're doing on this  
22 committee. Let me tell you, there's nothing like  
23 fielding their questions and seeing how interested they  
24 are in knowing what's going on to really elevate what  
25 we're doing in terms of importance to TxDOT and I've

1 already been extended another invitation and, hopefully,  
2 will get a chance to appear before them here pretty  
3 soon.

4           So I think the state of the union, so to  
5 speak, the committee is good. I want to thank all of  
6 y'all for all of the hard work and everything that  
7 everybody has put into the committee. I know that  
8 travel is an issue for some and you do it on your own  
9 dime and you do it because you love cycling and you want  
10 to see it advance across the state of Texas.

11           So that's my report and I'm sticking to it.  
12 I think we probably need to elect some leadership at  
13 this point. So I'm going to turn it over to either Eric  
14 or Teri or some combination thereof to walk us through  
15 this.

16           MR. GLEASON: All right. Thank you. This  
17 is Eric Gleason with TxDOT. Election of chair and vice  
18 chair. As many of you know, Russ Francis was elected  
19 the committee vice chair. Russ has left the committee  
20 so that particular position is currently vacant and  
21 Billy has been chair for three years now.

22           MR. HIBBS: 2 or 3. Sometimes, it seems  
23 longer.

24           MR. GLEASON: I did not say that. So we  
25 felt it appropriate with some new members on board as

1 well that we take a look at this and ask the committee  
2 to vote on chair and vice chair. There are no specific  
3 term limits or anything like that. But -- so the way I  
4 think we do this today, given the vacancy in the vice  
5 chair position currently, is that we elect a vice chair  
6 first for the committee, and then having done that, I  
7 will ask Billy to turn the gavel over to the newly  
8 elected vice chair to conduct the election of the chair.

9 I'll talk us through this and ask Billy or  
10 the vice chair to take the formal actions with the  
11 committee. So that's what we'll do and then the newly  
12 elected chair will conduct the balance of the meeting.

13 So I think we sent out asking for  
14 nominations, and at this point, we received one  
15 nomination for chair and one nomination for vice chair.

16 MS. KAPLAN: That is correct.

17 MR. GLEASON: For vice chair,  
18 Bobby Gonzales was nominated and at this point, I would  
19 like to ask the committee if there are any additional  
20 nominations.

21 Hearing none, Mr. Chair, if you could poll  
22 the committee.

23 MR. HIBBS: Could I see a show of hands?  
24 We could vote by acclamation to affirm Bobby Gonzales as  
25 vice chair.

1 All in favor?

2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

3 MR. HIBBS: Vote passes.

4 MR. GLEASON: Okay. Bobby,  
5 congratulations.

6 MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: Thank y'all very  
7 much. I'm very excited about this opportunity and I  
8 will do my part as vice chair to keep this committee  
9 moving in a positive and productive manner, and  
10 obviously, looking forward to working with each and  
11 every one of you as we move forward. That said, I'd  
12 like to poll those individuals or everybody on this  
13 committee on a chair.

14 MR. GLEASON: Yes, sir. We had one  
15 nomination for chair and that was Billy Hibbs.

16 MR. GONZALES: And so is there -- can I  
17 have a poll?

18 MR. GLEASON: You can ask the rest of the  
19 committee if there are other nominations.

20 MR. GONZALES: I'm asking for a nomination.  
21 Is there anybody else out there who has a nomination for  
22 chair?

23 Therefore, there being none, then can I see  
24 motion of hands of approval of Mr. Hibbs for continuing  
25 our chair?

1 MS. KAPLAN: All in favor?

2 MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: All in favor?

3 COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Aye.

4 MR. HIBBS: Thank you.

5 MR. GONZALES: Mr. Chairman, continue the  
6 meeting.

7 MR. HIBBS: Thank you all, again. I  
8 appreciate the vote of confidence there. One of the  
9 things I'm forced to do in my day job is think  
10 strategically. And as the chief strategic officer of  
11 our particular business, I understand that whenever you  
12 have leadership involved in a lot of different moving  
13 parts, that continuity of those projects and those  
14 initiatives and keeping that ball going down the court  
15 is very, very important.

16 So I look forward to working with Bobby and  
17 continue to carry forward some of these initiatives  
18 because this is really an exciting time for us. I hope  
19 you enjoy being on the committee. My great regret is I  
20 didn't get a chance to go see all of you personally in  
21 your offices because I told you I was going to try to do  
22 that and life got in the way. I'll spare you all the  
23 reasons, but the reality is, I think we have a great  
24 working group here.

25 So we look forward to continuing on here.

1 So the next item on the agenda here is the report from  
2 Eric. So Eric, take it away.

3 MR. GLEASON: Okay. First off, I want to  
4 introduce a new staff member who is not here. I'll  
5 defer that until she returns and get into my report.

6 So I'm glad that Billy brought up the  
7 strategic direction report because everything we're  
8 doing really can be found in that document. My  
9 experience with documents like that is the more you  
10 refer to them, the more you use them, the more life they  
11 have. I think that's important.

12 Having said that, a lot of what I will say  
13 will actually just sort of just introduce our topics  
14 today because we're covering a lot of ground in a lot of  
15 different areas. Continuing to construct bicycle and  
16 pedestrian infrastructure, will brief the committee on  
17 upcoming call for projects that will go out next Friday.

18 On the new transportation alternative  
19 set-aside program which is, largely, the old  
20 transportation alternative program, but under the FAST  
21 Act it was renamed and reorganized. So we will brief  
22 you on that, and that briefing will include the  
23 information that the Bike Stripe project concept that  
24 this committee worked on and developed. Up until now,  
25 we've been talking about it as a pilot. Everyone knows

1 we have not gotten the pilot out so we've gone ahead and  
2 included it in the call for projects as an eligible  
3 project submission. So I hope that is okay with the  
4 committee. I saw an opportunity to -- it's not okay,  
5 Karla?

6 MS. WEAVER: Well, that excludes several  
7 people within my region that might have been able to  
8 apply.

9 MR. GLEASON: Okay. I hear you.

10 MR. HIBBS: This is Billy. Karla, could  
11 you clarify?

12 MS. WEAVER: Sure. So the previous -- this  
13 is Karla Weaver speaking. The previous conversation we  
14 had had been around size limits and had been around  
15 universities and a whole host of things.

16 MR. GLEASON: Yes.

17 MS. WEAVER: The transportation alternative  
18 call for projects makes anyone within the urbanized  
19 areas boundaries of Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, San  
20 Antonio ineligible for any of these funds no matter the  
21 format. So I might have had cities within that boundary  
22 that met the requirements of less than 100,000, near  
23 university, over whatever the mix was that could have  
24 applied for the money, but under this program they are  
25 going to be excluded from even applying. That's my

1 concern.

2 MR. HIBBS: Tell me what provision in this  
3 program excludes them.

4 MS. WEAVER: It's the area, the urbanized  
5 area boundaries.

6 MR. HIBBS: Okay, so it's a boundary  
7 situation.

8 MS. WEAVER: Correct. Yes, sir.

9 MR. HIBBS: It's a geographic thing that  
10 has to do --

11 MS. WEAVER: How the U.S. Census lays out  
12 urbanized defined areas across the country.

13 MR. HIBBS: Okay.

14 MR. GLEASON: Mr. Chair, Karla, yeah, I  
15 think that -- I understand exactly what you're saying.  
16 I will take my fault for thinking right past that  
17 nuance, and let me go back and think about how we might  
18 address that. None of the funding that we typically, as  
19 a state administer would have been available for those  
20 areas, per se. Let's talk more about that. It occurs  
21 to me, you could clearly proceed with that notion within  
22 your urbanized area.

23 MS. WEAVER: It already is.

24 MR. GLEASON: Okay. Bike Stripe?

25 MS. WEAVER: On street facilities are --

1 MR. GLEASON: We know that. Bike Stripe is  
2 more about a process than it is about a kind of project.  
3 It's a -- the pilot was more about testing the process  
4 than it was the kind of projects.

5 MS. WEAVER: Sure.

6 MR. GLEASON: It's how you get there within  
7 your community that is bike strip.

8 MS. WEAVER: Sure.

9 MR. GLEASON: It was not our intent to  
10 exclude. It was our intent to move forward.

11 MS. WEAVER: Okay.

12 MR. GLEASON: Having heard your issue,  
13 let's continue talking about that.

14 MS. WEAVER: Sure.

15 MR. GLEASON: I viewed this as an  
16 opportunity and apologize for not considering the  
17 possibility. Let's continue to visit on that. Thank  
18 you for bringing that up.

19 MR. HIBBS: Eric, if I could, for the new  
20 members here, I appreciate what you guys were trying to  
21 do. Instead of going through a pilot process where  
22 there were just, I think, probably a few communities who  
23 had the opportunity to participate in that pilot project  
24 because of population size, having a bicycle plan and  
25 some other parameters of different kinds of things that

1 they had to do to qualify for that. You basically said,  
2 let's just move forward and let them apply through the  
3 grant process, is that correct?

4 MR. GLEASON: Correct. What we've done,  
5 and I'll just jump ahead in our level of detail that  
6 Teri was in a position to provide to us in our report.  
7 What we've done in our guide that we produced that goes  
8 along with a call for projects, is when you go through  
9 and you find a section that is describing what a bike  
10 lane, is as a possible project, the definition of a bike  
11 lane and then it talks about just being on street and  
12 then, it highlights the Bike Stripe concept, and in the  
13 next page, there's a list of important links that you  
14 can go to for more information.

15 If you click on one of those links, it will  
16 take you to a website where you can find the Bike Stripe  
17 information. So it isn't as though we've highlighted  
18 it. It is not identified as a pilot in the call. It's  
19 just there as an option for people to use. Let me go  
20 back and consider this issue.

21 And again, with the idea of just trying to  
22 move forward, not to exclude, let's see if we can't find  
23 a way through that to be more inclusive.

24 MR. HIBBS: Okay? This is Billy. And  
25 Eric, I would like for you to, once you, basically,

1 figure out how you want to move forward, could I request  
2 that you send an e-mail to the committee so that we're  
3 kept in the loop in terms of where we were, so we don't  
4 have to wait for another quarter to be able to get  
5 information?

6 MR. GLEASON: Absolutely.

7 MR. HIBBS: I know there's several  
8 communities in east Texas that are going to be very,  
9 very interested in this and we want to go ahead and get  
10 the machinery moving.

11 MR. GLEASON: What I'm trying to say here  
12 is, in the context of call, full speed ahead. You know,  
13 I think -- keeping in mind that what we fund is  
14 construction. This is largely a planning and community  
15 properties concept that gets you to the point of  
16 construction.

17 So if a community were to decide that it  
18 wanted to stripe existing arterials for our call, what  
19 we would fund is a project estimate for the actual  
20 placement of those lanes. What we would not fund would  
21 be the effort associated with getting those.

22 MR. HIBBS: Right.

23 MR. GLEASON: Under our call for projects.  
24 There may be yet some room for testing the process. I  
25 look at whatever our conversations might be as additive

1 to what is in the call and not some way, potentially,  
2 changing that opportunity. So it's full speed ahead.

3 MR. HIBBS: That's good information.

4 Again, for the new committee members that are relatively  
5 new, this concept was largely driven by a particular  
6 civil engineer that happens to be our vice chair who  
7 developed the software to stripe El Paso. So he  
8 graciously donated that software to us and for our  
9 communities to be able to go in and look at the local  
10 community and find the streets where it made sense  
11 because they have to be overly wide and came up with, in  
12 laymen's terms, kind of a hub and spoke plan to move  
13 people around on bicycles.

14 I would encourage you to keep this on the  
15 radar screen. Particularly, if you're a smaller  
16 community that is kind of in the throes of growing into  
17 the being more bike-friendly. I think it's important  
18 that you have a bicycle plan that you be far enough  
19 along to have your own bicycle plan and engage your city  
20 officials in this process.

21 It looks like through the work that Eric  
22 and Teri have done, we're moving rapidly to be able to  
23 access the funding at some point and get it done.

24 MR. GLEASON: I identified it as an  
25 opportunity and that's it. It's not -- okay, moving on,

1 if I may.

2                   Quickly, last -- in the fall of 2015, the  
3 commission approved \$52 million worth of bicycle and  
4 pedestrian project construction in areas of state under  
5 200,000. That was 50 projects.

6                   What I can tell the committee today is that  
7 46 of those 50, we've actually pushed all the way to  
8 having advanced funding agreements in place to construct  
9 those projects, and six of those projects are actually  
10 under construction or left for construction right now.

11                   We have two in the Bryan area, one on South  
12 Padre Island, two in the Laredo area, and one in the  
13 Yoakum district area. So we're moving ahead very  
14 rapidly through those projects. We'll have more as the  
15 year goes by. We'll get under construction so very good  
16 news on, actually, getting something done. So very  
17 happy with that.

18                   As you know, we have a research project out  
19 there that is testing various equipment that are  
20 available to count pedestrian and bicycle use, and that  
21 research continues. It's not scheduled to be completed  
22 until mid 2018. I think we will look for an opportunity  
23 before then, for sure, to have them come talk to the  
24 committee and just where they are and funding. Data  
25 collection was one of the elements of the direction

1 report that was important. This research goes right to  
2 that.

3 The other element that is identified as a  
4 potential project in our call is, actually, a project  
5 that contributes to -- how do we say, a generally known  
6 or recognized --

7 MS. KAPLAN: Tourism.

8 MR. GLEASON: Tourism. We haven't  
9 completed our study, yet. We don't have any lines on  
10 the map, but I think, generally, there are trails and  
11 connections that are thought of as being part of the  
12 tourism trail and we wanted to take an opportunity with  
13 this call to highlight that as a project we're  
14 interested in getting.

15 Again, taking the opportunity now to move  
16 ahead and see if we can't get something real on the  
17 ground even though we have not totally completed it. In  
18 fact, we are just starting to look at it.

19 So that concludes my report. I do -- my  
20 new staff person is here. I attempted to introduce you  
21 earlier, Bonnie, but you were gone. This is  
22 Bonnie Sherman. Bonnie has been with TxDOT for 12 years  
23 and she comes to us from the Austin district  
24 headquarters where she was the bike/ped coordinator  
25 among other hats or was that --

1 MS. SHERMAN: Yes, among many hats.

2 MR. GLEASON: Many of our bike/ped people  
3 do many things. Bicycle and pedestrian is only part of  
4 their job duty. I met Bonnie several years ago and I'm  
5 excited to have her onboard. I know Teri knows. Maybe  
6 we can limit her unlimited energy and enthusiasm to  
7 100 percent of her time and not 130 or 140 or 150  
8 percent of her. So we welcome, Bonnie.

9 MS. SHERMAN: Thank you.

10 MR. HIBBS: Welcome, Bonnie.

11 MR. GLEASON: Thank you. That concludes my  
12 report.

13 MR. HIBBS: Thank you very much, Eric.

14 So Ramiro, you are up. While you move to  
15 the pilot's commander station, I want to take a moment  
16 and thank all of you who have put together these  
17 presentations for the committee about the bike plan  
18 about what's going on in your particular area and some  
19 of the different things going on. I think the sharing  
20 of information in this committee and learning what's  
21 going on across the state is profoundly important.

22 Make no mistake, I know that a lot of time  
23 and trouble goes into these presentations and I know  
24 that for many of you, we've got more important things to  
25 do than try to educate the rest of us, but it is

1 appreciated and I am always very, very excited to see  
2 these presentations because there's a lot going on in  
3 this gigantic state and I think it is to all of our  
4 benefit. It's good to see what's happening. Are you  
5 ready, Ramiro?

6 MR. GONZALES: Can y'all see?

7 MS. KAPLAN: Can y'all kill the lights?

8 MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: I think it's these.  
9 So we have a great video. We couldn't get the volume on  
10 this to work. I'll just share it with the committee.  
11 We did a video that, basically, sums up this plan.  
12 About two years ago, we reached out to a foundation in  
13 the valley. It's called the Legacy Foundation and with  
14 this idea of an active transportation and active tourism  
15 plan.

16 The idea being that -- the general idea  
17 being that if you could get people to come in the region  
18 on a bike, spend money, you could pay for the  
19 infrastructure and therefore, benefit our citizens in an  
20 indirect way without also asking them to foot the bill  
21 for the infrastructure.

22 So the Legacy Foundation gave us \$100,000.  
23 We went out and we fundraised or we raised another  
24 \$100,000 from each city so we have 10 partner cities and  
25 this really is a county-wide plan, but we wanted to call

1 it the Lower Rio Grande Valley Active Transportation and  
2 Active Tourism Plan.

3 Really, the seed of the idea was  
4 Brownsville, the city of Brownsville was -- created its  
5 bike plan and we're implementing, but we're not looking  
6 necessarily how do we connect to our neighboring  
7 communities. That's kind of where the seed started.

8 The plan goals were just as it says on  
9 screen: Generate new economic opportunities throughout  
10 Cameron county, diversify the local tourism market. A  
11 lot of people that come to the valley, they are either  
12 coming to the island or coming fishing. So we need to  
13 provide more activities for them to stay longer, link  
14 the communities together, create a regional network and  
15 promote healthy lifestyles.

16 These are our partner cities, as you can  
17 see, throughout the entire county. Through the planning  
18 process, we had all kinds of alphabet soups of  
19 government agencies from transport agencies, to Parks  
20 and Wildlife to U.S. Fish and Wildlife, National Park  
21 Service. I like to say that, normally, when you start a  
22 planning process, you start with 100 people in the room  
23 and then by the time you're done with the planning  
24 process it's like the same five people that thought  
25 about this idea in the room.

1 Well, the attendance at these meetings  
2 continuously always grew and we averaged about 50-60  
3 people at these meetings every time we had a meeting.

4 So that was real exciting and you can tell  
5 that the communities have really bought into this  
6 vision. So a couple of pictures: Why do people visit  
7 the valley, the island? There's a lot of history. From  
8 the first Battle of the Mexican-American War. Birding.  
9 Birding is a big thing. Eco-tourism for our area.

10 These are civic amenities. This is a  
11 picture of people at one of our reserves birding in a  
12 van. So when we asked people to say, well, you know,  
13 what kind of destinations are there, what kind of  
14 destinations would you visit in Brownsville or in the  
15 area, this is what is mapped out. So you can see  
16 there's a lot of destinations some that we knew about,  
17 some that only other people knew about, but we got them  
18 on the plan and they're there.

19 Then we started to kind of figure out  
20 what's active tourism. What are the definitions? And  
21 you can see the definitions there. We know that through  
22 research through one of the our consultants, Adventure  
23 Bicycling Association. That's Jenny right there in the  
24 picture. Active tourism was highly educated. They have  
25 a high discretionary income. They spend more. They

1 have less impact on the environment. There's  
2 50-64-year-old sweet spot and, obviously, they stay  
3 longer. They take longer to go through a community. We  
4 see a lot of winter Texans in the valley and we see a  
5 lot of winter Texans on bikes now. They bring their  
6 bikes, they go to a certain city, they ride the trails  
7 and they go back to where they have their RVs or their  
8 homes.

9 Case studies. I think Carl will look at  
10 with the tourism study that's he's doing. One of the  
11 ones we liked the best was Great Allegheny Passage. It  
12 took about \$80 million in investment, but now it  
13 generates about 100 million in annual spending. So you  
14 can see that if you build it they do come and they  
15 spend.

16 There's other examples. The Silver Comet  
17 Trail in Georgia, the Old Dominion in Virginia. The  
18 state of Oregon is probably the leader in active  
19 tourism. We feel that Oregon doesn't have very nice  
20 winters. We have beautiful winters so, perhaps, we can  
21 get a little bit of that. And another thing that this  
22 plan includes is paddling. It's a 3-layer plan and I'll  
23 get into it. Paddling.

24 There's 3 or 4 categories of a bike tourist  
25 or an adventure -- active tourist. One of them is the

1 adventure tourist. This is one that will bike 4 or  
2 500 miles across country for a couple of months and have  
3 something that looks like that with him; all of his  
4 luggage. The destination tourist. The one that will  
5 fly somewhere with either their bicycles or rent bikes  
6 when they get there, but they'll go to Big Bend or  
7 Yellowstone or any of those areas.

8           You have the event tourist that will visit  
9 a community. We're all very familiar with this. I  
10 feel, in Brownsville or the valley, there's a 5-K at  
11 least every weekend if not two or three 5-Ks, bicycle  
12 races, that kind of thing. That's an event tourist and  
13 primarily, what this plan targets is the convert.

14           So you showed up at the island, you went to  
15 the beach two days and you're tired of going to the  
16 beach and looking for something else to do. That's a  
17 convert tourist. You converted. When they looked for  
18 something, they found it and it usually ended up being  
19 something active either kayaking or paddling, standup  
20 paddle board, getting on a bike. Anything.

21           The plan calls for a lot of programming.  
22 So establish an active tourism business certification.  
23 We were just awarded a grant to do this in Brownsville  
24 so we're hoping to develop a model that other  
25 communities can use. We'll probably adopt. The League

1 of American Bicyclists has a bike-friendly business  
2 criteria so we'll probably look at that and look at  
3 adopting that.

4 Active tourists, they don't want to shop,  
5 they don't want to eat at Chili's or eat at Burger King  
6 or any of those. They want to eat at the local places.  
7 They want to find the holes in the wall with the great  
8 food or the great tacos or the great whatever, but  
9 definitely staying away from the chain restaurants.

10 When we started looking at laying out a  
11 network, in the valley, we have a lot of corridors. Not  
12 only do we have rail corridors, we have irrigation  
13 ditches, draining ditches, resacas, shorelines. There's  
14 a lot of corridors that already exist. So you already  
15 have -- you can kind of eliminate the idea of having to  
16 acquire right-of-way which is very important.

17 This is what our corridors look like now.  
18 This is a map of all, if you can see it, this is a map  
19 of all the drainage ditches and irrigation ditches in  
20 Cameron county. So you can see, you can quickly cover  
21 Cameron county along canals. This is a map that we've  
22 seen, that we've talked about in conference call. This  
23 is the Adventure Cycling Association map that they put  
24 out, as far creating a nationwide network of bike  
25 trails.

1           This is our plan for the -- you could  
2 either call it the terminus of U.S. bike route 55 or the  
3 beginning of U.S. bike route 55 depending on the way you  
4 look at it. You can tell it's 97 miles. This is an  
5 on-road bike facility. Once again, it will probably be  
6 attractive to the adventure tourist or the one who will  
7 bike 50, 60, 70 miles a day.

8           I like to call this map, if you go from  
9 Combs to the island, I like to call that the nature  
10 route and then Combs down through Brownsville is the  
11 historic route. There's a lot of history along 281 and  
12 then you come through all the cities. Harlingen,  
13 San Benito, Los Indios. That kind of stuff.

14           Once you get -- there's, obviously,  
15 international crossings in Brownsville and Los Indios.  
16 If you really start dreaming, this could be an  
17 international corridor. You connect with a different  
18 system. We're talking to our partners in Matamoros.  
19 And that's what that looks like. One of the things I  
20 wanted to tell Carl on the call and I figured I'd tell  
21 him here is, I'd like to see a map of all these Texas --  
22 we have the Texas Tropical Trail, but I know it's --  
23 there's an Independence Trail and there's probably other  
24 trails. Piggyback on some of that when we start  
25 researching that plan. I think there's trails all over

1 the state. I don't know. All I know is Tropical and  
2 Independence. Those are the ones I've driven. This is  
3 the multiuse system. So this is 170 miles of off street  
4 facilities. It's, once again, using those railroad  
5 corridors or drainage, irrigation, any type of existing  
6 right-of-way that's there, we followed it. So 170 miles  
7 of that.

8 MS. KAPLAN: How much of that is built?

9 MR. GONZALES: There's a good amount built.  
10 Los Fresnos has some TAP funding that they're building.  
11 The island, obviously, has the TAP funding. Brownsville  
12 11-mile trail now is built. Harlingen has some built,  
13 so there's little sections. There's big sections and  
14 little sections.

15 MS. KAPLAN: Have you estimated the total  
16 cost to finish the build-out?

17 MR. GONZALES: For 170 miles?

18 MS. KAPLAN: Uh-huh.

19 MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: The plan does break  
20 down. You'll see it. It will break down into catalytic  
21 projects and it breaks down to cost. If you're looking  
22 at \$1 million a mile, which is usually the rule of thumb  
23 that I use, you're talking \$170 million. That's total.

24 So this is what our corridors look like  
25 now. This is what they could look like. One of the

1 things we also started weighing is the surface.  
2 Surface, it doesn't need to be concrete all the time.  
3 It could be line base in certain areas, right. So that  
4 would reduce the cost if you start playing with the  
5 surfaces.

6 This is the spine of that 170 network and  
7 we called it the Legacy Trails, and we didn't call it  
8 Legacy because of the founder. We called them Legacy  
9 because we really felt if you build this spine this  
10 generation's Legacy will be built. We'll leave it to  
11 the next generation. We thought that was a good  
12 connection.

13 These are some of the views that you have  
14 in the county. We're very flat. You're not going to  
15 see a lot of hills. That's probably an advantage, and  
16 you also take spaces and activate them, and then this is  
17 the third layer of this system which is the paddling  
18 trail. A lot of people excited about this, but it's  
19 61 miles of trails that take you from South Bay to --  
20 this is Port Isabel and Buena Vista. This is Laguna  
21 Atascosa Wildlife Refuge.

22 Since the creation of this plan, they've  
23 opened their park to bikes and they want to start  
24 promoting camp sites at their refuge. Anyways, they're  
25 onboard. It goes down the Arroyo Colorado and it

1 actually terminates in Harlingen. This is the way that  
2 three-tiered system looks. Catalytic projects, this is  
3 a project that connects. This is where you can see, up  
4 here, the trail in Harlingen is already built and here  
5 San Benito has built a trail here. Even without the  
6 plan, you can start to tell the communities were moving  
7 in that direction. We identified this corridor and that  
8 is the cost, Teri.

9           This is the way you would treat a bridge  
10 crossing. Perhaps you have a park where you would  
11 launch your kayak. This is the one that has gotten the  
12 most excitement from everybody we present it to. This  
13 is the Bahia Grande Trail, and it takes you from  
14 Palo Alto National Battlefield through the Bahia Grande  
15 Trail, which is through the Bahia Grande National  
16 Wildlife Refuge, and it connects over to Laguna Vista.  
17 It's a 17-mile trail that we're also going to work on.

18           South Padre Island. This is stuff that is  
19 not being worked on. This is from the north side of the  
20 island all the way to where the road ends. And I say  
21 where the road ends because the sand blows over the road  
22 and you can't go any further. There's a lot of before  
23 and after pictures.

24           The other catalytic project, this is an  
25 on-road system. It's striping to connect Laguna

1 Atascosa to Port Isabel. And you see that there's  
2 actually, you see here, that's the alignment of the new  
3 causeway. This is U.S. bike route 55. That road is  
4 being worked on, as we speak. It'll look like that in a  
5 couple months. And then, the paddling trail. Rio  
6 Hondo. I hope we have that image. This is Rio Hondo  
7 City Hall. They have an excellent opportunity to  
8 encourage people to jump in the water, or jump in a  
9 kayak, or any type of water activity. We do know that  
10 we have a lot of boat ramps. Boat ramps don't  
11 necessarily cater to kayakers. They are different  
12 facilities. So you can't expect to attract kayakers and  
13 other type of activities using a boat ramp, so you need  
14 to provide that.

15           Once again, network considerations. That's  
16 what we're talking about surfacing. Some of the best  
17 trails are not concrete or are not asphalt. For  
18 example, that. The rural intersections. This is how  
19 you would cross under a bridge, potentially. The plan  
20 also has a huge wayfinding component to it. This is  
21 what a trail head would look like.

22           One of the biggest things in the valley,  
23 for sure, is shelter or shade. So we would -- shade is  
24 a big consideration for us. Thinking about some shade  
25 structures, some people have said, hey, can those be

1 solar panels and can they have phone chargers? Of  
2 course. You can start to dream and look at that.

3 This is a current bait stand in -- that's  
4 used. I don't know if it's still opened or not. You  
5 can start to re-imagine it if you include that kayak  
6 facility and some other facilities.

7 This is where we're at now. The  
8 implementation program. Obviously, now, the challenge  
9 is implementing it, funding it, putting -- putting a  
10 regional coalition together and we are actively working  
11 on it every day. We're very excited. This is kind of a  
12 framework of potential regional organization and that is  
13 the end of my presentation.

14 MR. HIBBS: Thank you.

15 MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: I'll entertain any  
16 questions.

17 MR. HIBBS: That was an outstanding job.  
18 One of the first things that jumped out at me had to do  
19 with the fact that y'all have engaged all these  
20 communities within the county. It's not just about  
21 Brownsville. It's about, basically, all these different  
22 communities that comprise Cameron county.

23 My question to you and to TxDOT is, are  
24 there some advantages to having the county apply for  
25 projects and all the various entities within that county

1 versus just a city doing it?

2 MR. GLEASON: Well, in our case, the city  
3 would -- it's not -- since it's a city over 200,000,  
4 Brownsville itself, it's not eligible for our funding.  
5 It gets its own transportation funding. Areas outside  
6 of that urbanized boundary, within the county, certainly  
7 could and the county could.

8 MR. GONZALES: I think -- noticing the  
9 rules of this program, not only of this program, but any  
10 program. There are -- when you start talking about a  
11 regional network like this, there are cities that  
12 qualify for a certain type of funding and then, there  
13 are other cities that qualify for another type of  
14 funding.

15 So you almost have to figure out and have  
16 that strong partnership to say, like for example,  
17 Los Fresnos, city of 5,000 I think. They'll qualify for  
18 the TAP grant and also qualify for U.S.D.A. money,  
19 U.S.D.A rural aide money. So that's something that  
20 Brownsville could never tap into. When you start to  
21 kind of look at all those different funding pots, it  
22 gets really interesting.

23 MR. GLEASON: This is Eric, just real  
24 quick, I may have missed this, Ramiro, and I apologize.  
25 What level of standing from an adoption standpoint does

1 this have?

2 MR. GONZALES: It's been adopted by all 10  
3 cities and two MPOs.

4 MR. GLEASON: To go to your question, if  
5 you're a community in the county outside of the  
6 urbanized area, your application, you need to make that  
7 point that this segment we want to build on is part of  
8 this adopted regional plan, and that helps tremendously  
9 when we look at the project to know that there's that  
10 level of regional buy-in. This is very important,  
11 taking that next step with us.

12 MR. HIBBS: That -- I think everybody on  
13 this committee needs to understand that this is one of  
14 the key things that I think helps elevate, you know, a  
15 smaller community. It looks like there's strength in  
16 numbers. If you can be part of a larger package --  
17 Karla was talking about this earlier. Having an overall  
18 broader strategy for the bigger package and a larger  
19 overall strategy, the county gets back -- what Karla was  
20 talking about earlier. There may be some limitations  
21 sometimes in terms of what you can access, but I think  
22 having an overall broader strategy for the county rather  
23 than just one city trying to do it, you're probably more  
24 likely to be able to affect your ultimate goal here than  
25 everybody just kind of striking out and doing their own

1 thing. Is that safe to say?

2 MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: Yeah, absolutely.

3 MR. HIBBS: That's the first time I've seen  
4 something that had all those different communities all  
5 kind of overlaid into one, kind of, a master county  
6 plan.

7 MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: Absolutely, and I  
8 think one of the things the video would show and one of  
9 the things we're with actively putting out there to the  
10 public is, this is not -- sometimes people, especially  
11 politically, you get knocked for doing quality-of-life  
12 projects, right. In Brownsville sometimes, and I'm sure  
13 there's everywhere.

14 Why are you doing a trail if you're not  
15 doing -- you're not fixing my street? Everybody has  
16 heard that one. So one of the things we're really  
17 communicating out there, this is an economic development  
18 driver. Especially down in the valley, we need more  
19 investment and we need more economic development. That,  
20 to me, that's one of the most important parts of this  
21 plan, the fact that it could drive economic development  
22 and it's a proven model.

23 MR. HIBBS: Okay. Any other comments or  
24 questions?

25 MR. ROBERT GONZALES: I have a comment.

1 This is Bobby Gonzales from El Paso. Ramiro, this past  
2 Wednesday, I had a meeting with one of our city reps.  
3 And, I guess, to go over some of our local BAC issues  
4 and talk to them about the tourism plan that you're  
5 about to hear in this same meeting today, and he  
6 actually mentioned your plan. He mentioned the tourism  
7 plan that you all have come up with as something he  
8 would like to start looking at for the city of El Paso.  
9 So your plan hasn't gone unnoticed. I just wanted you  
10 to know that because down in El Paso we're hearing about  
11 this, this study, for the valley.

12 MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: Thank you.

13 MR. ROBERT GONZALES: I just wanted you to  
14 know you've done a good job. Thank you.

15 MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: Well, thank you. I  
16 appreciate it.

17 MR. HIBBS: Thank you, Ramiro. We  
18 appreciate it very much.

19 MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: I'll send the video  
20 link to everybody.

21 MR. HIBBS: That's awesome.

22 Teri, I believe you're up. The  
23 presentation on TxDOT's 2017 Transportation Set-Aside  
24 Program Call for Projects. Is this going to be a video  
25 or do we need to turn the lights back on?

1 MS. KAPLAN: It's going to be PowerPoint.

2 MR. HIBBS: Okay.

3 MS. KAPLAN: Soon. First of all, I'm  
4 really excited to tell you all that we are going to be  
5 announcing TxDOT's 2017 Call for Projects next Friday.  
6 The program guide and nomination form are ready to go.  
7 They are not posted yet. They won't be available for  
8 public consumption until next Friday, but I wanted to  
9 give you a preview of what you could expect.

10 Basically, this program is pretty similar  
11 to the Transportation Alternative Program so I'm not  
12 going to go into a whole lot of details, just an  
13 overview and when the program guide and nomination form  
14 are made available to the general public, I will send  
15 you all a link to our website as well as a PDF of the  
16 program guide and an Excel file of the nomination form.  
17 It's really cool where you enter your information.  
18 There's a lot of drop-downs. We're requesting a lot  
19 more information. To give you a hard copy doesn't serve  
20 it well. You have to get in and play with it.

21 Basically, the commission authorized our  
22 rules in August. They went out for public comments.  
23 They were approved in December, and they are currently  
24 posted in our Texas Administrative Code. As I  
25 mentioned, we're anticipating the call for projects to

1 open next week.

2 Why is this not working?

3 So we are part of the -- couple of changes  
4 that happened was really the funding mechanism, where  
5 the funds are coming from. It was an independent  
6 program under Mount 21 and with the FAST Act it's moved  
7 to the -- part of the Surface Transportation Block  
8 grant. So it's just a changing of how the funds are  
9 funneled so when that happens and the name changes we  
10 have to come up with new rules. So this is what we're  
11 talking about here.

12 I'll provide those rules to you. We talked  
13 about the issue of these funds that TxDOT manages are  
14 for population areas of 200,000 or less. These blue  
15 areas that you see, those are the urbanized areas with  
16 populations of 200,000 or greater. They are known as  
17 transportation management areas. Those areas are not  
18 eligible for the funds that TxDOT manages in this call  
19 for projects.

20 The money we are awarded is broken into two  
21 pops. It's population areas of 5,000 and less and also  
22 populations of 5,001 to 200,000. Approximately,  
23 50 percent of the funds go to each of those population  
24 areas. In accordance with our rules, the funds that  
25 TxDOT administers are for construction only, and we have

1 limited the activities to pedestrian and bicycle  
2 infrastructure improvements. We have some flexibility  
3 with how local governments can match -- provide their  
4 local match. We talked about these programs before.  
5 I'm not going to go into a lot of detail, again.

6           There's the economically disadvantaged  
7 counties program and also there are incoming  
8 contributions, the cost that a local government might  
9 use to produce the plan, specifications, and do the  
10 environmental document. If they do that after project  
11 selection and go through the appropriate procedures  
12 those costs can then be used as a match toward the  
13 construction.

14           MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: Teri?

15           MS. KAPLAN: Yes.

16           MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: Before I forget on  
17 the EDC thing --

18           MS. KAPLAN: Economically disadvantaged  
19 program.

20           MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: Yeah. I don't know  
21 if there's been a rule change, but we've been informed  
22 that if it's not on system you can't use EDC for trails.

23           MS. KAPLAN: There have been some issues  
24 with some of the MPOs going out. The economically  
25 disadvantaged counties program is a state-managed

1 program. These are state funds that would be used in  
2 place of the local government having to put funds toward  
3 the project. And yes, there's some guidelines as to the  
4 eligibility of using those funds and they must be on --  
5 within roadway right-of-way or immediately adjacent to  
6 roadway right-of-way. So if you have a project that's a  
7 shared-use path that's going along a drainage easement,  
8 those types of projects would not be eligible for  
9 economically disadvantaged program. Because it's  
10 TxDOT's program, we're managing it. We'll be  
11 determining who's eligible for EDCP in our evaluation  
12 process.

13                   When it comes to the MPOs, a project may be  
14 eligible for economically disadvantaged counties  
15 program. That would be something they have to work with  
16 their local district office to make that determination.

17                   MR. GLEASON: If I can -- this is Eric  
18 Gleason. Just to be clear, the EDCP program is larger  
19 than this program. It applies and so, we do -- we've  
20 done nothing, but interpret the current guidelines for  
21 somewhere else, not changes because of the this program  
22 we're talking about here today.

23                   MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: Understood.

24                   MS. KAPLAN: If you do have any questions  
25 on that, we'll help direct you to the right people if

1 you have any issues, but if you've got a sidewalk  
2 project or restriping project on a roadway, and it's in  
3 TxDOT's call for projects, and you're in an economically  
4 disadvantaged county, you're going to be eligible.

5           The MPOs have to get permission from TxDOT  
6 to use our fronts on a particular project or allow for  
7 -- in the rules, the way that the activities are written  
8 is so long and convoluted and overlapping that we've  
9 streamlined it to identify six activities and we made  
10 them rather general so that a lot more projects are  
11 eligible under any of these categories.

12           For example, the on-road bicycle  
13 improvements. That would include the Bike Stripe. If  
14 someone has a project to go in and restripe roadways in  
15 the entire community, that could be a project to  
16 propose.

17           We have off-road shared use paths, and I'm  
18 not going to read all of these. You can see what they  
19 are. Basically, they're bicycle and pedestrian  
20 safety-related and here's what they would look like.

21           And Billy, there in the middle of the  
22 picture, you see a roadway that appears to have  
23 sufficient width that a designated bike lane might be  
24 able to be added to that roadway. That would be an  
25 eligible activity. The others are your standard

1 shared-used path, adding some shoulder to put a  
2 designated bike lane, railroad and sidewalk projects.

3           Oops, well, I missed one there. I can't go  
4 back. Somebody come up and give me a hand to go back.  
5 Here are your eligible projects sponsors. That has not  
6 changed, either. Pretty straightforward. This is  
7 straight out of the federal guidance. And here is our  
8 timeline. We anticipate that we're going to have 52  
9 million that comes available apportioned to our state in  
10 the years 2017-2020.

11           And again, our announcement is next Friday.  
12 Projects will be due to TxDOT on Monday, May 22nd.  
13 We'll have an evaluation process and anticipate  
14 selection by the commission this fall.

15           We have in our program guide, a list of all  
16 of district TASA coordinators. I'm using the term TASA  
17 for Transportation Alternative Set-Aside, shortened.  
18 And in our program guide, when you see the person's name  
19 you'll be able to click on their name and automatically  
20 access their e-mail so that you can communicate  
21 directly.

22           We have scheduled all of our workshops.  
23 They begin February 9th -- excuse me, February 7th and  
24 run through March 9th. Five weeks, we're out on the  
25 road. Bonnie and I will be hitting Texas. We're going

1 to all the districts. We're partnering with our local  
2 government project office to give a consistent message  
3 throughout the state, north to south, east to west and  
4 all corners.

5 MR. GLEASON: If I may -- this is Eric  
6 Gleason. Shawn, we're focusing our efforts more so up  
7 in the north and western regions of the state this time  
8 around. We didn't get a tremendous number, if any  
9 projects proposals, from the area there. We want to  
10 make sure we're getting the word out.

11 MR. TWING: I just sent an e-mail to Canyon  
12 and Amarillo. I'm glad to hear that. We have a new  
13 city manager that's just been appointed and there's  
14 going to be some turnaround. I think that's a great  
15 idea.

16 MR. HIBBS: This is Billy. I have a  
17 question for Eric. If, for example, a member of this  
18 committee wanted to attend one of these workshops, is it  
19 open to --

20 MS. KAPLAN: Absolutely. If you read the  
21 text with it in the program guide, if you read the text  
22 at the top, it says it's open to --

23 MR. HIBBS: Okay.

24 MR. GLEASON: As long as you're comfortable  
25 being called out as a member of the Bicycle Advisory

1 Committee, you're welcome to attend. We will introduce  
2 you.

3 MS. KAPLAN: We also have hyperlinks on  
4 this list, so that you can contact the local TASA  
5 coordinator. We also have in our program guide this map  
6 which identifies the dates and locations where the  
7 workshops are going to be. I need to go back. I'm  
8 getting good.

9 Okay, so in addition to this map, you'll  
10 notice down here on the bottom it has, click here to  
11 interact with map. We have developed an interactive map  
12 that will take you out to TxDOT's website. You'll be  
13 able to zoom in and out. You'll be able to see the  
14 urbanized areas on that little dot when you click on the  
15 interactive map. It will pop up and tell you when and  
16 where and who to contact for that workshop and we have a  
17 list in the program.

18 MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: Teri, were you going  
19 to make it out to El Paso?

20 MS. KAPLAN: When we spoke to the El Paso  
21 district, they said the populations are so spread out in  
22 El Paso that people would not travel for a workshop at  
23 the district office. It would be better handled as  
24 individual, going out to the community. So they are  
25 going to work it from the district. We're going to give

1 them all the materials.

2                   We're not anticipating to travel, Bonnie  
3 and I, are not anticipating to travel to El Paso. We  
4 think that the staff out there, they are a large  
5 district. They are knowledgeable about the program and  
6 they should be able to manage the workshops.

7                   Now, our local government project office  
8 may be heading out there to assist them on some of them.  
9 This is just a quick snapshot of the first page and page  
10 nine of the program guide. Just to let you know that  
11 it's very detailed and we'll make sure that you get a  
12 copy of that next week in the mail.

13                   The nomination forms that are going to be  
14 due in May must be submitted electronically. We just  
15 want you to know that we have step-by-step instructions  
16 for submission. We have step-by-step instructions for  
17 completing the nomination form in our program guide and  
18 then, once we receive the projects we have a clear  
19 evaluation and selection criteria that we've  
20 established.

21                   It's set up in tables in the program guide  
22 and it outlines where in the nomination form people  
23 should address the various criterion. And we've broken  
24 it down into three focus areas. The top being our goals  
25 and emphasis areas. That represents 50 percent of the

1 score and table 2 represents 25 percent and table 3.  
2 This slide here, tells you what those criteria category  
3 are. Again, I'm not going to read them because you can  
4 see them there. When you look at the charts, these are  
5 the criteria that was listed on the previous page: The  
6 first 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and then we go into what that  
7 criteria is, a description and the factors that we're  
8 looking at and then, where in the nomination you might  
9 address that criteria.

10 MR. HIBBS: Excuse me, Teri. This is  
11 Billy, again. Help me understand this percentage  
12 breakdown. I got lost at that point.

13 MS. KAPLAN: Okay. We're going to be --  
14 there are 10 criteria.

15 MR. HIBBS: Right.

16 MS. KAPLAN: Each of these criteria does  
17 not represent 10 percent, 10 percent, 10 percent,  
18 10 percent. That would mean that this would be 60, 10  
19 and 30. It's actually -- these will be weighted. Some  
20 of these criteria are more important than others in the  
21 department's opinion and what our emphasis areas are.

22 Once we get the nominations in, we will  
23 look at these areas and they will be scored and  
24 50 percent of the total score will come from the scores  
25 from this chart, and 25 percent project readiness is

1 very important because the funding for this program is  
2 time-sensitive. We have three years from the time the  
3 funds are apportioned to the state to get them to  
4 construction. That's 50, 25 and 25 percent.

5 MR. HIBBS: Thank you.

6 MS. RUST: This is DawnElla. What is the  
7 amount that a person can apply for?

8 MS. KAPLAN: There's not a limit neither on  
9 the -- there's a logical and reasonable amount of what  
10 kind of work we can get done, the history and what we've  
11 seen. We don't want to deny anything. We have had, in  
12 cases, where we had a very large project. If it's too  
13 large, when we only have so many funds for population  
14 areas of 5,000 and less. We've got 13 million. We're  
15 not going to give a project 10 million. We might turn  
16 to that entity and say, can we break this down to 2 or 3  
17 or 4 phases that are more manageable, as long as we have  
18 logical segments, and ask them to phase their project.

19 MR. GLEASON: DawnElla, I would take that  
20 and actually conceive of the project initially, if it is  
21 a new one, in phases. Sometimes, when you begin with  
22 that assumption, it's easier to build them in as you go  
23 than it is to go back afterwards and break it out. From  
24 a practical standpoint, as Teri says, we've got to cover  
25 the entire state, not a lot of money. I think, on

1 average, our average project size was 1 million. We had  
2 52 million we had 50 projects so that gives you a sense.

3 MS. KAPLAN: There's a certain size a  
4 project that it becomes too small, where it's not  
5 cost-effective to involve a state DOT and the Federal  
6 Highway Administration and all of the oversight  
7 responsibilities there. So depending on project,  
8 because we have seen a project of 100,000 that's simply  
9 making some safety improvements at an intersection, a  
10 one-point project that's very needed at this particular  
11 intersection that it might be reasonable to fund a  
12 100,000 project. 3 million seems to be the threshold on  
13 the high end. 3 to 4 million seems to be the high end.

14 MS. RUST: I also mentioned -- Dawn Ella,  
15 again -- the local match. So if I apply for \$100,000  
16 what's the match?

17 MS. KAPLAN: Let's say that the total --  
18 we're looking at the total construction cost plus 15  
19 percent TxDOT administration cost, and then, it's an  
20 80/20 is the minimum match. It's a 20 percent match.  
21 Some folks that want to get their project funded they  
22 will increase their local match to 30 or 40 percent.

23 MR. GLEASON: I think these are the  
24 questions you can really dive into in the local  
25 workshops, as well and really help the project sponsors

1 understand that.

2 MS. KAPLAN: Absolutely.

3 MR. HIBBS: This is Billy. Thank you very  
4 much, Teri. Just let me say, since I've been on the  
5 committee, this stuff has just been voodoo to me. It's  
6 been in a big black box. This is the most  
7 understandable, easiest to navigate presentation I've  
8 ever seen for one of these things. My hat's off to you,  
9 for those of us that don't wake up every morning and do  
10 this in our day job. This is a great document.

11 For those of you on the committee, that in  
12 communities of this size, I suggest you take this back  
13 and meet with your city managers, and meet with your  
14 bicycle coordinators and all.

15 This is a great way to get all this jump  
16 started without having necessarily a lot of personal  
17 expertise in this matter.

18 Thank you for making it understandable.

19 MS. KAPLAN: Absolutely. Let me say that  
20 in your package today, you have the first 10 pages of  
21 the program guide. This is the information, this  
22 limited information, would be valuable for folks that  
23 would be interested, or that you would like to educate  
24 about the program.

25 It covers the overview, who's available,

1 what activities and what the evaluation and scoring  
2 process is. The rest of the program gets into the  
3 step-by-step details for filling out the nomination  
4 form. Immediately following these pages, it goes into  
5 the nomination form, item one, here is what you do.  
6 Item two, here is what you do. That type of thing.

7           It tells you what are in the dropdowns in  
8 the nomination form. The nomination form at that point  
9 and the program guide work hand and hand. You have the  
10 Excel file up and you look at the program guide and you  
11 can see exactly what you need to do to provide us  
12 information.

13           Any other questions?

14           MR. TWING: This is Shawn. If I could get  
15 some clarification, since Amarillo is right on the  
16 razor's edge of 200,000 depending on if you're looking  
17 at TSA or census.

18           MS. KAPLAN: 2010 census is what we're  
19 using. And we're having a link out on our website so  
20 the people can go out and figure out if they're in an  
21 urbanized. There are some projects in Karla's area that  
22 skirted the edge of the urbanized area. In those cases,  
23 we look at them on a case-by-case basis. Who are they  
24 serving? Where are they really located and who are they  
25 serving?

1                   MR. GLEASON: You're good for the next five  
2 or six years, Shawn. The 2020 census will go in effect  
3 in 2023 and you guys will pop over 200,000 and we're  
4 done. Build now.

5                   MR. TWING: I will make sure they are aware  
6 of that. Thank you very much.

7                   MR. HIBBS: People -- and another question  
8 I probably will just throw out there. You can't  
9 nominate more than one project. DawnElla, you said what  
10 a large project. If you broke it down into four phases,  
11 you could put 1-4 out there and sometimes we choose  
12 number 3 versus 1 or 4.

13                   Anyhow, thank you all. I'm excited about  
14 the program call, looking forward to coming out to your  
15 areas of the state. When Bonnie and I come and visit,  
16 we're going to contact you and make sure you're  
17 attending our workshops.

18                   Thank you, Teri. We appreciate that very  
19 much.

20                   Item number 9 on the agenda is the  
21 Presentation of the Texas Bicycle Tourism Trail Study.  
22 Take it away, Carl.

23                   MR. SEIFERT: Well first of all, still  
24 morning. Good morning. I don't know if I've met all of  
25 you. I know I'm relatively new to the whole enterprise

1 of the BAC so I wanted to introduce myself before I got  
2 started.

3 My name is Carl Seifert. I work with CH2M  
4 and my company has a contract with TxDOT to work three  
5 days a week supporting the Bicycle Pedestrian program  
6 under Teri.

7 MS. KAPLAN: In-house, with us.

8 MR. SEIFERT: In-house. So I do know a  
9 good bit about the program Teri just introduced to us  
10 and some other things.

11 One of my main focuses in the next year is  
12 going to be the Bicycle Trail Tourism Study and as we'll  
13 find out in this presentation, it's not a me study.  
14 It's an our study. This is absolutely a collaborative  
15 process between the BAC and BTN and CH2M and our  
16 resources will be available as needed.

17 In this presentation, I'm going to give you  
18 a brief overview and then get into the details, but  
19 we're very much at the beginning.

20 The bicycle Trails Tourism Study, all the  
21 details have yet to ironed out. Including some items  
22 about the purpose, the goals, the objectives. We're  
23 going to get to that in the beginning stages of this  
24 process.

25 I want to point out some of the national

1 and safe context with the tourism trails and I want to  
2 focus how the BAC is involved in some of the next steps  
3 and other resources that have already been brought to  
4 the table.

5           To start with, we know there's going to be  
6 some things we want to investigate, some results we want  
7 to get out of the study, and some partners we're going  
8 to include. As I said, this is a process. This is a  
9 venture that we're just starting, so I want to discuss  
10 these things as things that we want to look into, but we  
11 can still change that, and we're looking for  
12 collaborative input from y'all.

13           So we know that we want to investigate some  
14 of the best practices that are happening around the  
15 country. We know that Texas has a history of proposed  
16 auto and bicycle routes that are tourism oriented.  
17 There are, of course, bikeways across the state that we  
18 want to build on this existing investment and  
19 incorporate it as necessary.

20           Of course, as Ramiro pointed out, some  
21 economic benefits that are really important when we talk  
22 about marketing this and investments that TxDOT and  
23 local communities around the state can get -- take part  
24 in.

25           As far as results go, we know that we need

1 a specific criteria for how to decide on the local  
2 route, specifically. Excuse me, not local, but the  
3 route location, specifically. Whether that be  
4 population size, volume of traffic on the road, amount  
5 of trucks, amenities nearby. There's a host of criteria  
6 that would make you choose one route versus another.

7           Additionally, a specific design criteria  
8 for the tourism trail themselves. What does the route  
9 typical section look like, who is it oriented towards,  
10 what type of user are we anticipating, things like that.

11           Lastly, we certainly hope to identify  
12 potential tourism trail routes around the state.  
13 Lastly, there's some potential partners that we would  
14 want to include, parks and wildlife, economic  
15 development of tourism, historical commission, local  
16 governments and MPOs.

17           So as we are still getting started on this,  
18 we know there's a variety of goals that could be --  
19 could help us orient this study. For starters, we can  
20 be responding to the Bicycle Tourism Trails Act and that  
21 legislative action. We certainly could be helping to  
22 promote accessible context sensitive bicycle  
23 accommodations. Bicycle accommodations help improve  
24 safety. So we could also -- an important aspect of this  
25 is public health outcomes, which Ramiro briefly spoke

1 about.

2                   And of course, the economic development  
3 aspect. We want to identify and document throughout the  
4 process because they are state, urban and rural  
5 oriented. And of course, TxDOT as a state agency can  
6 provide that leadership for local governments looking to  
7 build upon their existing infrastructure and connect to  
8 a larger statewide network.

9                   As I mentioned previously, there is  
10 legislation that helps guide us in this effort. The  
11 BAC, as it says here, this is the entire text of the  
12 Act, shall advise and make recommendations to the  
13 commission in the development of bicycle tourism trails  
14 in the state. We have direction. Consultation with  
15 parks and wildlife commission, economic tourism office.

16                   It also, specifically, states that the  
17 tourism trails should reflect the geography, scenery,  
18 history and culture diversity of the state. Those are  
19 aspects of the things that we need to think about when  
20 we are investigating which routes get included. So in  
21 the national context --

22                   MR. HIBBS: Excuse me, Carl. Can you go  
23 back to that slide for just a minute? Do you mind, for  
24 the purpose of the committee here to tell us when that  
25 legislation was passed?

1 MR. SEIFERT: Sure. 2005.

2 MR. HIBBS: 2005. So it's 2017. So what's  
3 been going on since? Why is it that just now we're  
4 starting to talk about some 2005 legislation?

5 MR. SEIFERT: Sure. I will defer that  
6 question to BTN if they have anything to add.

7 MR. GLEASON: I will just let your question  
8 stand, sir. We are here and we are working on it and we  
9 will get it done. Is that sufficient?

10 MR. HIBBS: That's fair enough, Eric.

11 MS. KAPLAN: We're on the job now. That's  
12 what it is.

13 MR. HIBBS: When Carl made his presentation  
14 to a working subcommittee of us the other day, I think  
15 the most profound thing that I walked away from it was,  
16 this has been on the books since '05 and we're just now  
17 kind of getting started on it.

18 So anyway, I think it's great news. I  
19 think it's fantastic that the state of Texas thought  
20 this was important enough in the last decade to make  
21 this important, but it is good to know that it's  
22 starting to gain some momentum. Congratulations to,  
23 particularly, the TxDOT people in this room.

24 MR. GLEASON: I would be remiss if I didn't  
25 recognize that there are those in the audience that have

1 been asking us to do this for some time.

2 MR. HIBBS: I can only imagine.

3 MR. GLEASON: I do want to recognize that.

4 MS. KAPLAN: Specifically, I want to take  
5 it a little further and say thank you, Bike Texas.

6 MR. HIBBS: Please proceed, Carl.

7 MR. SEIFERT: Sure. I encourage any other  
8 questions; I don't consider them interruptions. It  
9 helps us take it all in. In the national context, I  
10 think, this is something we're all familiar with,  
11 bicycles and their infrastructure have been growing  
12 around the country. One of the main reasons is cyclists  
13 spend money and it's an easy argument to make, that  
14 Ramiro was helping make, whether it be lodging, food,  
15 retail. They spend money and sometimes more often than  
16 auto travelers.

17 Travel itself has different aspects. Some  
18 people are self-guided tourers. There are regional  
19 bicycle networks, bicycle rentals are important and  
20 there's single and multi-day events which many of us  
21 have familiarity with.

22 These sorts of events help commuters and  
23 recreational users alike. Ramiro showed a slightly  
24 larger version of this map. I'm not sure if everyone is  
25 familiar with the U.S. Bicycle route system, but in

1 regards to national context, it certainly makes a big  
2 difference because someone's already thought about this  
3 a little bit. What this is is the U.S. bicycle route is  
4 an officially numbered and signed nationwide bicycle  
5 route network. As you can see there are 11,000-miles in  
6 24 states have been designated, but there's another  
7 38,000 that has yet to go.

8           It is a product= that was proposed by the  
9 Adventure Cycling Association and in consultation with  
10 AASHTO. I'm going to go into a little more detail. You  
11 can see this is a map of Texas. You'll see on there,  
12 there are no solid lines which are designated U.S.  
13 bicycle routes. There are only dashed lines which  
14 represent undeveloped corridors, these are 50-mile wide  
15 corridors that Adventure Cycling has identified where  
16 routes could be developed, and we think that's an  
17 important designation because there are several steps  
18 before you get designation. In particular, we wanted to  
19 highlight, those steps include local jurisdictions have  
20 to evaluate the corridors, decide on the routes,  
21 coordinate with local governments and property owners  
22 and apply for designation to AASHTO. AASHTO thereby  
23 designates it a route number. In particular, the routes  
24 must connect two or more states or an international  
25 border or to another bicycle route. This is to be

1 included as a U.S. designated bicycle route. There on  
2 the bottom it highlights that only 20 percent of the  
3 initial corridors have been designated.

4 MR. HIBBS: Carl, before you leave that  
5 slide, this is Billy, again. How locked into are we in  
6 those particular corridors right there?

7 MR. SEIFERT: That's a good point. That's  
8 partially why we wanted to highlight this. These are  
9 routes not proposed by Bike Texas. TxDOT and local  
10 governments necessarily did not -- they may have been  
11 contributors to what the Adventure Cycling proposed, but  
12 these are just lines on a map.

13 These guide our efforts in the same way  
14 that other trails that I'll get to in a second that have  
15 historically been proposed in Texas, previously. All of  
16 those are contributing factors and inputs into the  
17 study. I don't want to over-speak at all. These are  
18 elements. I pointed this out because this is a  
19 well-used map and the importance here is the  
20 interconnectivity between states. They have drawn these  
21 across the country. That's the importance I see,  
22 personally. I think that's an aspect of the study we  
23 should consider when we are getting to the routing  
24 locations, is how they worked with the facility to  
25 improve their impact as a long distance route.

1           If anyone else has anything else to chime  
2 in on, I know other people know about this.

3           MR. HIBBS: The reason I bring this up is  
4 because we've had prior presentations from Bike Texas,  
5 for example, of areas where they have done a tremendous  
6 amount of research, and trying to make some kind of  
7 general ideas of where some things should go because of,  
8 for example, existing infrastructure that's already been  
9 built out. So when I look at this map and I'm thinking,  
10 how does all this tie in together? What I think I'm  
11 hearing you tell the committee is that from a national  
12 standpoint, this is kind of a starting place, but  
13 basically, there's nothing that's been etched in stone  
14 here and it's really going to, ultimately, be up to this  
15 committee and other TxDOT-related entities and people  
16 like Bike Texas, and there's going to be a lot of input  
17 where we, ultimately, decide where these paths are going  
18 to go. Is that a fair way of putting it?

19           MR. SEIFERT: I think that's a fair way of  
20 putting it. I think Teri had a really good analogy when  
21 we were on the conference call with the working group,  
22 which I will talk more about in a moment. For those of  
23 us that were on that call, the three-legged stool where  
24 the BAC and the working group are one leg and PTN and  
25 CH2M. I think all of this together are going to help

1 push this forward. So, yeah, this is an input in  
2 helping all those decisions and helping those move.

3 MS. WILLIAMSON: I have a comment.

4 Anne-Marie Williamson. I didn't volunteer to be on the  
5 committee because I didn't feel like I knew enough about  
6 tourism to talk intelligently, not that that usually  
7 stops me from talking, but anyway, for you guys on the  
8 committee, I think one of the other things to consider  
9 are large events. You know where I'm coming from the  
10 Hotter 'N' Hell 100 is huge and that doesn't even exist on  
11 the map. I think that's part of it, too, if we're  
12 looking at not just traveling from spot to spot and the  
13 connectivity, but are there events also in some of these  
14 areas that occur annually that bring in 15,000 cyclists.

15 MR. HIBBS: This is Billy, so I think what  
16 Anne-Marie is trying to say is if you've got 15,000  
17 people coming to Wichita Falls to ride a big event, if  
18 there was some way to connect further to cycling either  
19 across Texas or some of these other things going on,  
20 that would be a major boom to tourism. I completely  
21 agree. That makes a lot of sense to try to leverage  
22 different kinds of events and things that we already  
23 have that are well-established here. How many people  
24 come from out of state to Hotter in Hell?

25 MS. WILLIAMSON: I don't know those

1 numbers, but it's not 15,000 Witchitans that ride. We  
2 get international people, too. Often, as I walk through  
3 the trade show with my Hotter in Hell stuff on, people  
4 come up and talk to me. Lots of people will ride  
5 150 miles-200 miles to get to Wichita Falls and then  
6 ride the Hotter'N'Hell, which that's crazy. But anyway,  
7 that's something to consider, as well.

8 MR. HIBBS: Great point.

9 MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: I think that's where  
10 I was talking about other past efforts. The Tropical  
11 Trail, the Independence trail, there's all these other  
12 things that TxDOT has done in the past. I know the  
13 Chisolm Trail is actually one that's marked. There was  
14 one guy on the farm pushing to get these Chisholm Trail  
15 markers refounded or -- they were all kind already  
16 wasted out. Steve Walker was -- I think he got it done.  
17 They put the markers back up again. That's where I  
18 think that kind of piggybacking on existing efforts --

19 MR. SEIFERT: Absolutely.

20 MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: -- was absolutely  
21 critical.

22 So that way we're not --

23 MR. SEIFERT: Absolutely. At a later point  
24 in the presentation, I was going to, specifically, ask  
25 that all the people here and the Bicycle Advisory

1 Committee, and all the other inputs that you have from  
2 the outside, to contribute that information about  
3 existing trail that have already been written down, put  
4 in reports, maybe featured it in your local plans, et  
5 cetera. All of that is going to go in. I just went one  
6 slide further. This is the state context which I think  
7 you all are getting at. Our, specifically, previously  
8 proposed trails the Northeast Texas trail, Old Texas 20,  
9 and a variety of other historic trails and I think you  
10 mentioned, Ramiro, would be included in that list would  
11 be important factors to incorporate into this and  
12 certainly, at least, a document.

13           So where are the gaps in these trails, how  
14 can the existing trails be combined or completed or  
15 approved and then, are there any other questions and it  
16 sounds like you guys are already churning through in  
17 your head here that we need to be considering as part of  
18 a criteria for economic development. I think  
19 Anne-Marie's suggestion was really good; this multi-day  
20 events that are already drawing people need to be joined  
21 up with some real route suggestions.

22           MR. TWING: I have a question. Has your  
23 group ever looked at having a bike series as a way of  
24 connecting the communities? Following up on  
25 Anne-Marie's comment about Hotter 'N' Hell. If you have

1 -- I'm just making this up in thin air. Let's say, you  
2 have a 100-mile ride in Wichita Falls connected with a  
3 trail in Amarillo connected with a 200-mile ride and  
4 then something like the MS 150 Houston to Austin in  
5 which you would encourage riders to sign up for the  
6 whole series, and they go around the stop and do it that  
7 way -- and that way you would have a more direct influx  
8 of cash for people coming to do the ride, and that might  
9 encourage the local government of the cities to see the  
10 benefits actually connecting, working on the types of  
11 projects that connect the communities. I'm just  
12 curious. Has that ever been discussed?

13 MR. GLEASON: If I may. This is Eric  
14 Gleason. I think one of the outcomes of having  
15 physically identified these things on map which is what  
16 we're trying to get to, would be to allow that kind of  
17 synergy to happen. So I think that's an obvious benefit  
18 that I haven't really thought about. Certainly, you  
19 could begin marketing events and if we've gone as far as  
20 to also highlight those events as part of our tourism  
21 trails. That would help that.

22 MR. TWING: For example, in Amarillo, its  
23 bike plan is three pages which basically, says, is  
24 nobody is interested. However, you have the 24 hours in  
25 the Canyon which would be hand and glove with the

1 Hotter'N'Hell. If there's ways to these events, you get  
2 not just a discount, but if you go to all the events,  
3 you get a special shirt. It's amazing what a piece of  
4 tin or T- shirt will get people to go do.

5 The immediate economic impact, certainly  
6 will make it easier when you go and ask them for  
7 20 percent towards having a bike trail from Amarillo to  
8 Lubbock.

9 Again, I've been on enough boards to know  
10 that every time you think you have a brilliant new idea,  
11 it's probably not new. It's probably been thought off  
12 and I was just curious or what experience you might have  
13 gotten or feedback.

14 MS. WILLIAMSON: I have a comment. I  
15 should have signed up because I'm being so bossy.

16 MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: You still can.

17 MS. WILLIAMSON: Maybe contacting the board  
18 of these large events like the Vernon Burnin'. They  
19 schedule that as a pre-ride for the Hotter'N'Hell so  
20 unless you're kind of in the know in that area you  
21 wouldn't know that that's going on, and that's the week  
22 before the Hotter'N'Hell.

23 MR. TWING: Sure. Sure. This is Shawn.  
24 Just a small footnote. Call the bike shops. The bike  
25 shops know more than half the board. People are

1 shipping their bikes and needing stuff or they are  
2 making business plans.

3 MR. SEIFERT: As part of that, as we've  
4 been talking about, we did call for self-nominations to  
5 the working group and the members have already been  
6 assembled. We had our first conference call last week  
7 which I thought went really well. The main action for  
8 us between meetings, we only get together as a BAC four  
9 times a year. It's this 12-month long project. There's  
10 a lot of stuff that's going to happen between the  
11 meetings, so this working group is an important subset  
12 to help us keep things moving along. Like I said, the  
13 12-month schedule, that working group as they are aware,  
14 should look forward to monthly conference calls.  
15 They'll help me with any quarterly updates to the BAC as  
16 they happen throughout this upcoming year and then  
17 in-person meetings as they are needed.

18 That next working group meeting, we are  
19 going to be setting goals and objectives. We've  
20 identified thus far as our first topic of conversation  
21 so we will be getting information out to you all soon  
22 and we're going to have a duty poll or something to  
23 figure out the best time for that to happen. But in the  
24 interim, this is for the whole BAC, we have an important  
25 set of data requests, and this goes directly back to the

1 conversations we were just having.

2                   We are looking for information about  
3 existing bikeways in your area. We are also looking for  
4 any examples of tourism trails or information around the  
5 U.S. or internationally that would -- that you think we  
6 should be considering during this setting.

7                   I know Ramiro has already volunteered some  
8 information that came out of their efforts, recent  
9 active transportation plan, I know there's other  
10 information out there. So I was going to say our  
11 contact information is at the end of this. You have  
12 Teri's contact information. Anything you want to send  
13 go ahead and e-mail to her.

14                   We've been getting some resources from the  
15 working group. I just want to be responsive and put  
16 them up here. Some really good information from Joseph.  
17 I haven't, actually, met him. It's just a name on the  
18 other end of the line, but he passed on these two links  
19 which are very neat. There's a really good video about  
20 how bicycles can save small-town America. He pointed it  
21 out to us. We thought it was really neat.

22                   Also there's the Adventure Cycling web site  
23 and we're going to get some information from Ramiro  
24 about Brownsville. In that regard, if there's any  
25 questions --

1                   MR. GLEASON: What we want to do is get in  
2 the mode of using the full committee meeting to have  
3 another discussion around these things so in the  
4 interim, the working group has that kind of guidance  
5 from the full committee. And if new issues come up, the  
6 working group will handle them initially and bring them  
7 back to the committee at the next meeting for  
8 confirmation. I don't see the working group making  
9 final recommendations, and final decisions all those  
10 will be to the extent that we have the full committee,  
11 will have an opportunity talk about.

12                   We wanted to kind of keep these things  
13 moving along. This was Commissioner Austin's idea that  
14 we jump ahead of this initial meeting to get that group  
15 formed. I appreciate everyone's interest. We won't ask  
16 the working group to take votes or anything like that.  
17 They are just there to help us move along in between, to  
18 make sure we stay on track, have a sounding board for  
19 issues as they arise, and we'll come back to the full  
20 committee and bring things to closure.

21                   MR. HIBBS: Thank you. Carl, what's next?  
22 When is the next committee meeting or subcommittee  
23 meeting, I should say?

24                   MR. SEIFERT: Absolutely. After this  
25 meeting, we'll send out a Doodle poll and figure out

1 when the best time to meet is. I know we talked about  
2 in the conference call that since everyone is here in  
3 person that we would, potentially, after regular BAC  
4 meetings have opportunities to do that. And Teri had  
5 suggested that today we would have an opportunity. If  
6 any of the working group members are here and there's  
7 things to discuss.

8 We have not prepared any specific action  
9 items to take care of with the working group committee.  
10 We will have that upcoming conference call to take care  
11 of that meeting, number one objectives, goals, things  
12 like that.

13 MR. HIBBS: Did I understand you to say  
14 there's not going to be a meeting following this meeting  
15 today?

16 MR. SEIFERT: We can have a time to get  
17 together and talk if there's anything we need to  
18 discuss. I'm saying from our end, there's no particular  
19 materials that are prepared.

20 MS. RUST: So that's no.

21 MR. SEIFERT: You guys are as much of the  
22 committee as I am, so I'm not going to say no, we can't  
23 meet. We can talk about it.

24 MS. WEAVER: Quick question: In your work  
25 scope, are you envisioning site visits out to different

1 parts of Texas or meeting with large groups of counties  
2 and municipalities, or how much fact-checking on the  
3 ground is envisioned versus a high-level overview?

4 MR. SEIFERT: Sure. Teri, can you cover  
5 that one?

6 MS. KAPLAN: We don't know yet, Karla. I  
7 think that's something that we need the working group.  
8 With regard to the subcommittee, the working group  
9 getting together afterwards, because you're all here, if  
10 you want to get together and talk a bit that's welcomed.

11 MR. GLEASON: I think we're open to some  
12 flexibility. We have to move in some different  
13 directions. We're going to be interested in watching  
14 that deep dive because I don't know if we've ever come  
15 out of a deep dive. For sure.

16 MR. HIBBS: This is Billy. And my charge  
17 to the committee at large is, you're going to need to  
18 take yourself out of your role as being an advocate for  
19 your particular part of the state, and you're going to  
20 need to look at the state of Texas and what's really  
21 best for the state of Texas, and that's going to be hard  
22 because we all like to ride and be a part of these  
23 things and it may necessarily not run through Tyler,  
24 Texas and I'm fully cognizant of that and willing to put  
25 it wherever it needs to be where it can, A, get done.

1           The most likely place, politically, where  
2 we can advance this to the point where we can stop  
3 talking about it and actually get the project completed.  
4 Number two, think about it economically and think about  
5 it from a tourism standpoint. Really, at the end of the  
6 day and I know you've heard me say this many times,  
7 economic development drives a lot of the decisions that  
8 are made in Austin, and if we can make a persuasive  
9 argument that there's a route that will make people want  
10 to come to Texas, spend their money in Texas, stay in  
11 Texas for days or several weeks at a time to see Texas,  
12 that is a compelling argument and big projects like this  
13 are much more likely to get initiated and get rolling if  
14 we can be persuasive in that argument, rather than,  
15 well, I really wanted it to go through my part of the  
16 community and by golly, if it doesn't I'm going to throw  
17 up a roadblock or something.

18           This is one of those things, when you get  
19 on a large statewide advisory board like this, you have  
20 to check your own personal desires at the door and  
21 really have an open mind.

22           What I'm trying to say is, keep an open  
23 mind about the process. We'll listen to all the various  
24 discussions and probably arguments that will go on back  
25 and forth as we try to do the best job we can and make a

1 recommendation to TxDOT and in terms of where this needs  
2 to go.

3 Thank you, Carl and thank you TxDOT for  
4 bringing this up and putting some meat behind it and  
5 putting some money behind it so we can get rolling. I  
6 got to think that '05 is long enough. It's time to get  
7 going.

8 MS. RUST: I'd like to add another thing.  
9 This is DawnElla. We keep talking about economic  
10 development. I think we have to tie that to public  
11 health and what it's going to do for the community and  
12 those trails to go through. The link is there. We need  
13 to -- I think that has to be an important part of this  
14 tourism.

15 MR. GLEASON: I think we will look to folks  
16 like yourself to help us do that and to communicate that  
17 message.

18 MR. HIBBS: Thank you, Carl. We are ahead  
19 of where we normally are. I know you will be relieved.  
20 We get to go around the table and talk about various  
21 things that are going on in our particular areas.

22 Karla, I'd like for you to start off today.  
23 If you don't mind, since Joseph is not here, can you  
24 tell us -- I know there was a lot of conversation and  
25 actual media coverage about his vision of having this

1 big ride around the Dallas-Fort Worth area circle and if  
2 you know anything about that, could you add that to your  
3 remarks, as well?

4 MS. WEAVER: I don't know much, but I will  
5 share with you a little bit of what I think I know. I  
6 was going to mention that we've got going on in the past  
7 couple of months, we have our TA set-aside call for  
8 projects has been opened for the metropolitan area. Our  
9 deadline to submit is the end of February. We have  
10 \$23 million to award for our 12-county area.

11 MR. GLEASON: What years does that cover?

12 MS. WEAVER: It might be 17-19. Yeah. So  
13 we're looking forward to that and we're, hopefully,  
14 going to get a lot of good applications. We are going  
15 to start in March a series of safe routes to school  
16 plans with some of different independent school  
17 districts within D-FW. We have 127 school districts and  
18 200 cities. It's a hot mess. So we've worked -- we've  
19 identified some inner city Title I schools in Dallas ISD  
20 and Fort Worth ISD, Arlington, so we're going to be  
21 developing plans and get engaged in PTAs, parents, the  
22 Spanish communities and all kinds to talk about walking  
23 and biking and auto safety and those kinds of things.

24 We received an FDA planning grant for  
25 \$1.4 million to look at last mile connections for

1 pedestrians and cyclists for the transit stations in the  
2 region. We're going to be hiring consultants to do cost  
3 estimates and preliminary engineering to know what kind  
4 of money we need to construct those. And our 2016-year  
5 report of our bike count program is going to come out  
6 next month. So where we've been over the last years.  
7 We had an interesting weather season so what that would  
8 look like.

9           For the loop project, what I'm aware of is  
10 Joseph's group was raising -- the numbers are going to  
11 be a little wrong. A loop trail to go around the entire  
12 city of Dallas. They need like 26 more miles to be  
13 built, but they got some big ticket items in there. One  
14 is like a crossing of Interstate 35 for \$20 million,  
15 just a little change.

16           MR. GLEASON: Speed is important.

17           MS. WEAVER: They have these four critical  
18 pieces that they need completed. Dallas County put in  
19 some money. They were privately raising \$10 million of  
20 private sector funds. My agency put in a few dollars.

21           And altogether they came in with  
22 \$20 million and with a request to the city of Dallas'  
23 bond program of \$20 million. So the understanding was  
24 the money has been put on the bond program, but the bond  
25 has been delayed from May to November. There's a lot of

1 controversy with pension plans and where Dallas is going  
2 to put the priorities. There's a big cry that parks and  
3 recreation trails are still important to economic  
4 development in the community.

5 If they don't end up leveraging those  
6 dollars through the bond program, I still think they've  
7 got a good foothold to start building some of those  
8 components and keep moving towards it and keep waiting  
9 for the next opportunities.

10 MR. HIBBS: Thank you. Ramiro.

11 MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: I'll use a couple of  
12 minutes. I forgot to mention something in my  
13 presentation. One, we're putting the plan through an  
14 economic impacts analysis. And also through public  
15 impact analysis.

16 We've started with the six catalyst  
17 projects. And we already have those numbers so yearly  
18 economic impact, if the six projects were to be built,  
19 would be about 9 -- \$10 million in economic impact and  
20 yearly healthcare cost savings for local residents would  
21 be about \$7 million, annual healthcare savings from  
22 increased physical activities. Those numbers are going  
23 to start coming out.

24 MS. WEAVER: Who is doing the work for you  
25 guys?

1                   MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: This is a company --  
2 we have a lot of partners, national partners;  
3 conservation alliance.

4                   MR. HIBBS: This is Billy. I think this is  
5 the same question Karla asked, but the public health  
6 benefit, somebody had to crunch these numbers to do the  
7 math to get that data. Do you --

8                   MR. RAMIRO GONZALES: Actually, in order to  
9 fund the study we had to get a ton of partners. The  
10 actual person doing the health study is here in Austin  
11 through UT. He's a researcher here at the university  
12 and he's getting paid through the study to do these  
13 numbers. I'll get his name and send it. Those are only  
14 six projects. That's not the entire plan. We'll have  
15 this entire plan through the model sometime in March or  
16 April.

17                   MR. HIBBS: Thank you very much.

18                   MS. WILLIAMSON: Those are hard acts to  
19 follow. We're pleased. We have a new city council  
20 member who's very pro-cycling. We're happy with that.  
21 Getting some signage up about sharing the road and bike  
22 lanes on the striping, as well. Small steps.

23                   MR. HIBBS: DawnElla.

24                   MS. RUST: We're working on a grant with  
25 Texas Parks and Wildlife to do some trail renovations

1 due February 2. We are having some trouble with  
2 Physical Plant and them wanting to do the matching part.  
3 I'm still optimistic even though I was very angry.

4 The city of Nacogdoches is in the works of  
5 doing a city master plan so we can have an updated  
6 version of a bicycle plan and sidewalk plan.

7 In April, we're going to host a bike  
8 Nag-event. The Legion center is coming in doing bike  
9 rodeos, I've got 70 students that will be participating  
10 doing activities and promoting bicycle safety. We're  
11 pretty excited about that. And of course, Bike Texas.

12 MR. HIBBS: Dave.

13 MR. STEINER: I will be relatively quick.  
14 Since the last time we continued, we've got the trail  
15 system going in and kind of continuing. The only other  
16 thing, I recently learned in Lufkin district we actually  
17 have Jennifer Adams as the new bike coordinator. Her  
18 and I have talked and working now just to reestablish  
19 that communication.

20 One thing that was nice through that  
21 discussion is she is planning and we've agreed that  
22 we'll get together probably this summer and just have a  
23 meeting because she is looking for input for bike trails  
24 and bike ways and stuff. That's something that I  
25 provided -- a couple of us in town provided where bike

1 routes are all throughout the Lufkin district, she is  
2 digging that back up.

3 That's probably one of key things is get  
4 that communication going again so when they are doing  
5 work they get input from us. Something we've lost over  
6 the years because people have changed, et cetera.  
7 That's all I have.

8 MR. HIBBS: Okay. Thank you.

9 MS. WEAVER: Do you know if she's doing  
10 pedestrian stuff along with bicycles? Is she sort of  
11 both worlds?

12 MR. STEINER: I'm not sure about that.

13 MS. RUST: I think she is.

14 MR. STEINER: That's very helpful. I have  
15 had some contacts, SFA and Livingston. I want to pull  
16 those in so we can have better communication because as  
17 we say, Ramiro, you talked about that. There's strength  
18 in numbers. We are all pulling for the same thing. It  
19 helps.

20 MR. HIBBS: Shawn.

21 MR. TWING: I am happy to announce that we  
22 have a new city manager. I'm sure you were just on the  
23 needle's edge about Amarillo's city politics. The fact  
24 of the matter is, his name is Jared Miller. He's from  
25 San Marcos. I like the fact that he's from this part of

1 the state. He's reportedly interested in infrastructure  
2 development. I've already been bugging my contact to  
3 set up a meeting to reach out and visit with him.

4           The other thing, the people interested in  
5 Amarillo, we're going to start focusing in Canyon.  
6 Because of Powder Canyon, mountain biking has just  
7 exploded. That's the primary interest I have in  
8 tourism. In fact, more and more cyclists in the area  
9 are going more to trail and bike riding. We're going to  
10 be reaching out to park and recreations group to giving  
11 live to get in contact with their advisory council. By  
12 the way, Canyon did something Amarillo didn't do this  
13 election. We're building a quad center with the  
14 university, one of the engineers is an avid cyclist and  
15 we're working more to start in Canyon and working  
16 outwards as opposed to Amarillo using the canyon.

17           If you've ever been out to Canyon, it's  
18 beautiful. What people don't realize is if you go east  
19 to a little town called Clyde and hang a right, you get  
20 to the other side of the Canyon. It's the most  
21 beautiful spectacular views you've ever seen. We ride  
22 out there. We call it rim to rim. Just drive out there  
23 and take a look. There's nobody out there. We're  
24 also -- we will also reach out to Armstrong county and  
25 find alternative safe routes to get people from Amarillo

1 in a triangle.

2                   These are things that cyclists have known  
3 for a long time. We want to get some money out of it  
4 and see if we can get them interested. We will be at  
5 the workshop, by the way, and just for the record,  
6 because I'm going to put him on the spot, every board  
7 member just got an e-mail with the date and where it is  
8 going to be at, that workshop, if they can get as much  
9 interest as possible.

10                   MR. HIBBS: Thank you, Shawn. This is  
11 Billy. He touched on something that's so critically  
12 important for the committee and that is get to know your  
13 city manager. In most of your communities, that's where  
14 the rubber is going the meet the road. Sooner or later,  
15 they are going to have a very active role in anything  
16 that you're trying to do at the local level there. That  
17 choice of that city manager is really a big one.

18                   This is the part of the meeting where we  
19 have public comment. Do we have any public comment  
20 today? Mr. Stallings. Would you like to be first up  
21 here?

22                   MR. STALLINGS: Sure. By the way, these  
23 are organized by agenda numbers. I really appreciate  
24 you being here and the work you are doing. I've served  
25 many years on the committee and chaired it for some and

1 I know how important and valuable it is. I really  
2 appreciate what you are doing.

3           We have different roles. Bike Texas is the  
4 outside entity. Sometimes it looks like we're pushing,  
5 but we consider ourselves allies with TxDOT and the  
6 Bicycle Advisory Committee. Talk about the funding,  
7 some of y'all are new to this committee, I'll remind the  
8 agenda item 6 which is the division directors and the  
9 presentation. It talks about funding of the  
10 transportation alternative program funds. Some of you  
11 are new to this committee. I'll remind the committee  
12 that this much money comes in from the feds called  
13 Transportation Alternative Program and half of it is  
14 distributed through either the MPOs or through the small  
15 community and the other half is put into something  
16 called TAP Flex, and it's not used for bike-pedestrian  
17 funding, but is eligible for bike-pedestrian funding.

18           When you're thinking about the money and  
19 looking at Bike Stripe funding and some bigger  
20 communities like in Dallas-Fort Worth area are not  
21 eligible for the statewide call, that's -- it could be  
22 because in the money that is sent elsewhere and not used  
23 for bike-pedestrian, specifically, it's eligible  
24 statewide. Most states use it for bike-ped projects.  
25 It could be used for large signature projects. The

1 ultimate funding of the bicycle tourism trails could  
2 come from this source.

3           You may want to consider at a future  
4 meeting having a discussion and briefing about all of  
5 TAP fund and what about this other money because that's  
6 a decision that's rightfully made by the TxDOT  
7 commission, but it might be helpful from y'all if they  
8 got input from you all for the rest of this money and  
9 how it might be used. I remind you of that for new  
10 members of the committee.

11           If you have any questions about this, feel  
12 free to ask us offline. Then, you don't have any  
13 questions about that, I'll move on to the next agenda  
14 item that I had a comment on. When you're ready,  
15 Mr. Chair.

16           MR. HIBBS: Please.

17           MR. STALLINGS: The next item is item No.  
18 9. It was a great presentation, Carl, and I really  
19 appreciate that. We have had a keen interest in this  
20 for a long time. It was inspired by the province of  
21 Canada. Mark Stein made a presentation that our chair  
22 referred to. They connected every city in the province  
23 of Quebec with an off-street trail. Some of it was  
24 protected on-street, either one or the other. But  
25 protected facilities and tied in every community. It

1 took them 10 years to do it. They started prior to  
2 2005, but that's what inspired our system here and  
3 inspired the legislation and captured the imagination of  
4 the legislature. I really appreciate your work on that.

5           Among the potential partners that was  
6 suggested in the legislation that happened to be left  
7 off the of presentation, was at the time, it was called  
8 the governor's Office of Tourism, but the legislation  
9 referred to it as Texas Office of Tourism. Very  
10 important partner to include as a potential partner.  
11 They are tourism entities and we don't want to forget  
12 about them. This just really broadens it.

13           The other one that's specifically mentioned  
14 in there is statewide nonprofits. Bike Texas, we look  
15 forward to being one of these potential partners. It's  
16 specifically mentioned in the legislation in a generic  
17 term about statewide nonprofit. The working group might  
18 consider broadening the potential partners on that.

19           And something not mentioned in the  
20 legislation because it was not thought of so much at the  
21 time, was opportunities for public health. You may want  
22 to consider emphasizing that, who are the public health  
23 entities that could help fill out thinking about public  
24 bicycle trails?

25           As we look at the tourism trails and

1 bringing people to Texas, a lot of people are boomers  
2 like myself who want to do this healthy travel. There's  
3 an extra big benefit that we really get the advantage of  
4 here in Texas. That's when the locals get out and use  
5 the facilities. We design them for the tourists, but  
6 the locals get the big benefit and that has a big public  
7 health benefit and in Cameron county they are really  
8 thinking about that. They have health issues they want  
9 to address so even as they are making these magnets for  
10 the outside tourist, they are going to be benefitting  
11 their own population and public health. That's a good  
12 thing for us to consider.

13 That was my comment on No. Nine. And then  
14 my next comment on No. 12 if y'all don't have any  
15 questions. If I may?

16 MR. HIBBS: Please.

17 MR. STALLINGS: This is a request for two  
18 future agenda times. Since now I can make public  
19 comment, I'm making a comment on your next agenda item  
20 you might want to consider for a future meeting.

21 One of those would be that this committee  
22 is the perfect entity to make a request to the Texas  
23 Transportation Institute. It's nationally-renowned.  
24 They make presentations and Shawn Turner was here at the  
25 last meeting that I missed. It's a nationally-renowned

1 think tank on all things transportation. They have a  
2 budget to do things for TxDOT. It shouldn't necessarily  
3 require additional funding to do this. It's about time  
4 that we had an economic impact study on the impact of  
5 bicycling in the state of Texas.

6 We would want to include things like the  
7 retail, wholesale, manufacturing, warehousing, tourism  
8 impact, the construction impact of these kinds of  
9 facilities. The events like Wichita Falls was talking  
10 about amounts of money that's raised for charities and  
11 also the potential impact on public health.

12 And if this committee were to make an  
13 action item, agenda item, so it could really be fleshed  
14 out and discussed at the next meeting, that would be a  
15 great opportunity. I've asked Texas Transportation  
16 Institute about why don't you do this and they said, we  
17 have to be asked by somebody.

18 So it's not like they just pop up  
19 themselves and decide this is a great study. They  
20 definitely have the capability of doing that kind of  
21 study.

22 To give you an idea, in England they did  
23 one over a decade, it was a billion dollars of impact in  
24 England. I've told senate committees before, we've got  
25 ranches bigger than that island. They've got a billion

1 dollars of impact from bicycles. It's probably a  
2 billion dollars for the state of Wisconsin. They do a  
3 lot of manufacturing there. Over 400 million in  
4 Colorado. These are big, big numbers and something that  
5 Commissioner Austin was keenly interested in was that  
6 bicycling and retail sales tax actually generates more  
7 sales tax income than hunting in the state of Texas.

8           That's the only economic figure we have on  
9 the scale and that's economic retail sales. This is not  
10 a niche thing. It's potentially big. Billion big, but  
11 it could be. That would be my request for those agenda  
12 items. Economic impact study and the transportation  
13 alternative program, what money is what. Thank you very  
14 much.

15           MR. HIBBS: Thank you. Is there anymore  
16 comment? If not, at this point in time, it's  
17 appropriate to discuss our agenda items for the future  
18 meetings.

19           I was highly persuaded by Mr. Stallings  
20 comments that at least two agenda items need to be  
21 discussed in this TAP funding and how it might be used  
22 and what we should do, if anything, in terms of a  
23 committee making recommendations to the commission, and  
24 secondly, I think it's appropriate given the magnitude  
25 of what we're talking about, a study across Texas of

1 riding a bicycle, that we need some economic information  
2 that can help us be more persuasive to when we are  
3 talking about government officials all and what's going  
4 on.

5 I think that, Teri, I'd like to see unless  
6 there's an objection by someone, I'd like to see those  
7 two items added to the agenda.

8 MS. KAPLAN: I think I'd like to add as a  
9 presentation, Joseph Pitchford. I haven't spoken with  
10 him yet, but he's been promoting this loop around  
11 Dallas. Id' like to hear about what he's got going on  
12 up there.

13 MR. HIBBS: Absolutely.

14 MS. KAPLAN: If everyone is interested  
15 about them approaching Joseph for that to be included on  
16 the next agenda. We'll have to talk internally about  
17 what the agenda is going to look at and we'll have to  
18 get back to. I'm not sure how we're going to address  
19 the recommendations that's come out today.

20 MR. HIBBS: I think Joseph's presentation  
21 is particularly timely because of this bond issue.  
22 It'll help alert other committee members of the use of  
23 different funding source and not just TxDOT or TAP or  
24 the feds, but how to take on a massive multimillion  
25 dollar project and be able to pull it off. Yes, it

1 would be appropriate for him to do that.

2 MS. KAPLAN: And we're going to have the  
3 tourism trails on the agenda throughout the next year.  
4 There will be an update given by the working group. I  
5 have an issue with setting the schedule this year.

6 In the past, I've been able to set it by  
7 this time for the entire year. You guys aren't  
8 available on Fridays. I've got a handful of folks that  
9 are having problems with Fridays. I wanted to ask  
10 y'all, I've got a meeting room scheduled based on your  
11 response to my solicitation. I want to come back and  
12 say, is it possible by show of hands who could not make  
13 a Monday meeting?

14 MR. GLEASON: Monday morning?

15 MS. KAPLAN: Monday morning meeting.  
16 Standard 10:00 to noon meeting.

17 MR. HIBBS: I think, Teri, one of the  
18 drivers in this needs to be the availability of the  
19 meeting space to followup with tourism subcommittee.

20 MS. KAPLAN: Don't worry. We can work that  
21 out. Even if we had to be in one room here, there's  
22 enough meeting rooms in this building, and we've got  
23 several other rooms in this campus that we could meet  
24 at. The meeting room we will figure out. I'm having  
25 half the group unable to attend on every Friday that I

1 was looking at the three months that we're going to be  
2 reading. I'd like to come back with a solicitation  
3 about Mondays. I'd like to have a larger number of  
4 people able to attend Friday.

5           So if there's no objection I'm going to  
6 send out another solicitation and I'll take a look at  
7 the Friday solicitation and the Monday and somebody  
8 suggested in the middle of week, but a lot of y'all are  
9 traveling and really prefer Monday or Friday. Am I  
10 correct about that? Would you prefer Monday? Raise  
11 your hands.

12           I will put that out to you all this  
13 afternoon.

14           MS. WILLIAMSON: I had a question about the  
15 agenda item, with regard to the economic impact of  
16 bicycling in Texas. I'm not quite sure -- are you  
17 asking for presentation from a group about it?

18           MR. HIBBS: I think between now and our  
19 next meeting, I'll get a chance to talk to Teri and Eric  
20 and we'll put together some framework about what exactly  
21 it is we want to request here. I think what Robin did  
22 very effectively -- thank you, Robin -- is alert us to  
23 the fact that we've got some real resources out there  
24 that we need to tap into, and it's time to do that.

25           MR. GLEASON: Mr. Chair, for the

1 committee's benefit -- this is Eric -- TxDOT has a  
2 routine cycle of when it requests funding for research  
3 project ideas. We'll go back and figure out when that  
4 next cycle is. I'm assuming we'll dovetail into the  
5 next meeting for a discussion of what I would assume  
6 would be a scope. If it does not fit with that, we'll  
7 let the committee know if we need to do something  
8 sooner, my inclination would be to be touch base with  
9 Bike Texas and get something out to you guys and say,  
10 how does this look?

11 MR. HIBBS: My understanding from what  
12 Robin said was the committee needs to have a  
13 recommendation that we want them to do the study.

14 MR. GLEASON: Yes.

15 MR. HIBBS: They can't really act without  
16 this committee first making a decision.

17 MR. GLEASON: As a division director, I'm  
18 allowed to submit proposals for research, so if there's  
19 a call cycle between now and the next meeting, we will  
20 get something in on this. I suspect, very strongly,  
21 we'll have an ability at the next meeting to have a  
22 discussion and go from there. It would be helpful  
23 because it's a competitive environment. Not all  
24 research proposals get approved. It's going to be  
25 helpful if there is this kind of support for it, but

1 there's no issue with submitting.

2 MR. HIBBS: Do we have any other matters  
3 that need to come before the committee today?

4 If not, I want to tell all of you, thanks  
5 very much for electing me again to be chair. I'll work  
6 real hard to try and keep us moving forward.

7 I want to, again, thank all of you for your  
8 time and energy and enthusiasm, and we will keep the  
9 ball going down the court.

10 So until next time we are adjourned.

11 Thank you.

12 (Meeting concluded at 12:15 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF TEXAS )

2 COUNTY OF TRAVIS )

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4 I, Olivia Mata, CSR, in and for the State  
5 of Texas, do hereby certify that the above-captioned  
6 proceedings were reported to me, accurately reduced to  
7 typewriting under my supervision and control and that  
8 the foregoing pages are a full, true, and correct  
9 transcription of said proceedings.

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12 parties to the action of these proceedings and, further,  
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16 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to under my hand and  
17 seal of office on this the 30th day of January, 2017.

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