



**CAMPO**

*Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization*

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## **Mobility Financing Task Force**

**March 12, 2007**

**12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. (approximately)**

**Texas State Capitol, Capitol Extension: Room E1.012**

(please notice room number and time of meeting)

1. Discussion of a “SWOT Analysis” (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) related to mobility and transportation financing in Central Texas
2. Other items

### **Members:**

Senator Kirk Watson, Chair

Mayor John Trube, Vice Chair

Commissioner Gerald Daugherty, Travis County

Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt, Travis County

Commissioner Cynthia Long, Williamson County

Judge Liz Sumter, Hays County

Mayor Pro Tem Betty Dunkerley, City of Austin

Dr. David Ellis, Texas Transportation Institute

Michael Replogle, Transportation Director, Environmental Defense

Greg Marshall, Owner, The Marshall Group

Frank Fernandez, Executive Director, Community Partnership for the Homeless

### **Future Meeting:**

March 26

SWOT Analysis of the Region's Transportation System  
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1. Strengths

- a. 1 cent sales tax equals stable significant strength
  - i. Burden distributed across entire community
- b. Some tracks available for use
- c. Abundance of land to expand roadway system
- d. Abundance of open space to expand park and public places
- e. Well run bus system
- f. Willingness from regionally elected officials to address these issues in an open-minded fashion
- g. Access to lots of data
  - i. Be mindful of forecasting and assumptions
  - ii. Quality of data and quality of assumptions
- h. Update processes
- i. Inclusive process
- j. Prepare community with elasticity by having multi-modal approaches
- k. Community is open to debate
- l. People making decisions regardless of officials

2. Weaknesses

- a. Sales tax is a volatile revenue
- b. Not jurisdiction adequately funded for building or maintenance
  - i. Need more revenue
- c. Maintenance problems significant backlogs of major infrastructure
- d. Community has lack of understanding about the infrastructure and the funding and lack thereof
- e. Community may lack information
- f. Decision makers need to get information out there
- g. Little operation of infrastructure for peak efficiency
- h. Lack of alternatives for driving
- i. No good way to engage good land use planning
- j. Toll Tax – create lumpiness in revenue collection system

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- k. Decisions aren't often made on data
  - l. Validity of data is questionable
    - i. Hard to identify what the gospel is
  - m. Making sure we are able to translate data and modeling
  - n. Analysis paralysis
  - o. Inability to get past yes/no – all or nothing discussions – binary
  - p. People making individual decisions can make decisions that lead to problems
  - q. Lack of planning tools on fringe – inability to tie into infrastructure plans
    - i. High costs and few tools to address
  - r. Are we efficiently dedicating the land for uses?
  - s. Political dysfunction
3. Opportunities
- a. High felt need for solutions – tipping point on congestion
    - i. Opportunity to plan / decision there for officials
  - b. Use information/communication technology to better manage transportation system to improve performance and choice
  - c. To educate public about choices – quality of life where can live
4. Threats
- a. Threat is high growth
  - b. Climate change is going to be a major driver of policy not being taken into account at any level
  - c. Inflation as it relates to construction

Weakness from the public

1. Don't have infrastructure (roadway) in place for mass transit to be successful
2. May not have the energy that fuels the needs today

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3. Modeling is blind to energy costs (assumes they stay low for decades to come)
4. Air quality
  - a. Could effect ability to get federal funds
  - b. Region hasn't addressed transportation " " spots
5. Data: Can't be too dependent on data by itself – must make it usable for infrastructure & to make decisions.
  - a. Do our deliberations take into account enough people's individual choices – what they want to do?
  - b. "Are we connecting the dots" – considering all of the decisions points that might influence the choices.
6. Platting & design already done.
7. Be sure we are looking at population, employment....
8. Expand tools to sensitivity to factors maybe not considered.
9. Federal funding reduction contingencies that might be unexpected.
10. Lack of ability to borrow on gas tax.
11. Bus runs to infrequently, and not to all parts of the city, connectivity.
12. Congestion – uses averages that may be misleading.

Strengths from the public

1. Willingness of people to live along corridors & downtown.

Challenges from the public

1. Diminishing funding