

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #1

Wednesday, July 22, 2026, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

ODOT Training Center - 5307 NE 122nd St, Oklahoma City, OK 73131

ATTENDEES

ODOT: Devon Westbrook, Jared Schwenessen, Laura Chaney, Eric Rose, Bobby Parkinson, Tom Nutter

DCCM: JD Allen, Marcus Allen, Dan McGrath, Meredith Greene (Socius Amica)

Steering Committee: Julie Sanders (via Teams) – Southwest Oklahoma RTPO

Jon Chiappe - Oklahoma Department of Commerce

Courtney Peters – Oklahoma State Department of Health

Marcus Ayers - Sooner Ride – Oklahoma Health Care Authority

Micky Flynn – MAGB, outgoing President of Oklahoma Transit Association

Chip Nolen – EMBARK

Amy Hill – Muscogee Creek Nation, President of Oklahoma Transit Association

Olivia Hook – ODOT Mobility Management

Deborah Smith – Oklahoma Department of Human Services

PRESENTATION SUMMARY

The first Steering Committee meeting introduced the Oklahoma Mobility Plan, reviewing the project's purpose, timeline, engagement process, and Steering Committee Charter. Together, committee members began identifying statewide mobility priorities, opportunities, and implementation considerations. Discussion also focused on establishing a collaborative foundation for the planning process, while identifying themes that will guide future technical work.

KEY DISCUSSION THEMES

- Post-COVID – people have basic needs, but a basic need is also **social interaction**
- **Mobility is about more than transit** - successful mobility requires coordination among transportation providers, health care, workforce development, education, human services, tribal governments, local governments, and economic development organizations to ensure that no one falls through the cracks.
- **Partnerships are Oklahoma's greatest strength** - The committee observed that Oklahoma already possesses a strong foundation of collaboration that can be strengthened through this planning effort.
- **Coordination means more than communication** - Several participants emphasized that successful coordination should be evaluated from the customer's perspective rather than the agency's perspective.

STEERING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION AND STRENGTHS

- Organizations across the committee have different, but aligned missions
- Focus is on building a better mobility system for Oklahomans together
- Agency strengths and lessons we can learn from each other:

- Amy - Partnerships across agencies, mindset that no one slips through the cracks
- Deb- Systems/infrastructure built so that people don't need to come to us (DHS) – they can find the resources themselves
- Chip – provide a range of unique services all under EMBARK's umbrella – allows for flexibility to provide
- Mickey – “we always take the trip” – no matter who what where how – we get to them and get them where they need to go
- Julie – partnerships, cultivation of partnerships, willingness to look outside the box for funding, service gaps, solutions
- Marcus – work to engage with range of transportation options for a user-friendly system
- Jon – work with developers, businesses, leveraging private sector to make connections
- Courtney - leverage relationships and innovative solutions to expand health access (and their understanding of what health entails)
- *Common themes - Partnerships/relationships, a family of services (not just transit), and focus on access to transportation*

PLAN DETAILS AND PROCESS

- The Mobility Plan is a *new* plan rather than an update of the previous plan – providing future direction for public transit AND mobility statewide
- Previous plan: 2020 Public Transportation Policy Plan
 - Gaps – COVID cut in-person engagement short; limited participation, geographic gaps, no formalized feedback loop
 - Steering committee of 120+ people unwieldy during COVID
- 18-month effort will include:
 - Data collection, plan review, best practices underway (lessons from other state DOTs)
 - Needs assessment – evaluation of gaps by different measures, not just geographic
 - Recommendations and funding plan
- Public engagement
 - Digital and in person – public meetings in each region, “meet you where you are” pop up events, “you said/we heard” feedback loop
 - Website and survey are both live
 - Physical materials – postcards, mini-posters

STEERING COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT AND CHARTER

- 5-7 meetings expected (dates subject to change). Some will likely be virtual
- As “plan champions”, committee members take the lead after the plan is complete to support implementation next steps
- Steering Committee Charter
 - Expectations – participate, provide feedback, represent agency interests, advocate for the plan, inform the group

- Conflict of interest disclosures (we'll note in meeting summaries)
- Confidentiality – we'll be providing meeting summaries that reflect discussions;
- Post-project role – advocate for implementation
- Decision making – consensus when possible, ODOT makes final determinations
- Committee will be most useful if:
 - Jared – build connections across services, areas of expertise
 - Benchmarks and clear forward movement
 - Everyone shows up engaged and willing to collaborate, seeking consensus
 - Willingness to understand, respond to changes, challenges since COVID
 - Focus is on outcomes
 - Willingness to get out of silos, think about opportunities for application across contexts, connect the dots
 - Focus on successes just as much as on gaps and challenges
 - Honest and transparent (to best benefit the planning team, steer the plan)
 - *Common themes: "Showing up, having hard conversations, collaboration, opportunity to connect with organizations that weren't a part of the process the first time, focus on outcomes, challenge each other, get to know one another's services (that are offered), celebrating our successes with limited resources"*
- Project team commitment:
 - Produce a plan that is useful
 - Data will include the latest available sources, transparency around sources
 - Provide regular updates
 - Needs to consider and benefit all different types of transit providers
 - Provide benefits to workforce, unique contexts
 - Consider the changing statewide leadership context
 - *Common themes: "share funding possibilities, local efforts for mobility management (MM)/set foundation for MM, DHS has a workforce that can fill gaps in the transit workforce, the recent state leadership change is positive"*

DISCUSSION NOTES – IDENTIFICATION OF EARLY PRIORITIES

- **Access to Opportunity:** mobility should enable people to safely reach:
 - Employment
 - Healthcare
 - Community services
 - Social opportunities
- **Coordination and Connectivity:** one of the highest priorities, including:
 - Closing service gaps
 - Improving regional connections
 - Facilitating cross-boundary travel
 - Including solutions that bridge gaps (Colorado "Bustang" example – statewide intercity transportation – reaches rural hubs efficiently)
- **Availability and Inclusion:** transit and mobility options are available for everyone



- Inclusion – seniors, individuals with disabilities, vulnerable populations (the folks least able to attend public meetings)
 - Workforce - safely to work, job hubs
 - Access to healthcare, especially as landscape changes
 - Access to information about options just as important
- **Comprehensive solutions** – rather than targeting individual needs and groups alone
- **Shift mode share** - Our ability to expand our highway system is limited; at the same time, we're growing rapidly – mode share of transit needs to increase to accommodate growth while maintaining service

DISCUSSION NOTES – EARLY CONCERNS AND ODOT'S ROLE

- Early concerns
 - Funding gaps (and costs in rural communities being disproportionately higher)
 - Meaningful local participation – reaching the right folks in the right places
 - Data sources other than census
 - Origin-destination data from individual agencies (Sooner Ride, EMBARK can provide)
 - Employment data from commerce (ability to share?)
- To address these and other concerns, members suggested ODOT is uniquely positioned to:
 - Bigger voice at the state table to alleviate confusion, remove barriers
 - Workplace access in the context of safety – show people that it is safe to use public transportation
 - Convene statewide partners
 - Elevate mobility discussions at the state level
 - Reduce barriers between agencies
 - Promote safe use of public transportation
 - Facilitate planning and access across jurisdictional boundaries
 - Support coordination among providers

OVERALL OBSERVATION

The Steering Committee demonstrated a collaborative, solutions-oriented approach from the outset of the project. Discussions consistently emphasized partnerships, transparency, and improving the customer experience rather than organizational boundaries. Members expressed a willingness to build upon Oklahoma's existing relationships, identify practical solutions, and develop a Mobility Plan that is both actionable and implementable. This collaborative foundation positions the Steering Committee to serve as effective champions for the Plan throughout its development and implementation.

NEXT STEPS:

- **DCCM** will share with the steering committee:
 - presentation slides
 - meeting notes
 - links to website and survey
 - PIP (includes Steering Committee Charter)

- **Steering Committee** members will:
 - Provide additional data sources if available (EMBARK, Sooner Ride – O-D data)
 - Re-post ODOT social media posts with survey, website
 - Distribute postcards and mini-posters