

Regional Service Planning Update

From: Shawna Russell

March 10, 2006

I hope this message finds each of your regions progressing nicely on the development of your work plan. There are several items that Commissioner Andrade and Michael Morris have asked that I convey to the lead entities for your information as well as dissemination throughout your region as appropriate. These items are as follows:

- 1) Please hold the dates of June 29-30th for a best practices workshop to be held in Austin. We will use this meeting as an opportunity to share among regions successes and good ideas that have come out of these planning processes. Opportunities for question and answer sessions with the Study Group, TTI Facilitators, and TxDOT Representatives will also be provided. The initial schedule suggests that the meeting will begin on the afternoon of 6/29 and conclude by noon on 6/30. Additional information will be forthcoming. If there are topics that you would like to submit for consideration to be included on the agenda, please forward them to me via e-mail at srusse1@dot.state.tx.us no later than May 15, 2006.

This will be held in lieu of a statewide meeting in April to allow more time for plan development and progress before we reconvene as a group.

- 2) Commissioner Andrade asked that I express to you her appreciation for your continued patience and flexibility as the department worked to get the planning funds in place for this initiative. In response to the unintended delays that were caused during our efforts to secure funding, below you will find modified deadlines for the required information. The new deadline is as follows:

September 30, 2006- Barriers and Constraints Section of Plan Due
December 1, 2006- Final Report/Work Plan Due.

These changes will allow the Commission, should they find it desirable, to still utilize the opportunity to share the findings of our work on barriers and constraints, along with potential solutions, with the Legislature during the upcoming session while simultaneously providing regions additional time for work on their final report.

- 3) There will be a list of research issues that we will ask TTI to look at statewide, rather than 24 regions addressing separately in each report. Final compilation of this list is finishing up, and a list of these issues should be available by the end of next week and will be promptly shared with all regions.

- 4) With regard to the website (www.regionalserviceplanning.org), I've been asked to remind regions that this is a resource available for all of us, however it's content, and ultimately its success, both depend heavily on participation by users. Please forward information for upcoming meetings and other items of interest from within your respective regions for posting on the website, so that we may have a feel statewide for activities and items of interest pertaining to regional coordination. Feel free to use this as a medium to boast about your good ideas and progress to date!

- 5) Some regions may have had changes in contact names or information for the lead entities. Please forward this information to me so that we may ensure continued effective communication with all lead entities.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to this initiative. Again, please feel free to share this information throughout your respective regions.

Please feel free to contact me or Kelly Kirkland from TxDOT's PTN Division as needed. Our contact information is:

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