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Minutes of the Gulf Coast Rail District Board Meeting – December 6, 2022

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A meeting of the Gulf Coast Rail District Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at Houston TranStar and via video conference. In attendance at the meeting were Directors Trey Duhon, Robert A. Fry, Jr., Jon Keeney, Carol Abel Lewis, Bruce Mann, Allen Owen, Tina Arias Peterman, and Jeff E. Ross. Absent were Directors Ronald A. Beeson, Michael Dyll, Abigail M. Gonzalez, Veronica Chapa Gorczynski, Christopher Lane, and Richard L. Muller. Written notices of the meeting including the date, hour, place and agenda for the meeting were posted with Harris County, with the Secretary of State, and at the Gulf Coast Rail District office located at Houston TranStar in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. The inaudible portions of the recording were removed from these minutes.

Chairperson Lewis: Good afternoon, all (2:00 p.m.). Thank you all for being there. I've got a couple people on the web, and then we've got three of us in the room. We're still awaiting two voting members, still holding tight...

Director Owen: This is Allen.

Chairperson Lewis: Hey, hi, how are you? We're waiting on one more voting board member...

Director Owen: Very good.

Chairperson Lewis: ...Director Owen, so you're right on time.

Ms. Katherine Parker: Mr. Beeson said he can't connect.

Chairperson Lewis: I see. Judge Duhon said he's going to be in his car, so he's not going to be visible. So, he's not going to be able to vote.

Ms. Katherine Parker: Director Beeson said he's not able to connect.

Director Duhon: Good afternoon, everyone. This is Judge Duhon. Dr. Lewis, are you there?

Chairperson Lewis: Yes, I am, and I was just reading your message. So, I see, Director Duhon, Judge Duhon, what we've got going on.

Director Duhon: Yes, I just tried to connect to the Microsoft Teams, and I don't think my signal is good enough, so I may have to do audio. I mean, if I have to be visible to be present for quorum purposes, I can try to pull over to get a stationary signal and meet it. Just let me know.

Chairperson Lewis: So, if we don't have one other person, Judge, we're going to have to ask you to do that because we need one more visible person to make quorum. We should have a really fast agenda today. I don't expect us to be very long whatsoever. So, we'll give it just a couple more minutes. We did have one other person who indicated that they would be joining.

Director Duhon: Okay.

Chairperson Lewis: So, we'll just see what happens in another minute. And then if not, we might ask you, if you don't mind just pulling over. I don't know that it would take us more than 15 minutes or so to roll through.

Director Duhon: Okay. Yes, just let me know.

Chairperson Lewis: Okay, thank you. This is the only other one we'd be waiting on. So, he said he can't connect.

Ms. Katherine Parker: Right. So, Beeson, he's having a computer problem, so he can't connect.

Chairperson Lewis: Oh, okay, alright. So, Judge Duhon?

Director Duhon: Yes.

Chairperson Lewis: We are going to have to ask you if you'd come on for a minute because the other person we were expecting says that they've been unable to connect with the Teams, so they're not going to be able to get on.

Director Duhon: Okay. Let me find an exit here. Give me just a few minutes.

Chairperson Lewis: Okay.

Director Duhon: I'm going to try to pull off, and if I can find a McDonald's where I can connect to their Wi-Fi, then that'll help my connection immensely. So, just give me a couple minutes, Okay?

Chairperson Lewis: Yes, absolutely. So, while we are waiting for Judge Duhon to graciously do that for us, we'll go to the end of the agenda first where we don't need a quorum. So, we'll go down and ask Ms. Parker to do her executive director report first. Oh, I'm sorry.

Ms. Lisa Patke: Your opening.

Chairperson Lewis: Well, I didn't think I could open without the quorum.

Ms. Lisa Patke: Oh, true.

Ms. Katherine Parker: So, we'll start. If you'll just cue up my short presentation. Thank you all who are able to be here today. Alright, just a short summary of meetings for this month. TAC and TPC, actually TAC will be on tomorrow, we'll have a presentation and I'll do a short one right here for you all today so you kind of know what we're talking about concerning our Houston Rail Collaborative. This month, we met with Mayor Turner and the Canadian Pacific

and Kansas City Southern representatives to talk about their impact on the Houston rail network with the merger. It was a very good conversation and allowed us to be able to find out the number of trains and kind of what to expect for the Houston area and acquainted them with our concerns. Also attended a WTS luncheon where we talked about defining regional mobility resilience focusing on vulnerable population in the Houston region, so very informative. And on today, we will talk about the Greater Houston Rail Collaborative Working Group, informational today, but it is our hope that in January will be for discussion and possible action. Click to the next one.

So, the Greater Houston Region Collaborative Working Group, we have been talking about this in our meetings as kind of the CREATE-like project that we discussed being under the banner of Gulf Coast Rail District. So, this working group is a collaborative and programmatic approach to leverage private and public funding opportunities. The goal is that our rail-related or rail-oriented projects that are discretionary are competitive. And so, for our region, we're coming together. And some of the representatives that are at the table currently, it's not definitive, it's not finite, it's a working group, so there's possibilities for others to join the Class I railroads, Port of Houston, Gulf Coast Rail District of course, City of Houston, Harris County, METRO, H-GAC, and TxDOT. And this will be for discussion item on TAC's agenda for tomorrow. And also TPC, Dr. Lewis, will present on this working group. So, you can go to the next slide.

So, there's some work for our district to do for next meeting. I've pulled up the section of committees, which is what we are proposing to add to our Rail District, this working group, to fall under that banner because we pretty much are in place. It didn't make sense to start over fresh with a completely new group. The Rail District is a political subdivision, we were pretty much set up to do this type of work. So, under our bylaws, the chairman has the authority to designate a committee – ad hoc or standing committee – and the requirement is that two directors be a part of that. So, every committee that we currently have, of course, has more than two directors, but you're also able to appoint non-voting advisors. So, those other partners would have the opportunity to join this committee or this working group under the banner, and so I just put that description up. I'll provide it in advance of our meeting in January – the bylaws – so that we can talk about that. So, from our standpoint, we're just looking at structure and how it would work internally for the Rail District, and that's some of what we'll discuss on tomorrow as well. Next slide.

Yes, because I'm at the end, I was going to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, but I'll come back around. But that's where we are with the Rail Collaborative, and if there are any questions or ideas, we can talk about them now or definitely write them down. For January, we would like to take action on that formation of that committee. We currently have Rail and Roadway which we could add to, but I'm thinking really that it should be a separate and new committee that is formed, so that we can allow new members to be a part of it. And it could be more than two directors, but that's just the standard requirement for a new committee formation.

Director Fry: What's the meeting tomorrow?

Ms. Katherine Parker: TAC Committee, H-GAC.

Director Fry: TAC.

Ms. Katherine Parker: Yes. So, they're pushed up, I think it would have been last week but because of the holidays everything's pushed up. So, TAC will meet tomorrow and then the TPC will meet on the 16th, which is the Friday.

Director Fry: What's the significance of those meetings? Why are you bringing them up?

Ms. Katherine Parker: Basically, we are partnering with H-GAC to put together this working group.

Director Fry: Okay.

Ms. Katherine Parker: A lot of these partners are a part of our district, but H-GAC covers a larger county area. They're an 11-county region, and we are 5, but it allows us to be able to have more people at the table, and whatever concerns or issues and ideas can be shared. So, we'll be partnering with them, but because it's more rail-related and we have the ability to be a passthrough actually for federal funds, it puts us in a good position.

Director Fry: So, you're attending those meetings on our behalf?

Ms. Katherine Parker: Yes. Actually, I'm the TAC representative and Dr. Lewis is the alternate, and then she is the TPC representative for the Rail District.

Director Fry: Got it. Thank you.

Ms. Katherine Parker: And Director Ross is our alternate for the Rail District for the TPC. Owen then Bruce.

Chairperson Lewis: Director Owen?

Director Owen: Yes, ma'am. Thank you, Madam Chairman. My question is since we're looking at federal funding on some of this stuff, would it not be wise to not have some representatives from our congressional members on this committee or at least some staff people from their offices?

Chairperson Lewis: So, that's...

Director Owen: Just a suggestion.

Chairperson Lewis: Sure, sure, absolutely. And I think that once... as we get it established, that certainly makes sense. Our model is what they've done in Chicago with CREATE. It doesn't mean we have to follow exactly what they've done by any stretch of the imagination. But they will be here next week when H-GAC does their peer exchange on sort of this freight subject. So, we'll have a chance to sort of pick their brains, if you will, about how they've been working, what their establishment is and the like.

So, one way I'd say to think about this working group is it's pretty much like any other of the entities we have in the region. So, we've got the H-GAC TAC, we've got our Gulf Coast Rail District, and so this – whatever we end up calling it, GREAT for now – it's almost like an entity. And so, like on the TPC, there are elected officials who sit on as ex officio but not as voting. So,

that's one of the things we can talk about if it's something that they would like to have their aids or chiefs be active participants in this. That door is certainly open.

Director Owen: And the only reason I say that, Madam Chairman, is that like Congressman Green, obviously has been working with me on the 90A corridor for 25 years now. So, he's very interested in rail, so I know that he would probably want somebody out of his office or would volunteer somebody out of his office to serve on that committee.

Chairperson Lewis: Sounds good. Is there anything else, Director Owen, that you'd like to...?

Director Owen: No, ma'am. Thank you.

Chairperson Lewis: Alright, sure. Thank you. Director Mann?

Director Mann: Thanks. No, I just wanted to comment really quick that this is why in large part what was originally the Freight Rail District is now the Rail District. This is why it was created, was really for this purpose. And just to talk about CREATE a little bit, they've gotten over like \$2 billion worth of grants. Because what this does is really provides a programmatic approach to solving rail issues, and you have all the stakeholders that are part of this organization, and that's what DOT, when they see it on a grant application that Chicago CREATE submitted a grant application, it's about as close to a rubber stamp as you'll ever get. And that's the intention of trying to create this here under the Rail District. There's a lot of reasons why it should be under the Rail District. Probably the most important one is this is why it was created, and secondarily we don't have to go create a new entity because this one already exists, and most of the stakeholders that we need to be part of it are already part of the Rail District. And it was created by the legislature, so we don't have to go do new MOUs or MOAs or anything else. It's already in place, in large part.

Chairperson Lewis: Alright, thank you. Anyone else? So, I think we're really looking forward to this, and as Ms. Parker says we'll have additional information. We anticipate bringing it forward in January as an action item. So, there may be some other legwork kind of things we have to do between now and then. I do want to mention that it is open to jurisdictions who are not in the Rail District as well. So, one of the things we know is that we do not cover Brazoria, Chambers, or Liberty County, and if they are interested in being a part of this initiative, they certainly can be. So, it's not just limited to us. We do have, under what Katherine posted, we do have within our realm the opportunity to pull in non-designated individuals and entities to further the agenda and mission of GCRD, so that will be an advantage to us. Anything else on this item? Alright, Judge Duhon, thank you so much for clicking on. He's now with us, so I'm going to call our meeting to order.

I'm Dr. Carol Lewis, presiding officer of the Gulf Coast Rail District. We are on December 6th, 2022. The meeting is being conducted with options to participate in person or by video conference. Public meeting location is Houston TranStar, 6922 Katy Road, Houston, Texas. We're in conference room 120A. The video conference is conducted through Microsoft Teams and that link can be found in the meeting invitation, the agenda, and the public postings. Our meeting is open to the public. The public has an opportunity to address the board with a limit of three minutes per speaker. When addressing the board, please approach the podium. If you're online, please raise your hand.

Board members may participate by video conference in accordance with provisions of section 551.127 of the Texas Government Code applicable to governmental bodies that extends into three or more counties. Based on the Open Meetings Act requirements, Gulf Coast Rail District board members participating in the Microsoft Teams video conference will need to be seen and heard throughout the meeting for attendance and to record voting. Therefore, members calling in, it says if you're only on the telephone, then we can't count you for the voting. As required, I am physically present for the board meeting and ask that the secretary conduct the roll call, please. Please respond audibly when your name is called. Judge Duhon, do you want to try to handle that, or would you rather us do it from our post?

Director Duhon: If you could handle that, I appreciate it. I do not have the list in front of me at this moment.

Chairperson Lewis: Perfect, we understand, thank you. I'll do it because our vice-secretary is unable to get on today. So, Director Ron Beeson is not in attendance. Director Michael Dyll not in attendance. Director Veronica Chapa Gorczynski not in attendance. Director Abigail Gonzalez? Not with us today. Director Jeff Ross?

Director Ross: Here.

Chairperson Lewis: Thank you. Director Tina Arias Peterman?

Director Peterman: Yes, I'm here.

Chairperson Lewis: Thank you. I'm Dr. Carol Lewis, I am here. Director Jon Keeney?

Director Keeney: Here.

Chairperson Lewis: Thank you. Director Bruce Mann?

Director Mann: I'm here, thank you.

Chairperson Lewis: Thank you. Director Allen Owen?

Director Owen: Here.

Chairperson Lewis: Director Judge Duhon?

Director Duhon: Present.

Chairperson Lewis: Awesome. Director Christopher Lane? Alright. And Director Robert Fry?

Director Fry: Here.

Chairperson Lewis: Alright, perfect. Thank you so much. We do have quorum.

Chairperson Lewis: I do confirm that the meeting was posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Act on last Friday. The first item we have is a resolution presented in honor of Director Richard Muller, who is not here today. He has tendered his resignation, and so we have for him a letter just recognizing his service to us. I'll quickly read it in his absence, and we'll make sure that he gets it.

It's in recognition and appreciation of distinguished service, Gulf Coast Rail District presents this Resolution of Honor, Mr. Richard L. Muller, Jr. Whereas, Mr. Richard L. Muller, Jr., has served as a Fort Bend County judge appointee for position 10 on the Gulf Coast Rail District Board of Directors since October 13th, 2020, as recognized by Resolution 20-16. And whereas in furtherance of this organization, Mr. Muller graciously contributed his time and expertise and provided invaluable insight, perspective, and guidance to the Board of Directors to assist the District in fulfilling its mission. And whereas throughout his Gulf Coast Rail District board appointment, he served as Chair, Bylaws Committee, from December 2021 to November 2022; Committeeman, Bylaws Committee, November 2020 to December 2021; and Committeeman, Legislative and Funding Committee, November 2020 to November 2022. Therefore, be it resolved that the Gulf Coast Rail District acknowledges and extends its gratitude to Mr. Richard

L. Muller, Jr., for his distinguished service to the Gulf Coast Rail District Board of Directors and expresses deepest appreciation for the outstanding contributions during his tenure. Signed on the 6th day of December 2022, Gulf Coast Rail District Board of Directors.

Chairperson Lewis: Is there a motion?

Director Keeney: So moved.

Director Owen: Chairman, so moved, Allen Owen.

Chairperson Lewis: Alright, so we've got a motion, Allen Owen. Second, Director Keeney.

Director Duhon: Second.

Chairperson Lewis: Alright, thank you.

Director Owen: Chairman Lewis? That is Fort Bend County's appointee. Did Rick say that the judge or the court had appointed anybody else to take his place yet?

Chairperson Lewis: They have not at this time.

Director Owen: They need to fairly soon.

Chairperson Lewis: I certainly would not offer a differing opinion, but we'll check on that.

Alright. All in favor?

Board: Aye.

Chairperson Lewis: Any opposition? Alright, perfect. Thank you. We will make sure he gets that, and I know that we do appreciate his time with us.

Chairperson Lewis: Item number 5, discussion and possible action on minutes. Director Duhon, please.

Director Duhon: Okay. Everybody should have a copy of the minutes. Anybody have any corrections or revisions?

Director Keeney: Move that we approve.

Director Duhon: Hearing none, do we have a motion to approve?

Chairperson Lewis: Yes, Director Keeney.

Director Mann: So moved.

Chairperson Lewis: Director Keeney moved approval, who was our second online? Mann?

Director Mann: Yes, thank you.

Chairperson Lewis: Great, thank you. All in favor?

Board: Aye.

Chairperson Lewis: Any opposition? Awesome. Thank you so much.

Chairperson Lewis: Report from the treasurer, Director Owen please.

Director Owen: Madam Chairman, is Chris there today? I can't see whether he is or not.

Chairperson Lewis: He is here.

Director Owen: I would ask Chris Palis to give us the report.

Mr. Chris Palis: Alright. Good afternoon, everybody. You should have a copy of the bookkeeper's report dated December 6th, 2022. If you go to page 2 on the cash flow report, you can see you start with a balance of \$86,970. We have four checks here for approval totaling \$7,649.52, leaving a balance in the checking account of \$79,320.59. Page 3 is a report of your account balances. You can see a listing of the CDs and the money market at Texas CLASS and

in the checking account with a grand total of 1.4 million there. Pages 4 and 5 are your actual verse budget. You can see here total expenses for the month, \$3,043. And page 5 then will show the pro bono contributions and expenses there. And then the remaining pages – again, 6, 7, 8, 9 – are just the grant activity which has no new activity since last month's report, so that has stayed the same. And that concludes the bookkeeper's report for the Gulf Coast Rail District.

Director Owen: Very good. Thank you, Chris. Is there a motion to approve the treasurer's report?

Director Peterman: So moved.

Director Keeney: Second.

Director Owen: Made by Peterman. Second by who?

Chairperson Lewis: Keeney.

Ms. Lisa Patke: By Keeney.

Chairperson Lewis: By Keeney in the room.

Director Owen: What?

Chairperson Lewis: We've had a second by Director Keeney in the room.

Director Owen: Oh, okay. That's why I didn't hear. Very good.

Director Owen: Is there a motion to approve possible action, so Resolution 22-23 ratifying the payments? Is there a motion for that?

Director Ross: Motion, Ross.

Director Peterman: Peterman, second.

Chairperson Lewis: Thank you. So, Ross and Peterman.

Director Owen: Thank you, Chairman. Thank you, ma'am.

Chairperson Lewis: So, do we have all in favor?

Board: Yes.

Chairperson Lewis: Any opposed? Alright, great.

Chairperson Lewis: That takes us to item number 8, public comments. Is there anyone who wishes to speak? Do we have any raised hands, Ms. Lisa?

Ms. Lisa Patke: No.

Chairperson Lewis: Okay, so we have no raised hands. Thank you very much. Judge Duhon, I would say that we're now down to my announcements. So, if you are interested in remaining, we'd be glad to have you, but if you choose to continue on your journey, we've taken care of all of our business.

Director Duhon: Okay. What I'll do is I'll jump back on the phone, if that's okay.

Chairperson Lewis: That's perfect. Thank you so much. Appreciate you taking the time to stop so we could get through those items.

Director Duhon: No problem.

Chairperson Lewis: Alright. So, the item listed under my name is Other Corridors Report. So, Director Owen, you will be pleased to know, although it has taken a while, that H-GAC has said to me that they should be posting the Request for Proposals today for our 90A corridor. So, I think they have to leave it up six weeks. Didn't they say, Mr. Parker? So, they have to leave the posting up six weeks, so we'll see what consultants we have that come in for that. I will tell you that H-GAC has got a design for a two-tiered approach. So, the top tier is sort of an executive



committee, I don't know exactly what they're going to call it, but we would ask one of our directors to be on that executive committee. So, between you and Director Ross, either one of you could be the designee and alternate, which would allow each of you to participate if you chose, or if you all want to sort of tag team it, that would be up to you. And then they're going to have a second tier stakeholder activity that will allow what you mentioned earlier – broader community involvement – which would indeed include elected officials, their designees for that sort of secondary look at things. So, we anticipate that they will be pulling that together fairly short order. We do know from previous conversations that they do intend to ask one of us from GCRD to be on the selection committee. That probably is going to be Ms. Parker, I'm thinking. I don't know that we want the board to take that role. I'm thinking that'll be Ms. Parker. So, unfortunately, really, our public sector just moves slowly. I wish we had been doing this in September, but we're glad we're going to be doing it upcoming, early January 2023. So, just wanted to make everyone aware of that. Are there any comments or thoughts about it?

Director Keeney: It's good to hear.

Chairperson Lewis: It is. I'm excited about that.

Director Peterman: Dr. Lewis, this is Director Peterman. Admittedly, I'm sorry, I'm multitasking. When the RFP is available, is that something that you can send us a link to, just so we can look at it, understand exactly what the scope of work is?

Chairperson Lewis: Absolutely, yes.

Director Peterman: Thank you.

Chairperson Lewis: I think Ms. Parker's making that note now, so we can absolutely ensure that that happens.

Chairperson Lewis: Anyone else?

Director Owen: Chairman Lewis, Director Owen here. Those two committees, I would assume you have a member off of our board on each of those.

Chairperson Lewis: We certainly...

Director Owen: ...I would suggest Jeff serve on tier one. I would like to serve on tier two that has the elected officials because that's who I've been working with on 90A.

Chairperson Lewis: Okay.

Director Owen: If he's willing to do it.

Chairperson Lewis: Alright...

Chairperson Lewis: He said he is. Alright. That sounds great. Thank you. Appreciate that.

Director Owen: That way we can tag team.

Chairperson Lewis: Exactly. Exactly. Make sure you cover all the bases.

Director Owen: Right.

Chairperson Lewis: Alright. Anything else? Alright. The only other thing I would mention is just as a follow-up to what Ms. Parker talked about. I think the conversations about our starting GREAT have been very often and intensive, and so both she and I and Director Mann have been involved in I guess almost all of them. There's a lot to talk about, and we had one meeting where we talked about essentially what the name would be, and then another meeting where we talked about the mission. And so, whenever you have multiple visions, perceptions, rallying into sort of one focused direction, it takes a bit of peddling, but once you get there, it's always worth it. I think everybody involved is extremely excited about the opportunity and looking forward to what we can accomplish.

So, I just kind of wanted to just do another piggyback on that. Ms. Parker did present it, but I wanted to sort of stress the importance and sort of major role that it will have in Gulf Coast Rail District. It has the potential to be a really large and intricate part of our organization, so I just kind of wanted everyone to sort of be aware of that. So, with that, when we get back together in January, we'll be right at the lip of the legislative session starting, so we will anticipate having more to say for all of us in terms of things to anticipate going on in Austin that will pertain to us. So, with that said, Director Mann?

Director Mann: Thank you. I just wanted to thank you, Dr. Lewis, and Katherine. It's been a lot of work to get this CREATE-type thing moving down the road, and I know I kind of volunteered you all in the beginning. So, I just appreciate all of the work that's gone into it, I think it's huge for our region, and I just want to thank your guys' willingness to participate and potentially take this on, so thank you.

Chairperson Lewis: Well, I appreciate that. I will say this too, just so you all know. We've talked about this. I remember talking about this with Maureen Crocker back in about 2012, and I'm trying to figure out why it didn't happen. And now that we've kind of got it going, I'm really wondering why we hadn't done it before. So, I guess there's no real answer to that and/or the answer is that it didn't have a champion, or its time hadn't come. I mean, I guess it could be a confluence of both of those. But we are excited about it now, and I appreciate Bruce's energy in helping to get us going down that path because it's something that we should do, and we should have done. So, appreciation all around.

Director Ross: Madam Chair?

Chairperson Lewis: Yes.

Director Ross: This is Director Ross. Can you update us on the sponsoring agency approvals of all our housekeeping efforts that we were going through a few months ago?

Chairperson Lewis: That is such a great question. I'm going to baton hand to Ms. Parker.

Ms. Katherine Parker: Yes. Where do I start? Each of the member entities has the concurrent order in hand. Waller actually approved theirs, then METRO came back, and they wanted to do more review. So, at this point, we're on hold to allow METRO to present it to their board, which

I'm assuming will be January. I've been working very closely with their chief counsel, and they just wanted to make sure that their ducks were in a row. And so, they understood, as far as the executive committee, but they wanted to present it to the board. That's where we are now. Harris County actually had it on their agenda, I asked them to pull it back, and the City as well. So, once METRO comes forward, I think that we'll be able to move forward, it's just a matter of getting on commissions' and councils' agendas.

Director Ross: Okay. Thank you.

Chairperson Lewis: Thank you for asking that question. Director Keeney?

Director Keeney: Yes. I just wanted to comment that at some point in time, I'm hoping that you and Mr. Mann will develop some talking points that we can take forward to the different legislative folks that we all know individually. I've introduced this whole notion that we're talking about to Congressman Weber and to Congressman Babin and to some of their staff. And so, there's some potential out there, and we just need to have a common message as we move this forward. The last thing I want to do is confuse folks and get them off track from what we're actually trying to do.

Chairperson Lewis: I appreciate that. I think we're on the lip of the cup of having that. We've been reviewing text, and if we present the two-pager... Are we going to present that tomorrow at TAC?

Ms. Katherine Parker: No, but it is a part of the presentation.

Chairperson Lewis: Alright. So, once we feel confident that we're okay with passing it out, we've got a two-pager done. And so, what we might be able to do, Ms. Parker, is go ahead and forward that, and everyone, let's put "Draft" on it.

Ms. Katherine Parker: Okay.

Chairperson Lewis: And forward it to everyone so you consider them talking points but recognize that we haven't just put the final seal on it. But that at least I think would make you feel better that you've got this to speak from.

Director Keeney: It would, and the last thing I want to do is misrepresent the board, in any shape, form, or fashion. I would rather have something that is sanctioned by the board.

Chairperson Lewis: Right, right.

Ms. Katherine Parker: And our next working group meeting, I believe, is the 16th.

Chairperson Lewis: The 16th.

Ms. Katherine Parker: It's actually here at TranStar. And so that document, we will go through kind of with a fine-toothed comb, so that everyone on that working group is the same message and the opportunity to say, "No, we don't agree," or whatever the case may be.

Chairperson Lewis: Right, right.

Ms. Katherine Parker: And so that's where we are, but I can definitely send it to our directors.

Chairperson Lewis: Right, with a "Draft" watermark.

Ms. Katherine Parker: Yes

Director Keeney: Right.

Chairperson Lewis: Yes. So, we know that it still has to go through the approval.

Ms. Katherine Parker: And the two-pager basically just gives the example of the Rail District, kind of why we are the entity to do this, and then our first list of projects that were submitted by various entities for the current Call for Projects. So, if any county or city put in for the Rail Crossing Elimination or CRISI, they are a part of that list, and so in hopes of the next deadline we'll be together enough to be able to do that again.

Chairperson Lewis: Alright. Thank you for that question. Happy to get that to you. So, anything else before we adjourn? Alright. Well, I'm going to join Director Parker in saying Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Happy Hanukkah, Happy New Year. Whatever you celebrate, you have our best going forward over the next few days, and we'll see each other again in January. (Adjourned at 2:41 p.m.)

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Trey Duhon, Secretary  
Michael Dyll, Vice Secretary  
Gulf Coast Rail District

Transcription services provided by Transcription Panda.