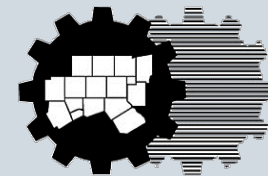


Draft Rules for Public Comments at Regional Transportation Council Meetings (HB 2840)

ONLINE INPUT OPPORTUNITY

JANUARY 13 – FEBRUARY 26, 2020

AMANDA WILSON, NCTCOG



**North Central Texas
Council of Governments**

Overview of HB 2840

Members of the public must be allowed to make comments to a governmental body before or during the body's consideration of an item

A governmental body may adopt reasonable rules regarding public comments, including rules that limit the amount of time for each public comment

If no simultaneous translation equipment is used, a member of the public using a translator must be given double the amount of time to comment

A governmental body may not prohibit public criticism of the body

Bill took effect on September 1, 2019

Draft Rules

Single public comment period, following the pledges, before any action items

Public comments will be taken on any agenda item

Establishes a 3-minute time limit; 6-minute time limit if using a translator

Large delegations may be requested to have one spokesperson speak for the group; in this case a 5-minute time limit is provided (10 minutes if using a translator)

Translation will be provided by RTC if requested 72 hours in advance

Provisions for warning speakers if time exhausted or removal, if necessary

Draft Rules, continued

Speaker Request Card must be completed prior to the start of the RTC meeting

Speakers must provide the following information:

- Name
- City of Residence
- Zip Code
- Agenda item(s) on which the speaker plans to speak
- Indication if speaking on/for/against the agenda item(s)
- Any other information requested by RTC staff

Opportunity to provide written comments rather than speak at the meeting

Additional Items

Benchmarked local governments on a number of topics

RTC Rules will be added to Public Participation Plan as an appendix when adopted; will be added to RTC Bylaws when next updated (2022)

Considered room layout, personnel and technology needs to effectively implement the public comments

Information will be provided on the RTC website regarding the public comment opportunity, as well as ability to request translation

Comments received will be documented in RTC minutes, Public Comments Report

Schedule

Milestone	Date
Draft Rules Presented to RTC for Information (Action to Take to Public Input Opportunity)	January 9, 2020
Public Input Opportunity (45 Day Comment Period)	January 13-February 26, 2020
STTC Information Item	January 24, 2020
STTC Action Item	February 28, 2020
RTC Action Item	March 12, 2020

Questions/Comments

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