

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Rules for Public Comment

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) hereby establishes reasonable rules regarding the public's right to address the Council at open meetings consistent with the Texas Open Meetings Act. The intent of these rules is to hear the views of the public prior to the RTC considering items. These rules also promote an orderly and fair process through which public comments may be received by the RTC.

Public Comment

At every open meeting of the RTC, opportunity will be provided at the beginning of the meeting for members of the public to address the RTC regarding any item(s) on the agenda for consideration. Persons are permitted up to three (3) minutes to speak. A person addressing the RTC through a translator will be provided up to six (6) minutes. A timer will be visible to the speaker and indicate the amount of time remaining. Speakers shall conclude their comments prior to or upon expiration of the time. In the event a large number of speakers are present, the RTC may encourage large delegations to have one person speak for the group or impose reasonable time limits per individual that are more restrictive; if a delegation chooses to select a spokesperson to represent the entire delegation, the spokesperson will be provided up to five (5) minutes to speak or ten (10) minutes if the spokesperson is addressing the RTC through a translator.

Persons requesting translation services, to be provided by the RTC, must do so at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the posted meeting time.

Speaker Registration

Persons who wish to speak must complete and return to staff a registration card prior to the start of the RTC meeting. Registration cards are printed on yellow paper, available in the RTC meeting room and must, at a minimum, include the following information:

1. Speaker's name;
2. City of residence;
3. Zip code;
4. Agenda item(s) on which the speaker plans to speak;
5. Indication of whether speaking on/for/against agenda item(s); and
6. Any other information requested by RTC staff.

Speaker Warning and Removal

The RTC Chair will provide a notice to a speaker whose time has expired. The RTC reserves the right to have speakers removed from the meeting room in the event they become disruptive or make threatening, profane or otherwise inappropriate remarks.