

MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, October 22, 2008
H-GAC, Conference Room B
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor, Houston, Texas 77027

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Christine Smith called the meeting to order.

INFORMATION

APPROVAL OF JUNE 25, 2008 MEETING SUMMARY

The Houston Clean Cities stakeholder meeting summary for June 25, 2008 was approved.

CLEAN VEHICLES/CLEAN SCHOOL BUS UPDATE – *Christine Smith*

Ms. Christine Smith began her information item by reviewing how the Clean Vehicles & Clean School Bus programs have been doing over the last quarter. H-GAC has received several inquiries from a variety of different organizations about hybrids, natural gas, and propane vehicles. For the specific past quarter, H-GAC approved funding for 7 private fleets, 1 school district, and 1 municipality; totaling a NOx reduction of more than 10 tons per year – representing over \$600,000 in grant funds (received funding through either the Clean Vehicle or the Clean School Bus Programs). H-GAC is currently working on restructuring the guidelines for the Clean Vehicle and Clean School Bus Program; inputs and suggestions on program improvements, guidelines, and criteria are welcomed. Neither comments nor questions followed this information item.

MEETING RECAP: TEXAS HYDROGEN ROADMAP WORKSHOP, THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS – *Christine Smith*

(Please refer to handout.) Ms. Christine Smith began her information item with a brief summary. The Texas Hydrogen Roadmap Workshop consisted of a series of presentations and breakout group sessions to discuss hydrogen issues, technology and the market place.

The Oakridge National Lab Study presentation was interesting; set forth a plan for how we might think about bringing hydrogen infrastructure technology into the market place. The Oakridge National Lab Study proposed a 3 phase process: 1.) Initial introduction into the biggest cities in the country – New York City and Los Angeles; in service by 2012. 2.) Targeted regional growth in particular cities with good demographics would be open to the early adoption of hydrogen. 3.) Hydrogen infrastructure growth between those cities along major highway corridors; envisioned to be achieved by 2025.

The City of Houston was not considered a good candidate for early hydrogen adoption; we were brought into their plan in the final phase; the City of Dallas was the early adopter based on the demographic criteria.

The other presentations covered a wide variety of topics; hydrogen production, storage, refueling options, and demonstration projects. The fuel cell technology has initially been demonstrated as backup generators for things such as cell phone powers. One of the Whole Food stores has been using backup fuel cell generators. Several different bus fleets in Connecticut, California, and a couple in Europe are testing fuel cell vehicles.

The breakout sessions discussed a series of questions: 1.) Efforts that are current in Texas that we could build on? 2.) What advantages does Texas have? 3.) What can we learn from other states? 4.) What can we learn from other initiatives? 5.) What funding might be available?

The advantages for this region: 1.) Industrial complexes that has H₂ as a by-product; refinery processes and so forth. 2.) Poor air quality can be seen as an advantage because it attracts priority funding. 3.) The military presence here and its demonstration projects are very interested in using hydrogen fuel.

Ms. Smith is hopeful in reserving the Texas Hydrogen Coalition spokesman for one of our future meetings. Brief comments followed this information item.

TEXAS CLEAN CITIES LPG MOWER REBATE PROGRAM – *Christine Smith*

(Please refer to handout.)

- **OVERVIEW**

The Central Texas Clean Cities Coalition received a grant from the Propane Education and Research Council; the grant was to establish a Rebate Program for trying to get mowers switched from gas or diesel to propane. The program is being headed by the Central Texas Cities Coalition, but the program is open to any area in Texas that has an active Clean Cities Coalition. Ms. Smith wanted the attendees to be aware of the existence and availability of the Mower Rebate Program. Ms. Smith explained the Propane Mower Rebate guidelines, procedures, process, and benefits. The Rebate Program is in the preliminary introductory stage and a demonstration and recruitment of landscaping vendors/fleets process must be done. Ms. Smith encouraged interested attendees to participate and invited potential participants to send their contact information. The Rebate Program goes through the end 2010 or until funds are exhausted.

- **DEMONSTRATION DAY PLANNING**

Volunteers are needed to help organize the demonstration event.

NATURAL GAS WORKSHOP INTEREST – *Christine Smith*

Centerpoint Natural Gas representatives attended the Compelling Case for Natural Gas Workshop, hosted by Clean Vehicles Education Fund in San Antonio. Ms. Smith asked the attendees if they were interested in bringing the Compelling Case for Natural Gas Workshop to the Houston area and organize it. Ms. Smith suggested hosting the one-day workshop in March to coincide with one of the Houston Clean Cities Stakeholder meetings. Details would be forthcoming. From a user's perspective, the attendees concluded that a natural gas workshop would be more beneficial at a later time. Lengthy comments and discussion followed this information item.

2009 ADVANCING THE CHOICE BRAINSTORMING SESSION – *Christine Smith*

H-GAC is meeting with their consultants next week to help orchestrate the 2009 Advancing the Choice Event. Ms. Smith is accepting suggestions for specific topics, speakers, times, and locations for the upcoming event.

Suggestions/comments consisted of: 1.) A hybrid trucks and technologies show. 2.) Keep in mind ride and drive liability issues. 3.) Look for something to boost attendance 4.) Ethanol fuel. 5.) Long term supply issues. 6.) Bio fuel processing and market. 7.) New crowd – distribution companies and school bus industry. 8.) Grant education.

Location Suggestions consisted of: 1.) Sam Houston Horse Race Track

Dates to Avoid Suggestions consisted of: 1.) Mid-June 2.) Late- June

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

GREATER HOUSTON CLEAN CITIES COALITION ORGANIZATIONAL GUIDELINES & PRINCIPLES – *Christine Smith*

(Please refer to handout.)

The Houston Clean Cities Stakeholders attendees unanimously approved the recommendation to abide by the rules and procedures of the Greater Houston Clean Cities Coalition Organizational Guidelines and Principles.

**GREATER HOUSTON CLEAN CITIES COALITION STAKEHOLDER APPLICATION
PACKET – *Christine Smith***

The Houston Clean Cities Stakeholders attendees unanimously approved the Greater Houston Clean Cities Coalition stakeholder Application Packet with revisions to add an opportunity for an organizational supporter role by proclamation, and the development of a letter encouraging consultation on reducing fleet emissions.

OTHER BUSINESS

GENERAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS/ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- No other business announced.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Stakeholder Meeting will be Wednesday, December 17, 2008

ADJOURNMENT

- If you have an item you wish to be added to the agenda for a future meeting, please e-mail the Clean Cities Coordinator at cleancities@h-gac.com.