**CONSENT FORM**

IRB Approval Number: 2011H5035

**Best Practices For University Transit Bus Systems.**

The purpose of this applied research project is to gauge The University of Texas at Austin’s shuttle bus program against identified university transit bus standards that fit the practical ideal type model.

I, Blanca Juarez, candidate for the Master of Public Administration Degree, ask that you read this document in its entirety and ask any questions before you agree to participate in this study. Should you have any questions regarding the study I can be contacted at (512)471-6214 or by email at [bjuarez82@gmail.com](mailto:bjuarez82@gmail.com)

**The Texas State University-San Marcos, Master of Public Administration Program**

**Applied Research Project.**

**Background Information:**

To gauge The University of Texas at Austin’s (UT Austin) transit bus program against identified best practices and offer recommendations on how to improve the program. The main objective will be achieved through two approaches: 1) Research and review of documents provided by Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Capital Metro) which pertain to the partnership with UT Austin and 2) Focused interview with the selected Capital Metro representative.

**Procedure:**

You have been chosen to participate in this interview because you are the Contract Services Coordinator for the UT Austin and Capital Metro shuttle bus system and I am interested in your feedback regarding the partnership. The interview will consist of 20 questions pertaining to the UT Austin and Capital Metro partnership including areas such as: operations, funding, services and environmental response. The interview should take no longer than 30 minutes to complete.

**Risks and Benefits of Being in the Study:**

The following risks are associated with this study:

***There are no risks involved by being part of this research project.***

The following benefits are associated with this study:

***There are no benefits involved by being part of this research project.***

**Confidentiality:**

The participant’s identity will be kept confidential. The participant of the interview will only be identified by their employment title for reporting data related to this study. Other identifying information such as name and contact information will not be requested.

**Voluntary Study:**

Participation in this study is voluntary. You may choose not to answer any questions for any reason and you are free to withdraw at any time during the study. Withdrawing at any time from the study will not affect your standing with the Texas State University and Capital Metro. All data records will be kept confidential and secured in the supervising professor’s office.

**Contacts and Questions**

Any questions, you may contact me (Blanca Juarez) directly (512) 471-6214 or by email at [bjuarez82@gmail.com](mailto:bjuarez82@gmail.com)

Any questions about this research, participant’s rights may be directed to the IRB chair, Dr. Jon Lasser (512-245-3413- [lasser@txstate.edu](mailto:lasser@txstate.edu) ), or to Ms. Becky Northcut, Compliance Specialist (512-245-3413).

You will be given a copy of this consent form to keep for your personal records.

If requested, a summary of the findings shall be provided to the participant upon completion of the study. The final report will be made available to you on eCommons at Texas State University’s website.

**Statement of Consent:**

I have read the above information and I consent to participate in this study.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Investigator or Person Obtaining Consent\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_