

**High Capacity Transit Task Force
Houston-Galveston Area Council
2nd Floor, Conference Room B/C
April 28, 2014
11:00 am**

Agenda

1. Introductions..... Rusty Senac, Chair
2. Purpose of the High Capacity Transit Task Force..... Rusty Senac, Chair
3. High Capacity Transit in the 2040 Long Range Plan..... Carrin Patman, Vice Chair
4. Task Force Milestones..... Amanda Edwards, Vice Chair
5. Task Force Work Groups..... Rusty Senac, Chair
6. Future Task Force Meetings..... Rusty Senac, Chair
7. Meeting Summary and Next Steps..... Amanda Edwards, Vice Chair
8. Adjournment

Meeting Summary

**High Capacity Transit Task Force
Houston-Galveston Area Council
2nd Floor, Conference Room B/C
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Agenda

1. Introductions..... Rusty Senac, Chair

Welcome to this first meeting of the Transportation Policy Council's High Capacity Transit Task Force. The Task Force was created by TPC last month. TPC Chairman Matt Sebesta appointed me as Chair and I am joined by two Vice Chairs: Carrin Patman, Chair of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County and City of Houston Councilmember Amanda Edwards. I want to begin today's meeting by inviting those seated at the Board tables to introduce themselves and the local government or organization they represent.

Participants introduced themselves.

Members of the Transportation Policy Council and representatives of transit providers in the eight-county metro region have been invited to join this Task Force. In the materials provided, you will find the most current list of Task Force members. If you wish to become a member, please respond to the email you received from H-GAC or contact Rosalind Hebert or Alan Clark. We will also be inviting a few representatives of other strategic organizations to join the Task Force. Please contact Roz or Alan if you have any recommendations for us to consider.

The deadline for receiving requests for Task Force Membership from our TPC members and Transit Providers is in two weeks, **Friday May 12th**.

2. Purpose of the High Capacity Transit Task Force..... Rusty Senac, Chair

The TPC created this taskforce to coordinate with regional stakeholders and identify the benefits of, funding solutions for and policy considerations that will advance High Capacity Transit throughout the region. Recommendations for High Capacity Transit will be developed and included in the upcoming 2045 Regional Transportation Plan. We are here to address three key questions:

1. How important is High Capacity Transit to our region's future?
2. What travel corridors will benefit most from new high capacity transit services?
3. How can we fund, develop and sustain these services?

I will ask Alan to give you some more background on the issues we will be addressing and their potential importance to our region.

Alan reviewed power point slides on region's growth and challenges of improving mobility.

Are there any questions or comments from Task Force Members?

Now I'd like to invite Carrin Patman to introduce Agenda Item 3.

3. High Capacity Transit in the 2040 Long Range Plan.... Carrin Patman, Vice Chair

High Capacity Transit is not new to the Metropolitan Transit Authority or to our region. But I believe it is important for us to have a common understanding of what we mean by the words "High Capacity" transit and its role in meeting our region's mobility needs.

High capacity transit typically consists of bus or rail services on an exclusive right-of-way or on existing streets that provide priority treatments for transit resulting in a faster, more convenient and reliable service for a larger number of passengers.

METRO's Park and Ride services operate over 100 miles of HOV and HOT lanes and are an excellent example of High Capacity Transit. In March of this year, almost 700,000 riders used one of our 30 Park and Ride routes. Other transit providers operate an additional seven park and ride routes most of which also take advantage of METRO's HOV lanes.

METRO's light rail moves high volumes of transit riders and provides important connections with express and local bus routes. Last month, 2.1 million riders traveled over our 28 mile light rail network. Many of these riders were also part of METRO's five million local bus riders in March.

Although METRO has plans for more high capacity transit services, the 2040 Long Range Plan includes corridors that extend well beyond the METRO service area. Projects such as these will not be realized without the cooperation and commitment of multiple local governments and transportation agencies. It is my goal for the 2045 Plan to advance that consensus and the many actions which will need to follow.

In this part of our discussion, we will hear from Thomas about the High Capacity Transit services that are proposed in our current 2040 Long Range Plan and potential high capacity transit corridors this Task Force may wish to further examine.

Thomas Grey summarized High Capacity Transit corridors in the 2040 RTP and in the 2040 RTP "Vision" plan.

Are there any questions or comments from Task Force Members?

Now I'd like to invite Amanda to introduce Agenda Item 4.

4. Task Force Milestones..... Amanda Edwards, Vice Chair

The High Capacity Transit investments summarized by Thomas have been in our Long Range Plan for many years yet few have advanced as projects that are ready for implementation. To address those three key questions summarized by Rusty, I have worked with staff to identify key milestones supporting the work of the Task Force.

These milestones will help us determine if there is a strong business case demonstrating that the benefits of investing in high capacity transit will greatly exceed the required investment. Whether it is express buses traveling down HOV lanes, commuter rail lines along major freeway or freight rail corridors or new kinds of services that may become available through advancements in technology (such as automated vehicles), we need the Long Range Plan to be a launch pad for developing the plans, partnerships, agreements and funding decisions these investments will require.

Today we are not well prepared to take advantage of new federal initiatives that could be used to expand our High Capacity Transit infrastructure no matter how badly it may be needed. I appreciate the work of METRO, H-GAC, TxDOT and our other transit providers. But those of us representing local governments must also be engaged as community support will be essential for this work and any future projects we try to advance.

I will now invite Eulois to walk us through a summary of the Task Force work plan.

Eulois Cleckley described of the High Capacity Transit work plan and major milestones.

Are there any questions or comments from Task Force Members?

Now I'd like to return to Rusty to discuss Task Force Work Groups that may be used to advance our work plan.

5. Task Force Work Groups..... Rusty Senac, Chair

The eight county region is a lot of ground to cover and each part of our region may have different short and long term transportation needs. The officers have discussed creating work groups that can more fully explore the potential need for High Capacity Transit in different part of our region and take advantage of additional involvement from local governments serving these areas.

Although we are not yet ready to create these work groups, I want to ask Alan to review with you the kind of feedback we may want to have from them. I will be seeking your ideas about the desirability of work groups before our next meeting.

Alan Clark describes the work group role and input from them which could support the work of the Task Force. Members discussed the potential focus and membership of future work groups. Members discussed the merits of geographically and topically focused work groups.

If no further comment, we move to Agenda Item 6 and discuss future Task Force Meetings.

6. Future Task Force Meetings..... Rusty Senac, Chair

It is my expectation that the full Task Force will need to meet about once a quarter, but additional meetings could be added if the Task Force desires. Eulois will describe our tentative meeting schedule.

Eulois discussed preliminary dates for future Task Force Meetings. The next full task force meeting is tentatively scheduled for this August.

Are there any comments or questions concerning our future meeting dates?
Finally, I'd like to ask Amanda to summarize our meeting today and our next steps.

7. Meeting Summary and Next Steps..... Amanda Edwards, Vice Chair

- Today we heard the Chairman summarize the mission of the Task Force and the key questions the Task Force will address:
 - How important is High Capacity Transit to our region's future?
 - What travel corridors will benefit most from new high capacity transit services? and
 - How can we fund, develop and sustain these services?
- The Chairman also reminded us of the need to finalize Task Force membership by Friday May 12th.

- We reviewed the High Capacity Transit elements of the current 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan and heard about its “Vision” for high capacity transit in additional corridors.
- We discussed the major milestones needed to accomplish the work of the Task Force and the potential advantages of having work groups that could “focus” in on sections of our large 8 county region.
- Lastly we discussed our preliminary meeting schedule.

8. Adjournment.....Rusty Senac, Chair

Thank you for your participation. We are adjourned.

High Capacity Transit Task Force for the 2045 Long Range Plan

April 28, 2017

Agenda Item 1.

Introductions

Rusty Senac, Chair

Agenda Item 2.

Purpose of the High Capacity Transit Task Force

Rusty Senac, Chair

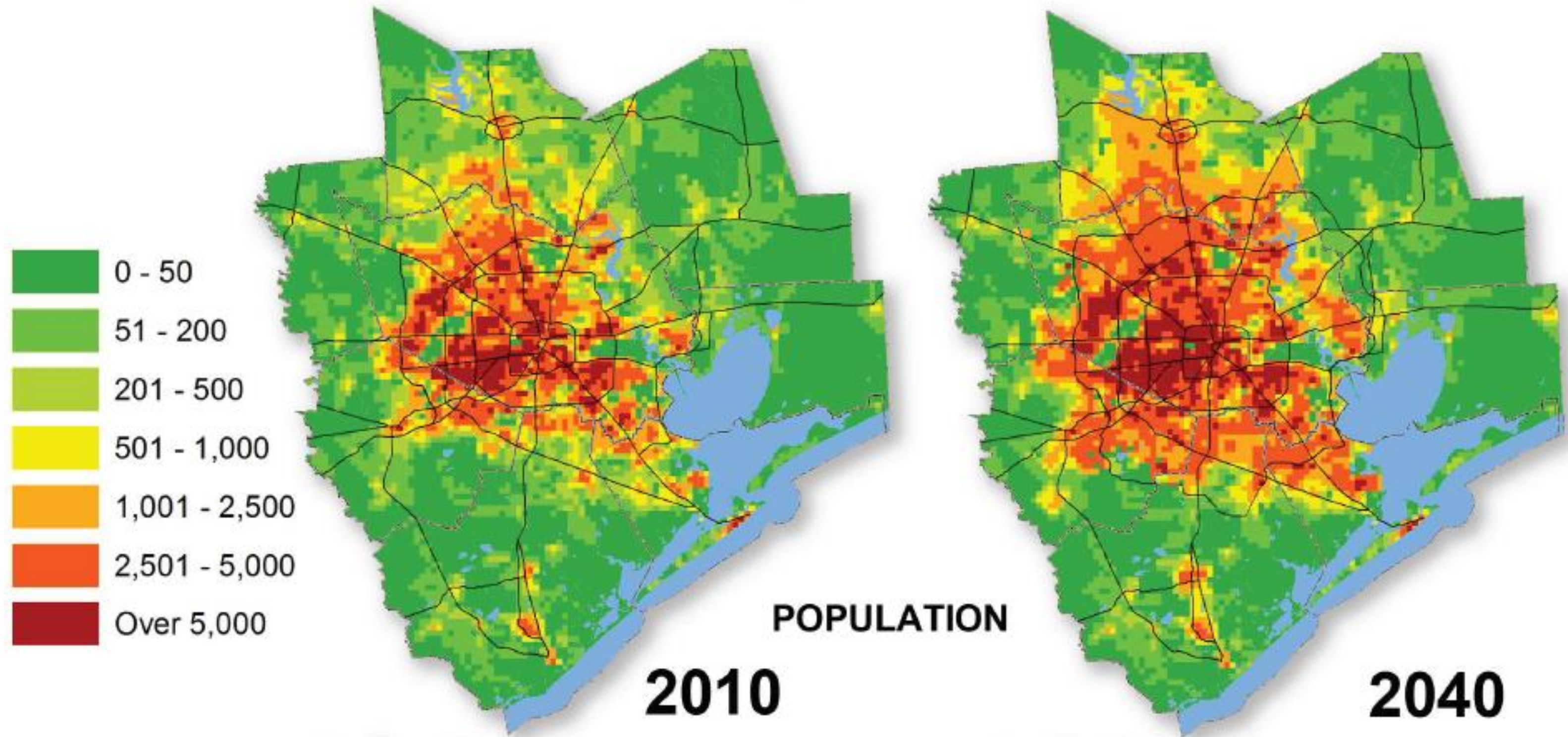
Background

- **8 County Region Not Done Growing!**
 - Population grew **115%** last 35 years (3.5M)
 - Next 35 years: **80 - 110%** (5.4 - 7.4M)
- **Regional growth will continue to expand**

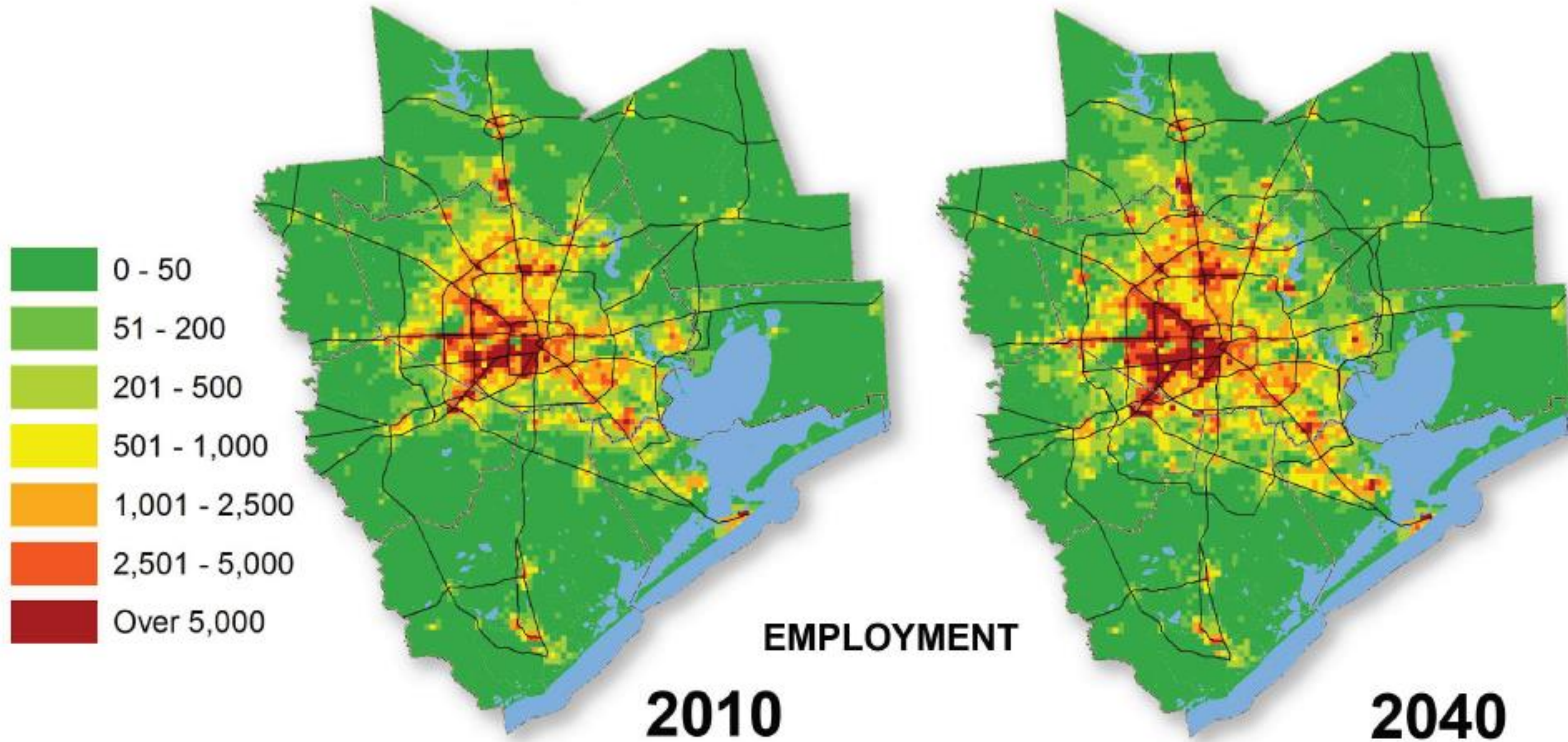
Area	1980	2015	2050
Harris County	2.4 M	4.5 M	6.9 M
7 Counties	0.7 M	2.1 M	5.1 M

- **7 County population will be > 5M!**

Population Growth – 2010-2040



Employment Growth – 2010-2040



Background

- Population growth is more decentralized than employment growth
- Emerging employment and activity centers will reinforce polycentric nature of region:
 - Springwoods Village (ExxonMobil)
 - Generation Park
 - Valley Ranch

Background

- **Travel in region will grow even faster**
 - Auto travel will increase 70+ %
 - Growing number of longer commutes to work
 - Limited ability to add or grow freeway or transit capacity (< 25% freeway increase planned)
- **Truck travel will more than double**
 - Manufacturing investment in excess of \$60B
 - Port activity fueled by exports, imports for mega-region and North America

Taskforce Charge

Coordinate with regional stakeholders to identify regional benefits, funding solutions and policy considerations to advance High Capacity Transit throughout the region.

How Important to Region's Future?

- Identify extent to which high capacity transit needed to support economic growth, mobility and quality of life
- Estimate what investment is needed
- Determine if there is a “Business Case” for investment in HCT

Where/When is High Capacity Transit Needed?

Identify constraints and opportunities by corridor

- How much travel may be served?**
- Right of Way/Shared Corridor Redevelopment**
- Potential environmental impacts**
- Community Impact/Economic Growth**
- Public/Private Partnerships**

How to Fund, Develop and Sustain?

Review “Case Studies” from “Peer” Regions

- What was accomplished?
- How was it funded?
- How was support for funding developed?

Task Force Support

- **Goal: complete “findings and recommendations” report by August 2018**
- **Work teams will be supported by staff and contractors from H-GAC and other local governments and agencies**
- **Task Force will work with TAC and its subcommittees**

Agenda Item 3.

High Capacity Transit Task Force in the 2040 Long Range Plan

Carrin Patman, Vice Chair

Background

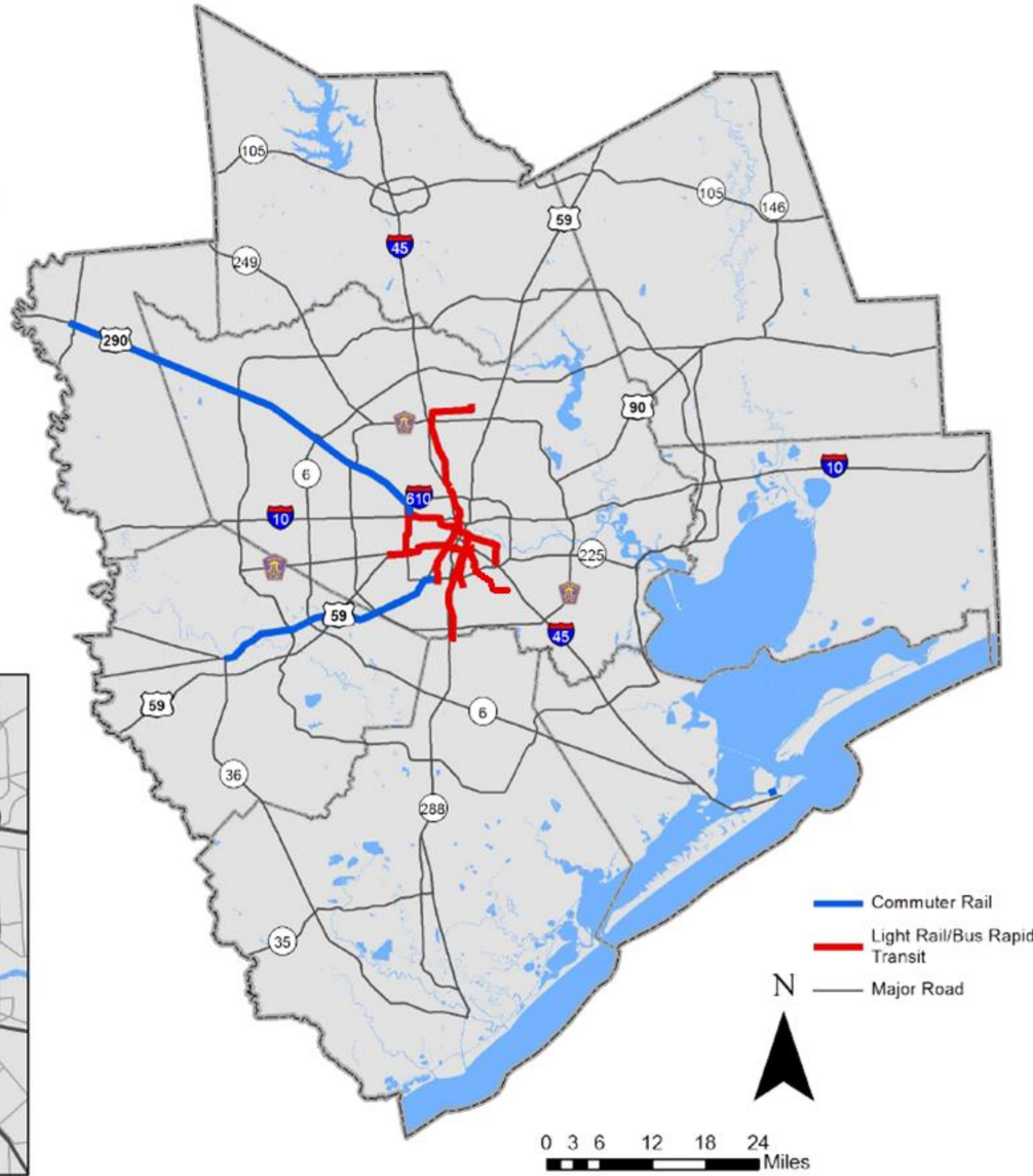
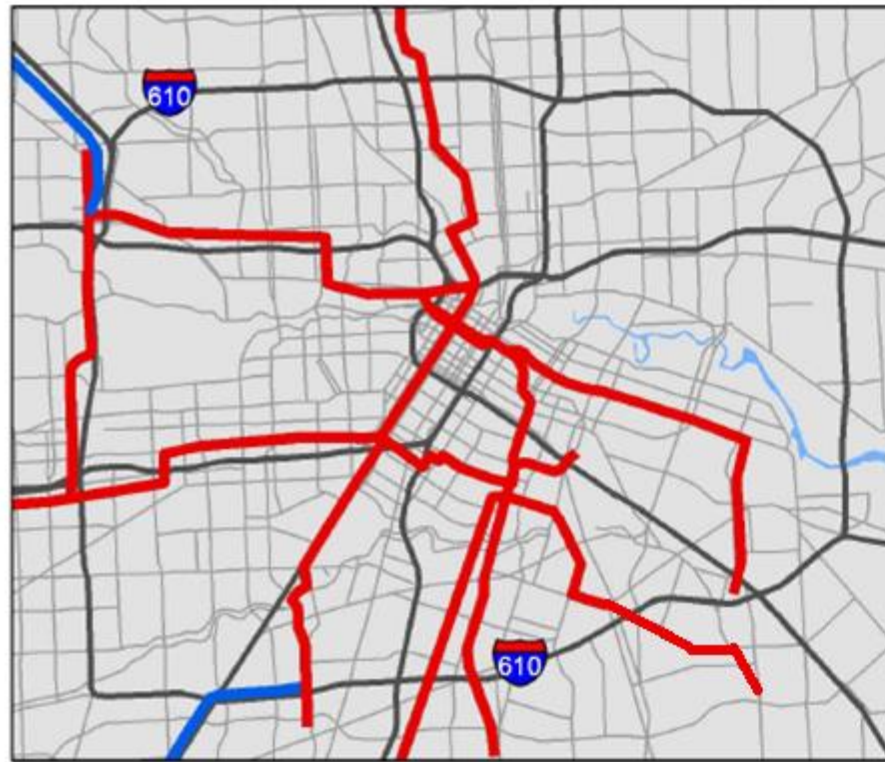
- **What is “High Capacity Transit”?**
- **Why is it part of the current RTP?**
 - Growing number of longer commutes to work
 - Limited ability to add or grow freeway capacity
- **Funding not currently identified for early implementation**

Agenda Item 3.

High Capacity Transit



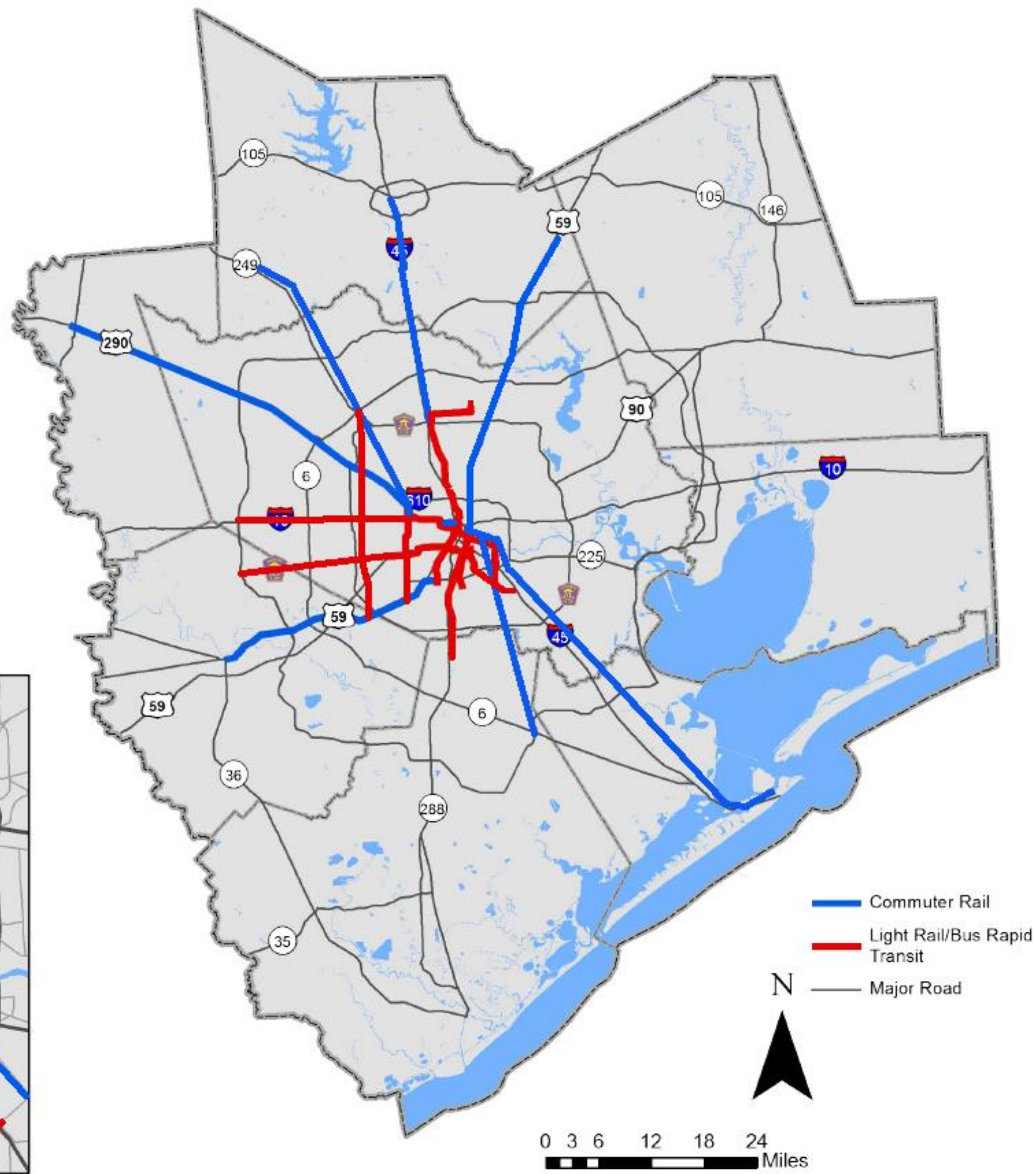
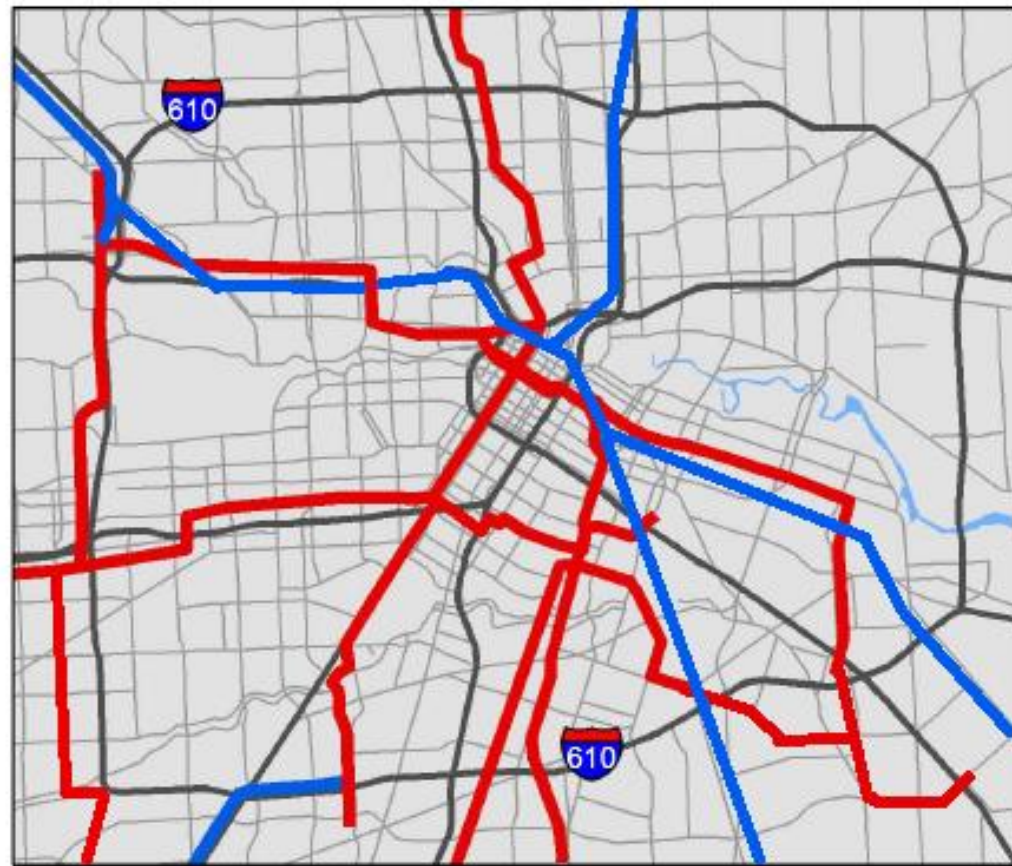
2040 RTP High-Capacity Transit System



Background

- **2003 METRO Solutions plan was last major adopted High Capacity Transit plan for region**
- **Other jurisdictions have expressed interest in High Capacity Transit**
- **“Vision” map identifies multiple unfunded HCT corridors**

Vision High-Capacity Transit System



Agenda Item 4.

High Capacity Transit Task Force Milestones

Amanda Edwards, Vice Chair

Scope

- **Objective 1: Case Studies and Economic Impact Analysis**
- **Objective 2: Evaluation of service concepts in existing and future HCT corridors**
- **Objective 3: Evaluate funding solutions for HCT**
- **Objective 4: Policy and governance considerations**

Milestones

- **April/May- Work groups established**
- **April-February 2018- Case Studies and Economic Impact Analysis (report)**
- **April-October 2017- Evaluation of service concepts (report)**
- **February 2018-May 2018- Funding solutions, policy and governance (report)**

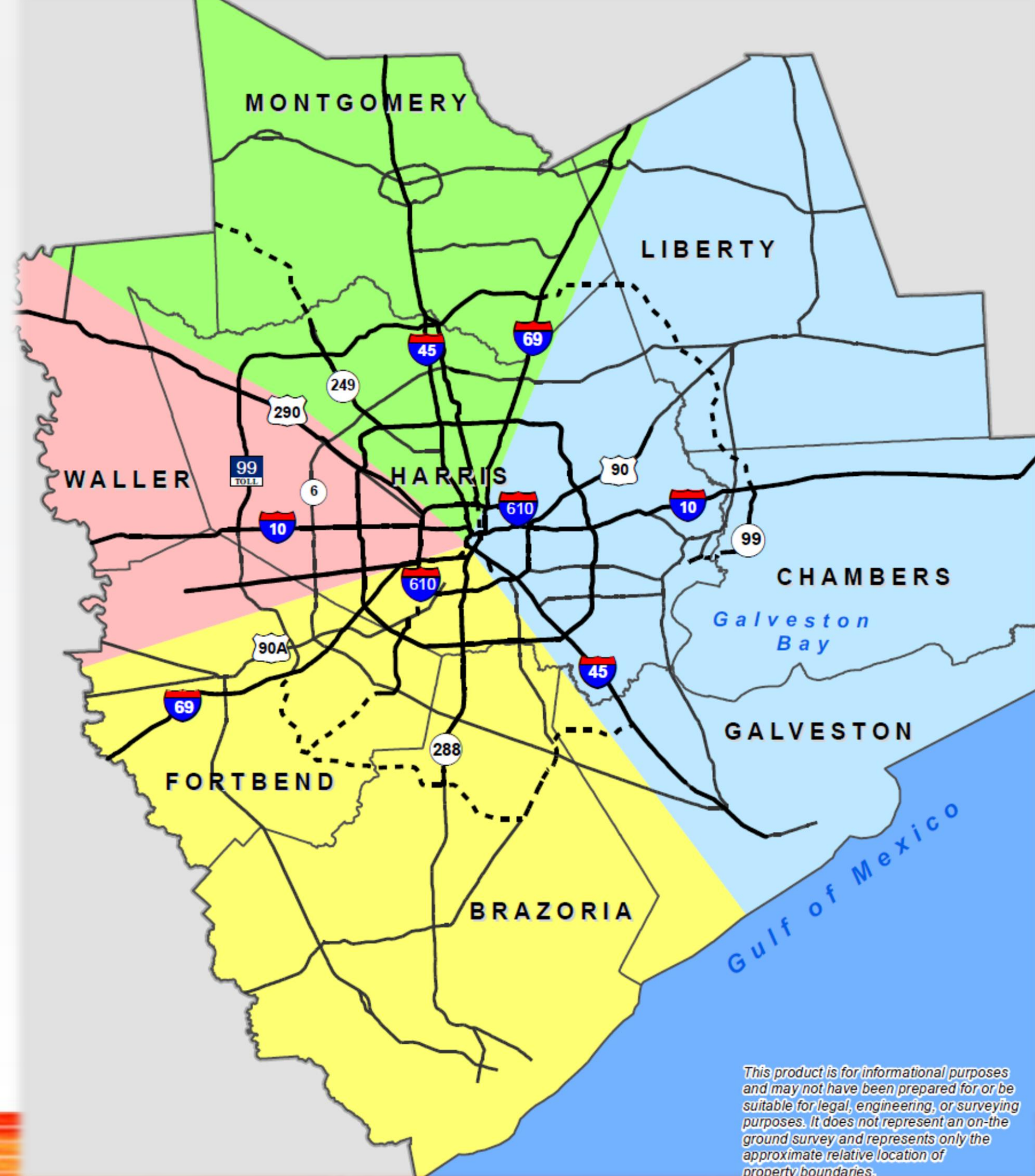
Agenda Item 5.

High Capacity Transit Task Force Work Groups

Rusty Senac, Chair

4 Work Groups:

- North
- East
- South
- West



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Houston-Galveston
Area Council

Work Groups

- **TPC members**
- **Transit providers**
- **Business community (chambers of commerce, developers, major employers, business districts)**
- **Research community (Universities)**

Agenda Item 6.

High Capacity Transit Task Force Future Meetings

Rusty Senac, Chair

Future Meetings

- **Full task force meeting schedule**
 - April 2017, October 2017, February 2018, May 2018, July and/or August 2018
 - Final report and recommendations completed by August 2018
- **Work group schedule**
 - Meet as needed and determined by work group participants

Agenda Item 7.

Meeting Summary

Amanda Edwards, Vice Chair

Meeting Summary

- Identified Task Force and the key questions:
 - How important is High Capacity Transit to our region's future?
 - What travel corridors will benefit most, and
 - How can we fund, develop and sustain these services?
- Reviewed 2040 RTP and “Vision” for high capacity transit.
- Identified major milestones
- Preliminary meeting schedule discussed

Next Steps

- **Finalize Task Force membership Friday May 12th**
- **Feedback requested on potential work groups**
- **Next meeting: August 2017**

High Capacity Transit Task Force for the 2045 Long Range Plan

April 28, 2017