

Greater Houston Freight Committee

Co-Chairs Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and Brian Fielkow, JetCo Houston CEO

Kickoff Meeting Agenda

Monday, July 11, 1PM

H-GAC Second Floor Conference Rooms

Agenda Items

I. Welcoming remarks

Co-Chairs will welcome and introduce attendees and share remarks regarding the Committee's purpose and regional goods movement.

II. Seek local comment on the Texas State Freight Mobility Plan

Attendees will comment on the State Freight Plan and freight priorities.

III. Designation of Critical Urban Freight Corridors

H-GAC Staff will lead a map-based exercise to identify locally significant freight routes for a new federal funding program.

Future Business

IV. Announcements

- a. Ports Area Mobility Study
- b. Federal freight performance measures
- c. Greater Houston Freight Committee work plan

V. Adjourn

Critical Urban Freight Corridors

Background

In the FAST Act, the new highway freight funding program authorizes local planning agencies called Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to designate locally significant public roads as Critical Urban Freight Corridors (CUFCs), which will be eligible for the program. In order to designate these roads, the Federal Highway Administration released some draft guidance outlining the following criteria. The designated roadway must:

1. connect an intermodal facility to;
 - i. the Primary Highway Freight System (federally designated network)
 - ii. the Interstate System; or
 - iii. an intermodal freight facility;
2. be located within a corridor of a route on the PHFS and provide an alternative highway option important to goods movement;
3. serve a major freight generator, logistic center, or manufacturing and warehouse industrial land; or
4. be important to the movement of freight within the region, as determined by the MPO or the State.

The Houston-Galveston Area Council is the MPO for the greater Houston region, and the Greater Houston Freight Committee is uniquely positioned to provide critical insight as to which roadways should be designated as a CUFC.

Current Situation

Based on local expertise, the Greater Houston Freight Committee will recommend additions to the currently identified freight route network (a composite of the National Highway Freight Network, official Hazardous Materials routes, the Texas State Freight Network, and intermodal connectors that were identified in the 2012 *Regional Goods Movement Plan*).

The recommendations will be reviewed by staff according to the above criteria, with a final list recommended for later adoption by the MPO. Once adopted, H-GAC will begin to coordinate with State and federal officials on how to record and amend the final list of CUFCs.

Action Requested

Using maps provided, identify any missing links, roadways, or important freight facilities not currently included. Be as specific as possible, leaving contact information with each proposed addition for future follow-up. Any questions or comments can also be send to GHFC@H-GAC.com.

Possible Tasks for Greater Houston Freight Committee

Freight planning

- Regional freight mobility goals
- Comment on proposed federal performance measurement rules
- Provide comment on targets for future performance measurement
- Local performance measures (if federal measures are deemed inadequate)
- Data application providing information on height/weight restrictions on truck routes
- Freight-related funding criteria

FAST Act Funding

- Critical Urban Freight Corridors designation
- Regional coordination for FASTLANE grant applications

Local freight issues

- Update and comment on local studies, analysis, and TPC requests
- Comments on relevant freight plans (TxDOT, Harris County, etc.)
- Regular reports showing truck congestion measures or cost of moving goods
- Relevant guest presentations
- Mode-specific (rail, maritime, pipeline) issues
- Truck parking and weigh station locations
- GIWW/Ship Channel development and maintenance
- Chassis availability
- Planned or future industrial development
- Short-term worker transport programs
- Alternative freight technology development and deployment