

6A. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA

DATE: Friday, June 26, 2026

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: 3555 Timmons Lane, Conference Room B, Houston, Texas 77027

The presiding officer, Chairman Justin Beckendorff called the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting of June 26, 2026, at 9:32 a.m. to order.

CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM, INTRODUCTIONS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chairman Justin Beckendorff opened the meeting with greetings and requested attendees to take their seats. Chair Beckendorff asked Ms. Allie Isbell (HGAC) to conduct the roll call and verify quorum. Ms. Isbell confirmed that a quorum of 16 members was present, as documented in Attachment 1. Chair Beckendorff asked the Council if anyone wanted to declare a conflict of interest on any item on the agenda. All presentations, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Allie Isbell (HGAC) provided instructions to the public on how to submit comments online and informed attendees that Spanish translation services were available onsite, while American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation were accessible online. No written comments were submitted by June 25, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. One public comment was provided in person, and no public comments were provided online. All presentations, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 5. MPO DIRECTOR REPORT AND ORIENTATION OF AGENDA, MR. RON PAPSDORF, CHIEF TRANSPORTATION OFFICER, H-GAC

Mr. Ron Papsdorf (HGAC) provided an overview of the meeting agenda, highlighting approval of May meeting minutes, recognition of former Council Member Marie Robb, appointment of a new TPC Secretary, and discussion items regarding legislative policy development and amendments to the FY 2026–2027 Unified Planning Work Program, an update on the Greater Houston Freight Committee an update on the North Houston Communities Transportation Priorities Plan and the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan.

Highlights included:

- Regional Planning Efforts: Active public engagement is underway for the 2026 Congestion Management Plan and the Regional Bus Study, with stakeholders encouraged to participate in ongoing surveys. The 2050 Regional Transportation Plan project solicitation process is also in progress, supported by new data resources and technical assistance for local communities.
- Project and Program Highlights: Friendswood adopted its Active Transportation Plan, developed with H-GAC support. Staff also successfully assisted regional partners in planning for major FIFA World Cup events through travel demand modeling and transportation analysis.

- Air Quality Conformity Milestone: The Federal Highway Administration approved the air quality conformity determination for the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan amendment, marking a significant milestone and providing lessons to improve future conformity reviews for the 2050 RTP.
- TPC Membership: A vacancy remains for one Small Cities representative on the Transportation Policy Council, and nominations will be solicited.
- H-GAC Board approved a regional Complete Streets Planning Guide contract and agreements supporting Free Fare Fridays during Ozone Action Month.
- Upcoming Events: The Transportation Advocacy Group (TAG) is planning a networking reception with TPC members on August 12, and a TPC retreat is being scheduled for August 20–21 to discuss strategic transportation priorities and future work programs.

Mr. Papsdorf concluded by announcing that this would be his final TPC meeting as MPO Director following his appointment as H-GAC Executive Director effective July 13. He expressed appreciation to TPC members and staff, highlighted accomplishments including strengthened regional partnerships, progress on carryover spend-down efforts, enhanced project and financial tracking, and integration of data analytics into transportation planning. TPC leadership thanked him for his service and affirmed plans to conduct a thorough search for a new MPO Director. Representatives from the Government of Quebec who attended as special guests were recognized. All presentations, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 6. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Beckendorff introduced the Consent Agenda noting that it consisted of previously reviewed items. Chair Beckendorff asked the Council if any members wanted to remove any of the items from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration. No requests were made. Chair Beckendorff asked for a motion. A motion was made by Council Member Suzanne Whatley and seconded by Council Member Sally Branson. Chair Beckendorff called for a vote. The Council voted and approved the Consent Agenda unanimously. All presentations, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 7. TPC RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION FOR OUTGOING TPC MEMBER, HONORABLE MARIE ROBB, MR. RON PAPSDORF, H-GAC

Mr. Ron Papsdorf (H-GAC) introduced a resolution recognizing and honoring the Honorable Marie Robb for her service to the City of Galveston and the Transportation Policy Council. The resolution acknowledged her tenure on the TPC since 2023, her service on the Galveston City Council, and her role as Mayor Pro Tem. A motion was made by Council Member Sally Branson and seconded. Chair Beckendorff called for a vote. The resolution was unanimously approved.

Ms. Robb thanked Council members for the opportunity to serve and expressed her appreciation for the experience, noting this was her second time serving the Council and leaving open the possibility of future involvement. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 8. TPC APPOINTMENT OF TPC OFFICER- SECRETARY POSITION, MR. RON PAPSDORF, H-GAC

Mr. Ron Papsdorf, (HGAC) briefed the Council on the appointment of a new Secretary following the advancement of Commissioner Lesley Briones to the vacant Second Vice Chair position. Consistent with TPC bylaws, the officers reviewed statements of interest from qualified candidates and reached a consensus recommendation for the appointment. The officers recommended Council Member Sally Branson of the City of Friendswood to serve the remainder of the vacant Secretary term, citing her experience on the Council, strong attendance record, and familiarity with TPC processes. Several highly qualified candidates expressed interest, making the selection process a difficult one. Chair Beckendorff called for a motion. Following a motion and second, Councilmember Branson expressed her appreciation for the nomination and thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve in a leadership role. Chair Beckendorff called for a vote. The Council voted. The appointment was approved unanimously. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 9. LEGISLATIVE POLICY PRIORITIES, CHAIR JUSTIN BECKENDORFF

Chair Beckendorff discussed the importance of developing a coordinated regional legislative advocacy strategy in advance of the upcoming Texas legislative session and emphasized the need for the Houston-Galveston region to speak with a unified voice on transportation issues, particularly regarding transportation funding, local control, and policies that affect regional infrastructure investment. To support this effort, the Chair proposed forming a small ad hoc committee to identify key legislative priorities and help build a coalition of local governments and stakeholders. The committee will focus on developing a concise set of regional priorities that members can collectively advocate.

Discussion highlighted concerns about transportation funding constraints, rapid regional growth, potential reductions in local government authority, and proposed legislative changes that could limit local revenue and bond financing options. Members stressed the importance of increased state investment and preserving local decision-making authority. Several members expressed strong support for the initiative and volunteered to participate on the committee, noting that existing relationships with state legislators could help advance the region's priorities. Members also discussed pursuing resolutions of support from local governments and maintaining ongoing engagement with legislators throughout the legislative session to ensure the region's transportation needs remain visible and well represented. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Discussion only. No action needed.

ITEM 10. 2026-2027 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) YEAR-END AMENDMENTS, DR. NEELY KIM, H-GAC

Dr. Neely Kim (HGAC) presented an update on the FY 2026–2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), explaining that staff is conducting a year-end review of ongoing planning activities to determine which projects have been completed, which need to be carried forward into FY 2027, and which may require future reprogramming. The UPWP serves as the region's two-year transportation planning work program and is routinely amended to reflect project and funding changes. Dr. Kim reported that numerous projects across several UPWP task areas are currently underway and will require additional time beyond the end of FY 2026 to reach completion. These include long-range planning, short-range planning, metropolitan transportation planning,

freight and mobility initiatives, congestion management efforts, and technology-related projects. The proposed amendments primarily involve carrying forward existing projects and associated work activities into FY 2027 to allow for project completion. She noted that additional information, including budget adjustments and funding amounts associated with the carry-forward activities, will be presented at a future meeting.

Mr. Ron Papsdorf (HGAC) provided context on the effort, explaining that staff is working to make the UPWP a more precise and strategic planning document by aligning workloads, resources, and priorities more closely with achievable outcomes. He noted that the annual “true-up” process will help improve transparency and better inform development of future work programs.

During discussion, members requested additional details on project status and funding allocations when the amendments return for consideration. Members also highlighted the value of mobility plans as essential tools for coordinating transportation investments and managing rapid regional growth. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Discussion only. No action needed.

ITEM 11. GREATER HOUSTON FREIGHT COMMITTEE UPDATE, MS. CALLIE BARNES, PORT HOUSTON, AND MR. CHAD BURKE, ECONOMIC ALLIANCE HOUSTON PORT REGION

Ms. Callie Barnes (Port Houston) and Mr. Chad Burke (Economic Alliance Houston Port Region) provided an update on the activities of the Greater Houston Freight Committee, emphasizing the committee’s role in advising the Transportation Policy Council on regional freight mobility issues and the economic significance of freight movement to the Houston region. Port Houston alone generates approximately 13,000 truck trips daily and contributes substantially to regional and state economic activity.

The committee’s most recent meeting focused on low-emission trucking technologies, including diesel, compressed natural gas (CNG), battery-electric, and hydrogen fuel-cell trucks. Presenters reviewed vehicle costs, fuel costs, infrastructure requirements, operational considerations, and environmental benefits associated with each technology. While alternative fuel technologies offer emissions advantages, the committee found that high vehicle costs, limited range, infrastructure challenges, and operational constraints currently limit widespread adoption. Based on expert presentations and industry input, the committee concluded that next-generation diesel technology remains the most practical near-term solution for reducing freight-related emissions. Members noted that new diesel engines expected in 2027 will significantly reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions while maintaining affordability, reliability, range, and existing fueling infrastructure. The committee recommended prioritizing incentive and grant programs that encourage replacement of older trucks with cleaner diesel models. The committee also previewed its upcoming August meeting, which will examine how global supply chain disruptions and changing international trade patterns are affecting freight movement, manufacturing, port activity, and truck traffic in the Houston region. Presenters highlighted increasing industrial production and freight demand, which are expected to continue influencing regional transportation infrastructure needs in the coming years.

TPC members expressed appreciation for the data-driven analysis and discussed opportunities to incorporate freight and emissions findings into future air quality, zero-emission vehicle, and transportation planning efforts. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

12. NORTH HOUSTON COMMUNITIES TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES PLAN (NHCTPP) UPDATE, MS. YETUNDE OYEWALE, H-GAC

Ms. Yetunde Oyewale (HGAC) provided an update on the North Houston Communities Transportation Priorities Plan, a 12-month planning effort developed in response to a Transportation Policy Council resolution that dedicated funding to identify transportation improvements and mitigation strategies for communities surrounding Segment 2 of the North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP). The plan focuses on enhancing pedestrian, bicycle, transit, and multimodal connectivity; improving safety and quality of life; identifying opportunities to improve air quality; and developing an implementation strategy for future investments.

The project officially launched in February 2026 and has included steering committee meetings, a public meeting, ongoing focus group interviews, and an active public survey. Staff reported that a second public meeting is anticipated in November 2026, with scenario development occurring later this year and draft recommendations expected in early 2027. Public feedback received to date has highlighted concerns about the lack of visible progress from previous planning efforts and challenges related to access and mobility near transit facilities. Staff is currently collecting and analyzing data, developing a project dashboard, and continuing outreach efforts to inform future recommendations. Future recommendations will include both short-term projects, focused on utilizing the available funding allocation, and mid- and long-term strategies that will require coordination among multiple agencies and additional transportation funding opportunities.

During discussion, members emphasized the importance of considering freight rail as part of the broader regional freight network and sought clarification regarding public concerns related to access and safety near transit facilities. The presentation concluded with appreciation for the project team's outreach and planning efforts. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

NOTE: Chair Beckendorff left the meeting and passed the gavel to 1st Vice Chair Grady Prestage.

13. 2050 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) UPDATE. MR. BRANDON MOSLEY, H-GAC

Mr. Brandon Mosley (HGAC) provided an update on the development of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the federally required long-range transportation plan that guides regional transportation policies, investments, and project priorities over the next 20-plus years. The plan must be updated every four years and includes a fiscally constrained investment strategy supported by federal, state, and local funding sources.

The 2050 RTP Call for Projects is currently underway, with applications accepted from public agencies through July 17, 2026. Staff reviewed the project submission process, evaluation criteria, and available technical assistance resources, including virtual office hours and online guidance materials. Submitted projects will be evaluated against established regional goals using a scoring process that incorporates both quantitative and narrative responses. Staff also outlined upcoming public engagement efforts, which will focus on gathering feedback on proposed transportation investments and project priorities. Based on lessons learned from earlier outreach, H-GAC is shifting its approach from traditional in-person meetings to virtual engagement opportunities, online mapping tools, pop-up events, and coordination with existing community outreach efforts to increase participation and reduce public meeting fatigue. Members were encouraged to invite staff to local meetings and community events to support public outreach. Staff also confirmed that project sponsors may submit supporting

documentation, including letters of support and related planning documents, as part of the project application process. Projects affecting the state highway system will be coordinated directly with TxDOT to ensure consistency with state transportation priorities. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJORNMENT

1st Vice Chair Grady Prestage informed the Council of upcoming meetings

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	July 15th	9:30 a.m.	In person
Transportation Policy Council Meeting	July 24th	9:30 a.m.	In person

1st Vice Chair Grady Prestage adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

Hon. Sally Branson, TPC Secretary
Transportation Policy Council

Attachment 1
MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)
FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA
June 26, 2026

ROLL

<u>AGENCY</u>		<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Baytown, City of	_____	Honorable Charles Johnson Mayor	City of Baytown
	_____	Kenrick Griffith – Alternate	
Conroe, City of	_____	Honorable David Hairel Council Member	City of Conroe
	_____	Vacant – Alternate	
Galveston, City of	_____	Honorable Alex Porretto Council Member	City of Galveston
	_____	Honorable Bob Brown	
Houston, City of Position No. 1	_____	Honorable Sallie Alcorn Council Member	City of Houston
	X _____	Honorable Willie Davis- Alternate	
Houston, City of Position No. 2	_____	Honorable Carolyn Evans-Shabazz Council Member	City of Houston
	_____	Honorable Joaquin Martinez - Alternate	
Houston, City of Position No. 3	_____	Randy Macchi Director -Houston Public Works	City of Houston
	X _____	David Wurdlow - Alternate	
League City, City of	X _____	Honorable Tommy Cones Council Member	City of League City
	_____	Honorable Andy Mann - Alternate	
Missouri City, City of	X _____	Shashi Kumar, P.E. Assistant City Manager	City of Missouri City
	_____	Nicholas L. Cook – Alternate	
Pasadena, City of	_____	Sarah Benavides, P.E. Sr. Assistant Public Works Director	City of Pasadena
	_____	Mark Gardemal – Alternate	

<u>AGENCY</u>		<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Pearland, City of	<u> </u>	Vacant	City of Pearland
	<u> X </u>	Trent Epperson-Alternate	
Sugar Land, City of	<u> X </u>	Honorable Suzanne Whatley Council Member	City of Sugar Land
	<u> </u>	Honorable Jim Vonderharr– Alternate	
Texas City, City of	<u> </u>	Vacant Mayor	City of Texas City
	<u> </u>	Jon Branson - Alternate	
Smaller Cities – Position 1	<u> X </u>	Honorable Jerry Mouton Mayor	Smaller Cities
	<u> </u>	Vacant Alternate	
Smaller Cities – Position 2	<u> </u>	Hon. John Escoto City of Shenandoah	Smaller Cities
	<u> </u>	Hon. Dusty Thiele-Alternate City of Katy	
Smaller Cities – Position 3	<u> X </u>	Hon. Sally Branson City of Friendswood	Smaller Cities
	<u> </u>	Hon. Ross Gordon-Alternate City of Bellaire	
The Woodlands Township	<u> X </u>	Dr. Shelley Sekula-Gibbs Board Member -The Woodlands Township Board	The Woodlands Township
	<u> </u>	Craig Eissler-Alternate	
Brazoria County	<u> X </u>	Matt Hanks, JD, P.E. County Engineer	Brazoria County
	<u> </u>	Honorable David Linder – Alternate	
Chambers County	<u> X </u>	Honorable Ryan Dagley County Commissioner	Chambers County
	<u> </u>	Honorable Tommy Hammond-Alternate	
Fort Bend County	<u> X </u>	Honorable Grady Prestage County Commissioner, 1st Vice Chair	Fort Bend County
	<u> </u>	Stacy Slawinski, P.E. – Alternate	

<u>AGENCY</u>		<u>VOTING MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Galveston County	<u> </u>	Honorable Robin Armstrong County Commissioner	Galveston County
	<u> </u>	Honorable Joe Giusti– Alternate	
Harris County Position No. 1	<u> </u>	Honorable Adrian Garcia County Commissioner, Pct. 2	Harris County
	<u> X </u>	Dr. Milton Rahman – Alternate	
Harris County Position No. 2	<u> </u>	Honorable Lesley Briones-Secretary County Commissioner, Pct. 4	Harris County
	<u> X </u>	Roberto Treviño, P.E. – Alternate	
Liberty County	<u> </u>	Honorable Jay Knight County Judge	Liberty County
	<u> </u>	Honorable Greg Arthur - Alternate	
Montgomery County	<u> X </u>	Honorable Mark Keough County Judge	Montgomery County
	<u> </u>	Matt Gray – Alternate	
Waller County	<u> X </u>	Honorable Justin Beckendorff County Commissioner – Chair	Waller County
	<u> </u>	Kendric Jones- Alternate	
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	<u> </u>	Elizabeth Gonzalez Brock METRO Chair	METRO
	<u> X </u>	Thomas Jasien-Alternate	
TxDOT-Houston	<u> X </u>	Glenn Allbritton, P.E. District Engineer	TxDOT Houston District
	<u> </u>	Varuna Singh, P.E.– Alternate	
TxDOT-Beaumont	<u> </u>	Ana I. Mijares, P.E. District Engineer	TxDOT Beaumont District
	<u> X </u>	Lisa Collins, P.E. – Alternate	
Port Freeport	<u> </u>	Phyllis Saathoff Executive Director	Port Freeport
	<u> X </u>	Rob Lowe-Alternate	
Port Houston	<u> </u>	Charlie Jenkins Chief Executive Officer	Port Houston
	<u> X </u>	Kerrick Henny-Alternate	

AGENCY

Gulf Coast Rail District

 X

VOTING MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Jon Keeney
Mayor-GCRD Board Member
Veronica Chapa-Gorczyński-Alternate

REPRESENTING

Gulf Coast Rail District

 31

Total Voting Membership

 22

Voting Membership Present

 16

Required Quorum

AGENCY

Texas State Senate
Freight Rail Interests
Texas State Legislator
Wharton County

 X

EX-OFFICIOS

Hon. Carol Alvarado
Clint Schelbitzki
Hon Dennis Paul
Hon. Phillip Spenrath

REPRESENTING

8-County Region
Union Pacific
8-County Region
Wharton County

NON-VOTING

H-GAC
TxDOT-Houston

Chuck Wemple
Catherine McCreight

H-GAC
TxDOT-Houston