

## **APPENDIX G**

### **Excerpt from the H-GAC TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN (TIP Information only)**



## Public Meetings

Meetings to receive public comment will be held prior to the adoption or major amendment of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan or Transportation Improvement Program. Public meetings for other significant plans such as the UPWP and the Transportation Public Involvement Plan will also be held and are further described in other sections of this document. All public meetings shall be held in locations accessible to the disabled and near bus routes in counties with mass transit. Reasonable accommodations for those with hearing disabilities and/or other disabilities will be made for these public meetings, provided that H-GAC receives at least a 24 hour notice. A yearly schedule of Transportation Policy Council meeting dates and the Transportation Improvement Program development schedule shall be published in regional newspapers and the H-GAC Transportation newsletter. H-GAC shall hold an annual public meeting to review the planning development process with the general public.

In addition to the centrally located public meetings that are held regarding the Transportation Improvement Program or the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the opportunity to have a public meeting in the outlying areas will be advertised in their local daily and weekly newspapers if meetings have not already been scheduled in those areas. If there is a response to these advertisements, a meeting will be scheduled in the appropriate part of the region.

## Responses to Public Comment

A 30 day public comment period will be observed prior to the adoption or major amendment of the Transportation Improvement Program, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the Unified Planning Work Program and any other significant regional transportation plans. A record of all comments and their responses regarding the Transportation Improvement Program and Metropolitan Transportation Plan shall be kept and printed as an appendix in the final documents.

## Advertisements and News Releases

H-GAC will strive to place display advertisements or legal notices in general circulation daily and weekly newspapers throughout the region and the Texas Register thirty days prior to the public meetings for adoption of regional plans and programs. There will be a minimum of ten days' notice of these meetings. News releases will be issued, throughout the region or in the appropriate part of the region, to newspapers, the electronic media, civic organizations, elected officials and magazines interested in health and air quality issues in the eight county region regarding regional planning activities and public meetings. Articles will also be submitted to the editors of newsletters for organizations such as transit authorities and bicyclist interest groups.

## TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the implementation mechanism by which the objectives of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan are reached. Transportation projects requiring federal funding are ranked each year by the Technical Advisory Committee which provides its recommendations to the Transportation Policy Council. The Technical Advisory Committee prioritizes projects according to their benefit to the region and conformity to the goals of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, as well as compliance with air quality and environmental regulations, consideration of land use issues, congestion management needs and economic impact to the area.

The TIP process begins with an advertised call for proposed projects. Several public meetings are held to discuss project proposals, the project ranking and selection process, and to review air quality conformity analysis of projects. A 30 day public comment period and a public meeting are held prior to adoption of the Transportation Improvement Program. Public meetings and an additional 30 day comment period will also be observed as a result of a major amendment to the TIP. A major amendment is classified as the addition or a deletion of a project with an implementation cost exceeding \$1 million, *excluding rehabilitation, maintenance and safety projects*. Public comment on project additions or deletions of less than \$1 million may be sought at the discretion of the Transportation Policy Council. As long as a project's description, scope or expected environmental impact have not materially changed, the Transportation Policy Council may approve changes to project funding without benefit of a separate public meeting. Written comments on the Transportation Improvement Program and their responses will be included in an appendix to the final plan.

