

THE 2035 HOUSTON-GALVESTON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN



Bridging OUR COMMUNITIES

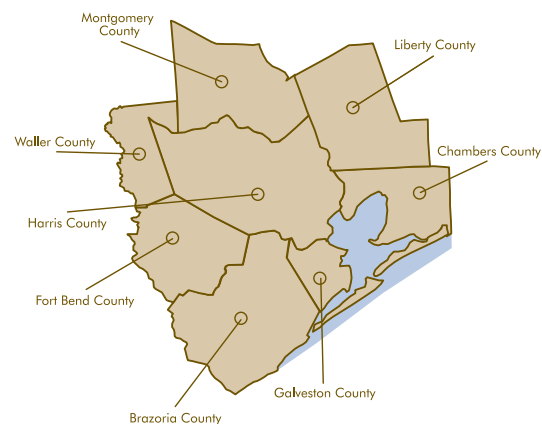
THE 2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The eight-county Houston region will experience a surge of more than 3 million new residents over the next 30 years, with 1 million coming in the next decade. To accommodate these new residents we will create 1.5 million more jobs and will need to build 1.7 million new homes across the region.

In addition to jobs and houses, these new residents will want what most of us want: safe and attractive communities, affordable housing, competitive job opportunities, a healthy environment, good schools, and a transportation system that provides easy access to work, school and other activities.

The 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) explores the balance of future growth and development with economic vitality and livability while making the most efficient use of transportation investment dollars. It is our region's \$128 billion blueprint to integrate freeways and tollways with a state-of-the-art transit system. It also recognizes the importance of linking land use and transportation public policy to afford residents more choices in the way they travel.

The 2035 RTP began with a public outreach effort, called Envision Houston Region (EHR), a broad based public outreach initiative involving hundreds of residents, elected officials, developers and others who participated in a series of visioning workshops. Participants in Envision Houston Region expressed a desire for jobs closer to their homes, more travel options and a concern for the environment. The plan reflects these desires as guiding principles for transportation infrastructure development. Ultimately the success of this plan will be measured by our ability to implement strategies that enhance our quality of life by reducing time spent in traffic while also protecting the air and other natural resources.



The eight-county H-GAC region includes Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller counties.

2035 RTP GOALS

- ⊙ IMPROVE MOBILITY; REDUCE CONGESTION
- ⊙ IMPROVE ACCESS TO JOBS, HOMES AND SERVICES
- ⊙ INCREASE TRANSIT OPTIONS
- ⊙ COORDINATE TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE PLANS
- ⊙ CREATE A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.2035PLAN.ORG.

MEETING THE RTP GOALS

Meeting these goals will require a variety of plans, programs and projects. The RTP recommendations are divided into four strategies: System Expansion, Demand Management, Operations Management, and Livable Centers.

SYSTEM EXPANSION

Even with our extensive transportation system, we routinely experience times when there are more people on the road than the system has the capacity to handle. The 2035 RTP proposes to address this by thoughtfully expanding select roadways, growing successful bus and rail transit services, and expanding bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

ROADWAY SYSTEM

The 2035 RTP relies on the development of managed lanes to improve traffic flow on many of the region's major corridors. Managed lanes combine access control, number of passengers and pricing strategies to maintain free flow conditions. The plan adds 6,100 new arterials and 1,420 tollway lane miles to the current system.

TRANSIT SYSTEM

As regional population and employment continues to grow, transit is an increasingly important tool for improving mobility. The 2035 RTP recommends \$18 billion in capital investments across the region. Key projects include:

- ⊙ Downtown intermodal terminal
- ⊙ 81 miles of light rail
- ⊙ 84 miles of commuter rail transit
- ⊙ 40 miles of Signature Bus Service
- ⊙ 10 new transit facilities

Outside Metro's service area, the 2035 RTP supports expansion of:

- ⊙ Express commuter bus service from Fort Bend and Montgomery counties
- ⊙ Demand response service in portions of Brazoria, Galveston, Fort Bend, Harris and Waller counties

MAJOR CORRIDOR RECOMMENDATIONS

SH 99 – \$5.7 BILLION

- ⊙ Construct toll lanes and interchanges on SH 99 (The Grand Parkway)

US 290 AND HEMPSTEAD HWY – \$4.6 BILLION

- ⊙ Widen main lanes from Loop 610 N to SH 99
- ⊙ Construct commuter rail from Downtown to SH 99
- ⊙ Construct managed lanes along Hempstead Highway

I-45N – \$3.1 BILLION

- ⊙ Reconstruct and add managed lanes from US 59 to SH 242
- ⊙ Construct light rail from downtown to Intercontinental Airport

SH 35 – \$3.6 BILLION

- ⊙ Construct tollway from IH 45 S to SH 99/SH 35 bypass

SH 288 – \$2.6 BILLION

- ⊙ Construct managed lanes from US 59 to SH 99
- ⊙ Construct guided rapid transit from Alameda Rd. to Downtown

US 59S – \$1.5 BILLION

- ⊙ Widen main lanes from SH 99 to Wharton County Line
- ⊙ Widen main lanes from Spur 527 to SH 288

I-45S – \$1.7 BILLION

- ⊙ Widen main lanes from Loop 610 S to Texas City Wye
- ⊙ Construct managed lanes from Loop 610 S to FM 518
- ⊙ Construct commuter rail along SH 3 from Galveston to Downtown

SH 146 – \$1.4 BILLION

- ⊙ Widen main lanes from Red Bluff to Harris County line
- ⊙ Construct managed lanes from Fairmont Pkwy. to FM 646

SH 249 – \$794 MILLION

- ⊙ Construct toll lanes from Spring Cypress to SH 105

US 90A – \$389 MILLION

- ⊙ Construct commuter rail line from Loop 610 to Rosenberg

- ⊙ 5 new park and ride facilities in Brazoria, Fort Bend, Montgomery and Liberty counties

These recommendations will result in 800,000 daily transit boardings by 2035.

DEMAND MANAGEMENT

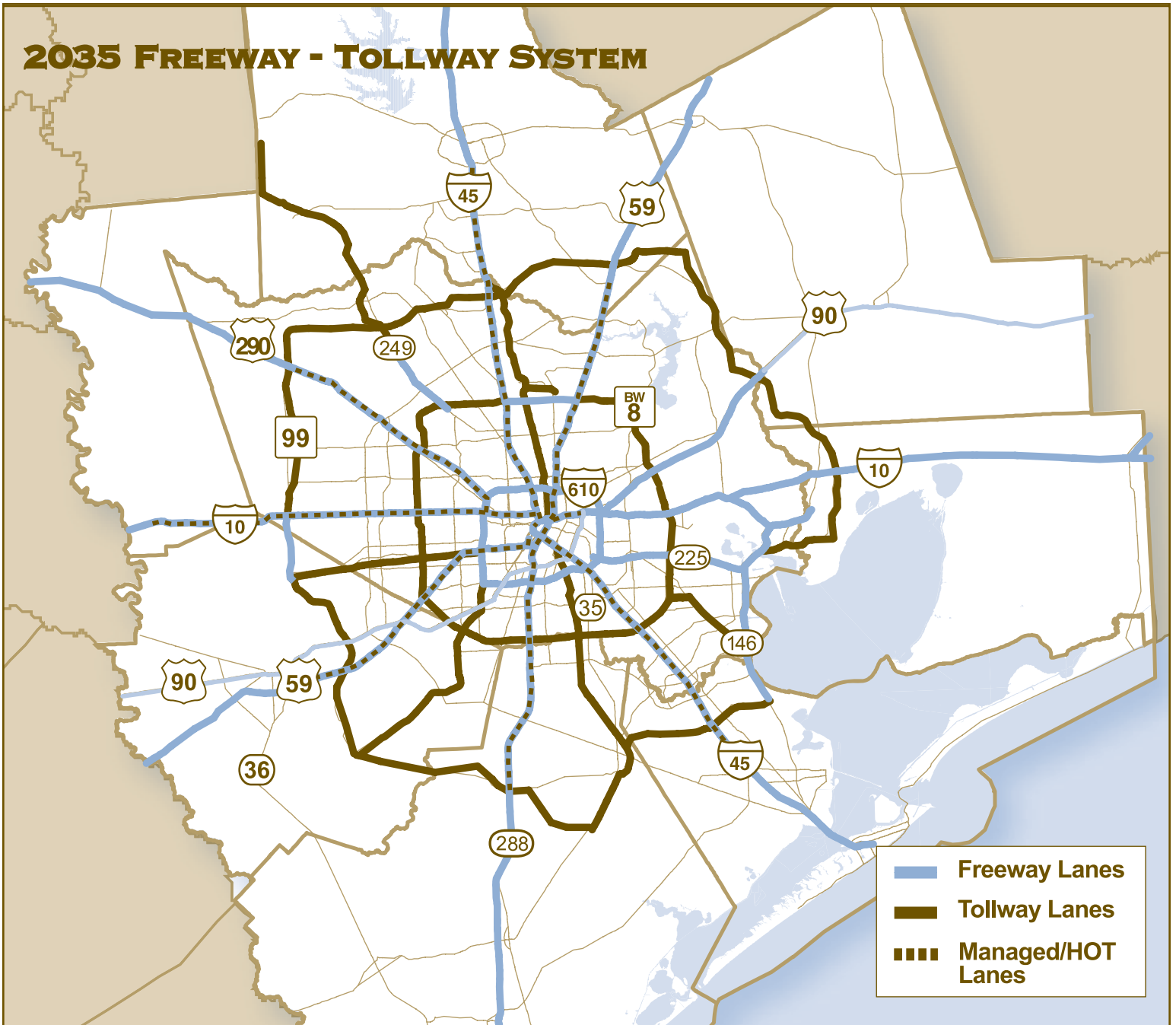
Demand Management is an important tool for reducing congestion. It focuses on moving people, rather than vehicles. Such programs encourage increased utilization of other modes, non-peak period travel, and alternate routing. The 2035 RTP recommends a variety of demand management strategies:

COMMUTE SOLUTIONS

Commute Solutions supports the promotion of transit, vanpools, carpools, telework and other transportation-related options:

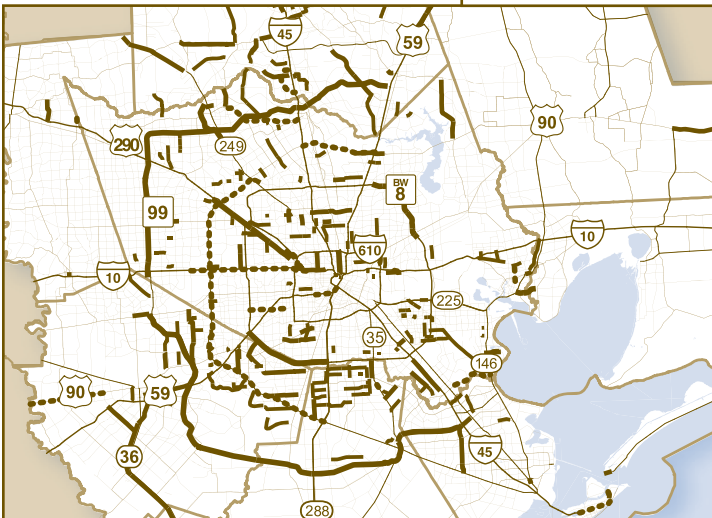
- ⊙ \$7 million annually for vanpools/carpools
- ⊙ \$500 million to support teleworking and Transportation Management Organizations

2035 FREEWAY - TOLLWAY SYSTEM



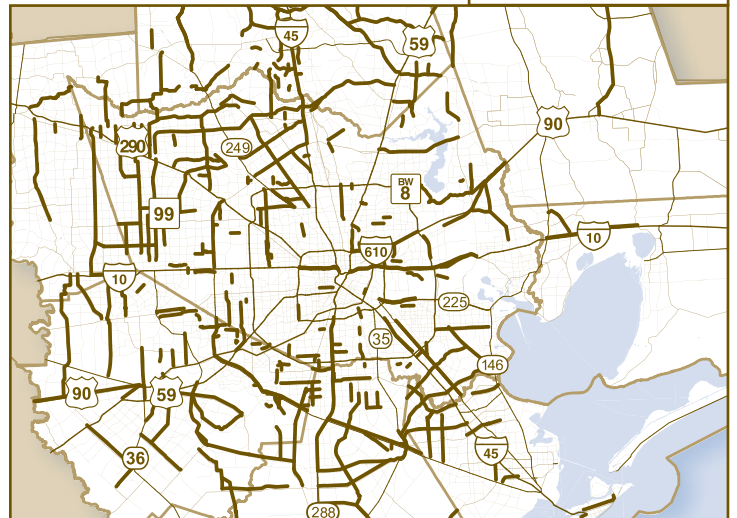
2035 RTP PROGRAMMED PROJECTS (2008-2011 TIP)

- Roadway Projects
- - - Traffic Signalization Projects



2035 RTP PLANNED PROJECTS

- Roadway Projects



OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

Operations management maximizes the effectiveness of existing roadways through low-cost techniques such as traffic signal synchronization, incident management and traveler information systems. These techniques complement and support the investment in the expansion and the region's roadways and transit systems.

SMART STREETS

Smart Street technologies include: traffic light synchronization, deployment of medians, constructing or extending turn bays, consolidation of duplicate driveways and, as appropriate, grade separation of some traffic lanes at major intersections.

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS (ITS)

The Houston-Galveston region has one of the more advanced intelligent transportation systems in the nation. Houston TranStar anchors the regional system. The 2035 RTP provides \$627 million for the regional ITS system designed to coordinate and connect systems throughout the eight counties.

SAFETY PROGRAM

One important objective of the 2035 RTP is to improve traffic safety throughout the region. The 2035 RTP identifies \$387 million to:

- ⊙ Improve at-grade railroad crossings
- ⊙ Add shoulders on roadways
- ⊙ Install roadway lighting and signage

SECURITY-EVACUATION

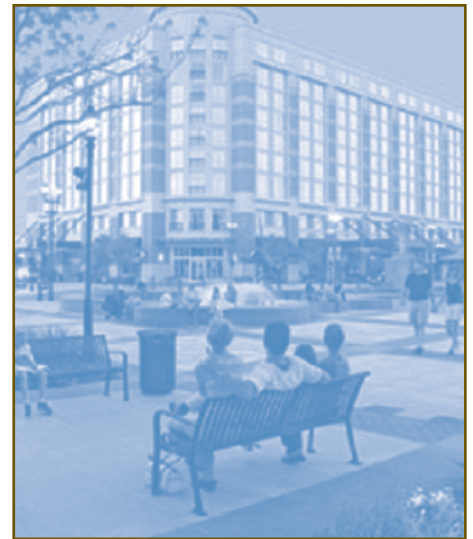
The regional evacuation plan ensures the following elements will be in place should a catastrophic event occur in the region:

- ⊙ Designated fuel stops
- ⊙ State directed fuel resources
- ⊙ Pre-positioned tow trucks
- ⊙ Buses at pre-designated locations
- ⊙ Pre-arranged destinations and lodging

LIVABLE CENTERS

As a result of Envision Houston Region, the 2035 RTP promotes a 3Cs development strategy: Centers, Connections and Context. This strategy supports transit, pedestrian and bicycle options and ties transportation to surrounding land uses. The 2035 RTP supports:

- ⊙ \$59 million for livable centers projects from 2008-2011
- ⊙ \$22 million of additional support for long-range livable centers projects
- ⊙ \$295 million in bicycle and pedestrian improvements



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

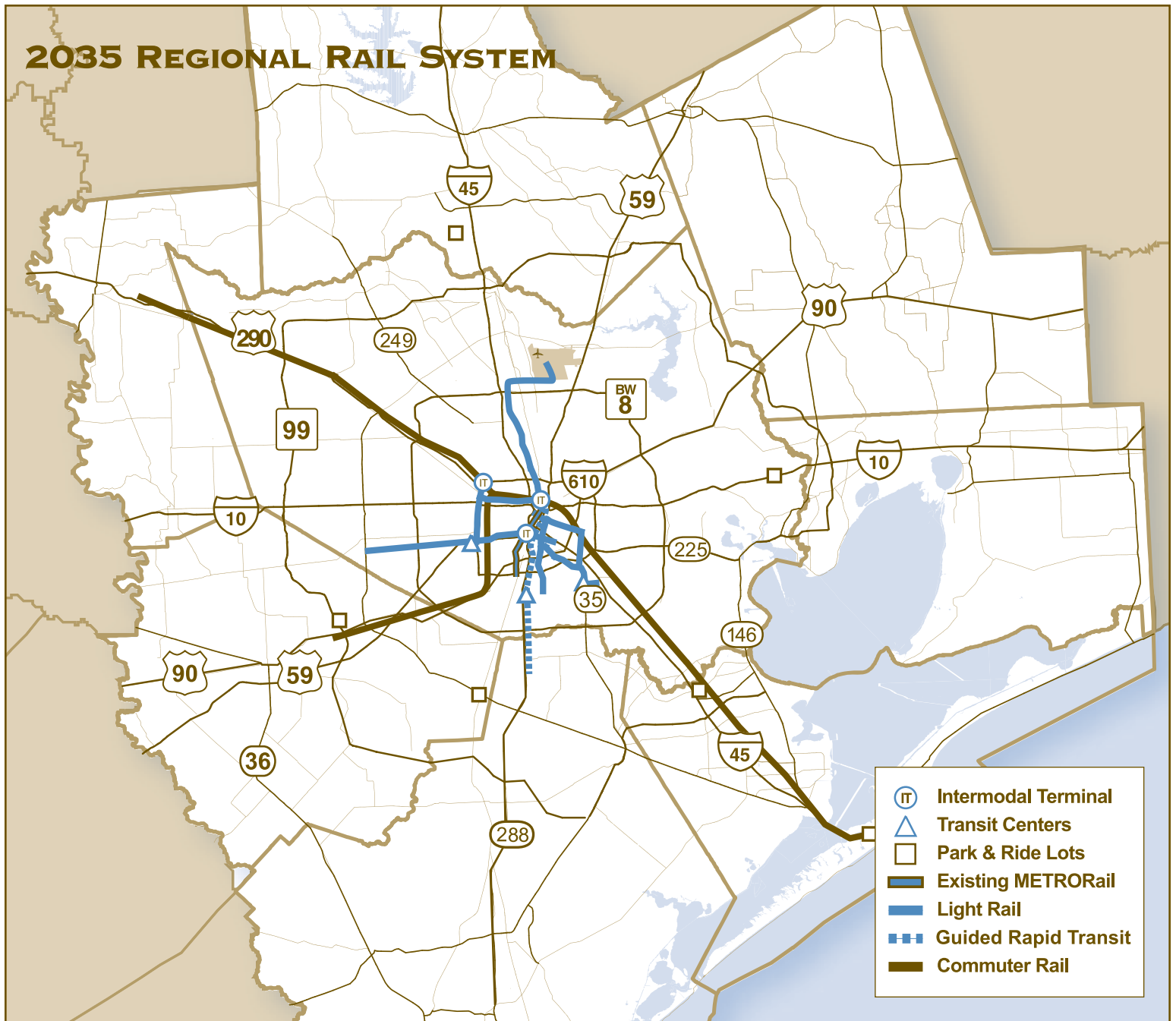
Envision Houston Region participants overwhelmingly voiced their concern for protection of the region's greenspace and natural resources, including wetlands, prairies, forests and bayous. The 2035 RTP identifies sensitive environmental areas, the first step in a process to link project plans with environmental protection. The 2035 RTP also supports a variety of programs designed to reduce vehicle emissions.

- ⊙ Clean Air Action - \$1 million annually to support emissions reduction programs
- ⊙ Clean Vehicles/Clean Cities - \$460 million through 2035 to replace aging diesel engines and support clean technologies

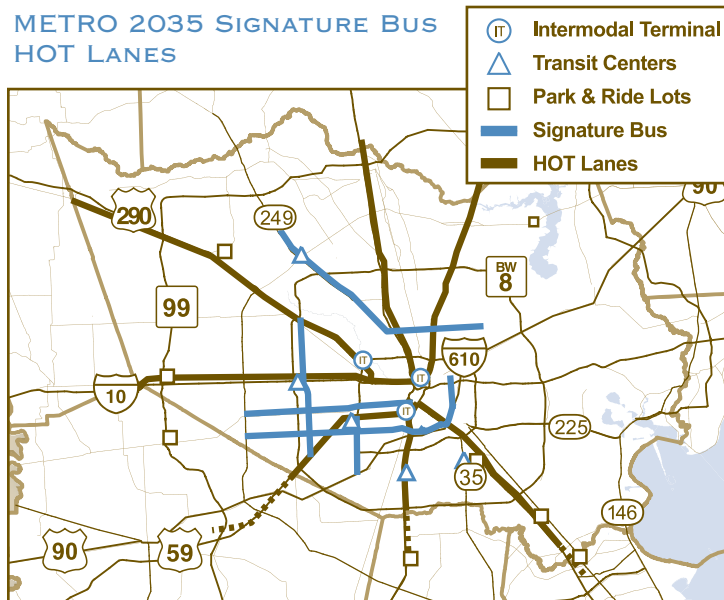
AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY

One goal of the 2035 RTP is to create a healthier environment in which the region's residents may live, work and play. The air quality conformity test is used to measure the impact of the 2035 RTP in terms of vehicle emissions. Since the region currently exceeds national ambient air quality standards for ground level ozone, the conformity test focuses on its precursors, volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NOx).

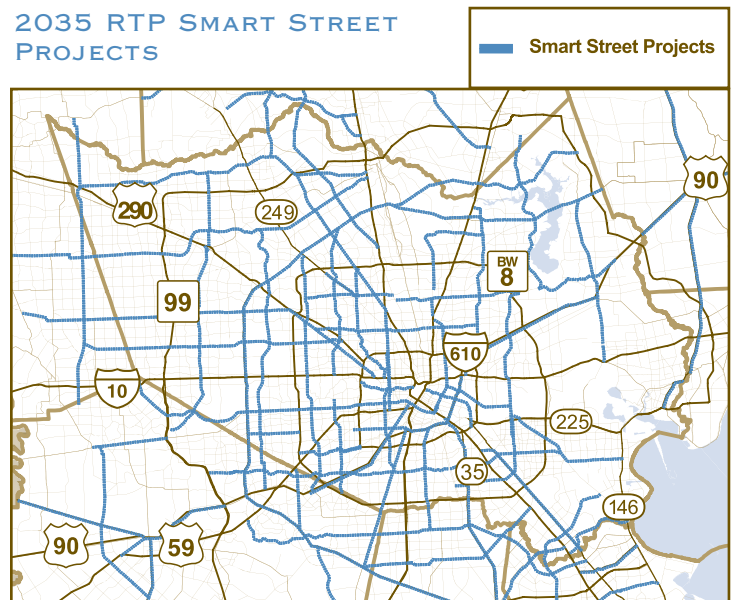
2035 REGIONAL RAIL SYSTEM



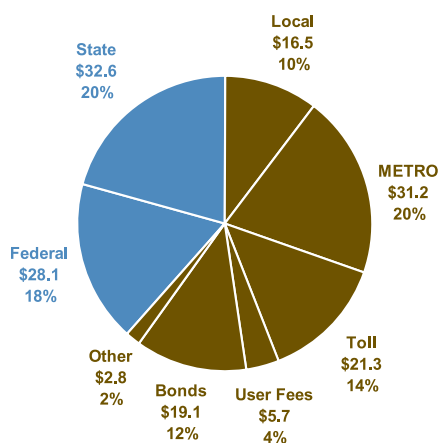
METRO 2035 SIGNATURE BUS HOT LANES



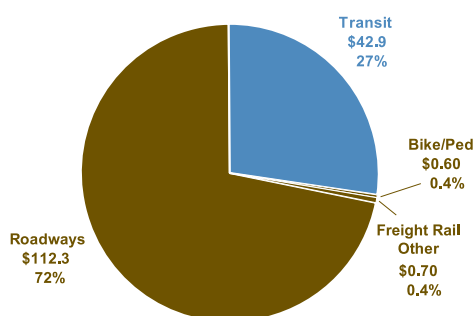
2035 RTP SMART STREET PROJECTS



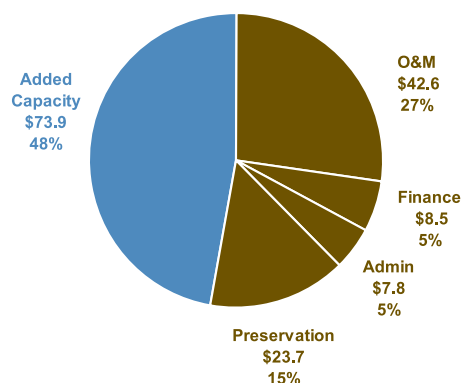
Revenue Sources in \$ Billions



Expenditures by Mode in \$ Billions

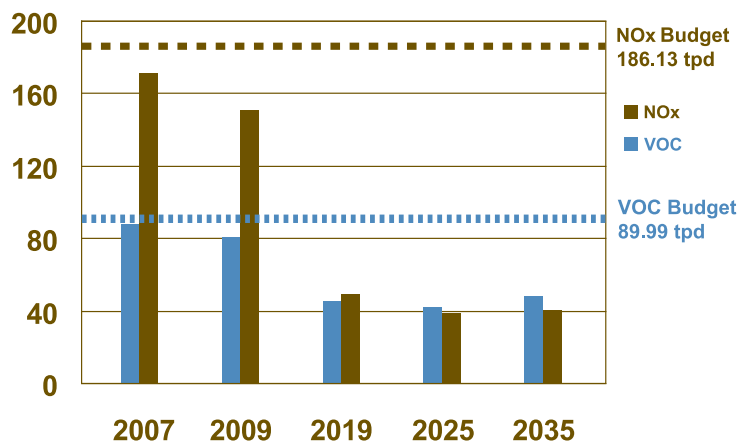


Expenditures By Category in \$ Billions



The programs and projects included in the 2035 RTP result in VOC and NOx levels well below the caps or budgets established by the State. This positive result can be attributed in part to cleaner engines and less idling time.

Emissions Budget in tons per day



FINANCING THE 2035 RTP

The 2035 project recommendations are limited to those that can be funded from reasonably expected revenues. The capital, operating, maintenance and rehabilitation costs of the region's transportation systems over the life of the plan are compared against the forecast of available revenues from each implementing agency.

Revenues for the 2035 RTP, estimated at \$157 billion, come from a combination of federal, state and local sources. As in previous plans, local revenues represent the largest share of funding. Approximately 60 percent of all transportation revenue comes from local sources (including the METRO sales tax). Federal dollars account for less than 20 percent of revenue. Revenue attributed to tollways continues to grow, accounting for roughly 14 percent of total projected revenue by 2035.

Proposed expenditures in the 2035 RTP focus on maintaining and operating the existing transportation system efficiently and making strategic investments to keep pace with the region's projected growth. Consequently, \$66 billion—42 percent—will go toward the ongoing operations, maintenance, rehabilitation and preservation of the region's transportation infrastructure. The remaining expenditures include close to \$74 billion (48 percent) to expand our highways, transit and local roads.

For the first time, the costs for the major state facilities programmed in the 2035 RTP include right of way acquisition, environmental mitigation and other direct costs, as well as construction costs. Revenues and costs for the 2035 RTP are also reported in year of expenditure dollars for the first time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.2035PLAN.ORG.



The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials in the 13-county Gulf Coast Planning Region. The Gulf Coast Planning Region consists of Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties. Organized in 1966, H-GAC provides a forum for the discussion of area-wide concerns, promoting regional cooperation through comprehensive planning and services to local governments.