

9. COMMUTE SOLUTIONS MONTH

BACKGROUND

Commute Solutions is the region's travel demand management program that provides marketing, education, and outreach about transportation options in the region that can help reduce congestion and improve air quality. The Commute Solutions program is administered on behalf of the Metropolitan Planning Organization in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation, regional transportation agencies, area employers, higher education, local and county governments, and other community organizations.

For the past two years, to celebrate this month, the Commute Solutions program has piloted an Ozone Action Campaign in partnership with organizations across the region. The Campaign provides marketing to encourage community members to make choices that can reduce ground level ozone during the peak ozone season.

Historically, September is one of the worst months for air quality in our region. During the pilot, conducted in September 2024 & 2025, transit ridership at participating agencies increased, and continued into the following months, helping to reduce congestion and lower pollution during this critical time.

CURRENT SITUATION

Houston-Galveston Area Council staff are working with the Texas Department of Transportation to continue this campaign as part of Commute Solutions Month 2026 and build on last year's momentum of educating and spreading awareness of how commuters can reduce air pollution emissions. Staff are requesting the Transportation Policy Council recognize September 2026 as the region's Commute Solutions Month. During the month, H-GAC staff plan to conduct the Ozone Action Campaign, "Breathe Easy September", that will:

- **Encourage** the region to try transportation strategies that can reduce ground level ozone during the peak ozone season (ex: Trip chaining, taking transit, carpool, vanpool, fueling up at night).
- **Partner with area transit providers** to provide funding support to help people try transit on Fridays in September.
- **Partner with additional agencies such** as Air Alliance and the Texas Department of Transportation's Connect Smart program to raise awareness about the campaign and strategies that can reduce ground level ozone during this time.

ACTION REQUESTED

Transportation Policy Council approval of Resolution No. 2026-18 in support of September as Commute Solutions Month



Resolution

No. 2026-18

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REGIONAL COMMUTE SOLUTIONS PROGRAM AND RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2026 AS COMMUTE SOLUTIONS MONTH IN THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA.

WHEREAS, the goal of the Commute Solutions Program is to reduce traffic congestion and improve regional air quality by encouraging transportation options that reduce vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled; and

WHEREAS, the Commute Solutions Program will provide organizations and the commuters they serve with information about carpooling, vanpooling, regional mass transit, teleworking and other transportation alternatives and strategies that can improve air quality during peak ozone season; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Council supports the goals of the Commute Solutions Program and H-GAC's involvement in partnerships with other area agencies and businesses to promote transportation alternatives and strategies to improve air quality; and

WHEREAS, the Commute Solutions Program, enters its 32nd year, in September 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Transportation Policy Council of the Houston-Galveston Area Council that:

1. The Transportation Policy Council hereby recognizes September 2026 as Commute Solutions Month and expresses its support for the Commute Solutions Program during its annual celebration.
2. This resolution is effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 24th day of July 2026, at a regularly called meeting of the Transportation Policy Council.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Hon. Justin Beckendorff, Chairman
Transportation Policy Council

Hon. Sally Branson, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council