

# H-GAC's Role in SIP Development

**Graciela Lubertino, PhD**  
**Houston-Galveston Area Council**



# What is H-GAC?

- The Houston-Galveston Area Council is the region-wide voluntary association of local governments in the 13-county Gulf Coast Planning region of Texas. Its service area is 12,500 square miles and contains more than 5.7 million people.
- Mission: to serve as the instrument of local government cooperation, promoting the region's orderly development and the safety and welfare of its citizens.



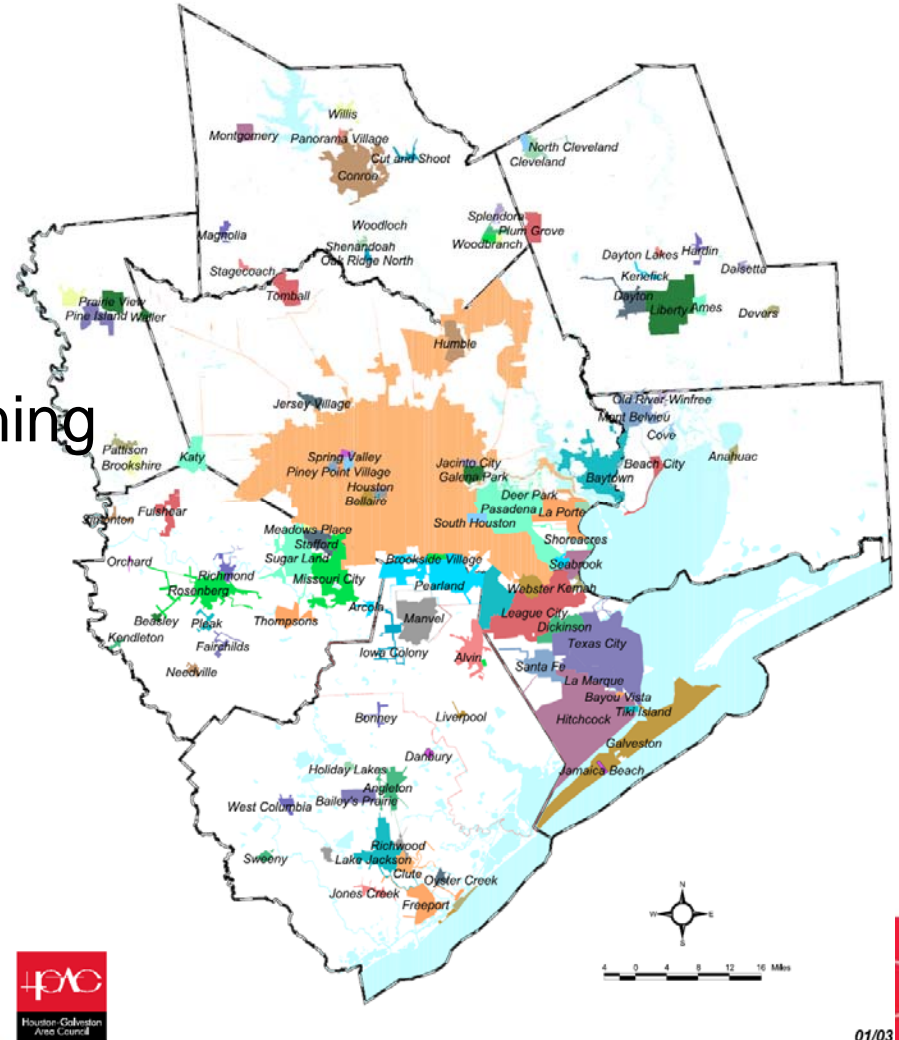
# What is H-GAC?

- H-GAC is governed by a Board of Directors composed of local elected officials who serve on the governing bodies of member local governments.
- H-GAC provides many tools: information, region-wide plans, and services to support the region's local governments.



# H-GAC Services

- transportation planning
- cooperative purchasing
- homeland security
- air and water quality planning
- forecasting and mapping
- workforce development
- criminal justice
- 9-1-1
- trauma care planning
- small business finance



# H-GAC-Transportation

- Serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation planning in the 8-county Houston-Galveston-Brazoria area.
- Includes: Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties. **These counties are also the 8-hr ozone non-attainment counties.**
- H-GAC's Transportation Policy Council approves the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

# H-GAC-Transportation

- Link between local government projects and the SIP:
  - conformity
  - control strategies



# Conformity

- For non-attainment regions, the transportation plans need to “conform” to air quality goals set up for the region.
- Conformity to the Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets from the SIP.
- A new conformity determination must be performed any time a transportation plan is amended in a significant manner, when a region’s or state’s air quality goals change, and/or every four years.

# Control Strategies

- The SIP must include air pollution control measures that collectively demonstrate how an area can attain a federal standard.
- TCEQ works with H-GAC and regional stakeholders to compile comprehensive lists of potential control measures for evaluation and ultimately for inclusion in the plan.

# Control Strategies

- H-GAC is currently providing assistance to TCEQ in the preparation of local control strategies for on-road and non-road mobile sources for inclusion in the SIP.
- These local control strategies are mainly Voluntary Mobile Emission Reductions Projects (VMEPs) and Transportation Control Measures (TCMs)

# Information

- Documentation:

<http://www.h-gac.com/taq/airquality/sip>

Next TCM/VMEPs stakeholder meeting: 8/11

Next RAQPC meeting: 7/31

- Contacts:

Shelley Whitworth, 713-499-6695 [shelley.whitworth@h-gac.com](mailto:shelley.whitworth@h-gac.com)

Graciela Lubertino, 713-993-4582 [Graciela.Lubertino@h-gac.com](mailto:Graciela.Lubertino@h-gac.com)

Andrew DeCandis, 832-681-2549 [Andrew.DeCandis@h-gac.com](mailto:Andrew.DeCandis@h-gac.com)

