

## **DRAFT 2011-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

### **Background**

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the implementation tool for projects and programs in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). All highway and transit projects seeking federal or state funding assistance for the eight county Houston-Galveston metropolitan region must receive the Transportation Policy Council's (TPC) approval for inclusion in the TIP. The TIP is a four year implementation program identifying specific projects, their scopes, implementation priority and federal, state and local funding. Because of the importance of many locally funded transportation projects and the need to maximize coordination of construction activities, the TIP also lists (for information only) locally funded regionally significant projects.

### **Current Situation**

Programming authority for the draft 2011-2014 TIP is substantially lower for federal-aid roadway improvements than the 2008-2011 TIP. This is due to revised financial forecasts developed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the uncertainty surrounding the authorization of a new federal transportation bill. (The previous transportation bill, SAFETEA-LU, set to expire in 2009, has been extended through the end of calendar year 2010 at FY 2009 funding levels.)

In order to address the reduction in federal and state funding, the TIP Subcommittee reviewed Surface Transportation Metro Mobility (STP-MM) and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program (CMAQ) projects for readiness for contract lettings. Priority was given to "ready" projects programmed in the 2008-2011 TIP. The 2008-2011 TIP included a list of contingency projects. Those projects were considered if there were no currently programmed projects ready for letting and dollars were available in any fiscal year.

Projects in other highway program funding categories reflect TxDOT's draft Unified Transportation Program (UTP) through FY 2014. Transit formula funds are programmed in the draft 2011-2014 TIP at estimated FY 2010 levels.

As information become available on the project listing, material will be posted to the H-GAC Transportation Website. <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/committees/TAC/2010/04-apr/default.aspx>

### **Action Requested**

Staff requests a recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee to the TPC for approval of the 2011-2014 TIP for release for public comment.