

REGIONAL GOODS MOVEMENT STUDY

Background

The Houston-Galveston Area Council is undertaking a regional goods movement plan. The plan will involve a comprehensive evaluation of the multi-modal goods movement system and address system needs and issues in order to increase mobility and access for both commuters and freight. The central goals of the plan are to enhance regional freight mobility, develop a safe and efficient goods movement system, and mitigate goods movement system impacts where possible.

In February 2009, H-GAC's Transportation Policy Council allocated \$2.5 million for the study from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds appropriated to the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Based upon the proposed scope of work, staff expects the contract award to be closer to \$2 million with approximately \$500,000 reserved for Cube Cargo Model Development.

Current Situation

H-GAC and the Consultant team of Cambridge Systematics, Halcrow, Dannenbaum, Knudson, Alliance Transportation Group, and American Transportation Research Institute recently kicked off the study in March. This month, the Consultant team is conducting public and private sector interviews to solicit information and insight into the issues, concerns, and opportunities with freight in the region. The team is also collecting data through web surveys and Transearch Commodity Flows, as well as reviewing existing truck counts and crash data.

Paula Dowell, the project manager, will be presenting the project scope, data needs, and a timeline for tasks.

Action Requested

Information Only