

## RECOMMENDATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE DRAFT 2035 RTP UPDATE

### **Background**

The 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was adopted by the Transportation Policy Council in October 2007. Future revenues for transportation expenditures were forecast to be \$156.7 B. Since that time, new forecasts have been developed for the state. The latest state forecast predicts much lower revenue from state and federal motor fuels taxes. For the Houston region, the revenue forecast through 2035 is approximately half of the previously adopted forecast.

Throughout August, H-GAC conducted an outreach effort that focused on commissioner's courts and chambers of commerce throughout the region. The purpose of the outreach was to present information on the state's revised forecast and to discuss alternative funding scenarios. Staff presented three scenarios:

**Baseline** – Represents TxDOT's revised program of projects consistent with the Unified Transportation Plan (UTP) with the addition of full build out for US 290; locally sponsored projects (both highway and transit) remain the same as 2035 RTP.

**Enhanced** – Identifies additional roadway projects that could be funded with new or "enhanced" revenue sources.

**Full** – Includes the remaining projects in the current 2035 RTP

In addition to the meetings, a transportation survey was posted online to solicit public input on several revenue raising strategies. The results of the survey were inconclusive. There was no consensus on new funding options.

### **Current Situation**

At its August meeting, the Transportation Policy Council approved the Baseline revenue forecast as its preferred revenue forecast for the 2035 RTP Update. Staff has been working with the state and local governments to update the program of projects in the 2035 RTP. Many projects on the state system were removed as a consequence of the revised revenue forecast. Updates have been made to project costs, limits, and scope. Some locally funded projects were removed because they have been completed since 2007. The result is a program of projects totally approximately \$86 billion.

### **Action Requested**

Staff requests a recommendation from the Technical Advisory Committee to the Transportation Policy Council to release the draft 2035 RTP Update for public comment.