

CHAMBERS COUNTY TRANSIT PLAN

Background

The need for a transit plan to address the mobility challenges of residents in Chambers County (the County) was identified as a priority in the Gulf Coast Regional Transit Coordination Plan that was submitted to TxDOT in December 2006. H-GAC, working with Chambers County residents and officials, developed the Chambers County Transit Plan (available at www.h-gac.com/transportation).

Current Situation

Based upon input from the public and stakeholders in Chambers County, including residents, businesses and public service organizations, the following recommendations are included in the Chambers County Transit Plan.

SHORT- TERM

- 1) County-wide General Public Demand-Response Service - acquisition of a third transit vehicle to provide demand response services in the eastern portion of the county
- 2) Commuter shuttle connection between the Baytown Park and Ride, the Wal-Mart/Cedar Bayou Distribution Center and other employment locations near Mont Belvieu - a starting point for the development of a more comprehensive express bus program along IH 10.
- 3) Implementation of Commute Solutions Program strategies such as new vanpools, carpools, and telework programs in coordination with the major employers in Chambers County (where feasible).
- 4) Development of a **Car-Ownership Program** similar to the Ways to Work Program.
- 5) Beyond the short-term project period, the County could consider either joining or creating a rural transit district.

MID-TERM

- 6) Evaluate the Feasibility of Potential Park-and-Ride services in the following areas:
 - Westbound towards Baytown, downtown Houston CBD and the Houston Ship Channel;
 - Eastbound towards Port Arthur and Beaumont; and
 - North-South connecting Chambers and Liberty Counties along the SH 146 corridor.

LONG-TERM

- 7) A Transit Feasibility Assessment of an Intermodal Transfer Center near the intersection of Interstate 10 and SH 146.

Action Requested

Approval of the Chambers County Transit Plan by the Transportation Policy Council to enable the use of federal and/or State funds to support the transit system improvements in Chambers County.