

## **Reauthorization of the Regional Safety Council**

### **Background**

The Transportation Policy Council approved the creation of the Regional Safety Council (RSC) in October 2005. The RSC's purpose is to advise the Houston-Galveston area's Transportation Policy Council (TPC) on the development of its safety program as well as to promote safety coordination with other planning activities. The overall goal is to reduce the number and severity of crashes in the metropolitan region by encouraging safety education, effective law enforcement, safety engineering, efficient emergency service activities, and infrastructure investments.

Some of the major initiatives implemented by the RSC include, but are not limited to:

- Work with area law enforcement and community advocacy groups on public outreach campaigns and enforcement activities regarding aggressive and impaired driving
- Three safety conferences, including the co-production of the first statewide conference
- Work with trucking companies to promote safe driving around commercial vehicles with the NO ZONE decal campaign
- A comprehensive assessment of the traffic safety situation in its State of Safety Reports
- Outreach initiative to the parents of over 300,000 children of the new child restraint law
- Joint involvement in a AAA pilot project working with area pediatricians to promote child safety in motor vehicles

Future activities planned for the next year for the RSC and the Safety Program include:

- Hot Spot studies for intersections with a high incidence of crashes
- The development of a DWI documentary geared towards teen drivers
- The development of an online crash information system

Perhaps the most beneficial outcome from the RSC was the fostering of collaboration between engineers, law enforcement, health professionals, advocates, the private sector, and planners on the subject of transportation safety that had not occurred in the past. In recognition of this effort, H-GAC's Transportation Safety Program won an award from the national Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) for Outstanding Collaboration in Metropolitan Transportation Planning.

### **Current Situation**

It has been four years since the TPC established the Regional Safety Council. As part of its bylaws, the RSC is to go through a sunset review at this time. In order to continue its efforts, the TPC must reauthorize the Regional Safety Council's charter.

### **Action Requested**

Approval of the Transportation Policy Council, to extend the Regional Safety Council's charter through November 2013, to be reassessed for continuation at that time.