

## Conroe Transit and Pedestrian Improvements Plan

### **Background**

The City of Conroe (City) population has passed the 50,000 level and continues to grow faster than growth projections have previously indicated. The City is facing the question: *How does the city increase high end economic job opportunities, develop residential communities to meet those increasing employer demands, and do so without resulting in negative effects of urban sprawl, preserving the environment and providing good access and mobility choices to its residents, businesses and visitors.*

The City embarked on a process to identify the priorities necessary to achieve their goal. This process resulted in the comprehensive economic and mobility strategy which evaluated the economic drivers, future residential opportunities, increased density and mixed use opportunities, and connectivity within and between the economic centers. Critical to accommodating the growth in residential, commercial, and retail development, is establishing regional and sub-regional transportation connections between important economic centers to provide needed access to goods and services, maximize economic potential, and minimize traffic congestion, delays, and cost.

Key to developing these centers of economic activity will be to protect the natural environment and limit the strain on community resources and services by developing the land use design in ways that encourage density with mixed-use functionality. In addition to identifying various transportation improvements, this comprehensive mobility strategy includes a financial plan that stakeholders can use to guide their efforts to secure federal and state funding to support the implementation of recommendations.

### **Current Situation**

The current transportation services in Conroe consist of a private carrier that provides service to elderly patrons and demand response service from the Brazos Transit District. There is also a Conroe Park & Ride for those residents commuting into Houston. There are currently no fixed-route transit options for local residents. This study investigated the need for transit in the downtown area and proposes short- and long-range transit solutions.

The City of Conroe has completed a downtown transit and pedestrian master plan as part of the comprehensive study and is working with HGAC and FTA to get a Letter of No Prejudice which will allow the City to start investing in the infrastructure now and preparing for transit. In order to have a successful transit system, the pedestrian infrastructure must be in place to support the riders before the service begins.

### **Action Requested**

For information only.