

**MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL  
FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION  
MANAGEMENT AREA**

DATE: Friday, October 29, 2010

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Houston-Galveston Area Council, 3555 Timmons Lane, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Conference Room A, Houston, Texas 77027

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Chairman James Patterson called the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

Secretary Tom Reid announced that there was a quorum; 14 members comprise a quorum. A quorum was declared present as recorded on the Roll Call included with these Minutes as Attachment 1.

INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Ed Emmett was honored with the prestigious Road Hand Award. It was presented by Texas Transportation Commissioner Ned S. Holmes. The Road Hand Award recognizes special individuals who have given their time, support and vision toward accomplishing important transportation programs and projects for their communities and the state of Texas.

Commissioner Holmes briefly addressed past recipients and acknowledged the achievements of Judge Ed Emmett. He added that Judge Emmett continues to be a key transportation leader in Houston – Galveston region.

Mr. Rick Scialdone, representing The Copperfield Coalition, addressed the SH 6 North Access Management Study. The Copperfield Coalition complimented the staff at H-GAC for its time and in depth study and Alliance Transportation Group for coming up with proven solutions to the mobility challenges in the SH 6 North and FM 529 study area. The Copperfield Coalition requests that, as it becomes available, funding be directed to the intersection of SH 6 and FM 529 to implement the access management recommendations from the study. Due to safety conditions in the corridor this should be considered a high priority.

Mr. Rodger Hord, President and CEO of West Houston Association, talked to the Council about transportation funding and the urgency of addressing this issue. The West Houston Association has proposed a target of \$1 billion in additional revenues for the legislature to consider in the next session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Council Member Sue Lovell made a motion for the approval of the October 29, 2010 agenda. Mr. George Greanias seconded the motion. The Council voted and approved.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2010 MEETING

Mr. Steve Howard made a motion for the approval of the September 24, 2010 meeting minutes. Council Member Sue Lovell seconded the motion. The Council voted and approved the minutes as submitted.

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE 2011 – 2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND 2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP)

Mr. Alan Clark provided a brief review of TPC Amendments #1, #2 and #8. Amendments 1 and 2 involve adjustments to locally funded projects. Amendment #8 would add transportation enhancement projects selected by the Texas Transportation Commission to the TIP.

Mr. Orval Rhoads commented on the limits shown in the 2035 RTP Update for a commuter rail project in the US 290 corridor. Mr. Rhoads said that the project is supported by residents in Waller County as proposed by the Gulf Coast Rail District. Chairman Patterson stated that item would be addressed in TPC Agenda Item 9.

Council Member Sue Lovell made a motion to approve Resolution 2035-27-RTP. Council Member Stephen Costello seconded the motion. The Council voted and approved.

Mr. Alan Clark provided a review of the Administrative Amendments to the 2011 – 2014 TIP and 2035 RTP. There were no comments or questions.

UPWP AMENDMENTS

Mr. Ashby Johnson provided an update on the UPWP Amendments. He acknowledged after reviewing the UPWP amendments at the July TPC meetings it was discovered that there was an omission of \$147,000.00 in expenditures. The correction for that oversight is reflected in the UPWP Amendments provided. There were no comments or questions.

Mr. Delvin Dennis made a motion to approve Resolution 1004 – UPWP. Mr. Donald Payne seconded the motion. The Council voted and approved.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING I-69 PRIORITIES

Mr. Alan Clark requested approval of a resolution defining regional priorities for development of the I-69 corridor, including a southern reliever route. ~~Mr. Clark presented a map showing the proposed reliever route and updated the Council on the status of the project development activities. TxDOT has been engaged in a grassroots process to look at the needs of this corridor.~~ The Transportation Policy Council urges the Texas Transportation Commission to evaluate an I-69 relief route that serves the ports along the southern and eastern areas of the Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area. TxDOT's segment 2 and 3 committees feel it is important for TxDOT to look at the feasibility of providing an interstate type facility that would serve the eastern and southern areas of the region where the ports are located.

Judge Emmett made a motion for approval of Resolution 2010 – 06. The motion was seconded. The Council voted and approved.

APPOINTMENTS OF THE 2011 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Alan Clark requested the approval of the 2011 TPC Nominating Committee. With the Council's approval the Nominating Committee would consist of: Mr. Scott Elmer, Missouri City; Council Member Sue Lovell, City of Houston; Commissioner Matt Sebesta, Brazoria County; Council Member Darrel Morrison, Pasadena; County Engineer Orval Rhoads, Waller County; and County Engineer Don Brandon, Brazoria County.

The Council voted and approved.

APPROVAL OF 2035 RTP UPDATE AND AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY/PRESENTATION ON TEXAS HIGHWAY FUNDING

Ms. Patricia Waskowiak introduced Dr. David R. Ellis with the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI). Dr. Ellis would provide a presentation to clarify what has prompted funding numbers for the region.

Dr. Ellis addressed where the money comes from, where it goes and the long term implications. The major funding sources for TxDOT are state motor fuels taxes, federal motor fuels taxes, vehicle registration fees, bond proceeds and local participation. The state motor fuels tax has not changed from 20 cents since 1991. The comptroller keeps 1%, 25% goes to education, 75% goes to TxDOT. Dr. Ellis provided a breakdown of where TxDOT spends the funds. Dr. Ellis discussed fuel efficiency and its impact - less tax revenue. The loss of revenue makes it difficult to maintain and construct roadway and other infrastructure. Dr. Ellis said that fuel efficiency will increase and to the extent that it does, it will decrease revenue. Dr. Ellis reviewed the projected TxDOT revenues and expenditures and the disappearing fuel tax that is eroded by fuel efficiency and increasing construction costs. In closing, Dr. Ellis commented that in 20 years VMT is

projected to increase 33 percent and fuel tax revenue is projected to decrease 23 percent. The presentation was concluded with comments, questions and answers.

Ms. Waskowiak stated that Dr. Ellis' work was used to develop the state's long-range funding forecast for transportation. Based upon that forecast, it became apparent the regional transportation plan did not meet federal fiscal constraint requirements. H-GAC reviewed the requirements and the result was a drastic reduction in the program of projects for the plan.

Ms. Waskowiak informed the Council that the 2035 RTP Update includes approximately \$85-86 billion worth of programs and projects funded with the same amount of revenues. The previous plan included approximately \$157 billion in projects. Ms. Waskowiak informed the Council the deadline for public comment was October 28, 2010.

Ms. Waskowiak reviewed the funding scenarios that were the subject of public comment, impacts of the 2035 RTP Update on the travelling public, and its air quality conformity implications. Ms. Waskowiak addressed public comments that were received. Ms. Waskowiak discussed the consequences of delay in adopting a plan update. The presentation was concluded with a brief discussion. For more information please visit [www.2035Plan.org](http://www.2035Plan.org).

Mr. Art Storey made a motion to approve the 2035 RTP Update and its air quality conformity determination. The motion was seconded. The Council voted and approved.

#### STATE HIGHWAY 6 NORTH ACCESS MANAGEMENT STUDY

Noel Bowman provided a brief overview of the SH 6 Access Management Study. He thanked the parties involved in the study. The goals for the SH 6 North Access Management Study are to increase mobility, safety, quality of life, and maintain the economic viability of the businesses within the corridor. Mr. Bowman reviewed the series of public meetings that took place stating that the final public meeting will be held on November 18, 2010.

Mr. Bowman introduced Mr. Mike Heath of Alliance Transportation Group. Mr. Heath acknowledged the project sponsors. Mr. Heath discussed the characteristics of the study area (Park Row to SH 249). Mr. Heath informed the Council that the study methodology included an inventory of the corridor, continuous public involvement, detailed analyses, and the development of solutions focused on implementation and noticeable improvements.

The presentation was concluded by a brief question and answer with comments. Additional information on the study is available at <http://www.sh6mobility.com>.

#### DRAFT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATIVE AGENDA/STATUS OF BRIEFINGS WITH STATE LEGISLATORS

Mr. Allen Richey provided a brief report on the draft Regional Legislative Agenda. Mr. Richey reported a more formal agenda will be provided at the December TPC Meeting. The report was concluded by brief question and answer with comments. The draft agenda is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/commitees/TPC/2010/10-oct/default.aspx>

REPORTS ON THE STATUS OF TRANSPOTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

H-GAC	No additional comments
Harris County	Mr. Arthur Storey addressed Mr. Clark's testimony on CDAs. He encourages the ability to use public private partnerships with the endorsement and involvement of local governments and local contractors.
TxDOT – Houston District	Mr. Dennis acknowledged the Proposition 14 funds that were delivered to our region.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman James Patterson adjourned the meeting of the TPC at 11:50 a.m.



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Tom Reid, Secretary  
Transportation Policy Council

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)  
 FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON  
 TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA  
 October 29, 2010

ROLL CALL

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Baytown, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Brandon Capetillo Councilman <input type="checkbox"/> Kelly Carpenter – Alternate	City of Baytown
Galveston, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Dianna Puccetti Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	City of Galveston
Houston, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable Stephen Costello Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Wanda Adams – Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable Sue Lovell Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Brenda Stardig – Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daniel Kruger Director of PWE <input type="checkbox"/> Jeffrey Weatherford - Alternate	City of Houston
Missouri, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Scott Elmer Director of Public Works <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valerie Ruda – Alternate	City of Missouri City
Pasadena, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Darrel Morrison Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Benavides, P.E. – Alternate	City of Pasadena
Sugar Land, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Jacqueline Baly Chaumette Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> Donald Smithers - Alternate	City of Sugar Land
Texas, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Kneupper City Engineer <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant – Alternate	City of Texas City

**ATTACHMENT 1**

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Brazoria County	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Matt Sebesta Commissioner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donald Payne – Alternate	Brazoria County
Brazoria County	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Tom Reid Secretary <input type="checkbox"/> Modesto Mundo – Alternate	Brazoria County
Chambers County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable Don Brandon, P.E. County Engineer <input type="checkbox"/> Gary Nelson – Alternate	Chambers County
Fort Bend County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable James Patterson County Commissioner <input type="checkbox"/> Paulette Shelton – Alternate	Fort Bend County
Galveston County	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Kenneth Clark County Commissioner <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Fitzgerald – Alternate	Galveston County
Harris County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable Ed Emmett County Judge <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard Zientek – Alternate	Harris County
Harris County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arthur L. Storey Jr., P.E. Executive Director/County Engineer <input type="checkbox"/> Jackie Freeman, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Harris County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable Robert A. Fry Councilman <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	Smaller Cities
Liberty County	<input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Norman Brown Commissioner <input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Phil Fitzgerald – Alternate	Liberty County
Montgomery County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable Craig Doyal Commissioner <input type="checkbox"/> Mark J. Mooney, P.E. – Alternate	Montgomery County
Montgomery County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honorable Larry Calhoun Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> Honorable Jay Ross Martin – Alternate	Smaller Cities

**ATTACHMENT 1**

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Waller County	<u>  X  </u> Orval Rhoads, P.E. County Engineer <u>      </u> Yancy Scott, P.E. – Alternate	Waller County
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	<u>  X  </u> George Greanias Acting President and CEO <u>      </u> John Sedlak – Alternate	Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority
Houston-Galveston Area Council	<u>  X  </u> Steve Howard Chief Operating Officer <u>      </u> Jack Steele – Alternate	H-GAC
TxDOT	<u>  X  </u> Delvin Dennis District Engineer <u>      </u> Michael W. Alford, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Houston District
TxDOT	<u>  X  </u> Randall “Randy” Redmond, P.E. District Engineer <u>      </u> Phillip Lujan, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Beaumont District
Port of Houston Authority	<u>      </u> Alec Dreyer Director, Port of Houston Authority <u>      </u> A.J. “Pete” Reixach – Alternate	Other Transportation Interest
Gulf Coast Rail District	<u>  X  </u> Mark Ellis Chair of Gulf Coast Rail District <u>      </u> Maureen Crocker – Alternate	Gulf Coast Rail District
	<u>  27  </u> Total Voting Membership	
	<u>  19  </u> Voting Membership Present	
	<u>  14  </u> Required Quorum	