

REGIONAL TRANSIT FRAMEWORK STUDY

Background

In September 2009, the Houston-Galveston Area Council began work on the Regional Transit Framework Study (RTFS). The study is at its conclusion and through the planning process. Four (4) regional transit scenarios have been developed to provide the region with alternate visions for addressing the region's transit needs by 2040.

The scenarios were developed through a three (3) phase planning process that relied on multiple outreach methods to obtain community input. The first phase of the study included a review of current and future regional travel patterns, travel markets, and projected population and employment growth. In addition, transit services in six (6) areas similar to the Houston region were analyzed to gain insight on successes and lessons learned by other regional approaches to public transportation. Utilizing this information, the second and third phases of the planning process focused on the development of the four (4) alternative regional transit scenarios. The four (4) transit scenarios were developed for the RTFS with consideration to the required level of investment and alternative objectives.

Current Situation

The four (4) transit scenarios were developed for the RTFS with consideration to the required level of investment and alternative objectives.

- **Scenario 1: Incremental Expansion** - Assumes current annual transit investments in the region are continued through year 2040 with implementation of future regional transit investments based on the region's highest needs and priorities.
- **Scenario 2: Maximize Transit Access** - Increase existing transit funding by approximately 25%. Expand direct access to public transit services to more areas of the region and focus on the use of premium bus services such as commuter express and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT).
- **Scenario 3: Maximize Transit Share** - Increase existing transit funding by approximately 25%. Expand transit availability throughout the region, but prioritize future major transit investments such as high capacity transit services in high demand corridors and activity centers to maximize use of transit.
- **Scenario 4: Incremental Expansion** - As a financially unconstrained alternative, this scenario identifies a regional transit program designed to meet many of the regional transit deficiencies and needs identified in this study.

In the next several months, through additional outreach and coordination with local governments, transit providers, regional stakeholders and the public, H-GAC will work to obtain a consensus on which scenario is preferred in the region and should be incorporated into the next long-range regional transportation plan.

Action Requested

For information only