



*Bridging*  
OUR COMMUNITIES

**THE 2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE**

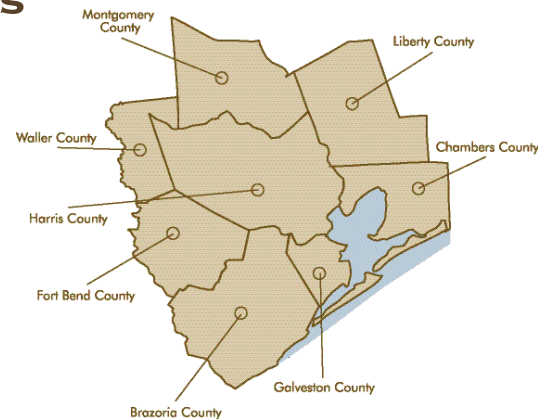
By 2035 the Houston region will be home to 8.8 million people and will support over 4 million jobs. A safe and reliable transportation system is an integral component of future growth and prosperity. The 2035 RTP Update reflects the most recent revenue projections for the region, \$86 billion over a 25 year period. The 2035 RTP was adopted in October 2007 with a budget of \$157 billion. Since then new forecasts have been developed that project much lower revenue from state and federal motor fuels taxes.

With the exception of the revised revenue forecast and the resulting program of projects, the 2035 RTP Update remains unchanged from the 2035 RTP. The Plan illustrates the importance of linking land use and transportation planning and policy to afford residents more choices in the way they travel. It focuses on system efficiencies, opportunities to manage demand and improve safety, as well as options for adding roadway and transit system capacity. Where appropriate, progress in these areas as been noted.

The 2035 RTP Update recommendations are divided into five strategies: System Expansion, Demand Management, Operations Management, Livable Centers and Air Quality.

**System Expansion**

Even with an extensive transportation system, there are more people on the road than the system has the capacity to handle. The 2035 RTP Update proposes to address this by expanding select roadways, implementing travel demand and ITS strategies, growing successful bus and rail transit services, and expanding bicycle and pedestrian facilities.



The eight-county H-GAC region includes Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller counties.

**Roadway System**

The 2035 RTP Update utilizes the development of managed lanes to improve traffic flow on many of the region’s major corridors. Managed lanes combine access control, number of passengers and pricing strategies to maintain free flow conditions. The Plan adds 1,570 freeway and tollway miles and 2,229 arterial lane miles to the current roadway system.

**2035 RTP GOALS**

- Improve mobility and reduce congestion
- Improve access to jobs, homes and services
- Increase transit options
- Coordinate transportation and land use plans
- Create a healthier environment

## Transit System

As regional population and employment continues to grow, transit is an increasingly important tool for improving mobility. The 2035 RTP Update recommends \$9.5 billion in capital investments across the region. Key projects include:

- Downtown intermodal terminal
- 81 miles of light rail
- 84 miles of commuter rail transit
- 40 miles of Signature Bus Service
- 10 new transit facilities

Outside Metro's service area, the 2035 RTP supports expansion of:

- Express commuter bus service from Fort Bend and Montgomery counties
- Demand response service in portions of Brazoria, Galveston, Fort Bend, Harris and Waller counties
- 10 new park and ride facilities in Brazoria, Fort Bend, Montgomery and Liberty counties

These recommendations will result in 800,000 daily transit boardings by 2035.

## Demand Management

**D**emand Management is an important tool for reducing congestion. It focuses on moving people, rather than vehicles. Such programs encourage increased utilization of other modes, non-peak period travel, and alternate routing. The 2035 RTP Update recommends a variety of demand management strategies:

### Commute Solutions

Commute Solutions supports the promotion of transit, vanpools, carpools, telework and other transportation-related options:

- \$6 million annually for vanpools and carpools
- \$53 million to support teleworking and Transportation Management Organizations

## AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA)

**T**exas was allocated approximately \$376 million in funding for capital expenditures relating to public transportation. Of that amount, \$106 million was allocated to the Houston region in accordance with the Urbanized Area Formula Program and the Nonurbanized (rural) Area Formula Program. An additional \$2.3 million was allocated to the Fixed Guideway Infrastructure Investment Program.

The State received a \$2.25 billion allocation for surface transportation program projects. The Houston region received \$489 million for maintenance and rehabilitation as well as mobility projects. Major projects are highlighted below.

### ROADWAY

- BW 8 at US 59 N: direct connectors – \$30 million
- IH 610 N: White Oak Bayou Bridge – \$29 million
- IH 10 E: IH 45 to White Oak Bayou Bridge – \$6 million
- IH 10 E: Washington to Taylor frontage roads - \$46 million
- IH 45 N: LP 336 to Calvary - \$106 million
- Region wide - rehabilitation and maintenance - \$70 million

### TRANSIT – REGION WIDE

- Light rail car acquisition - \$64 million
- Park and ride construction - \$5.5 million
- Bus purchase - \$4.6 million
- Bus shelters - \$1.4 million



For more information see [www.h-gac.com/taq/stimulus](http://www.h-gac.com/taq/stimulus).

## Operations Management

**O**perations management maximizes the effectiveness of existing roadways through low-cost techniques such as traffic signal synchronization, incident management and traveler information systems. These techniques complement and support the investment in the expansion and the region's roadways and transit systems.

### Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

The Houston-Galveston region has one of the more advanced intelligent transportation systems in the nation. Houston TranStar anchors the regional system. The 2035 RTP Update provides \$342 million for the regional ITS system designed to coordinate and connect systems throughout the eight counties.

### Safety Program

One important objective of the 2035 RTP Update is to improve traffic safety throughout the region. The Plan identifies \$415 million to:

- Improve at-grade railroad crossings
- Add shoulders on roadways
- Install roadway lighting and signage

## Security-Evacuation

The regional evacuation plan ensures the following elements will be in place should a catastrophic event occur in the region:

- Designated fuel stops
- State directed fuel resources
- Pre-positioned tow trucks
- Buses at pre-designated locations
- Pre-arranged destinations and lodging

## Livable Centers

As a result of Envision Houston Region, the 2035 RTP Update promotes a 3Cs development strategy: Centers, Connections and Context. This strategy supports transit, pedestrian and bicycle options and ties transportation to surrounding land uses. The 2035 RTP Update supports:

- \$43 million for Livable Centers projects from 2011-2014
- \$23 million of additional support for long-range livable centers projects
- \$200 million in bicycle and pedestrian improvements

## Air Quality

Protection of the region's green space and natural resources, including wetlands, prairies, forests and bayous has been articulated as a goal for the 2035 RTP Update. The Plan identifies sensitive environmental areas, the first step in a process to link project plans with environmental protection. The 2035 RTP Update also supports a variety of programs designed to reduce vehicle emissions.

- **Clean Air Action** - \$2 million annually to support emissions reduction programs
- **Clean Vehicles/Clean Cities** \$115 million through 2035 to replace aging diesel engines and support clean technologies

## PROGRESS SINCE ADOPTION OF THE 2035 RTP

### TRANSIT

#### Light Rail Lines

- East End and Southeast - under construction
- University - preliminary engineering under way

#### Fixed Route

- Bellaire & Bissonnett – Signature bus service initiated
- Baytown & Pasadena – 3 new routes
- Lake Jackson/Angleton/Clute/Freeport – 4 new routes
- Texas City – new park and ride service to Galveston Island
- Fort Bend County – new park and ride service to Texas Medical Center
- Montgomery County – new Sterling Ridge park and ride service to Houston CBD
- **ARRA**: \$106 million obligated for transit systems improvements

### BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN & LIVABLE CENTERS

- City of Houston completed five new trails adding 15 miles to its existing bikeway network
- Since installing bike racks on METRO buses, METRO has logged more than 150,000 bike boardings
- Completed Livable Centers studies for East End, Midtown, Upper Kirby, Fourth Ward, Northside, Tomball and Waller
- **ARRA**: \$15 million allocated to 3 livable centers projects

### SAFETY & SECURITY

- Developed traffic management plan for emergency evacuation
- Launched a public awareness campaign for hurricane evacuation
- Conducted evacuation for Hurricane Ike with much better results than Rita evacuation

### ROADWAYS

#### Major Expansion Projects Completed

- IH 10 W – Katy Freeway reconstruction
- Galveston Causeway
- SH 99 – Segment I-2 (Phase 1)
- US 59 S – SH 6 to SH 99
- US 90A – BW 8 to SH 6
- **ARRA**: \$480 million obligated for roadway improvements

### AIR QUALITY

#### Commute Solutions

- 14,764 NuRide participants – reduced 20,895,357 miles traveled
- 7,031 riders in 700 vanpools – reduced 5,118,543 miles traveled
- 3,000 teleworkers from 26 participating companies

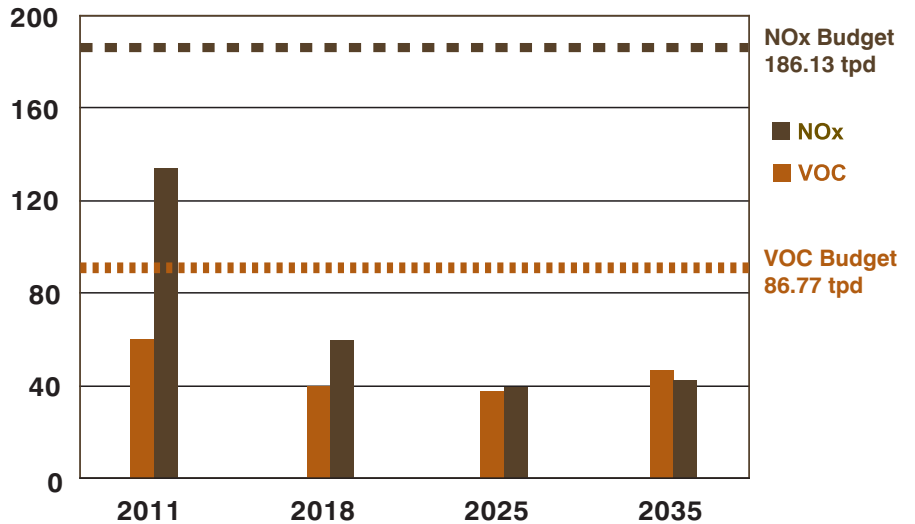
#### Clean Cities/Clean Vehicles

- Replaced or retrofitted 160 engines – reduced 1,175 tons of NOx

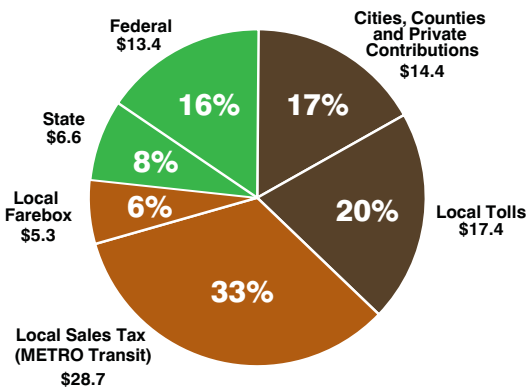
One goal of the 2035 RTP Update is to create a healthier environment in which the region's residents may live, work and play. The air quality conformity test is used to measure the impact of the 2035 RTP Update in terms of vehicle emissions. Since the region currently exceeds national ambient air quality standards for ground level ozone, the conformity test focuses on its precursors, volatile organic compounds (VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NOx).

The programs and projects included in the 2035 RTP Update result in VOC and NOx levels well below the caps or budgets established by the State. This positive result can be attributed in part to cleaner engines and less idling time.

### Emissions Budget in tons per day

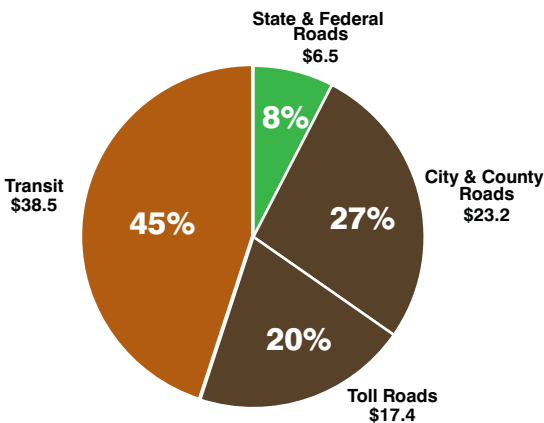


### Revenue Sources



Total: \$85.7 Billion

### Expenditures by Mode



Total: \$85.6 Billion

### Financing the 2035 RTP Update

The updated project recommendations are limited to those that can be funded from reasonably expected revenues. The capital, operating, maintenance and rehabilitation costs of the region's transportation systems over the life of the plan are compared against the forecast of available revenues from each implementing agency.

The estimated total revenue available for the 2035 RTP Update is \$85.7 Billion. The revenue comes from federal, state, and local sources. The various local sources comprise 76 percent of all revenues, while federal and state sources make up the remaining 24 percent. It is particularly important to note that the region's dependence on toll receipts to fund the RTP is growing.

Total estimated expenditures in the 2035 RTP Update are \$85.6 Billion. When examined by mode of travel (roadway or transit), 55 percent of all expenditures are for roadway projects. In a region known for its dispersed suburbanized housing, this percentage is not unusual. However, over the last several years transit investments have increased, and this trend is expected to continue, thereby improving choices among transportation modes.

Not only will there be a larger network to maintain in the future, but also system preservation efforts are currently under-funded. In the future, more revenues will be needed for system preservation to prevent further deterioration of roadway surfaces.



The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials in the 13-county Gulf Coast Planning Region. The Gulf Coast Planning Region consists of Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties. Organized in 1966, H-GAC provides a forum for the discussion of area-wide concerns, promoting regional cooperation through comprehensive planning and services to local governments.