Houston-Galveston Area Council

Regional Transit Framework Study

Transit Deficiencies and Needs

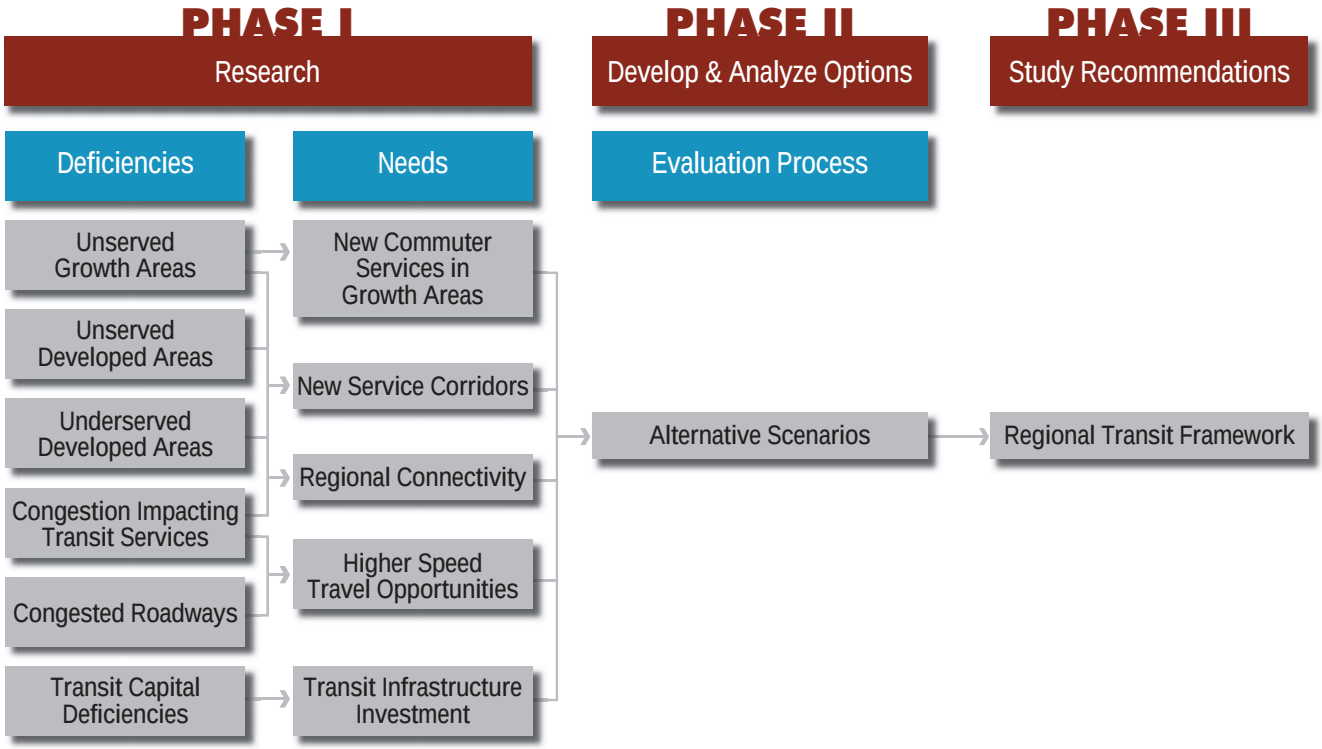
The significant growth in population and employment that is projected for the Houston-Galveston region will require a continued investment in transportation services and infrastructure in order to meet future travel needs and ensure long-term economic and commercial competitiveness. A review of socioeconomic data, projected travel demand and population growth patterns, and existing and planned transit service and capital investments in the Houston-Galveston region provided the basis for identifying the region's transit deficiencies and needs. A total of six general regional transit deficiencies and five general categories of transit needs were identified. The deficiencies include:

- **Unserved Growth Areas** - There are no existing or planned transit services\investments in some areas of the region that are projected to grow significantly between now and 2040
- **Unserved Developed Areas** - There are no existing or planned transit services\investments in some areas of the region that are already developed
- **Underserved Developed Areas** - The level of existing or planned transit service in some areas of the region that are already developed are insufficient to meet projected demand
- **Congestion Impacting Transit Services** - Projected traffic congestion levels in some transportation corridors will significantly impact the efficiency of transit services
- **Congested Roadways** - Projected traffic congestion in some transportation corridors will significantly impact the efficiency of overall travel within the region
- **Transit Capital Deficiencies** - Expanded transit services potentially lack required support infrastructure such as operation and maintenance (O&M) facilities and park-and-ride facilities (including capacity at existing facilities)

From the general deficiencies, a list of regional transit needs were identified and classified into five categories.

- **New Commuter Services in Growth Areas** - New commuter-based services will be needed to meet the demand of the projected population growth in suburban communities and other emerging population growth centers
- **New Service Corridors** - Transit investments will be necessary in corridors with no current transit services to provide existing and developing areas with transit access
- **Regional Connectivity** - Network of coordinated local and regional transit services to provide seamless regional travel
- **Higher Speed Travel Opportunities** - Investments in right-of-way improvements or other transit priority measures will be needed to reduce the impact of traffic congestion
- **Transit Infrastructure Investments** - New investments in transit infrastructure, including fleet and facilities (e.g., bus stops, O&M facilities, park-and-ride facilities, etc.), will be necessary to support existing and expanded transit service operations

The identification of regional deficiencies and needs are essential in understanding what is needed today and will be needed in the future to develop and maintain a comprehensive network of regional transit services. From the identification of the deficiencies and needs, four alternative regional transit scenarios were developed and evaluated to help form the Regional Transit Framework.



For additional information about the study contact Shaida Libhart of the Houston-Galveston Area Council at 713-627-3200.