

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2045 RTP AND THE FINDING OF AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY

Summary

The 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a long-range plan that prioritizes spending on regional transportation projects including short and long-range strategies to ensure the transportation network is safe and efficient. Updated every four years, the RTP outlines a fiscally constrained transportation investment program that is based on the unique needs and characteristics of the MPO region.

The recommended 2045 RTP projects support three strategies: manage (system management and operations), maintain (asset management), and expand (transportation network capacity and was developed to guide transportation investment through the next 25 years. Total investments for the 2045 RTP are approximately \$132 Billion in surface transportation projects and programs across various modes. Estimated revenues through the year 2045, including federal, State, and local revenue sources, is approximately \$147 billion.

The H-GAC region is currently designated as “non-attainment” for federal ground-level ozone standards under the Clean Air Act. Conformity ensures that federal funding and approval is given only to those projects and activities that are consistent with air quality goals. The results of this conformity determination demonstrate that the 2045 RTP and 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) meet the requirements of the State Implementation Plan for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria ozone nonattainment area and are in accordance with the Clean Air Act, as amended on November 15, 1990, and the final conformity rule.

The draft 2045 RTP addresses various other required sections such as performance measures and targets, the congestion management process, transportation resiliency, and considerations in support of travel and tourism.

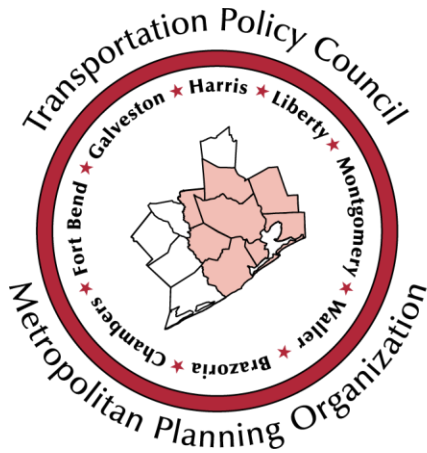
Public Involvement

Public participation is an essential part of the planning process and must engage all segments of the regional population. H-GAC held two rounds of public meetings earlier in the development of the draft 2045 RTP. The final public comment period for the draft plan opened on April 10th and closed on May 10th. An additional public meeting will be conducted on April 24th on the draft plan at H-GAC offices from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. This draft review process is the final step before the plan is brought back next month for final TPC action.

The full 2045 RTP document and Appendices are available at the following link:
www.2045RTP.com.

Action

Recommend Transportation Policy Council approve the Resolution adopting the 2045 RTP as well as the associated finding of air quality conformity.



Resolution

No. 2019-12

ADOPTING THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND CERTIFYING ITS CONFORMITY WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL PLANNING AND AIR QUALITY REGULATIONS.

WHEREAS, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the eight-county Houston-Galveston Metropolitan Planning Area by the Governor of Texas in accordance with federal law; and,

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Planning Area includes all of Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller Counties; and,

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Council (TPC), comprised primarily of local elected officials, is the regional transportation policy body associated with the H-GAC and continues to be the regional forum for cooperative decisions on transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act assigns the MPO the responsibility for developing and maintaining the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program and their periodic updates; and,

WHEREAS, the FAST Act requires the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program include a financial plan to demonstrate the consistency of proposed transportation investments with available and projected sources of revenue; and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program were developed using the most recent federal guidance and applicable regulations; and,

WHEREAS, the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was developed in cooperation with local governments, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO), and other transportation agencies; and,

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Executive Order 12898 mandate nondiscrimination and analysis of impacts to protected populations for all federally funded projects; and,

WHEREAS, the FAST Act assigns the MPO the responsibility for carrying out the transportation conformity process, in cooperation with the State and operators of publicly owned transit services; and,

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated an eight-county area coterminous with the Metropolitan Planning Area as severe nonattainment under the 1997 8-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the pollutant ozone, effective October 31, 2008; and,

WHEREAS, the EPA has designated an eight-county area coterminous with the Metropolitan Planning Area as marginal nonattainment under the 2008 8-hour NAAQS for the pollutant ozone, effective July 20, 2012; and,

WHEREAS, technical analysis has determined the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan conforms to motor vehicle emissions budgets contained in *Revisions to the State Implementation Plan for the Control of Ozone Air Pollution, Houston/Galveston/Brazoria Ozone Nonattainment Area*; and,

WHEREAS, expeditious implementation of the transportation control measures identified in the applicable State Implementation Plan has been accomplished and documented; and

WHEREAS, the FAST Act and Clean Air Act regulations require information regarding the development of the RTP and the transportation conformity analysis be available for public comment according to the adopted MPO public participation plan; and,

WHEREAS, the transportation facilities, services and projects recommended in the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan have been made available to the public in compliance with H-GAC's *Public Participation Plan*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA ADOPTS THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN; AND

THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN IS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE 1990 U.S. CLEAN AIR ACT AS AMENDED; AND

THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN SATISFIES PLANNING REQUIREMENTS OF THE FIXING AMERICA'S SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACT INCLUDING APPLICABLE PROVISIONS WITHIN THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 12898.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 24th day of May 2019 at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Transportation Policy Council for the Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Ken Clark, Chairman
Transportation Policy Council

Hon. Tom Reid, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council