

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR TRANSIT OPERATORS

Background

The Transportation Policy Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in July 2010 that addressed the requirements contained in federal rules for a cooperative agreement between the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the providers of public transportation services in the eight-county Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area (TMA).

The 2010 Census resulted in a new large urbanized area in the TMA, the Conroe-The Woodlands Urbanized Area. The City of Conroe is the designated direct recipient for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds for the Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Program (5310). The Woodlands Township and the City of Conroe are co-designated recipients for the Urban Transit (5307, 5337, 5339) programs in Montgomery County and should be added to the list of Transit Operators in the MOU.

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) was signed into law in July 2012 and included new provisions for the MPOs and other stakeholders to cooperatively develop performance based planning activities relating to transit safety and asset management among other activities. Those requirements were published in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in June 2014. They have been part of the Texas Department of Transportation-Public Transportation Division and the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) standard operating procedures for several years. The new Transportation Bill, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act), was signed into law on December 4, 2015 and reinforces those MAP-21 guidelines for transit safety and asset management among other performance based planning activities.

A special meeting of the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee (RTCS) was held on February 29, 2016 to consider revisions to the draft MOU that was discussed at the January 13th TAC meeting.

A copy of the revised draft MOU is included for review and comments to H-GAC staff by April 20, 2016.

Action Requested

Request acceptance of the revised MOU with transit operators.