

**Regional Transit Coordination (RTC)  
Subcommittee Meeting  
Houston-Galveston Area Council  
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor, Conference Room A  
Thursday, July 19, 2018  
9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.**

**Draft Agenda**

1. Introductions and Certification of Quorum (8) – Vernon Chambers, Harris County Transit, Chair.
2. Public Comments
3. Action Items:
  - Adoption of Agenda
  - Approval of RTC and Transportation Air Quality (TAQ) Combined Meeting Summary- April 12, 2018.
4. Agency Highlight: HK Express Transit – Larna Brown (10 minutes)
5. Information Items:
  - Regional Onboard Transit Survey – Linda Cherrington, Texas A&M Transportation Institute (10 minutes)
  - Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP) Focus Groups Summary Report – Becky Jasso and Ronnie Hagerty, United Way Connections (10 minutes)
  - Transit Asset Management (TAM) Update – Lydia Abebe (10 minutes)
  - Regional Interactive Database Demonstration – Phillippe Anchondo (10 minutes)
6. For Discussion:
  - Updates to the CMAQ Call for Projects and Evaluation Criteria – Alan Rodenstein (10 minutes)
  - Supplemental Funding for Regional Fare Collection System with METRO
7. Agency Reports (5 minutes each)

Next RTC Quarterly Meeting- October 11, 2018, H-GAC Conference Room B/C.

# JOINT MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION AIR QUALITY (TAQ) AND REGIONAL TRANSIT COORDINATION (RTC) SUBCOMMITTEES

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## MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, April 12, 2018 – 9:30 A.M.

Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments

3555 Timmons Lane, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Houston, Texas 77027 (Agency Conference Room 2-B/C)

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### **TAQ MEMBER PRESENT**

City of Webster – Karen Coglianese  
Fort Bend County – Paulette Shelton  
Harris County – Ken Fickes, CCTM (Chairman)  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Diane Dohm  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Shelley Whitworth  
The Woodlands Township – Todd Stephens  
TxDOT-Houston – Charles U. Airiohuodion

### **TAQ ALTERNATE PRESENT**

City of Houston – Ruthanne Haut  
Harris County – Vernon Chambers  
The Woodlands Township – Christopher LaRue

### **RTC MEMBER PRESENT**

Brazos Transit District – Wendy Weedon  
City of Webster – Karen Coglianese  
City of Conroe – Shawn Johnson  
City of Pearland – Valerie Marvin  
Fort Bend County – Paulette Shelton  
Harris County – Vernon Chambers  
Houston Center of Independent Living – Jason Jones  
METRO – Ken Brown  
The Woodlands Township – Christopher LaRue  
TxDOT-BMT – Anthony Cochran  
TxDOT-Houston – Travis Madison  
TxDOT-PTN – Darla Walton

### **RTC ALTERNATE PRESENT**

Central Houston Inc. – Katrina Bayer  
City of Sugar Land – Rick Ramirez  
Harris County – Ken Fickes, CCTM  
Harris County Community Services – Vincent Morrison  
METRO – Susan Jaworski  
The Woodlands Township – Matt Kouns  
TxDOT-Houston – Sharon Lewis

### **OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES PRESENT**

Union Pacific – Nick Bryan

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Lydia Abebe  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Veronica Baxter-Lamb  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Laurie Chandler  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Alan Clark  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Andrew DeCandis  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Thomas Gray

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Kari Hackett  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ayo Jibowu  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Patrick Mandapaka  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Lucinda Martinez  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Isaac Perez  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Alan Rodenstein

### **BRIEFING**

#### **Overview**

- a. The Transportation Air Quality (TAQ) and Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittees convened to combine two grants – Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Commuter and Transit Pilot Projects grants – and recommend the use of TDCs for match for Administrative costs. Subcommittee Members and Alternates were presented with action items; a series of information items were delivered; and the meeting concluded with agency reports and member announcements.
- b. Visit <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/transportation-committees/TAC/transportation-air-quality-subcommittee/agendas.aspx> to view the meeting materials.

**ITEM 1. – Introductions and Certifications of Quorum** (Ken Fickes and Vernon Chambers, Harris County Transit, Chairpersons)

- RTC made quorum.
- TAQ was short one person for quorum.

**ITEM 2. – Public Comments on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments.

**ITEM 3. – Election of New Officers**

RTC – Nominations for officers:

Chair, Vernon Chambers

Vice-Chair, Wendy Weedon

Nominations passed unanimously.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**ITEM 4A. – Approval of Meeting Summaries**

Chairman Ken Fickes (TAQ) entertained a motion to pass the TAQ Subcommittee Meeting Summary for January 9, 2018 and the RTC Subcommittee Meeting Summary for January 11, 2018.

- TAQ did not make quorum. This item was postponed.
- RTC – Action Item passed unanimously.

**ITEM 4B. – Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Commuter and Transit Pilot Projects**

Alan Rodenstein with Houston-Galveston Area Council presented proposal to combine two grants and recommend the use of TDCs for match of Administrative costs. He shared H-GAC Draft Call for Projects and requested attendees to provide feedback by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Most grant money is allocated for Commuter Services—Suburb to City or Suburb to Suburb. First Mile/Last Mile projects will receive less funding.
- Sustainability is an essential component of project evaluation; Criteria for Evaluation are emphasized in terms of sustainability. It will be 20% of total of evaluation of projects. Projects must last beyond three years of CMAQ funding.
- Projects are on a first come, first served basis. All projects cannot receive funding.

RTC unanimously approved recommending the combining of CSJ 476 and CSJ 570 into one larger \$4.5 MM CMAQ grant in which more pilot projects can be funded.

**ITEM 4C. – Recommend Clean Vehicles Incentives to Promote the use of Zero and Near Zero Vehicles**

Shelley Whitworth (standing in for Robert Veazie) with Houston-Galveston Area Council proposed clean vehicles incentives to promote use of zero and near zero emissions vehicles.

- Current funding calculations only account for vehicles meeting the 2010 standards set out by EPA.
- This could occur either utilizing the actual low NOx efficiency factor in the calculation or at 100% of the differential cost, not to exceed \$10,000.
- A University of California Riverside study comparing NOx Emissions in Port Truck Operations showed that 2010 Standard Diesel vehicles emit up to 5x more NOx than Near-Zero Natural Gas Vehicles.

No action taken.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**ITEMS 5A. – High Capacity Transit Task Force Update**

Thomas Gray with Houston-Galveston Area Council shared High Capacity Transit Force updates (his report followed Item 5B). By 2045, the Region expects to grow by approximately 4 million people and add 2 million new jobs. The Task

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Force was created last year to identify the extent to which high capacity transit is needed to support economic growth, mobility and quality of life.

- Task Force Workgroups focus on economic impact, funding opportunities, and service concepts for regional high capacity transit.
- Economic Workgroup has developed methodologies for evaluating economic impact
- Innovative Finance Workgroup produced a list of financing tools.
- Service Concepts Workgroup explored service concepts—classifications and operational characteristics—of HCT Projects in example regions, developed evaluation criteria, and guiding principles for a 2045 High Capacity Network.
- Next steps include finalizing a network map, economic impact analysis, public outreach/corridor focus groups and a Final Report in August 2018.

#### **ITEM 5B. – Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP) Updates**

Kari Hackett with Houston-Galveston Area Council gave an update on the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP).

- RTCS Action Plan Initiatives (approved several years ago) include better regional information and regional interagency coordination.
- 2017 RCTP strategies to close gaps include Stakeholder meetings, interactive database and regional trip planner pilot projects.
- Under a new Project Grant Agreement with TxDOT, statewide metrics need to be reported for FY 2018.
- Projects of note are: Regional Online Interactive Database (2 workgroup meetings); Regional Trip Planner – Google Transit Platform; Regional Planning MOU.
- Collaborations (strategies to remove gaps) JET Pilot Project – January – September 2018.

#### **ITEMS 5C. – State Implementation Plan (SIP) Concerns**

Shelley Whitworth with Houston-Galveston Area Council provided an update on the DC Circuit Court’s ruling on SCAMD vs EPA, et al and the implications the ruling has on Texas SIP.

- DC Circuit Court Brief and Resulting Implications for One Hour Standard and 1997 Eight Hour Ozone Standard
  - a) In 2017, a lawsuit brought by the South Coast Air Quality Management District in California and several environmental organizations sued California EPA (SCAMD vs EPA, et al.) with using transitions to violate air quality standards in nonattainment areas.
  - b) In March 2018, DC Circuit Court issued its ruling.
    1. Court overturned EPA’s replication of the 1997 ozone standard (first 8-hour standard).
    2. Court overturned EPA’s re-designation substitute options for 1997 standard.EPA has until April 23, 2018 (per Charles Airiohuodion) to appeal.
- 2008 and 2015 Ozone Standards Timeline
  - a) 2008 Attainment
    1. Region did not meet 2015 deadline for 2008 attainment and was reclassified to Moderate.
    2. Region did not attain 2008 Ozone Standards in 2018, area had 81/ppb.
    3. Region has not yet been classified as non-attainment. No action has been taken. The Region will have an attainment date of 2021. Area needs to comply with both 2008 and 2015 SIP Standards.
    4. With a July 2021 attainment date, by end of 2020 reductions must be documented.
    5. Control strategies must be implemented by 2019 and financial capability will need to be demonstrated for any SIP commitments.

### **AGENCY REPORTS**

#### **ITEMS 6A. – Agency Reports**

Several Agencies reported current activities and projects, including:

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- **Houston-Galveston Area Council** - Lydia Abebe gave an update regarding Transit Asset Management (TAM). In July 2016, Federal Transit Administration issued ruling requiring funds recipients to document minimum transit asset management plan standards. The ruling also required State DOT, MPO and transit providers to work together. Most assets in our region belong to Tier 1 providers—ex. METRO. Other funds go to Tier 2 recipients/subrecipients. H-GAC needs to set targets for TAM plans and is soliciting feedback from agencies regarding where they stand on their TAMs. These are needed by October for TIP and RTP. Kari Hackett announced the 2045 RTP Public Meetings occurring this month.
- **Fort Bend County** - Paulette Shelton informed members that Fort Bend County recently awarded a five-year contract for bus purchases. Bids are due on construction of Administration and Operations facility by end of April; County hopes to award a contract by June. Fort Bend County is expecting West Park and Ride to be launched this year. Bus service contract expires this year.
- **City of Conroe** – Shawn Johnson reported Conroe is working on Park and Ride operations solutions. Ridership is steady, and Conroe is eager for transportation options and services/ connectivity. They expect to launch a third route in June; they are waiting on receipt of vehicles purchased through Conroe Economic Development Council funds.
- **Harris County Rides** – Vernon Chambers relayed current programs. Harris County Rides provides services for seniors and persons with disabilities in Pearland and Friendswood. They may expand to southern parts of Galveston county (Dickinson, Hitchcock) to provide Demand/Response services. Harris County Rides is working with the City of Galveston / Island Transit to assist with Demand/Response trips through taxi cards program.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting Adjourned at approximately 11:44 A.M.**