

REPORT ON PORTS AREA MOBILITY STUDY

Summary

The four deep-water ports in Brazoria, Galveston, and Harris counties are integral, irreplaceable elements of the regional economy. The 2012 Regional Goods Movement Study by H-GAC provided an overview of regional freight infrastructure, understanding of commodity flows, and recommendations for addressing mobility needs. One of the recommendations was to directly connect the ports with emerging markets both on the region's urban fringe and all points beyond. This will position the region for future growth as well as divert freight flow away from the congested urban core. Relevant issues observed since the adoption of the 2012 study have further elevated this need, including the Panama Canal expansion, "downstream" and refinery business growth, and a boom in chemical manufacturing. Furthermore, TxDOT repeated the need for this study in its recent Texas Freight Mobility Plan recommendations. The FAST Act (passed January 2016) identified two new funding sources for potential use in future implementation and includes numerous regulatory actions that support freight planning in metropolitan areas in general.

H-GAC coordinated with ports and other freight related stakeholders and developed a scope of work for the Ports Area Mobility Study. This study will conduct data analysis of various freight datasets, and will identify the specific freight and goods supply chains that run through the region and are dependent on the port facilities. Based on the analysis, different improvement strategies will be developed and evaluated. A final report will be produced incorporating the data analysis, planning process, and recommendations. The study will aim to understand how peer-region partnerships addressed similar issues with the latest available data, modeling tools, and evaluation methods.

Current Situation

H-GAC procured a consultant to conduct the Ports Area Mobility Study and the work began in April 2017. The performance period of the project is 18 months. Data collection phase was completed. Supply Chain Analysis and Public Port Profile documents were produced. Stakeholder interviews were conducted. A workshop is planned for January 24, 2018 at H-GAC to present data analysis and brainstorm recommendations for the study. Staff will provide an update on the Ports Area Mobility Study and present the results of the analytics produced. More information on Ports Area Mobility Study is available at project [website](#).

Action Requested

Information only.