

REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

A. H-GAC LONG RANGE PLANNING

- Staff is scheduling presentations of the 2045 RTP development process at Commissioners' Court meetings in all eight counties within the MPA. These presentations will provide information on the 2045 RTP development process, development schedule, and public outreach meetings schedules. The Commissioners' Court meeting schedules are listed in the following Table 1. For more information on 2045 RTP public outreach opportunities please visit <http://2045rtp.com/>.

Table 1.

Tentative 2045 RTP Commissioners' Court Meetings Schedule			
County	Date	Time	Speaker
Galveston County	Monday, February 12th	9:30 AM	Vishu Lingala
Liberty County	Tuesday, February 13th	9:00 AM	Vishu Lingala
Harris County	Tuesday, February 27th	10:00 AM	Alan Clark
Montgomery County	Tuesday, March 6th	9:30 AM	Vishu Lingala
Chambers County	Tuesday, March 13th	9:30 AM	Vishu Lingala
Waller County	Wednesday, March 21st	9:00 AM	Vishu Lingala
Brazoria County	TBD	9:30 AM	Vishu Lingala
Fort Bend County	TBD	9:00 AM	Vishu Lingala

1. Subregional Planning Initiatives (SPI)

- A public meeting was conducted for the SH 146 Sub-regional study on January 11, 2018. Staff prepared meeting materials for the Steering Committee meeting for the Waller County Transportation Plan to be conducted on February 5, 2018. Staff coordinated with the City of Houston on the Southeast Houston Mobility Plan.

2. Safety/Operations Planning

- Incident Management Strategic Plan: Staff is still working with City of Houston's Legal Department to finalize interagency agreement language to reinstate the Quick Clearance Program at no cost to the stranded patron.
- Safety: Staff coordinated to contract with TxDOT for the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program for FY18. An application was submitted to TxDOT to seek funding for the implementation of this program in FY19. Staff coordinated with TxDOT on the scope of work for the Regional Safety Outreach Campaign to be developed. Staff worked a draft report of the Regional Safety Plan.

3. Freight Planning
 - Staff prepared meeting materials for a workshop to be conducted on Ports Area Mobility Study on January 24, 2018. Staff coordinated with TxDOT and railroads to develop a scope of work for the Regional Freight Rail Study.
4. Hurricane Evacuation Planning
 - Staff attended Houston Community Preparedness Collaborative meeting on January 12, 2018. Staff coordinated on the 2018 Homeland Security Implementation Plan for the Texas Division of Emergency Management and the Office of the Governor.

B. H-GAC SHORT RANGE PLANNING

1. 2017-2020 TIP Development Update
 - TIP documents and additional supporting materials can be found online at <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/tip>.
 - H-GAC has entered into a contract with EcoInteractive Inc. to supply and support a replacement project database and information management system. The project is progressing and staff anticipates training for agency partners at the beginning of next year.
2. Transit Planning Update
 - Staff is starting to address the requirements of the FY 2018 Project Grant Agreement (PGA) for the continuation of the regionally coordinated transportation planning process for the Gulf Coast Region. The FY 18 PGA includes tasks to; monitor progress, document new unmet transportation needs and gaps, develop strategies to resolve them and to collect, maintain and report related metrics data.
 - Staff facilitated the January 11, 2018 quarterly meeting of the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee to the Technical Advisory Committee.
 - Work is continuing with the development of General Transit Feed Specifications (GTFS) input files for the Regional Trip Planner using the Google Transit Platform. The GTFS development process includes the non-METRO transit service providers in the region.
 - Staff is currently participating in evaluation committees for candidate projects for Federal Formula (Section 5310 and Sections 5307/5337/5339) grants.
 - H-GAC staff is scheduled to make a presentation regarding the High Capacity Transit Task Force to the METRO Board of Directors at their meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2018.
 - The next meeting of the High Capacity Transit Task Force is scheduled for Friday, February 23, 2018, directly following TPC.

C. PUBLIC OUTREACH

1. Transportation Planning Activities
 - Public outreach staff participated in the quarterly Public Involvement Working Group webinar meeting hosted by the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) on Dec. 11, 2017.
 - Public outreach staff developed new communication materials for the transportation department including a brochure and new slideshow presentation.

- Public outreach staff coordinated the public meetings for the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan that will take place during March and April.
- The program manager for public outreach presented on public involvement to the Qingdao Chinese delegation on Dec. 14.

2. Commute Solutions Planning Activities

- The Commute Solutions team participated in a series of trainings in conjunction with H-GAC's Workforce Solutions regarding the Job Candidates and Employee Transportation Pilot Project.
- On Dec.14, staff attended a transportation coordination meeting at the United Way Galveston County Mainland office in Texas City. The purpose of this meeting was to bring various organizations together to discuss transportation needs for Galveston County jobseekers, seniors and disabled citizens and the general public. There were approximately 12 attendees representing United Way Galveston County Mainland, H-GAC Workforce Solutions and Transportation Departments, METRO STAR Vanpool, and a few small transportation providers in Galveston County.
- Staff attended an internal meeting with other transportation staff to discuss the development of an RFP for implementing Innovative Transit pilot projects. The RFP will be issued in 2018 and proposals will be evaluated and selected based on funding availability and meeting project criteria.

D. CLEAN VEHICLES/DRAYAGE PROGRAMS PLANNING ACTIVITIES

1. Clean Vehicles Program

- Staff responded to incoming phone calls and email requests for program information.
- Staff reached out to prospects, applicants and grant sub-recipients regarding CMAQ grants.
- Staff updated forms to improve usability for applicants and grant sub-recipients.
- Staff compiled a mailing list of Clean Vehicles contacts to invite to the November 14 Clean Cities Technologies Conference. The invitations were issued by Air Quality Program staff.
- Staff emailed a follow-up invitation to all grant sub-recipients with active projects.
- Staff phoned a few grant sub-recipients whose email invitations bounced, and then reissued their conference invitations.
- Staff worked on developing an online compliance reporting tool for active projects.

2. Drayage Program

- Staff responded to incoming phone calls and email requests for program information.
- Staff reached out to prospects, applicants and grant sub-recipients regarding drayage loans and CMAQ grants.
- Staff updated forms to improve usability for applicants and grant sub-recipients in English and Spanish.
- CMAQ funds totaling \$301,903.59 were disbursed to replace three vehicles whose contractor loan amounts had been paid previously.

- Staff compiled a mailing list of Drayage Program contacts to invite to the November 14 Clean Cities Technologies Conference. The invitations were subsequently issued by Air Quality Program staff.

E. GENERAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ACTIVITIES

- Staff continues to coordinate with other state MPOs and COGs to analyze eligible projects identified as acceptable for the mitigation trust portion of Volkswagen Clean Air Act Civil Settlement. The VW Settlement Trust was considered to have its effective date on October 2, 2017. To take advantage of the Trust the State of Texas applied for beneficiary status on December 1, 2017. In this application, the state indicated that TCEQ would be designated that beneficiary organization to manage Trust funds within the state of Texas. In response to this application, the VW Settlement Trust will respond within 120 days (January 30, 2018). H-GAC staff has been working with local stakeholders to develop recommendations to TCEQ regarding the implementation of the Settlement Trust within the State of Texas.
- With RAQPAC, staff continues to develop a Regional Air Quality Summit in conjunction with Exxon Mobil and the Greater Houston Partnership. This summit will include stakeholders and researchers to discuss current air quality conditions within the region and actions needed for the region to continue improving. It is anticipated that this event will occur in the early part of 2018.
- TTI continues to work on a new cooperative research study involving H-GAC, the Port of Houston, and the U.S. EPA. The study is utilizing H-GACs GPS data on their participating Drayage Program trucks, the Port's gate data, and has installed EPA-provided equipment on some of these trucks, as well as other freight vehicles operating in the region, to analyze the impacts of speed, idling and congestion on emissions that are being generated in and around the Port of Houston and warehouse areas.
- Staff has started development of the annual Air Quality Initiatives report to cover regional air quality improvement programs administered in 2017 with the assistance of H-GAC.
- Staff continues to work on developing a data management plan to better capture and use data that can be used to calculate emission reduction progress resulting from H-GAC air quality projects.
- Staff continues to work on the second phase of an interactive alternative fuel map which allows for alternative fuel users to locate alternative fueling sites and to suggest needed sites. The updated version has been moved to a new platform which allows the map to be used on mobile devices and make use of a modern look and feel. It is also anticipated that additional layers will be added to the map. Use the Interactive Alternate Fuels Finder app online at <http://iaff.h-gac.com/>.
- Staff is continuing development of an alternative infrastructure plan for the H-GAC region. This project is in the initial stages and expected to progress over the next several months.
- Staff has initiated development on an inventory of buses and other mass transit vehicles within the region. Work is underway to inventory school-related transit vehicles and it is anticipated that this will be expanded to include transit, commuter, and tour busses before the end of the year.

F. TRAVEL DEMAND FORECASTING

- Staff continues to provide travel demand modeling technical supports and assistances to support H-GAC's member agencies and their transportation planning studies.
- Modeling support continues for air quality projects including management of technical studies conducted both by the staff and consultants.
- Staff continues the development of an advance Activities Based Model (ABM). The ABM will be complete and in use by the end of 2016.
- Staff continues to develop a dynamic travel demand model for use in corridor analyses.