

**APPROVAL OF DRAFT 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO BE RELEASED
FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

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 H-GAC transportation network serves critical interstate, regional, and local mobility needs. As such, strategic investments in a wide array of roadway infrastructure along with transit and active transportation projects are required. These critical improvements will enhance travel and improve accessibility within the H-GAC region. A cost-feasible set of prioritized transportation improvements is essential to satisfy growing travel demand and to provide a reliable transportation network to businesses, residents, and visitors. The 2045 RTP was developed to guide the transportation investments through the next 25 years. Total investments for the 2045 RTP are approximately \$127 Billion in surface transportation projects and programs across various modes. The recommended 2045 RTP projects support three strategies: manage (system management and operations), maintain (asset management), and expand (transportation network capacity).

Federal and state regulations require every RTP be fiscally constrained. H-GAC estimated revenues and expenditures through the year 2045, including federal, state, and local revenue sources. The total estimated revenues over the course of the 2045 RTP is approximately \$140 billion and the expenditures are approximately \$127 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 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 plan. The final public comment period for the draft plan will be April 5th through May 5th. 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.

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An Executive Summary (attached) of the 2045 RTP and Appendices are available at the following link: www.2045RTP.com. Please note some appendices are being updated between now and April 5th.

Action

Request to approve the release of the Draft 2045 RTP for public comment. Final approval of the 2045 RTP will be requested at the May meeting of the Policy Council.