

## REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

### A. H-GAC LONG RANGE PLANNING

- The Transportation Policy Council approved the 2018 Call for Projects at the March 2019 meeting. The total investment for the call for projects was approximately \$1.2 Billion in surface transportation improvements over the next 10 years. Projects not selected for funding are being vetted for inclusion in the 2045 RTP. Please visit the 2018 Call for Projects website for additional information.  
<http://www.h-gac.com/2018-call-for-projects/default.aspx>.
  - Work continued on the compilation of the 2045 RTP document. The draft 2045 RTP will be available for public comment on April 5<sup>th</sup>. For more information on 2045 RTP public outreach opportunities please visit <http://2045rtp.com/>.
1. Subregional Planning Initiatives (SPI)
    - Waller County Transportation Plan: Staff received the final deliverables.
    - SH 146 Subregional Plan has been completed. A revised document is located at hgacmpo.com.
  2. Safety/Operations Planning
    - Safety: Staff is working with partners to set up agreements for FY19 Selective Traffic Enforcement Program.
  3. Freight Planning
    - Staff continued to work with consultants and stakeholders on the Ports Area Mobility Study.
    - Staff compiled a list of all freight data to develop a data governance strategy and freight data portal.
  4. Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning
    - Staff completed the draft Active Transportation Plan and presented to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee.
    - Staff completed a regional sidewalk layer and have made this data available to the public upon request.
    - Staff initiated a Special Districts Study with Spring Branch.
    - Staff initiated a contract for a Bicycle Safety Trainer Program.
  5. Regional Incident Management
    - Staff coordinated with Houston Police Department and Harris County Sheriff Office on operational issues with the Tow and Go Program. There were 20,993 “No Cost” tows conducted in 2018. Preliminary results from the Crash Records Information System (CRIS) show that crashes on Interstate Highways in the City of Houston where the program was operating have decreased by 7% when compared to the same period in 2017.
  6. Eco-Logical Update Project
    - Staff hosted the second Eco-Logical Advisory Committee meeting in March. Staff discuss progress with development of the software update. Identifying data resources is the primary focus. Through discussion with the advisory committee staff was able to identify some

potential data sources. TxDOT Environmental staff was available to present on the environmental data systems at TxDOT.

## B. H-GAC SHORT RANGE PLANNING

### 1. 2019-2022 TIP Update

- Modifications to the 2019-2022 TIP document were brought to the TPC for preview and presented for final action. Modifications that require a change to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) will be submitted to TxDOT. The final document can be found online at <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/tip>.
- Staff continues to work on resolving all outstanding exceptions in coordination with TxDOT, FHWA, and project sponsors.
- Staff is in the process of testing the MOTION project tracking and amendment software from EcoInteractive and building the web interface for public use.

### 2. Transit Planning Update

- Development of the Regional Online Interactive Transportation Resource Database is continuing. Refinements to the contacts and service related information for regional transportation providers are in process.
- Refinements to the General Transit Feed Specifications (GTFS) input files for the Regional Transit Trip Planner using the Google Transit Platform are continuing. Staff is continuing the preview process for the Pre-Launch Checklist with several transit operators. Current plans are to initiate the Quality Assurance checking by Google Transit by March 2019 contingent upon concurrence from the regional transit operators.
- Staff worked on the 2045 "Vision" and "Priority" service networks, high-level cost estimates, and economic impact analysis for the High Capacity Transit Task Force.
- Staff conducted the High Capacity Transit Task Force meeting and presented the final draft report.

## C. PUBLIC OUTREACH

### 1. Transportation Planning Activities

- Staff executed an extensive publicity plan to promote the *2045 RTP Transportation 101: What You Need to Know* public meetings. The plan included stakeholder outreach, outreach to residential communities, social media, and news media. To view media mentions visit our Media Room [here](#).
- Staff summarized outcomes from the public meetings held in January and February and incorporated into the 2045 RTP. Public meetings were held across the region; Friendswood City Hall, Liberty City Hall, Kingdom City Houston (Energy Corridor in West Houston), Tomball City Hall, and H-GAC. Roughly 140 residents and elected officials attended a public meeting.

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2. Commute Solutions Activities

- Staff coordinated with METRO staff and participated in outreach activities to distribute marketing materials and promotional items to promote alternative transportation.
- Staff coordinated with METRO transit and METRO STAR vanpool staffs to assist Grocers Supply with transportation services for about 100+ employees.

**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 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.

**E. GENERAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

- H-GAC staff has applied to the Department of Energy for a one-year funding extension for the Houston-Galveston Clean Cities Coalition. The \$32,000 in funding that will result from this application will allow H-GAC to continue activities to reduce fossil fuel use in the region for an additional year.
- Air Quality staff was informed that a proposal to EPA to participate in the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) program requesting over \$500 thousand in funding to replace or repower diesel yard tractors working in regional freight operations with all-electric models has been referred for further consideration. Should this result in a formal offer for funding assistance, it is anticipated that the project will begin soon.
- H-GAC staff is currently working to prepare an additional grant application an ongoing 2019 DERA Request of Applications. The proposed project will work with additional regional fleets to help electrify freight operations within the region.
- 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.

**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.

**TPC Agenda Item 10A**  
**Mailout – 4/01/19**

- 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).
- Staff continues to develop a dynamic travel demand model for use in corridor analyses.