

REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

A. H-GAC LONG RANGE PLANNING

- The 2018 Call for Projects draft listing was presented to TAC and TPC at the January meetings. Staff continues to hold debriefing meetings with project sponsors to explain the benefit/cost analysis process for this effort and to point out project improvements for future calls. Application materials for all projects is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/2018-call-for-projects/application-list.aspx>.
 - Work continues on the compilation of the 2045 RTP document outline. For more information on 2045 RTP public outreach opportunities please visit <http://2045rtp.com/>.
 - Public meetings were held over the last month for the Call for Projects, the 2045 RTP and the Performance measures.
1. Subregional Planning Initiatives (SPI)
 - Waller County Transportation Plan: Staff coordinated with consultants to complete the study and 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 have completed the draft Active Transportation Plan and presented to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee.
 - Staff have completed a regional sidewalk layer and have made this data available to the public upon request.
 - Staff have initiated a Special Districts Study with Spring Branch.
 - Staff have initiated a contract for a Bicycle Safety Trainer Program.
 5. Regional Incident Management
 - Staff conducted a meeting 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.
 - Staff presented at the Positive Interaction Program (PIP) citywide meeting on Tow and Go on January 8, 2019.

6. Eco-Logical Update Project

- Staff conducted the inaugural meeting of the project advisory committee on January 15, 2019. Staff presented reasons for the update and described the proposed methodology.

B. H-GAC SHORT RANGE PLANNING

1. 2019-2022 TIP Development 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> .
- The 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for H-GAC was approved as part of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. 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 with completion anticipated by the end of February 2019.
- 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.
- The Service Concepts Workgroup of the High Capacity Transit Task Force met on December 14, 2018. The Innovative Finance and Economic Development Workgroups are expected to meet in January.
- The next meeting of the full High Capacity Transit Task Force is February 15, 2019.
- Staff continues work on the 2045 "Vision" and "Priority" service networks, high-level cost estimates, and economic impact analysis for the High Capacity Transit Task Force.

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](#).

- A successful round public meetings were held in January and February. 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.
- The public comment period for the 2018 Call for Projects draft selections opened on January 16, 2019 and will end on February 28, 2019. Click [here](#) for more information.

2. Commute Solutions Activities

- Staff attended a de-briefing meeting on January 14 at the United Way Houston office with the Workgroup for the Job Candidate and Employee Transportation (JET) Pilot project. Project results indicated nearly 1,000 job seekers participated in the pilot project and were referred to transportation service providers within the region for transportation to job interviews and new employment. About 130 individuals utilize transit and vanpool services, and one person purchased a vehicle through the “On the Road” Lending Program to commute to a new job.
- Staff coordinated with METRO staff and participated as exhibitors at H-GAC’s Health and Wellness Fair on January 17. Staff also distributed marketing materials and promotional items to promote alternative transportation to about 130+ employees who visited the tables. About seventy-four commuter benefits surveys were completed by H-GAC staff, and a follow-up survey was emailed in February to those who did not attend the Health and Wellness Fair in January.
- Staff participated as an exhibitor at the Career and Resources Fair at the Meyerland Resources Center on January 23. The outreach event was hosted by Goodwill Houston and Endeavors on January 23 and provided more than 60 attendees with information about the Commute Solutions program.
- Staff distributed Commute Solutions marketing materials and promotional items at two of H-GAC’s public meetings for the 2045 RTP on February 5 at the Kingdom City Houston in the Energy Corridor and on February 12 at the H-GAC office.
- Staff gave a Power Point presentation on the Commute Solutions Program to the North Houston Association Environment Committee on February 7 and about 18 committee members attended the meeting.
- Staff coordinated with METRO transit and METRO STAR vanpool staffs to assist Grocers Supply with transportation services for about 100+ employees. The company will be relocating from the Southeast Houston area to their new facility in North Houston, near IH 45 North and Richey Road.
- Staff participated in a 4-hour CommuteCon 2019 webinar on February 13 that was hosted by Rideamigos, Transit Screen, Waze Carpool and the Association for Commute Transportation. The webinar featured speakers that gave presentations about numerous alternative transportation strategies and programs throughout the nation that are being implemented by local governments, transportation management organizations and agencies, universities, TDM consultants., and rideshare agencies.

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

- 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.
- 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.
- Last year, Air Quality staff worked with regional local governments and other stakeholders to develop comments and respond to a Volkswagen Settlement Draft State Beneficiary Mitigation Plan as developed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The final plan was issued by TCEQ on November 16, 2018 based on feedback recommended by stakeholders throughout the State of Texas as well as our own region including H-GAC. There will be \$31.8 million in funding available within our region for vehicle and equipment replacement. It is anticipated that the first funding availability based on this program will be available in the first half of 2019.
- 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 in March of 2019 and that replacement efforts will begin soon after.

- 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. It is anticipated that the final proposal will be submitted in March 2019.
- 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.
- 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.