

**MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL  
FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION  
MANAGEMENT AREA**

DATE: Friday February 22, 2019

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Houston-Galveston Area Council, 3555 Timmons Lane, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room B, Houston,  
Texas 77027

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Chairman Ken Clark called the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) to order at 9:31 a.m.

**ITEM 1. CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM**

Secretary Tom Reid announced that a quorum of TPC membership was present; 14 members comprise a quorum. A quorum was declared present and recorded on the Roll Call, which is included with these Minutes as Attachment 1.

**ITEM 2. INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Clark invited introductions from Council members and staff. He introduced new member, Commissioner Adrian Garcia, alternate for Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo.

**ITEM 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following persons addressed the Council regarding the Agenda.

1. Dominic Mazoch – Mr. Mazoch addressed the Council regarding the High Capacity Transit Task Force. He would like to see the Task Force continue to meet after its culmination in the next month or two. He would also like to see some recognition of the other transit agencies in the region on the Task Force besides METRO.
2. Payal Patel, Houston Exponential Connectivity Committee – Ms. Patel addressed the Council regarding the work of the High Capacity Transit Task Force as it pertains to better public transit accessibility. She explained how high-speed rail and other forms of transit will become a possibility with development of the Innovation District. The Innovation District is planned for the location of the former Sears Department Store on Main Street and owned by Rice University.
3. Pat Walters, Executive Director, Memorial Management District – Mr. Walters addressed the Council regarding support of the City of Bunker Hill Village Memorial Drive access management and safety project. He pointed out the benefits of safe routes to schools and pedestrian and bicycle access. He is requesting that this project be ranked in an off-system roads category rather than having to compete

with highway projects. He also asked that this project might be put on a contingency list if funding is not available.

4. Jonathan Brooks, Director of Policy and Planning for Bike Houston – Mr. Brooks addressed the Council regarding the need to increase funding for active transportation projects like bicycling or walking. He recommended that the TPC work with H-GAC to identify all opportunities to access unused funds such as surface transportation program or block grants.
5. Paul Horn, City of Alvin Mayor – Mayor Horn addressed the Council in support of the Resolution for the Grand Parkway Segment B. He expressed the importance of that segment of the Grand Parkway as a hurricane evacuation route, especially for Galveston County residents.
6. Laura Rosenbaum, Bunker Hill City Council – Ms. Rosenbaum addressed the Council regarding the Memorial Drive access management and safety project. She stressed the need for that project to be extended to Gessner Road. She pointed out the major safety issues that exist for Frostwood Elementary School students when they attempt to get to the crosswalk on Gessner and there are no sidewalks to do that safely.
7. Bruce Nichols, Bunker Hill Village resident – Mr. Nichols also addressed the Council regarding the Memorial Drive access management and safety project. He brings a request from the City of Bunker Hill is to rebuild Memorial Drive from Tallow Wood Drive eastward to Gessner Road. He feels that the current scoring process puts this project at a disadvantage because it will be competing with other major highway projects instead of another group of smaller corridors. He requests that this project be placed on a contingency list if funding is not available.
8. Robert Lord, Council Member, City of Bunker Hill – Council Member Lord addressed the Council regarding the Memorial Drive access management and safety project. He concurred with previous speakers who support this project. He added that this project is a danger zone for the students of Frostwood Elementary who are trying to get to the crosswalk on Gessner. It is important because it also serves as an evacuation route to Beltway 8 or IH 10. He also requested that this project be placed on a contingency list at a minimum if funding is not available.

#### ITEM 4. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 25, 2019 MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

Secretary Reid motioned for approval of the January 25, 2019 meeting Minutes and Council Member David Robinson seconded the motion. The Council voted and approved the Minutes.

#### ITEM 5. APPROVAL OF TPC NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Nominating Committee Chair, Mayor Joe Zimmerman, briefed the Council on the Committee's recommendations since the January TPC meeting. He explained that 15 Transportation Safety Committee member spots were vacant and still needed to be filled. Below are the recommendations of the TPC Nominating Committee to fill those vacancies.

- **Public Transit, State/City/County Engineering & Planning**

Primary – Sharon Moses-Burnside, City of Houston

Alternate – Lauren Grove, City of Houston

- **Law Enforcement/Fire/EMS/Emergency Management**

Primary – Sean Wright, Seabrook Chief of Police

Alternate – Lieutenant Bryan Brand, Seabrook Police

Alternate – Sergeant Marcus Upchurch, City of La Porte Police Dept

Primary – John Hermann, Fort Bend County Constable Precinct 4

Alternate – Lt. Charles Krachala, Fort Bend County

Alternate – Lt. Grady Castleberry, Harris County Sherriff’s Office

- **Healthcare/Education/Social Service/Citizens**

Alternate – Diana Suarez Martinez, Texas Children’s Center for Childhood Injury Prevention

Alternate – Jonathan Tydlacka, Texas A&M TTI

Alternate – Jeff Kaufman, Texas A&M TTI

- **Private Shippers & Carriers**

Alternate – Annette Watts, Jetco Delivery

Primary – John Esparza, Texas Trucking Association, President & CEO

Alternate – Dana Moore, Texas Trucking Association Director of Policy

- **Railroads & Ports**

Alternate – Chris Cordary, Union Pacific Railroad

Council Member Robinson motioned for approval of the TPC Nominating Committee recommendations for additional at-large members of the Transportation Safety Committee, and Mayor Reid seconded the motion. The Council voted and approved the additional members of the TSC as listed above.

#### ITEM 6. APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL TPC NON-VOTING EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Chairman Clark appointed two additional TPC non-voting Ex-Officio members for 2019: State Senator Carol Alvarado and State Representative Dennis Paul.

A motion was made and seconded for approval of the above appointments of non-voting, Ex-Officio members. The Council voted and approved the Ex-Officio members as listed above.

**ITEM 7. REPORT OF THE HIGH CAPACITY TRANSIT TASK FORCE (INFORMATION ONLY)**

Co-Chair Amanda Edwards thanked all who participated in the work of the Task Force over the last two years. The goal of the Task Force was to explore how to address the growing needs of the region over the next two decades and how to accommodate growth of more than 4.2 million people in our region. She added that today's presentation will be the first of a two-part presentation. Part One will cover the vision for 2045. Part two will be continued at the March 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting and will consist of the economic impact analysis results and the financial options for financing this growth.

Co-chair Carrin Patman added her thanks for everyone that participated, especially for the phenomenal efforts of the H-GAC staff. She extended special thanks to Commissioner Rusty Senac for his perspective and voice of reason during this process.

Mr. Thomas Gray, H-GAC Principal Planner, expressed his thanks to co-chairs Edwards and Patman for their leadership and for guiding the efforts of the Task Force. He presented a summary of the work of the Task Force since its inception in March 2017. Mr. Gray described the potential benefits and costs of the Task Force "Vision Network." Recommendations for the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan, including high capacity transit services recommended for its financially constrained element, will be provided at the March 2019 TPC meeting.

For the complete presentation details and discussion, view the meeting livestream at: <https://hgac.swagit.com/play/02222019-577>.

**ITEM 8A. RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE 2040 RTP AND THE 2019-2020 TIP**

Mr. Jim Dickinson briefed the Council on two amendments for Transportation Policy Council approval this month:

- Program additional funding on the City of League City's Landing Boulevard/NASA Road 1 extension project to cover changes in bridge design. Due to the realignment of the roadway and subsequent relocation of the span over Clear Creek, the length of the bridge increased from 700 feet to 2,772 feet. The increased span requires that the structure to be upgraded from concrete to steel. The proposal is to split the cost increase with H-GAC 50/50.
- Program H-GAC Planning Studies in the TIP: 1) Southeast Harris County Subregional Study; 2) Regional Goods Movement Study; 3) Intersection Safety Audits; 4) Regional Travel Surveys.

Mayor Zimmerman motioned for approval of the Resolution amending the 2040 RTP and the 2019-2020 TIP, and Dr. Brown seconded the motion. The Council voted and approved Resolutions 2019-03 (amendments) and 2019-04 (Transportation Development Credits).

**ITEM 8B. ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS TO THE TIP AND RTP**

Mr. Dickinson reviewed Administrative modifications to one project, and that was to update the

project description for the FY 2017 Fort Bend County Capital Expenditures grant to match changes to sub-elements defined in the FTA amendment. There is no change in the programmed funding.

This Administrative Amendment was presented for information only and did not require action by the Council.

ITEM 8C. FUTURE AMENDMENTS TO THE TIP AND RTP

Mr. Dickinson informed the Council that there are two proposed amendments being previewed this month:

- Program the City of Conroe’s locally funded Transit Fleet Maintenance Facility into the TIP. The City is drafting a Letter of No Prejudice for the Federal Transit Administration to protect expenditures made prior to a contract award.
- Program additional funding on the City of Webster’s Landing Boulevard/NASA 1 extension project to cover a cost overrun. The proposal is to split the increase with H-GAC 50/50. Delay to FY 2021.

**These amendments are presented for information only and are subject to change prior to a request for action.**

ITEM 09. RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGETS

Mr. Alan Clark explained that action was taken on this item at the January TPC meeting, but it was listed on the posted Agenda as an information item. Therefore, an action needs to be taken today in keeping with the Open Meetings Act. This Resolution supports a Statewide goal which is also a federal requirement. Approval of staff’s commitment to the Statewide targets remains unchanged.

Mayor Zimmerman motioned for approval of the Resolution authorizing Safety Performance Measures and Targets, and Council Member Larry Millican seconded the motion. The Council voted and approved Resolution 2019-05.

ITEM 10. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ADVANCEMENT OF SEGMENT B OF THE GRAND PARKWAY SH 99 IN GALVESTON AND BRAZORIA COUNTIES

By way of background, Mr. Clark noted that this item has been discussed at past TPC meetings and is a project that is committed to funding in the current TIP. Due to concerns expressed at the State level about the direction and involvement of TxDOT in tolled facilities, a freeze was put on projects that were partially or fully toll-financed. It is his understanding that after a discussion with elected officials from our region, toll projects in our region were not the target of their concerns because of the way they have been supported and financed by local governments and by TxDOT.

Today's requested action is to pass a Resolution to let the Texas Transportation Commission know and affirm our readiness for this project to move forward. This would involve several steps that need to happen, and those are mentioned in the background paper under this item.

Council Member Robinson motioned for approval of the Resolution supporting advancement of Segment B of the Grand Parkway in Galveston and Brazoria Counties, and Mr. Chuck Wemple seconded the motion. The Council voted and approved Resolution 2019-06.

**ITEM 11. RESOLUTION COMMITTING \$56.5 M FOR CONSTRUCTION OF IH 610 S/SH 35 DIRECT CONNECTORS**

Mr. Clark explained that this project was originally submitted in the Call for Projects. He clarified that it is the SH 35 Freeway, not Telephone Road, at the University of Houston where Spur 5 connects to Loop 610. TxDOT has requested TPC funding for two direct connectors from 610 to the new SH 35 Freeway segment to be constructed. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has been able to secure a commitment of additional Clear Lanes funding from the TxDOT Commission that would support construction of the mainlanes and is one of the few projects they are going to submit in the next call for INFRA (Infrastructure for Rebuilding America) grant projects at the federal level.

Mr. Clark added that the Technical Advisory Committee has reviewed this item and after much discussion, provided the following three recommendations for TxDOT to consider:

- Conduct additional public involvement and discussions with Super Neighborhoods and other stakeholders;
- Review recommendations for a rail grade separation at Long Road/Wayside contained in the Texas Rail Plan and identify potential conflicts, if any, with the SH 35 freeway design; and
- Conduct additional collaboration with H-GAC and the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) concerning future transit use of this corridor.

The Technical Advisory Committee recommended adoption of the attached Resolution 2019-07.

Commissioner Justin Beckendorff motioned for approval of Resolution 2019-07 committing \$56.5 M for construction of IH 610 S/SH 35 direct connectors, and Secretary Reid seconded the motion. The Council voted and approved Resolution 2019-07.

**ITEM 12. REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

- A. Transportation Planning Activities – Mr. Clark invited questions from members regarding planning activities for February.
- B. H-GAC Board of Directors – Items submitted to the H-GAC Board of Directors in February are summarized in this item.

ITEM 13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next TAC Meeting will be Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., Rm B

The next TPC meeting will be Friday, March 22, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., Rm B

The March Brown Bag Lunch Series presentation will be held on Monday, March 25, 2019 from Noon to 1:00 p.m. at the H-GAC offices, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rm B, featuring Mr. Sam Lott -- “Integrating AV Technology with High Capacity Transit.” This presentation is scheduled to be livestreamed.

ITEM 14. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Clark adjourned the meeting of the TPC at 11:05 a.m.

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Hon. Tom Reid, Secretary  
Transportation Policy Council

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)  
FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON  
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA  
**February 22, 2019**

ROLL

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Baytown, City of	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Robert Hoskins Council Member, District 5 <u>      </u> Honorable Charles Johnson – Alternate	City of Baytown
Conroe, City of	<u>      </u> Thomas Woolley Interim Director of Engineering <u>      </u> Chris Bogert – Alternate	City of Conroe
Galveston, City of	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Craig Brown Council Member <u>  x  </u> Rick Beverlin - Alternate	City of Galveston
Houston, City of	<u>  X  </u> Honorable David W. Robinson – 2 <sup>nd</sup> VC Council Member, At-Large 2 <u>      </u> Hon. Martha Castex-Tatum- Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Amanda Edwards Council Member <u>      </u> Karla Cisneros - Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<u>  X  </u> Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E. Director, Public Works & Engineering <u>  x  </u> Maureen Crocker – Alternate	City of Houston
League City, City of	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Larry Millican Council Member, Position 3 <u>      </u> Hon. Hank Dugie - Alternate	City of League City
Missouri City, City of	<u>  X  </u> Shashi Kumar, P.E.. Director of Public Works <u>      </u> Clifford Brouhard – Alternate	City of Missouri City
Pasadena, City of	<u>      </u> Honorable Cary Bass Council Member <u>      </u> James Rodriguez – Alternate	City of Pasadena



**Attachment 1**

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Pearland, City of	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Tom Reid Mayor - <b>Secretary</b> <u>  x  </u> Jon Branson –Alternate	City of Pearland
Sugar Land, City of	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Joe Zimmerman Mayor <u>      </u> Hon. Jennifer Lane – Alternate	City of Sugar Land
Texas City, City of	<u>  X  </u> Phil Roberts Mayor Pro Tem <u>  x  </u> Doug Kneupper, P.E. - Alternate	City of Texas City
City of Bellaire	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Trisha Pollard Council Member, City of Bellaire <u>      </u> Honorable Natalie Picha - Alternate	Smaller Cities, Harris County
Brazoria County	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Matt Sebesta County Judge – <b>Past Chair</b> <u>      </u> Honorable David Linder – Alternate	Brazoria County
Chambers County	<u>  X  </u> Hon. Billy Combs Commissioner <u>      </u> Cory Taylor, P.E. - Alternate	Chambers County
Fort Bend County	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Grady Prestage County Commissioner, Pct 2 <u>  x  </u> Richard Stolleis, P.E. – Alternate	Fort Bend County
Galveston County	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Kenneth Clark Commissioner – <b>Chairman</b> <u>      </u> Judge Mark Henry – Alternate	Galveston County
Harris County	<u>      </u> Honorable Lina Hidalgo County Judge <u>  X  </u> Commissioner A. Garcia – Alternate	Harris County
Harris County	<u>      </u> Honorable Steve Radack County Commissioner, Pct 3 <u>  X  </u> Gary Trietsch, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Liberty County	<u>      </u> David Douglas Engineering Director <u>      </u> Judge Jay Knight - Alternate	Liberty County

**Attachment 1**

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Montgomery County	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Charlie Riley County Commissioner, Pct 2 <u>      </u> Judge Mark Keough – Alternate	Montgomery County
Waller County	<u>  X  </u> Hon. Justin Beckendorff County Commissioner <u>      </u> Yancy Scott, P.E. - Alternate	Waller County
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	<u>  X  </u> Carrin Patman METRO Chair <u>      </u> Thomas Lambert - Alternate	METRO
Houston-Galveston Area Council At Large	<u>  X  </u> Chuck Wemple Executive Director <u>      </u> Jeff Taebel – Alternate	H-GAC
TxDOT	<u>  X  </u> Quincy Allen, P.E. District Engineer <u>  x  </u> Eliza Paul, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Houston District
TxDOT	<u>  X  </u> Tucker Ferguson, P.E. District Engineer <u>      </u> Adam Jack, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Beaumont District
Port of Houston Authority	<u>  X  </u> Phyllis Saathoff Executive Director, Port Freeport <u>      </u> Roger Guenther, POH – Alternate	Other Transportation Interests
Gulf Coast Rail District	<u>      </u> Bert Keller Chairman, GCRD <u>      </u> Carol Lewis, TSU – Alternate	Gulf Coast Rail District
	<u>  28  </u> <b>Total Voting Membership</b>	
	<u>  24  </u> <b>Voting Membership Present</b>	
	<u>  14  </u> <b>Required Quorum</b>	

**Attachment 1**

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>NON-VOTING MEMBERS</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Freight Rail Interests	<u>  X  </u> Brenda Mainwaring Vice President, Public Affairs	Union Pacific Railroad
Freight Rail Interests	<u>  X  </u> Hugh McCulley	BNSF Railway
Texas State Legislator	<u>  X  </u> Hon. Ed Thompson	8-County Region
Wharton County	<u>      </u> Hon. Phillip Spenrath County Judge	Wharton County
TxDOT Yoakum District	<u>      </u> Paul Reitz, P.E. District Engineer	TxDOT Yoakum District