

DRAFT 2020-2021 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Background

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) describes the transportation plans and programs, and the transportation-related air quality planning activities that will be undertaken during fiscal years 2020 and 2021 (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2021). Through the development of the UPWP, changes in regional transportation planning priorities are identified. In addition, the role of the Houston-Galveston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area (TMA) is documented.

Description of the Tasks

The draft 2020-2021 UPWP includes the following tasks:

Task I – Administration describes the administrative support activities such as financial management, contract management, public outreach, and the general management of the MPO. Major sub-tasks include:

- All administrative support for the MPO planning program in general, including the financial management of the MPO's operations, contract management, departmental reporting, the provision of technical assistance to member agencies, and participation in state and national organizations involved in transportation planning and development.
- Development and maintenance of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which describes the transportation plans and programs and the transportation-related air quality planning activities conducted during the fiscal year(s) regardless of funding sources or agencies conducting these activities.

Task II – Data Development and Maintenance describes the collection, maintenance, and analysis of transportation data. These activities include the development of socio-economic forecasts and travel demand models to determine where future transportation investments will be made. Major sub-tasks include:

- Advanced-practice regional travel models that incorporate updated modeling practices and theories as well as new travel survey data.
- The review and assessment of traffic data used in base year networks, including Automated Vehicle Identification, Wavetronic, Bluetooth, private data and Automatic Traffic Recorder data resulting in an improved regional transportation modeling network.
- Emissions analyses of transportation projects using the MOVES model.

Task III – Short-Range Planning addresses planning for activities taking place within a three-to ten-year timeframe, including the Transportation Improvement Program, the Ten-Year

Transportation Plan, as well as transit feasibility studies, and operations planning. Task III also includes ongoing maintenance of the Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), as well as efforts to improve traffic safety in the region and evacuation planning. Major sub-tasks include:

- The development of TIP and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) project tracking system.
- Development and modification of the existing 2019-22 TIP. Maintenance of the 10-year plan for the use of funding allocated to the region, consistent with the TIP and RTP.
- Continued enhancement of the Call for Projects and Project Evaluation processes.
- The provision of assistance to local governments for environmental analyses of projects.
- An update to the regional ITS Architecture.
- The implementation of enhanced freeway incident management programs in the region.
- An updated of the annual State of Safety in the Region reports outlining the traffic safety situation in the region.
- The support of state and local government hurricane evacuation planning, coordination, and implementation efforts.

Task IV – Long Range Planning describes planning activities for the long-term including development and maintenance of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as well as ongoing initiatives regarding transportation-related air quality planning, regional bicycle and pedestrian planning, activities involving H-GAC's Livable Centers program, and Transportation Performance Management (TPM) activities. Major sub-tasks include:

- Maintain and update the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan.
- Address federal performance-based planning requirements including the adoption of performance measure targets in the areas of system condition, safety, congestion and air quality, and freight.
- Develop regional, sub-regional, and local area plans; such as Brazoria County Thoroughfare Plan, Montgomery Mobility Plan, Liberty County Mobility Plan, and Southeast Harris County Sub regional Study.
- Conduct High Capacity Transit Feasibility Study.
- To comply with the Clean Air Act as outlined in the State Implementation Plan (SIP), its development and revisions, and to provide implementation assistance for local governments.
- Development of additional Livable Centers plans and projects, assisting local governments in creating quality mixed-use places that reduce dependence on single-occupancy vehicles.
- Encourage strategies designed to decrease the share of trips made by single-occupancy vehicles and promote alternatives such as walking, biking, telework, vanpool, and carpool.
- Integrate and maintain the congestion management process (CMP) into the RTP.

Task V – Special Studies includes special one-time planning activities, including major corridor studies/analyses and support of tourism and transportation resiliency planning activities.

- Completed assessment of vulnerability and potential risk of the transportation system to extreme weather impacts utilizing FHWA’s Vulnerability Framework.
- Completed update to the Regional Goods Movement Study.
- Develop region-wide resiliency plan.
- Develop strategies to improve transportation connections regional tourist destinations

Current Situation

The 2018-2019 UPWP will be completed by the end of fiscal year, September 30, 2019. H-GAC staff prepared the draft of the 2020-2021 UPWP to submit to TxDOT review by August 1, 2019 to continue the MPO’s transportation planning activities. The following is a schedule for the review and approval of the UPWP document:

- TAC/ TPC information – May 15, 2019
- Planning project ideas due - May 27, 2019
- Public Comment June 3 – July 3, 2019
- Public meeting – June, TBD
- TAC/TPC Adoption - July 2019
- Submission of Approved Document to TxDOT - August 1, 2019

The draft the 2020-2021 UPWP is available at the following website for review:

<http://www.h-gac.com/unified-planning-work-program/default.aspx>

If local governments or stakeholders intend to request H-GAC to add additional planning studies to the draft UPWP, please submit the requests by filling the attached form by May 27, 2019

Action Requested

Information only.

2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program – Planning Support Request Form

Please complete the following form to request transportation planning support from the H-GAC staff.
Please send the form to Neely.Kim@h-gac.com by May 27, 2019.

- 1. Date of Submittal:**
- 2. Project Sponsor:**
 - a. Name:**
 - b. Email:**
 - c. Phone:**
- 3. Planning Project Name:**
- 4. Project Need:**
- 5. Project Scope and Task Description:**
- 6. Project Limits:**
- 7. Benefit of the Study to the 8-County Region:**
- 8. Estimated Funding Amount:**
- 9. Estimated Match Available:**
- 10. Source of Match:**
- 11. Duration of Study:**