

6. CONFORMITY AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) 2045 PROJECT LISTING

BACKGROUND

The metropolitan planning area is classified as “severe” for the 2008 8-hour ozone standard and as “serious” for the 2015 8-hour ozone standard under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). These nonattainment designations require H-GAC to ensure that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and any amendments to these documents are consistent with the region’s air quality goals via the transportation conformity process.

As new, regionally significant projects are added to an RTP or TIP, regardless of funding source, the revised regional transportation network must be reviewed before these projects can move forward. Through this process, the revised network and resultant air quality emissions are reviewed to ensure that they conform to federally approved motor vehicle emissions budgets. Once the final transportation conformity analysis is reviewed and approved at the regional level, it is transmitted to agency partners at the state and federal level for additional review and eventual concurrence. Once the final analysis is approved by partners, the added projects may move forward.

CURRENT SITUATION

MPO staff have prepared a new conformity determination to support project list updates for the 2045 RTP Update and 2025-2028 TIP. The results of this conformity determination demonstrate that the 2045 RTP Update and the 2025-2028 TIP meet the requirements of the NAAQS as it applies to the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria ozone non-attainment area. These requirements are outlined in applicable air quality State Implementation Plan submittals by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and are in accordance with the Clean Air Act, as amended on November 15, 1990, and the final conformity rule (40 CFR Parts 51 and 93).

Air Quality Analysis Results

2008 “Severe” 8-Hour Ozone Budget – Approved Adequate

Year	NO _x Emissions (tpd)*	NO _x Budget (tpd)	VOC Emissions (tpd)	VOC Budget (tpd)	VMT
2023	62.07✓	87.69	35.42✓	57.70	195 M
2026	49.60✓	87.69	29.89✓	57.70	205 M
2030	42.36✓	87.69	25.91✓	57.70	221 M
2040	41.41✓	87.69	22.68✓	57.70	261 M
2045	43.86✓	87.69	22.80✓	57.70	280 M

2015 “Serious” 8-Hour Ozone Budget – Approval Pending

Year	NO _x Emissions (tpd)*	NO _x Budget (tpd)	VOC Emissions (tpd)	VOC Budget (tpd)	VMT
2023	62.07✓	67.77	35.42✓	37.27	195 M
2026	49.60✓	56.12	29.89✓	31.88	205 M
2030	42.36✓	56.12	25.91✓	31.88	221 M
2040	41.41✓	56.12	22.68✓	31.88	261 M
2045	43.86✓	56.12	22.80✓	31.88	280 M

*tpd= tons per day, NO_x= nitrogen oxides, VOC= volatile organic compounds, VMT= vehicle miles traveled

The conformity documentation and all supporting materials can be found at the following location:
<https://www.h-gac.com/transportation-conformity/2025>.

ACTION

Recommendation to the Transportation Policy Council for approval of 2045 Regional Transportation Plan Update Project List Update Amendment, 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment, and Transportation Conformity Analysis.



Resolution

No. 2025-27

AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS OF THE PROJECT LISTING OF THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) UPDATE AND THE 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA AND ADOPTION OF SUPPORTING TRANSPORTATION AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY ANALYSIS

WHEREAS, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the eight-county Houston-Galveston Metropolitan Planning Area by the Governor of Texas in accordance with federal law; and,

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Planning Area includes all of Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller Counties; and,

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Council (TPC), comprised primarily of local elected officials, is the regional transportation policy body associated with the H-GAC and continues to be the regional forum for cooperative decisions on transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) assigns the MPO the responsibility for developing and maintaining the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program and their periodic updates; and,

WHEREAS, the IIJA Act requires the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program include a financial plan to demonstrate the consistency of proposed transportation investments with available and projected sources of revenue; and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program were developed using the most recent federal guidance and applicable regulations; and,

WHEREAS, the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan Update (RTP Update) was amended in cooperation with local governments, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO), and other transportation agencies; and,

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 mandates nondiscrimination and analysis of impacts to protected populations for all federally funded projects; and,

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated an eight-county area coterminous with the Metropolitan Planning Area as severe nonattainment under the 2008 8-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the pollutant ozone, effective November 7, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, the EPA has designated a six-county area coterminous with the Metropolitan Planning Area as serious nonattainment under the 2015 8-hour NAAQS for the pollutant ozone, effective July 22, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, technical analysis has determined the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan Update conforms to motor vehicle emissions budgets contained in *Revisions to the State Implementation Plan for the Control of Ozone Air Pollution, Houston/Galveston/Brazoria Ozone Nonattainment Area*; and,

WHEREAS, expeditious implementation of the transportation control measures identified in the applicable State Implementation Plan has been accomplished and documented; and

WHEREAS, the IIJA Act and Clean Air Act regulations require information regarding the development of the Regional Transportation Plan and the transportation conformity analysis be available for public comment according to the adopted MPO public participation plan; and,

WHEREAS, the transportation facilities, services and projects recommended in the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan Update have been made available to the public in compliance with H-GAC's *Public Participation Plan*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Transportation Policy Council for the Houston-Galveston Metropolitan Planning Area that the Transportation Policy Council for the Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area Adopts the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan Update; and

The 2045 Regional Transportation Plan is in conformity with the 1990 U.S. Clean Air Act as amended; and

The 2045 Regional Transportation Plan Update satisfies planning requirements of the infrastructure investment and jobs act including applicable provisions within the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 24th day of October 2025, at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Transportation Policy Council for the Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Hon. Justin Beckendorff, Chairman
Transportation Policy Council

Hon. Lesley Briones, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council