

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

February 24, 2026– 1:30 P.M.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX 77027

Virtual

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Benz, P.E.– Texas A&M Trans. Institute
Jamie Woodall–Executive Dir. of School Safety
Ken Fickes– Harris County Transit
Thomas Kuczynski– Fort Bend County Public Transp.
Sgt. Saul Luera– City of Missouri City

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Perri D’Armond– Fort Bend County Public Transportation
Lisa Camp– City of Friendswood-EMS
James Keener– TxDOT Houston
Meer Jumani– Harris County

STAFF PRESENT

Cassandra Marshall – H-GAC
Yetunde Oyewale– H-GAC
Caroline Bailey– H-GAC
Qun Zhao– H-GAC
Keehren Baah– H-GAC
Susan Jaworski– H-GAC
Alan Rodenstein– H-GAC
Kareem Heshmat– H-GAC
Madeline Statkewicz – H-GAC
Florence Buaku– H-GAC
Brandon Mosley– H-GAC
Ayo Jibowu– H-GAC
Francis Rodriguez– H-GAC
Monique Johnson– H-GAC
Fan Yang– H-GAC
Brandon Mosley– H-GAC
Rosa Harris– H-GAC
Mary Schneider– H-GAC
Ebrahim Eslami– H-GAC
Diane Domagas– H-GAC
Ariane Martins– H-GAC

OTHERS PRESENT

Jenny Lai– Kimley Horn
Payton Arens
346-907-7978

ITEM 1. Introduction and Certification of Quorum

The meeting was called to order. Caroline Bailey initiated the roll call and determined that only seven members were present, which did not meet the required quorum of twelve.

ITEM 2. Public Comments

- None

ITEM 3. Acceptance of Minutes: January 27, 2026

- Meeting Minutes held for quorum.

Information

ITEM 4. Tow and Go Safety: Update (Francis Rodriguez)

Francis Rodriguez introduced the Tow and Go program, explaining that its purpose is to move stalled vehicles to safe locations at no cost to eligible motorists. She described the program's 24/7 operations and identified key agency partners, including Houston TranStar, the Harris County Sheriff's Office, the Houston Police Department (HPD), and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

ITEM 5. Congestion Management Process (Alan Rodenstein)

Mr. Rodenstein reviewed national congestion trends, highlighting their expansion across more hours of the day and days of the week, as well as increasing impacts from truck and freight activity. He distinguished between recurring and non-recurring congestion causes and outlined the CMP's continuous process, including settling objectives, defining the CMP network, collecting, and analyzing data, identifying, and implementing strategies, and evaluating outcomes, noting that the CMP will inform multiple planning products. He reported that the CMP kickoff has taken place and that the team is coordinating Cambridge Systematics and subcontractors, with an ambitious schedule targeting a final draft and approval by fall 2026. He also described upcoming stakeholder engagement efforts, including forming a steering committee, expanding public involvement through a project website, digital outreach, and pop-up events, initiating the existing-conditions analysis, and providing regular updates throughout the process.

ITEM 6. Regional Safety Action Plan Update (Payton Arens)

Mr. Arens presented an update on the Regional Safety Action Plan, outlining the development process, including safety analysis, task force coordination, and public meetings, and summarizing a recent well attended regional meeting with partner agencies such as Houston METRO and Gulf Coast Rail District, along with Houston-Galveston Area Council staff. He described public engagement activities including crash data poster boards, a drunken goggles impairment simulation, a selfie booth, comment cards, surveys, and an interactive map and invited TSC members to participate in a three hour Safe System workshop to be scheduled between April 7 and April 13, asking them to indicate availability via a Mentimeter poll that would remain open for the day, with a calendar invite and details to follow once finalized. The workshop will include breakout sessions by emphasis areas (impaired driving, unrestrained occupants, roadway departure, and pedestrian/bicycle safety) to review data, prioritize recommendations, and identify implementation strategies; members were encouraged to respond promptly, and while Robert Benz noted a scheduling conflict with the Texas District of the institute of Transportation Engineers annual meeting (April 8-10), Payton agreed to share the poll link in the chat and confirmed continued stakeholder interviews and report development.

ITEM 7. Safety Workshop Planning (Robert Benz and Keehren Baah)

Fan Yang presented a proposal for a standalone 3–4-hour Transportation Policy Council workshop to be held between April and September to reduce technical knowledge gaps and strengthen collaboration among TPC, TSC, technical staff, and HGAC. The draft outline includes an introduction, safety performance trends, clarification of TSC and TPC roles, a data overview, internal safety training, interactive activities, and actionable next steps. Committee members discussed the need for the workshop, as well as its timing, format, and level of interactivity. Robert Benz stressed the importance of educating TPC members beyond FHWA performance metrics and encouraged more frequent engagement by the TPC on safety related matters.

ITEM 8. Regional Safety Precursor Performance Measures (Robert Benz)

Members discussed the use of alternative safety precursor metrics such as DWI arrests, restraint use, and speeding violations to measure behavioral factors contributing to severe crashes. The indicators could help track progress before changes in fatality data become evident. The meeting concluded with an open invitation for attendees to share additional feedback via email or chat.

ITEM 9. Members Roundtable: Planned Safety Activities and updates in the Region (Robert Benz)

Members will provide feedback to Mr. Benz using the contact information he shared.

Announcements

1. Transportation Policy Council (TPC)- February 27, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. (In person)
2. Transportation Advisory Council (TAC)- March 18, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. (In-person)
3. Transportation Policy Council (TPC)- March 27, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. (In person)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Meeting Adjourned at 2:41 p.m.