

5B. SUMMARY OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Sub-regional Planning Initiatives (SPI)

- The Washington Avenue Corridor Study is being finalized and closed out. The full study will be posted on the H-GAC website.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

- Preparation for Phase II has begun including analysis of Phase I outreach strategy and efforts.

Safety Planning

- Staff held the first round of Safety Action Plan (SAP) public meetings for La Marque, League City, Sugar Land, and Pearland.
- Staff are reviewing materials and coordinating for joint Regional/Metro/GCRD public meeting scheduled for February 12th.
- The second steering committee meetings are completed for the following SAPs: Regional, Metro, GCRD, Sugar Land, Pearland, Conroe, and Friendswood.
- The Transportation Safety Committee provided input on the proposed TPC workshop outline for early 2026 on December 2nd.

Freight Planning

- Staff is developing an RFP to initiate the procurement process to hire a consultant(s) to conduct the Freight Grade Separation studies. Staff is also developing guidelines for project call that is tentatively scheduled to open January 2025.
- The next Greater Houston Freight Committee meeting is scheduled for January 15th at 1:30 p.m.

Pedestrian and Bicyclist Planning

- The Memorial Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is complete and has been closed out. The full study will be posted on the H-GAC website.
- The Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TASA) call for project work continues, staff presented to the TAC and TPC, and continue to coordinate w/TxDOT. Statements of Project Interest (SOPI) are being accepted until mid-January and the questionnaire portal is expected to open soon.

Resiliency Planning

- Staff is initiating the procurement process to hire a consultant to conduct the Regional Resiliency Plan.

TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC OUTREACH

Friendswood Active Transportation Plan

- Constant Contact email promoting the plan, the event and interactive map was sent out on Friday, December 6, 2025. The community meeting will take place from 6-8pm on December 18, 2025.

SHORT TERM PLANNING

PROJECT DELIVERY – TRACKING AND MONITORING

- Staff conducted Quarterly meetings with local government agencies regarding projects included in the 4-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Staff prepared meeting minutes for each quarterly meeting conducted, and worked on action/follow up items.
- Staff developed a Draft Project Development/Delivery Milestone Policy
- Staff conducted two Project Development/Delivery Milestone Policy Workgroup Meetings. The recent workgroup sessions have involved getting the draft policy ready to be presented to TAC/TPC in November, as well as refining tools that will aid in policy goal reinforcement.
- Staff created presentations for November TAC/TPC to discuss the update on the Project Development/Delivery Milestone Policy, with the desire to adopt the policy in December.
- Staff has investigated the TxDOT local government online scheduling tool to assist with project readiness discussions.
- Staff has created a draft of a risk register tool to be implemented to assist with project development/delivery

PROJECT PROGRAMMING

- Coordinated with project sponsors and process required amendments to the TIP projects.

AIR QUALITY

Air Quality Planning

- Rider 7, 2024-2025: Staff are working to complete initial efforts to support the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Rider 7 Program. For our currently underway project for the 2024-2025 biennium, staff are working with AECOM on activities to help our region learn more about the sources of fine particulates within our region. During the current period, staff and consultants submitted several deliverables to TCEQ. These deliverables included a literature review of articles pertinent to our region's air quality as well as a repository of fine particulate matter data collected within the region. This project will be completed in December of 2025.
- Rider 7, 2026-2027: Staff are beginning to move forward on further Rider 7 efforts to support funding awarded for the 2026-2027 biennium. This grant will extend activities for an additional two years and provide an additional \$627,967 for project activities over the next two years. During the current period, staff received contractual documents to support this work and have been circulating those materials internally. Additionally, staff are working to plan for and develop a scope of work to support grant activities for 2026 and 2027.
- Transportation Conformity: Staff transmitted materials from the current transportation conformity process to our statewide conformity partners for their review. Staff are currently awaiting response from our partners.
- H-GAC successfully submitted the second deliverable for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on December 1, 2025. This deliverable, the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, met the required grant specifications. H-GAC is now advancing the program by expanding that document into the Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP). In December, staff began updating the document to incorporate new components that are particularly relevant to our region and the ongoing air quality conversation—elements that were not required in the EPA deliverable—while rebranding the plan. The updated CAAP will maintain a strong health focus,

highlight multi-pollutant benefits, and provide expanded narratives for ozone and particulate matter. By mid-January, the first updated draft will be available for review. Preparations are also underway for a public launch in early 2026, which will share the final plan with community members, local governments, and stakeholders, highlight how input shaped the strategies, and present opportunities for regional collaboration toward improved air quality and healthier communities across the Houston-Galveston region.

- Zero-Emission Vehicle Planning: The Regional ZEV Infrastructure Study is now complete and posted on the H-GAC website. Staff is collaborating with the Government Affairs and Outreach department to produce and post a number of social media posts to promote the study. A draft Scope of Work for the Regional ZEV Plan is circulating with the project team.
- Efforts to assist H-GAC's RTP team with scenario modeling are underway. A review of similar efforts performed by the Wasatch Front Regional Council and by the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority was completed to determine the direction in which H-GAC should take its own scenario modeling for RTP 2050 and beyond. Current and projected future vehicle population data was requested from and provided by the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) to facilitate this discussion. Next steps include inquiry with H-GAC's transit partners about their long-term fleet plans and investigation into possible health and economic impacts. Additionally, staff will complete training for ClearPath2.0 with a goal of using it for this effort.

Clean Vehicles Grant Programs

- Staff met with a subrecipient to explore utilizing their GPS data to preserve data integrity and achieve cost savings.
- GPS unit installations are complete, and staff have scheduled training with the vendor.
- Staff facilitated a connection between the trucking company and Tesla's Houston Region Initiative, and plan to continue discussions to potentially develop a CVP-eligible project for five to ten truck replacements in 2026 and 2027.
- Staff introduced the trucking company to H-GAC Enterprise Solutions to discuss options for a low-interest loan to support electrification infrastructure; CVP staff will remain involved as infrastructure planning progresses.
- One subagreement was closed after successfully meeting NO_x-reduction targets.
- Internal coordination continues in preparation for issuing grants under the new AFA.

Houston-Galveston Clean Cities Coalition

- Clean Cities staff met with Tesla to learn about their Houston Region Initiative for Class 8 trucks and facilitated information sharing with other H-GAC programs.
- Staff collaborated with partners on the Hydrogen Workforce Event, resulting in shifting the event to a job fair format and a postponed event date; planning adjustments are underway.
- Staff met with H-GAC Enterprise Solutions to discuss co-hosting an event for school districts focused on energy resiliency, energy management planning, electric buses, and available grants through the Clean Vehicles Program.
- Planning has begun for the next Clean Cities Stakeholder Meeting.
- Staff attended the Autonomous Driving Symposium in Austin, Texas.
- Coordination continued with Texas Coalition staff on statewide initiatives and best practices.

MPO PROGRAMS

Incident Management/Tow and Go

- Tow and Go continues to keep motorists safe by clearing stalled vehicles, reducing the hazard of potential secondary crashes and reducing traffic congestion. Last month Tow and Go cleared more than 3,800 vehicles.
- Staff held the monthly Tow and Go ops meeting where we reviewed incidents and discussed Tow and Go operations.
- Staff worked on finalizing the scope of work for the next contract with the City of Houston and Harris County for the continuation of Tow and Go, Harris County Motorist Assistance Program (MAP) and Harris County Incident Management Unit Programs.
- Staff joined Harris County in a meeting with wrecker vendors to discuss segment operations.
- Staff participated in a proclamation from the City of Houston recognizing Crash Responder Safety Week and the great work by our incident responders.

Transit Planning

- Revisions to the final deliverables for the US 90A Transit Corridor Study continue. H-GAC staff presented the Study's results to the Gulf Coast Rail District Board of Directors at their November meeting.
- The kick-off meeting for the Regional Bus Study was held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025.
- The next regular meeting of the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee is January 8, 2026.
- RPTCP 2027-2031 is in progress with data updates, provider inventory review, and engagement preparation underway. Consultant procurement is in progress, and the Interim Plan remains on schedule for Spring 2026.
- Regional Transit Information Study (RTIS) is progressing on schedule, with transit agency interviews complete; steering and stakeholder committees established, and public and stakeholder engagement underway.

Safety Outreach

Teen Drivers Education and Outreach Program: Staff met with consultant Outreach Strategists to clarify questions regarding the teen driver education program. The consultants were asked to review and research evidence-based teen driver safety programs to ensure the best alignment with program requirements.

Youth Traffic Safety Education and Outreach Program: Texas Children's Hospital Scope of Work and Form 60 were returned for revisions. The agency expressed concerns about the retainage request, given that the scope of work covers two years of activities. Staff met with Texas Children's Hospital to discuss the contract terms and anticipate reaching an agreement soon to finalize the contract.

Regional Safety Campaign

Thanksgiving Safety Campaign: The H-GAC communications team launched a campaign for the month of November to increase awareness of safe driving practices during the holiday season.

Adult Bike Safety Education: MPO staff met with the League of American Bicyclists (LAB) to discuss how H-GAC can enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the LAB in order to host up to four seminars to

certify bicycle safety instructors. The meeting established that we cannot use an Interlocal Agreement since the LAB has no official presence in Texas. A possible next step that staff will consider is working with Procurement to have the LAB complete a sole source form.

Ride, Don't Drive and Influencer Campaign: An expenditure approval form and supporting documentation are being prepared in order to enter into a service agreement and fulfill all requirements for the campaign.

Staff continues to participate in weekly MPO Program meetings, as well as monthly TIP subcommittee, the Rail Safety Focus Group, RTP subcommittee, and TAC Subcommittees meetings.

Hurricane Evacuation

- Staff is working to improve the Together Against the Weather website. The website will serve as a resource page for external partners - local governments, school districts, non-profits, and others where they can access partner toolkits, maps, content and more to assist with their community outreach efforts.
- This year, Texas Hwy 87 on the Bolivar Peninsula, was added as an official evacuation route. Staff held meetings to begin brainstorming ideas for the creation of a video to highlight this addition.

Intelligent Transportation Systems and TSMO Planning

- The November TSMO subcommittee meeting was postponed tentatively until Thursday, February 5.

Title VI/Language Access

- No report

Congestion Management Process

The Congestion Management Process 2026 Update was approved by the H_GAC Board of Directors on November 18, 2025. The contract process has Internal Audit conducting the pre-award review. We are on track for February 1, 2026, starting date with Cambridge Systematics.

Congestion Management Analysis has one TxDOT request for a waiver under review.

Staff are developing a Congestion Management Dashboard to provide detailed information on roadway congestion by the heaviest congested highway segments in the MPO region.

Travel Demand Management | Commute Solution

Commute Solutions launched their partnership with the Gulf Coast Transit District by helping promote their new shuttle, The Splash, which goes from Galveston Island to the Mainland. We posted on H-GAC social media channels to inform the public of the new shuttle. We also continued to meet with our partners, MD Anderson, Downtown Houston +, North Houston Association, and University of Houston to discuss ongoing collaboration and future projects.

Commute Solutions continues to work with FIFA World Cup host committee and city stakeholders to plan and inform commuters of how they can shift their commute when the city is inundated with fans. Commute Solutions is working on developing resources (such as a website to hub information) and workshop planning.

Commute Solutions received concurrence from TXDOT for the Bike Encouragement project. The contractor, Love to Ride, and applicants were contacted regarding the decision. The next phase is the pre-award audit, contract execution, and kickoff.

Commute Solutions received concurrence from TxDOT to enter into a contract with Exemplifi to conduct the website redesign and migration project. Staff will be taking this to board for approval in December.

Commute Solutions continued working with METRO Vanpool to develop marketing communications to prepare for the relaunch of the program.

Commute Solutions continues to support and coordinate with ConnectSmart in growing the program at Rice University. The sustainability team deployed EcoReps to encourage students to create accounts and log trips. During the campaign, the number of participants at Rice nearly doubled and will use some of the lessons learned to grow the number of faculty and staff participants in the Spring semester.

Commute Solutions received HGAC Board approval to enter an Interlocal Agreement with BayTran. Staff is working through pre-award audit as the agreement is finalized.

TRAVEL DEMAND MODELING & FORECASTING

Staff continues to provide travel demand and forecasting modeling to support the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP), the FIFA 2026 World Cup Transportation Scenario Planning and other traffic and travel related data developments, and analysis within the H-GAC MPO region that supports sub-regional and corridor studies. These include modeling support for TxDOT and non-TxDOT projects such as:

TxDOT Projects Support:

- FM 149 Extension Study (TxDOT) - Build and no-build scenarios using the updated network for the FM 149 Extension project.
- Grand Parkway Project (TxDOT) - Provided the latest October version of the multi-year network and demographic input data for TAZ 5808 for years 2023, 2030, 2040, and 2045.
- I-10 Ramp Reversals - Four additional models run for the I-10 Ramp Reversal Study for 2030 and 2045 scenarios.

Liberty County:

- Thoroughfare Update- Review with the Subregional Study Group.

City of Belvieu

- FM 565 Traffic Project – Coordinating with the City Believe on their land use development data.

Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA)

- Support for the Hardy Downtown Connector Program for build and no-build scenarios for years 2023, 2030, 2040, and 2045.

Montgomery County

- Provided GIS support for upcoming Montgomery Mobility Plan work
- FM 1097 Traffic Project – Support for 2030 and 2045 model runs with 2050 demographic data.

Harris County

- Cullen Rail Grade Separation Feasibility Study - coordinated data needs with the Harris County Redevelopment Authority for loaded networks for 2023, 2030, and 2045.
- Mueschke Road – coordinated with the precinct 4 no-build and build scenarios with projected for the years 2040 and 2045.

Texas Southern University (TSU)

- Provided support for assessing the Impact of Transportation on PM2.5 Air Quality Through Time Series Analysis

Conformity:

- Continue model test runs and QA/QC in the new OpenPaths CUBE and AGENT platforms, including both base-year and future-year tests in support of the forthcoming Conformity.

World Cup 2026 FIFA Scenario Planning Services:

- Coordinating with Consultant (ARCADIS) and Stakeholders with Travel Demand Modeling and planning to support the forthcoming FIFA World Cup Transportation Scenarios and planning, Converted TDM trip tables to DTA zone structure.

Travel Demand Modeling Updates:

- Developed the Scope of Work, and Conducting research on the University Sub-model development. Reviewing raw survey data for the survey data expansion commences.
- Continues with the update of the Travel Demand Model tools for the forthcoming conformity, continues to update the 4-step Regional Travel Demand Model that supports the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP), and other traffic and travel related data developments that supports sub-regional and corridor studies in the region.
- Continues to coordinate with Cambridge Systematics and team of sub-contractors in the Travel Demand Model Update and Maintenance tasks that includes:
- Continues the Model validation/calibration of the Travel Demand Model outputs to the new count and survey data.
- Continues the Model validation/calibration that incorporates weaving movement into the existing travel demand modeling to accurately account for delays at weaving locations in the network.
- Developing the H-GAC Travel Demand Model Validation Dashboard

Transportation Department Support:

- Benefit cost calculation methods for railroad crossing grade separation project.
- Provided support for new services for the new RTP viewer.
- Produced GIS maps to support RTP 2050 public meetings; TAC, TPC, Bike/Ped, Thoroughfare, CMP, Bridge Conditions, Level of Service, US 290 Panel discussions, etc.

Regional Travel Surveys

- Continues to coordinate with the TxDOT TP&P for the ongoing 8-county Commercial Vehicle and the Special Generator survey in Galveston County
 - Continue to coordinate with contractors for the Major Universities and Community Colleges Surveys on a bi-weekly basis to discuss the progress and to QA/QC ongoing tasks by the contractor.
1. Staff continues to coordinate effort with interested partners on the procurement of contractors for the forthcoming Regional Transportation Models & Tools (Transportation Scenario Planning Tools) and the scope of work development for the Big Data Acquisition (task #2).

SOCIOECONOMIC DATA, MODELING AND APPLICATIONS

- Staff processed and validated the 2024 certified appraisal data for all eight counties, including updates to land-use classifications and standardized model-ready outputs. This task is 95% complete as of November, with final QA underway.
- Staff continued updating model-building inputs using new data from master-planned communities, plat records, and development activities such as the Fort Bend Tollway expansion. This work is 85% complete as of November.
- Staff collaborated with the Transportation Department on enhancements to the Subregional Planning Application, including updates to the data management workflow and initial UI improvements. The project is 70% complete as of November.
- Staff continued development of the Monthly Regional Crash Data Report, including downloading and processing the latest CRIS data and building a Tableau dashboard for automated reporting. This work is 70% complete as of November.
- Staff completed the APA Houston presentation on post-pandemic travel behavior and regional planning updates, highlighting changes in mobility patterns, transit recovery, and modeling enhancements.
- Under 2050 RTP support, staff advanced the Existing Conditions Report, including updates to demographics, land use, and the transportation system using the 2024 Regional Growth Forecast; Housing Demand and Cost Burden analysis; Regional Activity Centers analysis; and Regional Historical Trends and transportation statistics.
- Staff continued developing the 2050 Survey Dashboards, including the Vision, Tourism, and Freight surveys. Dashboard development is 90% complete as of November, with additional charts and formatting updates underway.
- The Model Parcels Update, using 2024 certified appraisal data across participating counties, is 20% complete as of November, with ingestion workflows and attribute refinement in progress.
- Staff prepared materials for the US-290 corridor, including population, employment, and land-use analyses within a two-mile buffer along the corridor, to support upcoming presentations.

MPO EARNED* MEDIA REPORT – ALL MPO ACTIVITIES

NOV. 8 – DEC. 8, 2025

<https://app.meltwater.com/report/public/2irWh3pa9MiMQ7FZ37g87ftB>

Password: MPOm3dia_TpC

**Earned media is unpaid publicity, or news coverage, generated through H-GAC's outreach. Advertising Value Equivalent (AVE) estimates the dollar value of this coverage by comparing it to the cost of equivalent paid ads. In addition, reach shows how many unique people are exposed to the coverage, helping us gauge both the scale and impact of our media exposure.*