

5A. MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025, 9:30 A.M. MEETING

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Morad Kabiri, called the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Chair Kabiri gave an overview of the housekeeping rules to the Committee. The Chair then called on Ms. Jamila Owens to do the Roll Call.

A list of Committee representatives and alternates attending the meeting is included with these minutes as Attachment 1. There were 34 members in attendance; 22 are required for a quorum.

The meeting agenda and materials are available on the TAC website at:

<http://www.h-gac.com/transportation-advisory-committee/meeting-agendas-and-minutes.aspx>.

In addition, the livestream recording is available at: <http://www.h-gac.com/transportation-advisory-committee/meeting-livestream-archive.aspx>.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no *written* public comments received.

To hear public comments made from the floor, please click [here](#).

ORIENTATION TO AGENDA AND MPO DIRECTOR REPORT

Allie Isbell, the Assistant Director of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), presented the Orientation to Agenda and MPO Director's Report. She explained that the meeting's agenda was relatively brief, containing a few action and informational items. Ms. Isbell then provided a preliminary overview of the MPO Report, which included the following topics: the Transportation Safety Committee Update, Congressional Appropriations Requests, and the MPO Director Selection process.

To hear the MPO Director Report in its entirety, please click on the link [here](#).

ITEM 5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Chair, Morad Kabiri entertained a motion for Consent Agenda Item; 5A) Meeting Minutes Summary for April 16, 2025, TAC Meeting.

Mr. Jason Smith asked that the meeting minutes be amended to indicate his vote as a "No vote," and not an abstain vote, for Item 9, on page 7 of the April TAC Packet. A motion to approve the meeting minutes, with the amendment, was made by Mr. Jason Smith. A second motion for approval was made by Mr. Ken Fickes. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item are available [here](#).

ITEM 6. 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS

Mr. Jim Dickinson presented the 2025-2028 TIP Amendments. The 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a four-year capital improvements program for transportation projects. Under federal rules, all federally assisted projects must be included in the TIP to be eligible for funding. In addition, federal rules require that regionally significant local projects must also be included in the TIP.

The 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a long-range plan that prioritizes spending on regional transportation projects including short and long-range strategies to ensure the transportation network is safe and

efficient. Updated every four years, the RTP outlines a fiscally constrained transportation investment program that is based on the unique needs and characteristics of the MPO region.

Amendments to the TIP and RTP are brought to the Transportation Policy Council for consideration monthly and amended in accordance with the H-GAC Public Participation Plan.

A summary of the proposed revisions to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program were included:

- Update the description of the Houston-Galveston Area Council's FY 2025-2028 Regional Freeway Incident Management program (MPO ID 18856) and move it from TxDOT's Statewide Safety Program into FY 2025 of the TIP.
- Add \$1.4M of federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds and an additional 273K Transportation Development Credits to the Montrose Redevelopment Authority's *Safe Routes to School* project to cover increased cost estimates (MPO ID 19037).

A motion to approve was made by Ms. Marlene Gafrick. A second motion for approval was made by Ms. Catherine McCreight. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item are available [here](#).

ITEM 7. FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AMENDMENTS

Dr. Neely Kim presented on the 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP is developed by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and documents metropolitan transportation planning activities performed with federal transportation funds as well as other regionally significant projects. The UPWP documents the metropolitan planning requirements, planning priorities facing the H-GAC metropolitan area, transportation planning activities, and the related tasks to be accomplished during the two-year planning period; October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2027.

H-GAC is currently in the process of the development and completion of the 2026-2027 UPWP for submission to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Once TPC has approved the final draft in June, the UPWP will be sent to TxDOT for review and approval.

Dr. Kim delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), detailing the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) five key tasks and their associated responsibilities. The presentation covered the following tasks: Task I focused on Administration and Management, Task II on Data Development and Maintenance, Task III on Short Range Planning, Task IV on Metropolitan Planning, and Task V on Special Planning Projects. During the presentation, Dr. Kim provided a detailed explanation of each task's specific objectives and scope. For those interested in hearing the complete task descriptions, reviewing the highlighted UPWP Planning Activities, understanding the funding sources, and examining the timeline for UPWP Draft completion and submission to TxDOT, please click on the link below for additional information.

This item was for information only.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item are available [here](#).

ITEM 8. TRANSIT, FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) FUNDING, AND OUR REGION

Mr. Thomas Gray gave a presentation on Transit, Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Funding. Federal participation in transit funding occurs through Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants to transit providers. These funds are intended for transit use; they generally represent a significant share of transit provider revenue and are critical to the provision of transit services. FTA formula funds are appropriated based on factors such as

population and passenger miles traveled and come in a variety of categories. These formula funds are different than discretionary grants, which are competitive in nature.

Formula funds are distributed geographically, on the basis of Urbanized Areas (UZAs). UZAs are designated by the Census Bureau and US Department of Transportation and do not necessarily align with municipal, county or transit provider service boundaries. Formula funds are distributed to UZAs through designated recipients; for example, METRO is designated recipient for Houston UZA, while Conroe and The Woodlands are Dual-Designated Recipients for The Woodlands-Conroe UZA. The Texas Department of Transportation is the designated recipient for smaller UZAs and rural areas.

Designated recipients can, in turn, pass these funds on to subrecipients, for example, METRO's subrecipients include Harris County Transit and Fort Bend Transit. For every Fiscal Year (FY) appropriation, each designated recipient will develop their Program of Projects (POP) for itself as well as any subrecipients and submit to MPO for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). To hear further details on this presentation, please click below.

This item was for information only.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item are available [here](#).

ITEM 9. SUBREGIONAL PLANNING UPDATE

Ms. Monique Johnson provided an update on Subregional Planning. Subregional Planning is a partnership between H-GAC and local public agencies within the region where H-GAC assists in developing plans and conducting studies that focus on local transportation networks and ensure they align with the regional transportation network. These planning efforts enhance mobility by identifying needed roadway improvements for all types of transportation; promoting coordinated transportation project development between local governments and agencies; and providing guidance for future transportation needs.

H-GAC receives requests from local sponsors to conduct subregional planning initiatives through the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) call for projects, and throughout the fiscal year after the UPWP call for projects has ended. Ms. Johnson provided a brief overview of several subregional planning initiatives that are underway, as well as initiatives anticipated to begin by the end of 2025. To hear these subregional updates, please click on the link below.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item are available [here](#).

10. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT/DELIVERY MILESTONE POLICY WORKGROUP UPDATE

Ms. Callie Barnes provided an update on the Project Development/Delivery Milestone Policy Workgroup. For the past 3 years, H-GAC staff has conducted quarterly meetings with local government sponsors in which projects* programmed in the 4-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are monitored for critical path milestones throughout the project development (engineering and environmental) process.

Within the first year (2022-2023) of the detailed project tracking effort approximately 90%[†] of project funding moved out of FY 2023. Of the 90%, approximately 50% moved to the next year ("rolled") and 40% moved beyond FY 2024. By the end of 2024, an additional \$625M[‡] shifted to more realistic let dates. Then another \$350M (presented at February 2025 TAC/TPC) will be moved to realistic let dates.

The carryover balances in both Category 5 (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality [CMAQ]) Funds and Category 7 (Surface Transportation Block Grant [STBG]) Funds were higher than desired before the detailed project monitoring and shifting effort began in 2022. Many of the projects described above that shifted let years via

amendments between 2022-2025 had previously “rolled” into the next FY for multiple years. Some projects had not met one critical path milestone for project development.

Project “stagnation” creates high carryover balances, inability to estimate upcoming carryover balances (resulting from projects not letting on time), inability to accurately program projects (because there is not a clear understanding of the available balances per FY) as well extra work for H-GAC staff, TxDOT, TAC and TPC members (due to the continual “rolling” the projects from one year to the next via amendments).

TPC directed H-GAC (during the February 2025 TPC meeting) to work through the TIP Subcommittee and TAC to formulate a policy preventing projects (particularly the Construction [“C” Phase] from being programmed in incorrect fiscal years within the 4-year TIP “window”. This, in turn, would secure the 4-year TIP funds for projects that would be realistically ready to let within the 4 year “window”. H-GAC formulated a workgroup through recommendation of TIP Subcommittee. The Project Development/Delivery Milestone Policy Workgroup has met 2 times and met a third time in May. The meetings are set up on a bi-weekly basis. H-GAC staff will continue to meet with the workgroup and provide periodic updates to TAC as the work continues. To hear this presentation, please click on the link below.

This item was for information only.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item are available on the TAC website [here](#).

ITEM 11. PLANNING ACTIVITIES

A. Future 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

Mr. Jim Dickinson provided a brief update on 2025-2028 TIP Future Amendment. Mr. Dickinson highlighted that one Future Amendment would be presented to the Committee. To hear this update, please click on the link below.

For Information Only. No action needed.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item are available on the TAC website [here](#).

B. Administrative 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Mr. Jim Dickinson provided a brief update on 2025-2028 TIP Administrative Amendments. Mr. Dickinson indicated that 10 Administrative Amendments were being presented to the Committee. To hear this update, please click on the link below.

For Information Only. No action needed.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item are available on the TAC website [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Jamila Owens gave a brief overview of the announcements shown for upcoming meetings and informed the Committee that Staff will be prepared to make a presentation, in May on Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding. The orientation video and materials will also be distributed as soon as available:

2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program Public Meetings	May 15	10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.	Virtual
Transportation Policy Council (TPC) Meeting	May 23	9:30 a.m.	H-GAC Office
Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee (RAQPAC) Meeting	May 29	10:00 a.m.	Virtual

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee Meeting	June 4	1:30 p.m.	Virtual
Transportation Air Quality (TAQ) Subcommittee Meeting	June 11	10:00 a.m.	Virtual
Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Subcommittee Meeting	June 11	1:30 p.m.	Virtual
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting	June 18	9:30 a.m.	H-GAC Office

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Morad Kabiri adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 10:39 a.m.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item are available on the TAC website [here](#).

First Vice Chair
Transportation Advisory Committee

Attachment 1

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE MAY 14, 2025, AT 9:30 A.M.

NOTES:

1. Attendance is marked with "X" in the corresponding column for the Primary Member and/or Alternate Member.
2. Where both the Primary Member and Alternate Member is marked with an asterisk (*) after the "X" to indicate that this person does not count toward quorum or votes for this meeting.

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Present</u>
<i>Chair</i>				
Morad Kabiri, P.E.	X	Smaller Cities	Jildardo Arias	
<i>1st Vice Chair</i>				
Perri D'Armond	X	Transit	Pamela Lebrane	
<i>2nd Vice Chair</i>				
Brian Alcott	X	Toll Roads	Amar Mohite	
Brenda Bustillos, Ph.D., P.E.	X	Active Transportation	Lisa Graiff	X*
Yuhayna Mahmud	X	Active Transportation	Luis Guajardo, AICP	X*
James Brown		Airports	Bill Zrioka	
Amy Skicki	X	Business Interests	Scott Harper	
Marlisa Briggs	X	Business Interests	Kris Larson, LPM, AICP	
Irma Sanchez	X	Citizen Interests	Dexter Handy	
			Sherry Weesner, P.E., CPM	X*
Alan Steinberg, Ph.D.	X	Citizen Interests	Sue Theiss	X
Andrea French		Environmental	Shelley Sekula-Gibbs, M.D.	X*
Scott Nichols	X	Environmental	Alan Clark	
Clint Harbert, AICP	X	METRO	Jeffrey English, AICP	X
Catherine McCreight		Planning	(Vacant)	
David Wurdlow	X	Planning	Christina Cabral	X*
Marlene Gafrick	X	Planning	Rohit Saxena	X
(Vacant)		Port of Houston	Rob Lowe	
Dean Corgey		Ports	Hon. Lori Klein Quinn	
Hon. Dan Davis	X	Regional Planning	Brian Winningham	
Andy Rodgers	X	Smaller Cities	Byron Hebert	
Kathie Reyer	X	Smaller Cities	David Gornet	
Robert Castaneda		Toll Roads	Todd Stephens Vernon	
Ruthanne Haut	X	Transit	Chambers Nancy	X*
Ken Fickes, CCTM	X	Transit	Peron, P.E., PMP	X
Lisa Collins, P.E.		TxDOT – Beaumont Dist.	Catherine McCreight	X
Grady Mapes, P.E.		TxDOT – Houston Dist.	Karen McKinnon, P.E.	
Wael Tabara, P.E.	X	Brazoria County	Cory Taylor, P.E.	
Zachery Vogler	X	Chambers County		

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Present</u>
Stacy Slawinski, P.E.		Fort Bend County	Rick J. Staigle, P.E.	
Michael Shannon, P.E.	X	Galveston County	Nancy Baher	
Patrick Mandapaka, Ph.D., AICP	X	Harris County	Kristian Heighway	
Hon. Jay Knight		Liberty County	Hon. Greg Arthur	
Jason Smith	X	Montgomery County	Thomas Woolley	
Ross McCall, P.E.		Waller County	Luke Fortkamp, P.E.	
Brant Gary	X	City of Baytown	Martin Scribner	
Greg Hall, Jr.		City of Conroe	Chuck Purvis	
Robert Winiecke, P.E., CFM	X	City of Galveston	Brandon Cook	
Fabio Capillo		City of Houston	Johana Clark, P.E., PTOE, ENV SP	X
Christopher Sims		City of League City	Cara Davis	
(Vacant)		City of Missouri City	Joi Johnson	X
Sarah Benavides, P.E.		City of Pasadena	Mark Gardemal, P.E.	
Lorenzo Wingate	X	City of Pearland	Fabiola de Carvalho, CFM, AMP, MIAM	
Melanie Beaman	X	City of Sugarland	(Vacant)	
Kim Golden, P.E.		City of Texas City	Jack Haralson, P.E.	
	44	Total Voting Membership		
	34	Total Voting Membership Present		
	22	Required Quorum		