

6A. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA

DATE: Friday, March 27, 2026

TIME: 9:36 a.m.

PLACE: 3555 Timmons Lane, Conference Room B, Houston, Texas 77027

The presiding officer, Chairman Justin Beckendorff called the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting of March 27, 2026, at 9:36 a.m. to order.

CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM, INTRODUCTIONS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chairman Justin Beckendorff opened the meeting with greetings and requested attendees to take their seats. The Chair asked Ms. Lucinda Martinez (H-GAC) to conduct the roll call and verify quorum. Ms. Martinez confirmed that a quorum of 16 members was present, as documented in Attachment 1. Chair Beckendorff asked the Council if anyone wanted to declare a conflict of interest on any item on the March agenda. No conflicts of interest were declared by any TPC members. All presentations, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Lucinda Martinez (HGAC) provided instructions to the public on how to submit comments online and informed attendees that Spanish translation services were available onsite, while American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation were accessible online. No written comments were submitted by March 26, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Public comments were provided in the room, and no public comments were provided online. All presentations, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 5. MPO DIRECTOR REPORT AND ORIENTATION OF AGENDA, MR. RON PAPSDORF, CHIEF TRANSPORTATION OFFICER, H-GAC

Mr. Ron Papsdorf, Chief Transportation Officer (H-GAC), provided an overview of the meeting agenda, highlighted consent and discussion items, and delivered key updates on planning activities, recently completed studies, upcoming initiatives, and federal certification requirements. Additionally, TxDOT Transportation Planning and Programming Division Director, Mr. Humberto "Tito" Gonzalez was introduced as a guest presenter to provide information on development of the 2027 Unified Transportation Program and associated funding forecasts.

KEY UPDATES

- Implementation of the newly adopted project delivery milestone policy, beginning with the collection of risk registries for all TIP projects; completion of the US 90A Transit Corridor Study in partnership with the Gulf Coast Rail District; and initiation of the federally required update to the Congestion Management Plan, with adoption anticipated in fall 2026.

- Upcoming bicycle and mobility initiatives related to National Bike Month, including a proposed resolution declaring a regional Bike Month and coordination of the annual Regional Bike to Work Day scheduled for May 15, both expected to be presented for action at the next Council meeting.
- Approvals by the H-GAC Board of Directors that included a contract for a freight safety campaign, a Clean Cities Agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy totaling approximately \$1 million and approval of a third year of the Fort Bend County Commuter Program supporting bike and park-and-ride services.

Mr. Papsdorf concluded his presentation with an update on the upcoming Quadrennial Certification Review, conducted every four years by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. The review was delayed but is now tentatively scheduled for April 22-24. All presentations, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 6. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Beckendorff introduced the Consent Agenda noting that it consisted of previously reviewed items. Chair Beckendorff asked the Council if any members wanted to remove any of the items from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration. No requests were made. Chair Beckendorff asked for a motion. A motion was made by Mayor Kevin Cole, and the motion was seconded. Chair Beckendorff called for a vote. The Council voted and approved the Consent Agenda unanimously. All presentations, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 7. CRITERIA FOR SUBREGIONAL PLANNING REQUESTS, MS. MONIQUE JOHNSON, H-GAC

Ms. Monique Johnson, (H-GAC) presented proposed criteria for evaluating and prioritizing Subregional Planning Requests, in advance of an anticipated call for requests later this year. The criteria are intended to guide how planning studies requested by local partners are reviewed, prioritized, and incorporated into future Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWP) Subregional planning studies serve as a pipeline for future transportation projects supporting formal public participation, development of recommendations for inclusion in the Regional Transportation Plan, and eventual consideration for programming in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The proposed policy establishes a consistent and transparent process for evaluating requests and aligning them with regional priorities.

Ms. Johnson described the key objectives of the proposed criteria, eligible applicants, request and approval process, evaluation criteria and next steps. Approval from the TPC is anticipated in April with a call for subregional planning requests is expected in May-June. A virtual information session will be offered to support applicants. Staff review and prioritization will occur over the summer. TAC and TPC consideration of the prioritized list is anticipated in August-September. Studies may be added to the current UPWP through amendment (October-December) if capacity allows. Otherwise, projects will begin in the FY 2028-2029 UPWP cycle. Council members had several questions for the staff after the presentation. Staff also discussed early considerations for potential future use of the Regional Strategic Transportation Fund to support technical assistance or early project development beyond the planning phase. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#).

For discussion only. No action needed

ITEM 8. FUTURE 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS, MR. JIM DICKINSON, H-GAC

Mr. Jim Dickinson (HGAC) provided a summary of the proposed revisions to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program is included below:

- Program two Woodlands Township Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5339 funded transit capital expenses (MPO ID 19562, 19563) each with \$324K of federal funding and 65K matching Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) in FY 2027 and FY 2028 at the Township's request.
- Update the FTA Section 5307 funding and matching TDCs of twelve Woodlands Township transit capital, operations and planning projects in FYs 2027-2028 (MPO IDs 19457, 19458, 19461, 19462, 19464, 19465, 19466, 19467, 19468, 19469, 19470, 19472) based on the latest cost estimates.
- Update the descriptions, FTA Sections 5307, 5337 and 5310 funding amounts, and matching TDCs, for METRO's FY 2026 placeholder projects (MPO IDs 19111, 19112, 19113, 19114, 19115, 19116, 19117, 19118, 19119) using the METRO Board of Directors January 2026 approvals.
- Rescope METRO's FTA Section 5339 funded West Bellfort Park & Ride project (MPO ID 18858) for the purchase of eleven 45-foot transit buses. Split out \$5.0M of the federal funds to create a new Regional Transit Fare Collection project (MPO ID 19565) in FY 2026.
- Change the phase/task of two METRO's safety and security implementation projects (MPO IDs 19104, 19081) from 'Capital' to 'Operating' based on the Federal Transit Administration's determinations. Increase the number of TDCs per matching requirement for operating expenditures. Delay from FY 2025 to FY 2026.
- Reduce the federal Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funding of METRO's Regional Transit Fare Collection System (MPO ID 18260) from \$40.0M to \$27.0M as some of the funded activities for the program have already been implemented with other funding sources.
- Increase the federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding of the City of Houston's Greens Road widening project (MPO ID 5030), splitting the \$24.4M cost increase on a 50/50 basis, to cover increases incurred by complying with drainage regulations and unanticipated market inflation. Add \$9.2M of Local Contribution to fully fund the project.
- Reduce the federal/state CMAQ funding of TxDOT Houston District's BW 8 frontage road access management project in Harris County (MPO ID 18035) from \$26.9M to \$9.8M based on the latest estimate. Delay from FY 2026 to FY 2027 at the District's request.
- Delay the TxDOT Houston District's SH 36 widening project in Fort Bend County (MPO ID 263) from FY 2027 to FY 2030 in the Ten-Year Plan due to TxDOT's statewide level-letting process.
- Reduce the federal CMAQ funding of the Harris County Community and Economic Development Department's Lynchburg Ferry vessel replacement project (MPO ID 19238) from \$32.7M to \$7.5M per the program guidance received from the Federal Highway Administration. Reduce the matching TDCs to 1.5M and increase the local contribution to fully fund the acquisition.

Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Discussion Only. No action needed

ITEM 9. REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COORDINATED PLAN (RPTCP) UPDATE, MR. BENNIE CHAMBERS III, H-GAC

Mr. Bennie Chambers, III (H-GAC) provided an overview and status update on the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan (RPTCP), currently under development. The presentation outlined the purpose of the plan, its regional scope, recent outcomes from prior plans, and opportunities for Council and partner engagement during the public outreach phase. The RPTCP is a federally and state-required planning document, updated every five years. It applies to the full 13-county Houston-Galveston region, extending beyond the eight county MPO area.

The plan is intended to:

- Improve access to mobility options across the region
- Identify unmet public transportation needs
- Strengthen coordination among transit providers
- Recommend strategies and priority projects
- Ensure alignment with TxDOT coordinated planning requirements

Improvements resulting from the prior RPTCP including:

- Expansion of Fort Bend County Park-and-Ride services
- Implementation of Sugar Land microtransit, now in its second year of operation
- Enhanced access to employment, services, and daily needs for seniors, people with disabilities, and underserved populations

The plan also supports coordination of funding and implementation through alignment with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. In addition, the region's Mobility Links platform continues to help residents identify available transportation options. The RPTCP update process is currently in the public engagement and outreach phase. Council members were encouraged to support outreach efforts by distributing the provider survey to public, nonprofit, and private transportation providers in their jurisdictions to help identify service gaps, coordination opportunities, and funding needs. The public survey is available online via the project engagement page will remain open until June 30. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For discussion only. No action needed

ITEM 10. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2027 UNIFIED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (UTP) PLANNING TARGETS, MS. CATHERINE MCCREIGHT/MR. HUMBERTO GONZALEZ, P.E., TxDOT

Ms. Catherine McCreight introduced Mr. Humberto "Tito" Gonzalez, P.E., (TxDOT) who provided an overview of the Draft 2027 Unified Transportation Program (UTP), a 10-year planning document covering FY 2027–2036, highlighting a \$7.1 billion decline in projected revenues that reduces the program to approximately \$94.5 billion and significantly impacts near-term construction funding. TxDOT described a tiered approach to reallocating funds that protects preservation, bridge, and safety programs, reduces or eliminates funding in less flexible or uncertain categories, and limits new mobility expansion. Draft MPO targets reflect about \$5 billion for the region, with an emphasis on delivering projects already in approved plans and prioritizing asset preservation amid continued fiscal pressure and inflation. Council members raised concerns about federal funding assumptions and the region's rapid growth, while TxDOT emphasized

performance-based formulas, annual flexibility through UTP updates, recent improvements in regional project delivery, and the importance of continued collaboration to focus limited resources on high-impact projects. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJORNMENT

Chair Beckendorff informed the Council of upcoming meetings

Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting	April 15	9:30 a.m.	In Person
Greater Houston Freight Committee	April 16	1:30 p.m.	Virtual
Transportation Policy Council Meeting	April 24	9:30 p.m.	In Person
Transportation Safety Committee Meeting	April 28	1:30 p.m.	Virtual
Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee	April 30	1:30 p.m.	Virtual

Chair Beckendorff adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.


Hon. Lesley Briones, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council

Attachment 1
 MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)
 FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON
 METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA
 March 27, 2026

ROLL

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	
Baytown, City of	_____	Honorable Charles Johnson Council Member	City of Baytown
	<u> X </u>	Kenrick Griffith – Alternate	
Conroe, City of	_____	Honorable David Hairel Council Member	City of Conroe
	_____	Norman McGuire – Alternate	
Galveston, City of	<u> X </u>	Honorable Marie Robb Council Member	City of Galveston
	_____	Hon. David Finklea - Alternate	
Houston, City of Position No. 1	<u> X </u>	Honorable Sallie Alcorn Council Member	City of Houston
	_____	Honorable Willie Davis- Alternate	
Houston, City of Position No 2	<u> X </u>	Honorable Carolyn Evans-Shabazz Council Member	City of Houston
	_____	Honorable Joaquin Martinez - Alternate	
Houston, City of Position No. 3	_____	Randy Macchi Director -Houston Public Works	City of Houston
	<u> X </u>	David Wurdlow - Alternate	
League City, City of	<u> X </u>	Honorable Tommy Cones Council Member	City of League City
	_____	Honorable Andy Mann - Alternate	
Missouri City, City of	_____	Shashi Kumar, P.E. Director of Public Works	City of Missouri City
	<u> X </u>	Nicholas L. Cook – Alternate	
Pasadena, City of	_____	Sarah Benavides, P.E. Sr. Assistant Public Works Director	City of Pasadena
	_____	Mark Gardemal – Alternate	

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Pearland, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Kevin Cole- 2nd Vice Chair Mayor <u> </u> Trent Epperson-Alternate	City of Pearland
Sugar Land, City of	<u> </u> Honorable Suzanne Whatley Council Member <u> </u> Honorable Jim Vonderhaar – Alternate	City of Sugar Land
Texas City, City of	<u> </u> Honorable Dedrick Johnson Mayor <u> </u> Jon Branson - Alternate	City of Texas City
Smaller Cities – Position 1	<u> </u> Hon. Joe Garcia City of Pattison <u> </u> Honorable Jerry Mouton-Alternate City of Deer Park	Smaller Cities
Smaller Cities – Position 2	<u> X </u> Hon. John Escoto City of Shenandoah <u> * </u> Hon. Dusty Thiele-Alternate City of Katy	Smaller Cities
Smaller Cities – Position 3	<u> X </u> Hon. Sally Branson City of Friendswood <u> </u> Hon. Ross Gordon-Alternate City of Bellaire	Smaller Cities
The Woodlands Township	<u> X </u> Dr. Shelley Sekula-Gibbs Director, The Woodlands Township Board <u> </u> Craig Eissler-Alternate	The Woodlands Township
Brazoria County	<u> X </u> Matt Hanks, JD, P.E. County Engineer <u> </u> Honorable David Linder – Alternate	Brazoria County
Chambers County	<u> </u> Honorable Ryan Dagley County Commissioner <u> </u> Honorable Tommy Hammond-Alternate	Chambers County
Fort Bend County	<u> X </u> Honorable Grady Prestage County Commissioner, 1st Vice Chair <u> </u> Stacy Slawinski, P.E. – Alternate	Fort Bend County

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Galveston County	_____ Honorable Robin Armstrong County Commissioner _____ Honorable Joe Giusti– Alternate	Galveston County
Harris County	_____ Honorable Adrian Garcia County Commissioner, Pct. 2 <u> X </u> Milton Rahman P.E.– Alternate	Harris County
Harris County	_____ Honorable Lesley Briones- Secretary County Commissioner, Pct. 3 <u> X </u> Roberto Trevino – Alternate	Harris County
Liberty County	<u> X </u> Honorable Jay Knight County Judge _____ Honorable Greg Arthur - Alternate	Liberty County
Montgomery County	<u> X </u> Honorable Mark Keough County Judge <u> * </u> Honorable Matt Gray – Alternate	Montgomery County
Waller County	<u> X </u> Honorable Justin Beckendorff County Commissioner – Chair _____ Honorable Kendric Jones- Alternate	Waller County
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	_____ Elizabeth Gonzalez Brock METRO Chair <u> X </u> Thomas Jasien-Alternate	METRO
TxDOT-Houston	_____ Glenn Allbritton, P.E. District Engineer <u> X </u> Varuna Singh, P.E.– Alternate	TxDOT Houston District
TxDOT-Beaumont	<u> X </u> Ana I. Mijares, P.E. District Engineer _____ Lisa Collins, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Beaumont District
Port Freeport	_____ Phyllis Saathoff Executive Director _____ Rob Lowe-Alternate	Port Freeport
Port Houston	<u> X </u> Charlie Jenkins Chief Executive Officer _____ Kerrick Henny-Alternate	Port Houston

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Gulf Coast Rail District	_____ Veronica Chapa-Gorczyński GCRD Chair	Gulf Coast Rail District
	_____ Hon. Jon Keeney-Alternate	
	<u> 31 </u> Total Voting Membership	
	<u> 22 </u> Voting Membership Present	
	<u> 16 </u> Required Quorum	

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>NON-VOTING EX-OFFICIOS</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Texas State Senate	<u> </u> Hon. Carol Alvarado	β-County Region
Freight Rail Interests	<u> </u> Clint Schelbitzki-	Union Pacific
Texas State Legislator	<u> </u> Hon. Dennis Paul	8-County Region
Wharton County	<u> X </u> Hon. Phillip Spenrath	Wharton County

<u>NON-VOTING</u>		
H-GAC	<u> </u> Chuck Wemple	H-GAC
TxDOT-Houston	<u> X </u> Catherine McCreight	TxDOT-Houston