

TRANSPORTATION AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

March 12, 2025 – 10:00 A. M.

Houston-Galveston Area Council of Government

Virtual Teams Meeting

MEMBER PRESENT

Citizens Transp. Coalition – Dexter Handy

H-GAC – Andrew DeCandis

Baytran – Amy Skicki

TCEQ – Sarah Thomas

Harris County Transit – Ken Fickes

Air Alliance Houston – Alex Spike

Port Houston – Kenneth Gathright

The Woodlands Township – Ruthanne Haut

TXDOT BMT – Nancy Peron

ALTERNATE PRESENT

University of Houston – Bruce Race

AARP – Shondra Wygal

H-GAC – Pharr Andrews

TXDOT BMT – Colton Johnstone

TXDOT Houston – Qing Li

The Woodlands Township – Nicole Mathews

METRO – Vincent Sanders

Fort Bend County – Thomas Kuczynski

Harris County Transit – Thien Cao

County Transit – Elizabeth Sartain

Environmental Defense Fund – Grace Lewis

STAFF PRESENT

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Vinny Polignano

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Stephen Keen

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Maggie Isied

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Gloria Brown

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Carlos Lugo

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Robyn Egbert

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Catherine Gray

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Yetunde Oyewale

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Sydni Ligons

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Qun Zhao

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Monique Johnson

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Marcus Tucker

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ayo Jibowu

OTHERS PRESENT

- a. The TAQ Subcommittee Members and Alternates were presented with action's items; no discussion items were presented; and the meeting concluded with agency reports and member announcements.
- b. Visit <http://www.h-gac.com/tag/transportation-committees/TAC/transportation-air-quality-subcommittee/agendas.aspx> to view the meeting materials for this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM 1A. Introductions

ITEM 1B. Approval of Meeting Summaries (12-04-2024)
Meeting Summary approved.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 2A.

None.

DISCUSSION

A. 2045 RTP Amendment Update - Stephen Keen, H-GAC

Stephen reported on the progress of the 2045 RTP update, highlighting that staff has reached out to project sponsors for updated information on over a thousand projects. The amendment process aims to remove outdated projects and add new ones that align with regional interests. The finalized project list will be presented on March 19th, with ongoing updates until then.

B. Transportation Conformity Update - Maggie Isied, H-GAC

Maggie Isied provided insights into the transportation conformity process, highlighting its significance for air quality in non-attainment regions and the ongoing support for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She also discussed regional partnerships, including those with Metro and TxDOT Houston, and addressed concerns raised by Bruce Race regarding the involvement of ports in air quality discussions. Dexter Handy prompted a conversation about the steps necessary to achieve attainment status, focusing on the state implementation process.

C. ZEV Plan Update - Vinny Polignano, H-GAC

Vinny Polignano updated attendees on the zero emissions vehicle infrastructure study, noting the shift in terminology to better reflect the project's scope and the increasing number of zero emission vehicles in the area. Bruce Race emphasized the need for equitable access to electric vehicle charging, particularly for low-income communities, while Amy Skicki announced upcoming events to engage the community. Vinny Polignano presented the latest updates on the zero emissions vehicle infrastructure study, noting a change in terminology from "plan" to "study." He reported that the Houston-Galveston area has approximately 90,000 plug-in hybrid and battery electric vehicles, representing a significant portion of Texas's total. Additionally, he mentioned the upcoming release of fact sheets to educate the public and policymakers about electric vehicles and charging infrastructure. Vinny Polignano shared insights on a study indicating that increased EV adoption in California led to measurable air quality improvements. He also mentioned the importance of user-friendly tools for analyzing EV data in Harris County.

D. Free Friday Promoting Healthy Air Quality Habits Through Mode Shift - Robyn Egbert, H-GAC

Robyn Egbert discussed the Free Fare Friday campaign, which encouraged commuters to shift to public transit by providing free rides. The campaign involved collaboration with several transit agencies and utilized data analytics to project ridership. Marketing efforts reached over 100,000 residents, and initial results showed a positive trend in ridership following the campaign.

OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 4A. Agency Announcements
None.

ITEM 4B. Member Announcements

- Top Golf Fundraiser-
April 03, 2025, register at Baytran.org/events
- Small City Mayoral
Panel -April 21, 2025

Next Meeting: June 11, 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:21A.M.