

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

DATE: Friday, May 22, 2026

TIME: 9:30 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 May 22, 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. Chair Beckendorff asked Ms. Jamila Owens (HGAC) to conduct the roll call and verify quorum. Ms. Owens 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 agenda. All presentations, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

Gulf Coast Rail District Update

Mayor Jon Keeney informed the Council that the Gulf Coast Rail District, as a regional organization, will be convening a series of meetings and conferences to gather information regarding the potential merger of various rail lines. It was emphasized that the District is not taking a position either in support of or opposition to the merger at this time. Instead, the focus is on collecting comprehensive information to better understand the complexities and implications associated with such a merger. The findings and insights gathered through this effort will be shared with the Council to support informed discussion and decision-making. All presentations, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Jamila Owens (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 May 21, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Public comments were provided in person, 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 (H-GAC) provided an overview of recent activities, organizational updates, and key developments affecting regional transportation planning.

Planning and Outreach Activities

Staff have been actively engaged across the region, including community outreach and coordination with stakeholders. Recent efforts include working on the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan for the 13-county region, that focuses on improving transit services for older adults and vulnerable populations. Additional activities included participation in Waller County's thoroughfare planning and extensive support from the travel demand modeling team for project development and design efforts.

Membership and Organizational Updates

- The City of Galveston currently has both a member and alternate vacancy.
- The smaller cities Position 1 representative vacancy resulted in the alternate moving into the primary role; a new alternate will be selected through the nominating process.
- Texas City and Conroe also have vacancies requiring new appointments. Staff are coordinating with jurisdictions to fill these positions.

H-GAC Board

The H-GAC Board met on May 19, 2025, and approved the following items:

- Interlocal agreements supporting Commute Solutions initiatives across multiple transit agencies.
- A contract for on-call travel demand model support services to enhance regional planning capabilities.

Federal Transportation Reauthorization Update

Mr. Papsdorf provided an update on federal transportation reauthorization efforts, noting the current Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will expire at the end of September. Key highlights from the proposed House bill include:

- An anticipated increase in MPO planning funds, including annual growth adjustments.
- A proposed increase in the federal funding share from 80% to 90%.
- Expanded eligibility for MPOs to use planning funds for preliminary project design.
- Potential eligibility for MPOs to directly receive federal planning funds.
- Increased funding for bridge programs, including dedicated funding for locally owned bridges.

Staff will continue monitoring developments and provide updates as more details become available.

Strategic Retreat Planning

A survey was distributed to members and alternates to identify a suitable date for a fall strategic retreat. The retreat will focus on long-term policy and strategic priorities for the Council. Members are encouraged to respond.

Agenda Overview

The Director highlighted key items on the meeting agenda, including:

- Consent agenda items (meeting minutes and TIP amendments)
- Postponement of a commendation item
- Appointment of a Second Vice Chair
- Adoption of the draft Transportation Improvement Program (FY 2027–2030)
- Policy discussion on carryover funding
- Informational presentations on the Texas Triangle Multimodal Strategic Plan, hurricane preparedness efforts, and the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan

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 and 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. TPC RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION FOR OUTGOING TPC MEMBER, MR. RON PAPSDORF, H-GAC

Chair Beckendorff noted Item 7 will be withdrawn and rescheduled for a future meeting to allow Ms. Robb to be present and accept her recognition. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 8. TPC APPOINTMENT OF TPC OFFICER-2ND VICE CHAIRMAN POSITION, MR. RON PAPSDORF, H-GAC

Chair Beckendorff introduced Agenda Item 8 regarding the appointment of TPC officers, noting a vacancy in the Second Vice Chair position following the departure of former Pearland Mayor Cole, who is no longer a TPC member. Mr. Ron Papsdorf (H-GAC) provided background, referencing the bylaws which state that when an officer cannot complete their term, the remaining officers will recommend a replacement to serve the remainder of the term, subject to approval by the full Council. The TPC officers met on April 25 and recommended Harris County Commissioner Lesley Briones to fill the unexpired term as Second Vice Chair. A motion was made to approve the appointment of Commissioner Briones, citing her strong leadership, advocacy, and commitment to transportation policy. The motion was seconded, with additional support expressed for her qualifications and partnership. It was confirmed that Commissioner Briones is willing to serve in this role. Chair Beckendorff called for a vote. The Council voted and passed the motion unanimously.

Mr. Ron Papsdorf (H-GAC) noted that Commissioner Briones' appointment creates a vacancy in the Secretary position, which she previously held. In accordance with the bylaws, the remaining officers will convene to review interested candidates and bring forward a recommendation to fill the Secretary position for the remainder of the term. Members will receive an email requesting submission of a brief statement of interest for the Secretary role. TPC officers to review submissions and recommend a candidate. Appointment of a new Secretary

to be presented for Council approval at a future meeting. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 9. DRAFT FY2027-2030 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) MR. STEPHEN KEEN, H-GAC

Mr. Stephen Keen (H-GAC) presented the draft FY 2027–2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a federally required, fiscally constrained four-year program of transportation projects. The TIP is consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), air quality conformity requirements, and TxDOT's Unified Transportation Program. The update adds fiscal years 2029 and 2030 and removes fiscal years 2025 and 2026. Mr. Keen gave an overview of the TIP structure, which included chapters on the planning process, fiscal constraint, highway projects, and transit projects. He also highlighted key appendices containing public comments, performance measures, grouped projects, and project risk register scores. The TIP remains fiscally constrained and the public involvement process, which included a public comment period from April 8 to May 8 and a public meeting on April 21. A total of 44 comments were received, with many focused on freight mobility, particularly in East Harris County. A discussion period occurred after the presentation. Chief Transportation Officer Ron Papsdorf reported that FHWA is the final reviewing agency and expressed confidence that any remaining comments could be addressed quickly once received. Staff noted that while the region is not at risk of losing conformity status, delays can affect project development schedules. Mr. Keen asked for TPC approval of TPC Resolutions 2026-14 (MPO Self-Certification) and 2026-15 (adopting the FY 2027–2030 TIP) A discussion occurred after the presentation.

A motion was made by Mr. David Wurdlow and seconded by Judge Mark Keough. Chair Beckendorff called for a vote, the Council voted and approved TPC Resolutions 2026-14 (MPO Self-Certification) and 2026-15 (adopted the FY 2027–2030 TIP) unanimously. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 10. CARRYOVER SPEND DOWN UPDATE-STATUS ON PROJECTS NOT ON TRACK FOR AUGUST 2026 LETTING, MS. JAMILA OWENS, H-GAC AND MR. SAGNIK "NIK" RAHA, H-GAC

Ms. Jamila Owens (HGAC) provided an introduction and overview of the Carryover Spend Down (COSD) program, which was established to reduce approximately \$900 million in accumulated federal transportation funding balances caused by project delivery delays. She noted that the program has been successful in advancing projects and reducing the risk of losing federal funds. As the August 2026 letting deadline approaches, several projects are at risk of not meeting the required schedule. Owens explained that staff reviewed these projects to identify the causes of delays and develop recommendations for moving them forward. The review included an assessment of project readiness and potential timelines for completion. She emphasized that no funding changes were being proposed at this time. Instead, the discussion focused on providing policy guidance for projects that may require additional time to meet delivery milestones. Any future funding changes would be brought forward through a separate TIP amendment process. Ms. Owens turned the presentation over to Mr. Raha.

Mr. Sagnik Raha (HGAC) reported that 122 projects totaling approximately \$900 million had been funded through the program. Of the projects previously identified as at risk of missing the August 2026 deadline, staff conducted detailed reviews and coordination meetings with project sponsors and TxDOT to assess project readiness and schedules. Staff recommended extending the deadline for projects with reasonable delivery schedules to March 31, 2027. Projects that are not obligated by that date would be deprogrammed from the TIP and lose their COSD funding allocation, though they would remain eligible to compete for future funding opportunities also included is the special circumstance designation for the City of Houston NHHIP project. No

funding changes were proposed at this meeting. Mr. Raha asked the Council for approval of the recommendations. A discussion period followed the presentation.

A motion was made by Mr. David Wurdlow and seconded by Judge Mark Keough. Chair Beckendorff called for a vote. The Council voted and approved Item 10. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 11. TEXAS TRIANGLE UPDATE, MR. TYLER GRAHAM, FREIGHT SYSTEMS MANAGER, TXDOT

Mr. Tyler Graham, Freight Systems Branch Manager with TxDOT, provided an update on the Texas Triangle Multimodal Strategic Plan, a statewide effort to evaluate transportation needs across the Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio regions. He explained that the plan is intended to help TxDOT better understand and prepare for the significant population, employment, freight, and economic growth occurring within the Texas Triangle. Mr. Graham highlighted the economic importance of the region, noting that the Texas Triangle accounts for approximately 77% of Texas' economic output and would rank among the world's largest economies if considered independently. Within the Houston region, strong growth continues to be driven by the energy sector, freight movement, port activity, and related industries. The presentation outlined growth projections through 2050, including significant increases in population and employment, particularly in Liberty, Chambers, Brazoria, and Waller counties. He emphasized that this growth will create increasing demands on transportation infrastructure, with many major corridors expected to face substantial capacity constraints and travel delays if additional investments are not made. Mr. Graham discussed the critical role of freight movement and Port Houston, noting continued growth in container traffic and freight flows connecting Houston to major markets across Texas. The study identified increasing truck volumes on key corridors, highlighting the need for long-range planning and investment in regional transportation connections. A discussion occurred after the presentation. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

12. 2026 HURRICANE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN, MS. FRANCIS RODRIGUEZ, H-GAC

Ms. Francis Rodriguez (HGAC) presented an overview of the region's 2026 Hurricane Awareness Campaign and H-GAC's role in supporting hurricane preparedness and evacuation planning. Ms. Rodriguez reflected on lessons learned from Hurricane Rita in 2005, when widespread evacuation challenges highlighted the need for improved regional coordination and preparedness. In response, H-GAC and numerous regional partners, including emergency management agencies, TxDOT, law enforcement, hospitals, and nonprofit organizations, collaborated to strengthen evacuation planning and public awareness efforts. She explained that H-GAC's primary responsibilities include developing and distributing two hurricane evacuation maps, which include Evacuation Routes Map and Evacuation Zone (Zip Zone) Map. Ms. Rodriguez also highlighted the public education resources available through H-GAC's Hurricane Preparedness website, including evacuation maps, preparedness guides, checklists, and specialized materials for seniors and individuals with disabilities. She encouraged residents to prepare in advance by developing an evacuation plan, assembling emergency supplies, staying informed about weather conditions, and following guidance from local officials. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed

13. 2050 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN CALL FOR PROJECTS CRITERIA, MS. ALLIE ISBELL, H-GAC AND MR. BRANDON MOSLEY, H-GAC

Ms. Allie Isbell (HGAC) introduced the item by reminding members that the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is the region's long-range transportation plan. She noted that the current plan is the 2045 RTP, which was significantly amended last year, providing a strong foundation for development of the 2050 RTP. Ms. Isbell explained that the upcoming planning effort will update the region's long-range project list and establish transportation priorities to address future mobility needs across the region.

Mr. Brandon Mosley (HGAC) provided an overview of the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Call for Projects process. Mr. Mosley explained that the RTP is the federally required long-range transportation plan that guides regional transportation investments, policies, and development over a 20-plus-year horizon. The current RTP was updated in 2024 and must be replaced by November 2027. The 2050 RTP will evaluate projects using four core goals:

- Safety – Reducing fatalities and serious injuries for all transportation users.
- Mobility and Economic Vitality – Improving movement of people and freight, reducing congestion, and supporting access to jobs and activity centers.
- Integrated and Innovative Network – Enhancing multimodal connectivity, accessibility, technology integration, and air quality.
- Resiliency and Adaptability – Strengthening infrastructure performance during extreme weather events and improving system reliability and recovery.

Project sponsors will submit applications through an online portal and will be asked to demonstrate how proposed projects support multiple RTP goals. Additional information will be collected regarding project readiness, funding commitments, public involvement, and regional significance. Mr. Mosley noted that projects will be evaluated using a scoring process based on the RTP goals, with both quantitative and narrative components. Following the evaluation process, projects may be:

- Included in the fiscally constrained RTP,
- Placed on the illustrative project list if additional funding is needed, or
- Returned to sponsors for further refinement and consideration in a future application cycle.

Staff will continue providing guidance and resources to project sponsors throughout the application process. 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

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	CANCELLED		
Transportation Safety Committee Meeting	June 23	1:30 p.m.	Virtual
Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee Meeting	June 25	10:00 a.m.	Virtual
Transportation Policy Council Meeting	June 26	9:30 a.m.	Virtual

Chair Beckendorff adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

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

For Information Only. No action needed.



TPC Secretary
Transportation Policy Council

Attachment 1
MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)
FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA
May 22, 2026

ROLL

<u>AGENCY</u>		<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Baytown, City of	_____	Honorable Charles Johnson Mayor	City of Baytown
	_____	Kenrick Griffith – Alternate	
Conroe, City of	_____	Honorable David Hairel Council Member	City of Conroe
	_____	Vacant – Alternate	
Galveston, City of	_____	Vacant	City of Galveston
	_____	Vacant	
Houston, City of Position No. 1	_____	Honorable Sallie Alcorn Council Member	City of Houston
	<u> X </u>	Honorable Willie Davis- Alternate	
Houston, City of Position No. 2	_____	Honorable Carolyn Evans-Shabazz Council Member	City of Houston
	<u> X </u>	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	<u> X </u>	Shashi Kumar, P.E. Assistant City Manager	City of Missouri City
	_____	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	☐	Vacant	City of Pearland
	☐	Trent Epperson-Alternate	
Sugar Land, City of	☐	Honorable Suzanne Whatley Council Member	City of Sugar Land
	☒	Honorable Jim Vonderharr– Alternate	
Texas City, City of	☐	Vacant Mayor	City of Texas City
	☐	Jon Branson - Alternate	
Smaller Cities – Position 1	☐	Honorable Jerry Mouton Mayor	Smaller Cities
	☐	Vacant Alternate	
Smaller Cities – Position 2	☒	Hon. John Escoto City of Shenandoah	Smaller Cities
	☐	Hon. Dusty Thiele-Alternate City of Katy	
Smaller Cities – Position 3	☐	Hon. Sally Branson City of Friendswood	Smaller Cities
	☒	Hon. Ross Gordon-Alternate City of Bellaire	
The Woodlands Township	☒	Dr. Shelley Sekula-Gibbs Board Member -The Woodlands Township Board	The Woodlands Township
	☐	Craig Eissler-Alternate	
Brazoria County	☐	Matt Hanks, JD, P.E. County Engineer	Brazoria County
	☐	Honorable David Linder – Alternate	
Chambers County	☐	Honorable Ryan Dagley County Commissioner	Chambers County
	☐	Honorable Tommy Hammond-Alternate	
Fort Bend County	☐	Honorable Grady Prestage County Commissioner, 1st Vice Chair	Fort Bend County
	☐	Stacy Slawinski, P.E. – Alternate	

<u>AGENCY</u>		<u>VOTING MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Galveston County	<u> X </u>	Honorable Robin Armstrong County Commissioner Honorable Joe Giusti– Alternate	Galveston County
Harris County Position No. 1	<u> X </u>	Honorable Adrian Garcia County Commissioner, Pct. 2 Dr. Milton Rahman – Alternate	Harris County
Harris County Position No. 2	<u> X </u>	Honorable Lesley Briones-Secretary County Commissioner, Pct. 4 Roberto Treviño, P.E. – 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 Matt Gray – Alternate	Montgomery County
Waller County	<u> X </u>	Honorable Justin Beckendorff County Commissioner – Chair Kendric Jones- Alternate	Waller County
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	<u> X </u>	Elizabeth Gonzalez Brock METRO Chair Thomas Jasien-Alternate	METRO
TxDOT-Houston	<u> X </u>	Glenn Allbritton, P.E. District Engineer 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> </u>	<u>VOTING MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Gulf Coast Rail District	<u> X </u> <u> </u>	Hon. Jon Keeney Mayor-GCRD Board Member Veronica Chapa-Gorczyński-Alternate	Gulf Coast Rail District

<u> 31 </u>	Total Voting Membership
<u> 20 </u>	Voting Membership Present
<u> 16 </u>	Required Quorum

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u> </u>	<u>EX-OFFICIOS</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Texas State Senate	<u> </u>	Hon. Carol Alvarado	8-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> </u>	Hon. Phillip Spenrath	Wharton County

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