

# TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

## MEETING SUMMARY

January 27, 2026– 1:30 P.M.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX 77027

Virtual

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### MEMBERS' PRESENT

Robert Benz, P.E.– Texas A&M Trans. Institute  
Jamie Woodall–Executive Dir. of School Safety  
Bruce Mann–RC Railco  
Jack Hannigraff– East End District  
Ken Fickes– Harris County Transit  
Brian Mansfield– City of Friendswood EMS  
Thomas Kuczynski– Fort Bend County Public Transp.  
Sgt. Saul Luera– City of Missouri City

### ALTERNATES PRESENT

Darrell Borchardt– Texas Transportation Institute  
Perri D'Armond– Fort Bend County Public Transportation

### STAFF PRESENT

Cassandra Marshall – H-GAC  
Yetunde Oyewale– H-GAC  
Caroline Bailey– H-GAC  
Qun Zhao– H-GAC  
Keehren Baah– H-GAC  
Susan Jaworski– H-GAC  
Allie Isbell– H-GAC  
Jackie Pittman– H-GAC  
Madeline Statkewicz – H-GAC  
Florence Buaku– H-GAC  
Christopher Whaley– H-GAC  
Ayo Jibowu– H-GAC  
Eric Pacheco– H-GAC  
Monique Johnson– H-GAC  
Fan Yang– H-GAC  
Brandon Mosley– H-GAC  
Rosa Harris– H-GAC  
Ebrahim Eslami– H-GAC

### OTHERS PRESENT

Aysha Kayani– AECOM  
Payton Arens  
Abdul Sbaiti

## ITEM 1. Introduction and Certification of Quorum

The meeting was called to order. Cassandra Marshall initiated the roll call and determined that only six members were present, which did not meet the required quorum of twelve.

## **ITEM 2. Public Comments**

- None

## **ITEM 3. Acceptance of Minutes: December 02, 2025**

- Meeting Minutes held for quorum.

## **Discussion**

### **ITEM 4. Regional Safety Action Plan Update (Robert Benz)**

Robert Benz provided an update on the regional safety plans, noting that multiple plans are open for public comment. He emphasized the importance of addressing driver behavior to reduce traffic fatalities and suggested monitoring safety metrics such as seatbelt usage and traffic violations to inform future improvements.

Additionally, Susan Jaworski highlighted the upcoming public engagement activities related to the regional Safety Action Plan, encouraging participation and feedback through an interactive website.

### **ITEM 5. Federal Safety Performance Measures Update (Keehren Baah)**

Keehren provided an update on the FHWA safety performance measures, noting that the targets for fatalities and serious injuries were not achieved, while the crash rate met the established goal. It was explained that the data is based on a five-year rolling average and attributed some of the increase in fatalities to population growth. Susan added clarification that vehicle miles travel exceeded projections, which affected the crash rate calculations.

### **ITEM 6. Regional Safety Performance Measures Discussion (Robert Benz)**

Robert Benz led a conversation about establishing regional safety performance measures, particularly concerning DWI metrics and the review of fatal crashes. Bruce Mann raised concerns about the prevalence of repeat offenders in traffic violations, advocating for a reassessment of progressive punishment strategies. Thomas Kuczynski added that changing behavior is crucial for improving safety outcomes.

### **ITEM 7. Members Roundtable: Planned Safety Activities and Updates in the Region (Robert Benz)**

Payton Arens noted that educational campaigns and enforcement are crucial in addressing issues like speeding and alcohol use, which contribute to severe crashes. He mentioned that HGAC's support for local agencies through grants could enhance enforcement efforts.

Saul Luera emphasized the effectiveness of sustained traffic enforcement in specific locations to alter driver behavior, sharing his experiences from the city. He mentioned that while concentrated efforts yield positive results, the effects can fade quickly once enforcement is lifted. Robert Benz questioned how long it takes for drivers to revert to unsafe practices after such enforcement, indicating a need for data analysis to track these trends.

## **Announcements**

1. Transportation Policy Council (TPC)-February 27, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. (In person)
2. Transportation Advisory Council (TAC)- February 11, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. (In-person)
3. Joint public meeting for Regional/Metro/ GCRD SAPS-February 12, 2026

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 24, 2026

**Meeting Adjourned at 2:58 p.m.**