

5B. SUMMARY OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Sub-regional Planning Initiatives (SPI)

- Washington Ave Corridor Study: H-GAC staff provided comments on the second draft of the final report to the consultant and are waiting to receive a revised copy of the final report.
- Friendswood Parkway Corridor Study: The alternatives and recommendations were presented to the Steering Committee on October 7. H-GAC and the City of Friendswood have a meeting scheduled for November 20, 2025 to discuss the next steps.
- Friendswood Active Transportation Plan: The first Public Meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2025 at the Friendswood Public Library from 6pm – 8pm. An interactive mapping exercise is available on the project website at [Friendswood Active Transportation Plan | Engage HGAC](#).
- Buffalo Bayou East Design Concept: The third Steering Committee meeting was held on October 28, 2025. The final public meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 9, 2025 from 6pm – 8pm. Additional information will be provided via H-GAC's communication platforms once the location is confirmed.
- North Houston Communities Transportation Priorities Plan (NHCTPP): The Board approved the contract for consultant services on August 19, 2025. The contract is pending TxDOT concurrence. The kickoff meeting is anticipated for December 2025.
- Montgomery County Mobility Plan: The contract for consultant services was presented for Board approval on October 21, 2025. The Board recommended the evaluation team interview the top two firms with the highest scores. The evaluation team completed interviews on November 6, 2025 and will present a recommendation for contract approval to the Board at the November 18, 2025 meeting.
- Needville Mobility Plan: The Request for Proposals closed on October 23, 2025. H-GAC received nine (9) proposals for the project. The proposal evaluations began on October 27, 2025 and ended on November 7, 2025. The contract for consultant services is anticipated for Board approval at the December 16, 2025 meeting.
- Liberty County Thoroughfare Plan: The first workshop with the county, cities, and TxDOT to gather data about existing conditions was held on October 23, 2025. H-GAC staff is in the process of analyzing the feedback received in preparation for presenting preliminary recommendations at a future meeting with the county, cities, and TxDOT.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

- The Regional Transportation Plan 2050 Request for Proposals (RFP) submission and evaluation periods completed October 21st. Applicant interviews are scheduled for December 2nd.
- Hosted two (2) freight focus group meetings.
- Hosted two (2) tourism focus group meetings.
- Revising Phase I Regional Transportation Plan 2050 public outreach public meeting summaries based on review comments received. Phase I was focused on visioning and existing conditions.
- Preparing draft vision using data analysis, public engagement and focus group feedback.
- Analysis of data to develop goals and objectives are ongoing.
- Presented Regional Transportation Plan 2050 to Matagorda County Youth Leadership Program at H-GAC headquarters.

- Communications sent two (2) final stakeholder interest emails on October 21 and October 28 titled “Regional Transportation Plan: Join the RTP 2050 Stakeholder Group.” The emails resulted in a 20-person increase on the stakeholder interest list.
- The last social post was October 23, and no further social posts are planned currently. We are continuing to collect analytics and metrics and will provide a full report during the debrief meeting in December.

Safety Planning

- Staff are reviewing public meeting materials for the Safety Action Plans (SAPs) first public meeting anticipated to be held in late 2025 or early 2026.
- Materials are being revised for the second steering committee meeting for all 12 SAPs.

Freight Planning

- The Greater Houston Freight Committee (GHFC) met on October 16th to tour the Union Pacific Englewood transfer yard and the Port of Houston. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 15, 2026, via MS Teams.
- Staff continues to work on Freight Grade Separation Program call for projects and request for proposals documents for release in 2026.

Pedestrian and Bicyclist Planning

- The Regional Active Transportation Plan 2050 Request for Proposals (RFP) submission and evaluation periods completed October 21st. Applicant interviews are scheduled for December 2nd.
- The Pedestrian-Bicyclist Subcommittee is scheduling work group meetings to discuss project prioritization and the active transportation GIS layer for December.
- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Call for Projects – Staff is now accepting statements of project interest (SOPI) to initiate project selection process. The questionnaire portal is scheduled to open in January 2026. Staff continues to meet routinely with TxDOT to coordinate schedules between the state and regional calls for projects.

Resiliency Planning

- Staff are revising information leading to a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the PROTECT grant.
- Staff meet regularly with FHWA to discuss status of the PROTECT grant and the associated resiliency plan.

TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Friendswood Active Transportation Plan: The first Public Meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2025 at the Friendswood Public Library from 6pm – 8pm.
- Buffalo Bayou East Design Concept: The final public meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 9, 2025 from 6pm – 8pm. Additional information will be provided via H-GAC’s communication platforms once the location is confirmed.

SHORT TERM PLANNING

PROJECT DELIVERY – TRACKING AND MONITORING

PROJECT PROGRAMMING

- Finalized the Annual Project Listing of Obligated Projects that provides project-level details on the use of federal funds for highways, pedestrian and bicycle and public transportation projects over the course of the fiscal year 2023. H-GAC staff develops the annual report in cooperation with TxDOT and local public transportation providers and is available on the [H-GAC website](#).
- The Fiscal Year 2024 Annual List of Obligated Projects is published on the [H-GAC website](#). This report includes 101 projects with a total federal obligation amount of \$415.5 million.
- The 2045RTP Update amendment project listing was posted on the [H-GAC website](#).
- The Draft Fiscal Year 2026 10-Year Plan project listing is posted on the [H-GAC website](#)
- Continue to coordinate with planning partners on TIP amendment requests.
- Submitted August – October TPC approved TIP amendments to November STIP revision

AIR QUALITY

Air Quality Planning

- Rider 7, 2024-2025: Staff are continuing to work on efforts to support the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Rider 7 Program. For our currently underway project for the 2024-2025 biennium, staff are working with AECOM on activities to help our region learn more about the sources of fine particulates within our region. This effort includes an analysis of existing particulate matter data for our region, a literature review of recent pertinent research, and a source apportionment modeling study of existing data to help better understand the sources of particulate matter within our region. All of these project components will help support both the MPO and TCEQ with air quality improvement efforts. This project will be completed in December of 2025.
- Rider 7, 2026-2027: Staff is beginning to move forward on further Rider 7 efforts to support funding awarded for the 2026-2027 biennium. This grant will extend activities for an additional two years and provide an additional \$627,967 for project activities over the next two years. Staff requested and received approval from the H-GAC Board of Directors to accept this funding and is working to develop project activities for this time period.
- The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program is entering its final stretch as staff work intensively to complete the Clean Air Action Plan for submission to EPA by December 1. The plan will undergo internal review in mid-November to ensure alignment with regional priorities and grant requirements. While drafting continues, the team is also preparing for the next phase which includes producing a polished version of the plan in December and planning for a public launch in early 2026. This launch will include a new round of engagement to share how community input shaped the final plan and to re-engage local governments, policymakers, and stakeholders around implementation strategies. These conversations will highlight the menu of opportunities available for collaboration toward our shared goal of clean air and healthy communities across the Houston-Galveston region.
- The Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Study is undergoing final proofing and edits. Staff anticipate that the final study will be released prior to the end of November.
- Clean Air, Healthy Communities Series: Social media ran from early August to the end of October; the public survey also ended in late October. Communications sent two (2) final reminder emails for the Clean Air, Healthy Communities Survey on October 9 and October 28, titled "Closes at End of October" and "Your Voice is Essential: Take the Survey Now." Currently collecting analytics and metrics and a debrief date is planned for December.

- Air Quality Summit Debrief planned for December, which includes a complete overview and review of analytics and metrics.

Clean Vehicles Grant Programs

- Staff continues to work with a new partners to assist with monitoring of Clean Vehicles Program funding recipients. Staff are coordinating GPS unit installations with fleet managers and the GPS provider for remaining monitored projects. During the interim period between monitoring partners, staff developed a process to capture regional monitored miles during the transition to new GPS units.
- Staff are assisting a school district in completing a school bus replacement application that could result in the replacement of up to five diesel buses with alternative fuel buses.
- Staff closed one subagreement that achieved its contracted NOx-reduction targets.
- Staff continues internal coordination to prepare for issuing grants under the new AFA.

Houston-Galveston Clean Cities Coalition

- Staff organized a regional hydrogen project problem solving workgroup, transitioned administration to the University of Houston, and continues as a member.
- Staff connected the University of Houston with the Port of Houston Authority and Waste Management to discuss hydrogen issues and topics.
- Staff participated in the regional hydrogen workgroup led by The Center for Houston's Future.
- Staff informed local government stakeholders of H-GAC funding opportunities.
- Staff attended the Texas Energy Summit in Austin, TX.
- Staff coordinated with Texas Coalition staff on statewide initiatives and best practices.
- Staff met with H-GAC's AI development team to explore automating a time-consuming project.
- Staff gathered event-planning best practices from the Air Quality Summit staff.
- Staff initiated planning for a Clean Cities Expo to be held in mid-2026.

MPO PROGRAMS

Incident Management/Tow and Go

- Staff received Board approval to enter the next contract with Harris County and the City of Houston for the continuation of the Quick Clearance Tow and Go Program. The contract will be for one (2) year with the option to renew for two (2) years not to exceed a total of three (3) years.
- Staff worked on finalizing the draft scope of work for the next contracts.
- Staff finalized and Submitted the Project Management Plan and Public Engagement Plan for the new federal funding agreement.
- Staff held our regularly scheduled Tow and Go Operations meeting to discuss system updates, program progress, and incident reviews.
- Held a TIMS training, training almost 40 incident responders in October.
- Staff met with TxDOT Maintenance, TxDOT floor operators, Harris County, Houston Police Department, KTL Towing, Expro Towing, and other stakeholders for an after-action review. During this meeting we discussed a long duration incident – we addressed what went wrong and what changes can be made to improve program operations.

Transit Planning

- Regional Public Transportation Coordinated Plan (RPTCP) Staff continue to coordinate with Procurement and Data Analytics on the development of the Interim and Final Plans.
- Regional Transportation Information Study (RTIS) Planning is underway for the upcoming Steering Committee and Stakeholder engagements scheduled for November through December.
- Staff and project stakeholders are reviewing the final deliverables for the US90A Transit Corridor Study.
- The next regular meeting of the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee is Thursday, January 8, 2025.
- The Dayton Transit Study is complete, and the Final Report and Executive Summary have been posted to the HGAC transit website online.

Safety Outreach

Teen Drivers Education and Outreach Program:

Outreach Strategists are continuing to recruit schools to launch safety outreach initiatives. H-GAC team met with leadership and compliance to evaluate whether consultants should redesign the Teen Driver Education and Outreach Program. Outreach Strategists will research evidence-based programs for the Teen Driver Education Program and will develop a new brand and product for the program. Staff continues to meet with consultant's biweekly to discuss project updates.

Youth Traffic Safety Education and Outreach Program:

Texas Children's Hospital's pre-award audit forms remain pending; after following up with the consultants, the documents have been submitted to their attorney for review.

Regional Safety Campaign:

Ride, Don't Drive Campaign: An initiative to reduce impaired driving during major holidays by encouraging high-risk drinkers to use rideshare services. Determining the procurement process for the campaign, including influencer selection. A justification letter has been submitted to TxDOT for review.

Regional Thanksgiving Safety Campaign: Discussed project kickoff with H-GAC communications team to launch a campaign for the month of November for things you are thankful for and why it is important to drive safely. Communications will provide a script of a story board and begin video for H-GAC staff to review before uploading it to all social media platforms.

Staff continue to attend monthly to the Transportation Improvement Program Subcommittee, Regional Transportation Plan Subcommittee, Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee, Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting, and the Houston Traffic Safety Coalition meetings.

Hurricane Evacuation

- The organic social media campaign ran from July 8 to the end of October and has now concluded. Analytics were shared on a monthly basis with the project manager.
- Staff is working with the H-GAC communications team to update the www.h-gac.com/hurricane and www.togetheragainstheweather.com websites for the 2026 hurricane season.

Intelligent Transportation Systems and TSMO Planning

- No updates at this time.

Title VI/Language Access

- Staff continue to provide support for public engagement efforts related to the Regional Transportation Plan 2050.
- Furthering the “Connecting Communities” initiative, staff are spearheading the creation of a Youth Advisory Panel to engage the youth population in the metropolitan transportation planning process.
- Staff is creating an online portal for the Title VI external complaint system.

Congestion Management Process

- The 2025 CMP Interim Update has been approved and published online.
- The 2026 CMP update is scheduled to be awarded at the November 18 Board of Directors Meeting.

Travel Demand Management | Commute Solution

- Staff actively participated in several outreach events including Fort Bend Transit’s 20th anniversary celebration, Houston Business Journal’s Road to FIFA event, Texas Medical Center, and the State of Downtown Houston luncheon.
- Staff worked with participating transit agencies for Free Fare Friday to measure the success of the campaign. Conroe Connection witnessed higher ridership on free fare days, while the remaining agencies witnessed a 15-20% increase in ridership during the month of September
- Commute Solutions continues to implement their digital marketing campaign, resulting in an additional 8K visitors to the website (74K to date)
- Organic social media posts for Biketober have concluded. General Commute Solutions posts are continuing. Analytics and metrics are shared monthly.
- Staff is actively collaborating with stakeholders and interested parties in coordinating travel demand management planning efforts in preparation for FIFA World Cup
- Staff is actively participating in inter-agency efforts as H-GAC prepares for FIFA Men’s World Cup

TRAVEL DEMAND MODELING & FORECASTING

Staff continues to provide technical support of travel demand and forecasting modeling to towards the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP), the FIFA 2026 World Cup Transportation Scenario Planning, and other traffic and travel related data developments within the H-GAC MPO region that supports sub-regional and corridor studies and planning. These include modeling support for TxDOT and non-TxDOT projects such as:

TxDOT PROJECTS SUPPORT:

- FM 149 Extension Study
- 5-Year Statewide AADT Traffic Count
- Friendswood Corridor Study (Follow-Up, TxDOT)
- Grand Parkway Project
- Statewide crashes by roadway type and facility type for incompatibilities

CITY OF HOUSTON SUPPORT:

- Leeland Avenue Two-Way Conversion (on-going support)

CITY OF ROSENBERG SUPPORT:

- Comprehensive Plan

CITY OF MONTE BELVIEU SUPPORT:

- FM 565 Traffic Project

HARRIS COUNTY SUPPORT

- Data Request

METRO TRANSIT SUPPORT:

- Traffic Data Request

HARRIS COUNTY TOLL ROAD AUTHORITY (HCTRA) SUPPORT

- Hardy Downtown Connector Program

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SUPPORT:

- Precinct 2 Project
- Developed GIS data to support upcoming Montgomery Mobility Plan work for Subregional Study Group, determined thoroughfare connectivity between adjoining counties and eliminating unnecessary roads.

LIBERTY COUNTY SUPPORT:

- Liberty County Thoroughfare Review and Update

COMFORMITY SUPPORT:

- Travel Demand Modeling conformity network and documentation for FHWA review.
- Running regional model with AGENT calibration to support 2026 conformity
- TDM Updates for next 2026 conformity

H-GAC TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS:

- Transit Service & Bus Route Map to support Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
- Support for the Transportation Department AEEMAT Demonstration
- Rider 7 research with AECOM
- Various AQ Tasks; air quality dashboard, updating running EFs in CAPES, and working on a presentation about the various ER calculation tools.
- World Cup 2026 FIFA Scenario Planning Services – developing the modeling approaches and the baseline scenarios in both the TDM and DTA with the consultant team, and coordination with stakeholders.
- Performed various tasks that support the RTP project, developing data visualization tools and dashboards, the integration of these tools into RTP workflows
- Developed graphic Supports to TAC/TPC- 10-year plan project, TIP amendments, TIP removed back to 10-years
- Regional Transportation Planning Tools – Advance Transportation Scenario Planning Tools. Evaluated and scored the seven proposals received and interviewed the top four of the seven proposals, evaluated and scored the four based on the interviews.

REGIONAL TRAVEL SURVEY:

Staff continues to coordinate with TxDOT and consultants to support on-going regional surveys tasks that includes:

- Commercial, Special Generator – TxDOT TP&P projects, estimated to be completed by the end of 2025
- Major Universities and Community Colleges – actual data collections are completed, expansion of sample sizes collected to start December 2025.

SOCIOECONOMIC DATA, MODELING AND APPLICATIONS

- Staff processed and validated 2024 certified appraisal data for all eight counties, including updates to land use classifications and standardized output formatting. The task was 90% complete as of October.
- Staff continued updating model-building inputs using new data from master-planned communities, plat records, and development activities such as the Fort Bend Tollway expansion. The effort was 80% complete as of October.
- For the Air Quality Program, staff is developing an interactive Esri-based real-time dashboard integrating data from EPA, PurpleAir, and Clarity. The project was 95% complete as of October.
- The travel demand and socioeconomic modeling teams participated in a peer exchange with the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority focused on land use and travel demand modeling.
- Staff collaborated with the Transportation Department on the Subregional Planning Application, which reached 20% completion following meetings with the Subregional Planning Team to discuss potential improvements to the application and data management workflow.
- Staff initiated development of the Monthly Regional Crash Data Report, currently 10% complete as of October, which includes downloading and processing the latest CRIS data and building a Tableau dashboard for automated monthly reporting.
- Under RTP 2050 support, staff advanced the Regional Activity Center Analysis (50% complete as of October), identifying regional centers based on population and employment patterns. Development of the Survey Dashboards for the Tourism and Freight surveys is 10% complete.
- The Model Parcels Update is 5% complete, incorporating 2024 certified appraisal data across participating counties to refine model-building inputs.
- Staff developed the 2050 RTP Survey Dashboard, which reached 20% completion as of October. The dashboard provides planners with an interactive interface to explore and analyze survey results.
- Staff developed the Regional Railroad Crossing Projects Dashboard to help identify and prioritize potential railroad crossing improvement projects across the region.