

Transportation Advisory Committee
Public Comments
November 12, 2025

Public Comment 1:

Peter Eccles
LINK Houston

November 11, 2025

Transportation Advisory Committee
Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Ln #100
Houston, TX 77027

Re: TAC Bylaws Draft Recommendations

Dear Members of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC):

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Agenda Item #10: TAC Bylaws Draft Recommendations.

The TAC has a formidable charge: to make technical recommendations on effective transportation policy for our massive and diverse region. It needs all the help it can get.

For decades, this committee has benefited from the expertise of its diverse membership – not only staff from public agencies, but also leaders who represent the broad spectrum of users and stakeholders of our region's transportation system.

The proposed changes to the TAC bylaws would significantly constrain that expertise.

By removing positions for Environmental, Planning, Active Transportation, Business Interests, and Citizens Interests, these bylaws would limit the knowledge available to this committee and impair its ability to make sound recommendations. Collapsing these ten positions into a single position for Regional Transportation Advocacy cannot possibly represent the many different concerns and perspectives of the millions of people who depend on a comprehensive transportation system.

H-GAC – like all Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) – was created with a federal mandate to ensure that transportation policy decisions are considered holistically. As our transportation systems grew more complex, federal law required MPOs to consider additional factors like air quality, safety, and the interplay of all modes including walking, biking, and public transit. H-GAC depends on all of the technical expertise provided by the diverse membership of this TAC to carry out its mandated responsibilities.

We understand the stated intention to make the TAC more efficient. Unfortunately, the proposed changes to these bylaws remove critical competencies and would render the TAC less effective. We strongly urge the TAC to retain these positions, in particular those representing Environmental, Active Transportation, and Citizens Interests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PEH', with a stylized, cursive flourish at the end.

Peter Eccles
Director of Policy and Planning

Public Comment 2: APA Texas Chapter

November 12, 2025

Good morning, H-GAC TAC members:

We represent the board and members of the American Planning Association Texas Chapter, Houston Section (or APA Texas, Houston Section). The Houston Section comprises over 450 planners serving the greater Houston region in various public and private sector capacities. Our primary obligation as planners and active participants in the planning process is to **serve the public interest**. Through our AICP Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct, we have principles to which we aspire, including the first principle that states:

“People who participate in the planning process shall continuously pursue and faithfully serve the public interest.”

We submit this public comment regarding **Agenda Item #10: *Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Bylaws Draft Recommendations***.

- We oppose the removal of all nine TAC positions that represent Planning, Environment (air quality), Active Transportation, and Citizen Interests.
- We believe planning should remain a key technical voice on the TAC, with representation that reflects the region’s comprehensive approach to transportation and land use.
- We urge continued representation from the TAC Subcommittees including Air Quality (environment) and Active Transportation, instead of removal.

The TAC’s technical membership should include planners and other professionals who bring expertise in long-range planning, environmental stewardship, multimodal mobility, including public interests and engagement.

These roles are central to H-GAC’s mission as the region’s transportation planning organization. Removing these perspectives weakens the **technical foundation** of the TAC’s recommendations to the Transportation Policy Council (TPC). Diverse, professional, and citizen-informed representation ensures decisions are grounded in best practices and serve the public interest.

The APA Texas, Houston Section will continue to follow this discussion and encourages further collaboration with TAC members and H-GAC staff. We strongly believe that fair and equitable representation on the TAC is essential to serving the public interest of our region. Thank you for serving our great H-GAC region and for considering our comments on the bylaw revisions.

Sincerely,

APA Texas, Houston Section Board of Directors

