



HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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H-GAC SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT ON PROPOSED UPDATES AFFECTING 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND CONFORMITY MEASURES AT APRIL 8 PUBLIC MEETING

Experts Will Discuss Updates to 2045 RTP and Air Quality Conformity Measures

HOUSTON, TX – As more workers begin returning to the office and traffic numbers steadily increase, the need for a robust, well-connected transportation network is all the more crucial. The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) will hold two virtual public meetings at 2 p.m. and at 6 p.m. on April 8 to discuss proposed amendments to the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan and a new transportation conformity determination.

The amendments would add regionally significant projects along 11 corridors to strengthen and improve connectivity of the region’s transportation network. The proposed projects include reconstructing and widening the San Jacinto River bridge on IH 10 E and the Houston Ship Channel bridge on IH 610 E; altering the scope of Hempstead Highway between 610 to the Grand Parkway (SH 99); building a 6-lane freeway on SH 35 between Dixie Dr. and Alvin, Texas; and improving connections at several segments of IH 610, IH 10, IH 45, and SH 99. Also, the proposed amendments include changes to existing 2045 RTP projects as highlighted in the draft Appendix D Fiscally Constrained Projects List by County, which is posted at 2045rtp.com.

“Even in the face of the pandemic, the Houston-Galveston region continues to be one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the country. The 2045 Regional Transportation Plan establishes the visions, goals, and investment priorities that will ensure our transportation network can sustain that growth, strengthen economic competitiveness, and serve our residents now and in the future,” said Adam Beckom, H-GAC transportation manager.

H-GAC experts will present the proposed amendments and the air quality conformity determination, after which attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and make public comments. The virtual public meetings will include options for residents and stakeholders to join via Zoom, watch the livestream online, or dial in by phone. H-GAC will also provide a Spanish translator and an American Sign Language interpreter for the hearing impaired.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials from the 13-county Gulf Coast planning region, which includes an area of 12,500 square miles and more than 7 million people. H-GAC works to promote efficient and accountable use of local, state, and federal tax dollars; serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local governments; and helps analyze trends and conditions affecting the region. For more information, visit h-gac.com.



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“Community input is vital to ensuring the RTP is prioritizing the projects that make our transportation system safe, accessible, and reliable for all while also making a positive impact on quality of life,” said Beckom. “We look forward to hearing the public’s feedback on these proposed amendments, and we welcome your engagement.”

The public comment period for these updates will open on March 26 and will close on April 28, 2021. Comments may be submitted by phone at 1-855-363-2516, by mail to Attention: RTP/Conformity Comments, P.O. Box 22777, Houston, TX, 77277-2777, or emailed to publiccomments@h-gac.com.

For more information about how to attend the public meeting and about the discussion topics, visit 2045rtp.com. More information about H-GAC transportation programs is available at h-gac.com.

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