5A.

# MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, August 14, 2024, 9:30 A.M. MEETING

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Veronica Chapa-Gorczynski, called the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

A list of Committee representatives and alternates attending the meeting is included with these minutes as Attachment 1. There were 32 members in attendance; 22 are required for a quorum.

The meeting agenda and materials are available on the TAC website at: http://www.h-gac.com/transportation-advisory-committee/meeting-agendas-and-minutes.aspx.

In addition, the livestream recording is available at: <a href="http://www.h-gac.com/transportation-advisory-committee/meeting-livestream-archive.aspx.">http://www.h-gac.com/transportation-advisory-committee/meeting-livestream-archive.aspx.</a>

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no written public comments received.

To listen to public comments made from the floor, please click <u>here</u>.

#### ORIENTATION TO AGENDA AND MPO DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Craig Raborn gave a brief presentation on the Orientation to Agenda and MPO Director Report. Mr. Raborn made an announcement to Committee members in reference to current subcommittee vacancies and discussed the response to the performance of spend down compared to other MPO's presentation. For further details, please click on the link here.

#### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Veronica Chapa-Gorczynski opened the floor to the Committee for any comments or questions for Consent Agenda Item; 5A.) Meeting Minutes Summary for June 12, 2024. No comments were given, and the Chair entertained a motion for approval of the June 12, 2024, meeting minutes summary.

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Bruce Mann. A second motion for approval was made by Mr. Wael Tabara. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC here.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS**

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE 2025-2028 TIP AND RTP AMENDMENTS

Mr. Jim Dickinson presented on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Amendments. The 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a four-year capital improvements program for transportation projects. Under federal rules, all federally assisted projects must be included in the TIP to be eligible for funding. In addition, federal rules require that regionally significant local projects must also be included in the TIP.

The 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a long-range plan that prioritizes spending on regional transportation projects including short and long-range strategies to ensure the transportation network is safe and efficient. Updated every four years, the RTP outlines a fiscally constrained transportation investment program that is based on the unique needs and characteristics of the MPO region.

Amendments to the TIP and RTP are brought to the Transportation Policy Council for consideration monthly and amended in accordance with the H-GAC Public Participation Plan.

Staff sought approval for Resolution 2024-20 to include the summary of the proposed revisions to the 2025-2028 TIP and 2045 RTP to the Committee for review.

- Delay the FM 528 4-lane widening project in Brazoria County (MPO ID 17209) from FY 2030 to FY 2035 in the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan to allow for anticipated environmental clearances. (Total Project Cost: \$8.5M)
- Add \$4.2M of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding to the TxDOT Houston District's IH 45
  North frontage road construction, and operational and drainage improvements project in Montgomery
  County (MPO ID 17221) to cover updated cost estimates. Project was let to contract in FY 2024 in the
  TxDOT Statewide Preventative Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program. (+\$4.2M; Total: \$18.0M)
- Add the \$7.0M federal Congressional Community Projects award (Category 10), matched with \$1.75M of local funding, to Montgomery County's FY 2025 Ford Road 4-lane widening project (MPO ID 18120). (+\$8.75M; Total: \$46.2M)
- Convert all federal District Discretionary (Category 11) funding of TxDOT Houston District's US 290 truck parking lot construction project at FM 2920 in Harris County (MPO ID 18917) to a state contribution at TxDOT's request. (+\$0M; Total: \$1.8M)

The Chair opened the floor for questions on the amendments. Ms. Catherine McCreight noted that the resolution number indicated 2023-2026 as opposed to year 2025-2028. Mr. Dickinson confirmed that 2023-2026 was a clerical error and the correct year should show 2025-2028 on the resolution.

Ms. McCreight made a motion to amend the resolution number to 2025-2028, current TIP, and approve the amendments. A second motion for approval was made by Mr. Jason Smith. The Committee voted and the motion carried

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC <u>here</u>.

#### APPROVAL OF THE 2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AMENDMENTS

Mr. Craig Raborn presented on the amendment to the 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) describes the regional transportation plans and programs and the transportation-related air quality planning activities that will be undertaken during fiscal year 2024. The current 2024 UPWP was adopted by the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) on September 8, 2023. The following amendments were presented for approval in response to the review of the MPO's performance.

1. The planned procurement of the Project Selection Process and Programming Database to improve accuracy of the Transportation Improvement Program project listings is added to Table 6-7 "Anticipated Software and Equipment Purchases/Leases." The total cost is listed at \$650,000 for a three-year Software-as-a-Service license that will include vendor support for the transition to the new platform. This item was previously listed only as a consultant/service activity. Because the activity was previously included in the 2024 UPWP and costs for future years will be included in the 2025 UPWP, there is no financial impact from this change. 2. To improve accuracy and consistency of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project listings before they are uploaded to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), the following new objective and expected product are added under Subtask 3.1.a – Transportation Improvement Program:

New Objective: (Under Subtask 3.1.a):

"D. Increase accuracy and consistency of TIP project entries and amendments, and related submittals of project information to the State Transportation Improvement Program. (Consultant may be utilized.)"

New Expected Product (Under Subtask 3.1.a)

"C. Completed review checklist prior to all submittals of TIP project information and amendments into the State Transportation Improvement Program."

Mr. Raborn concluded that Consultant activity was added to facilitate a rapid procurement and reiterated that there was no financial impact since expenses will not be incurred until the 2025 UPWP period of performance. Mr. Raborn sought TAC recommendation to TPC approval of Resolution UPWP 2024-01.

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Bruce Mann. A second motion for approval was made by Ms. Perri D'Armond. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website here.

# APPROVAL OF THE 2025 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

Mr. Craig Raborn presented on Approval of the 2025 Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWP). The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a required document describing all anticipated planning activities for the Metropolitan Planning Organization; It includes a description of tasks and budgets for the Federal Fiscal Year (October 1 to September 30). The UPWP describes the regional transportation plans and programs carried out in the 8-county Metropolitan Planning Area:

- Development of all required planning products or activities (primarily the Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Congestion Management Process, etc.);
- Continuous and one-time planning activities related to safety, freight, transit, subregional areas, corridors, active transportation, air quality, data and modeling, and livable centers; and
- Special planning activities (e.g. Safe Streets and Roads for All, PROTECT resiliency planning, and development of grant-funded planning activities).

Mr. Raborn discussed UPWP Basics, UPWP required structures, and current UPWP progress status. Additionally, Mr. Raborn provided an overall summary to describe updates/changes to the UPWP, budget details, timeline, and future updates and activities.

After the presentation, Chair Chapa-Gorczynski opened the floor for questions. Ms. Catherine McCreight noted that the resolution number in the packet showed year 2024 and wanted to clarify that the year on the resolution should be 2025. Additionally, Ms. McCreight noted on page 39 of the TAC packet, under purpose, that the year should indicate 2025. Mr. Raborn confirmed that it was a clerical error and that the year will be updated to show 2025.

The completed 2025 UPWP is available for review online at (<a href="https://www.h-gac.com/unified-planning-work-program">https://www.h-gac.com/unified-planning-work-program</a>).

Mr. Morad Kabari made a motion to approve with the amendments noted by Ms. McCreight. A second motion for approval was made by Ms. Perri D'Armond. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website here.

#### CARRY OVER SPEND DOWN – ADDED PROJECTS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Ms. Callie Barnes presented on Carry Over Spend Down – Added Projects for Possible Action. On December 15, 2023, the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) programmed (in the Transportation Improvement Program [TIP]) 60 projects represented by 25 sponsors with \$335,225,653 of federal funds. These projects were programmed to help spend down the region's carry over balances. One of the 60 projects (with a total project cost of \$500,000) was cancelled. All remaining carry over spend down projects will let or be transferred to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) by the end of August 2025. Local government sponsors agreed to participate in the Regional Strategic Transportation Fund (RSTF) program for 39 of the 60 carry over spend down projects. Draft Interlocal Agreements (ILAs) for the RSTF program were sent to local government sponsors for 13 of the 39 projects. Attachment 09-2 provided a status of the Draft ILAs, that were in the TAC August 14, 2024 Packet. If all 39 projects are successful, the RSTF program will accrue approximately \$23M for which local government sponsors can compete in the future for certain projects.

Ms. Barnes provided a recap of the Carry Over Spend Down summary of current projects listed, presented additional Carry Over Spend Down Projects for Consideration (August 2025 Let), and next steps upon approval. Staff was seeking TAC recommendation for TPC approval of Resolution 2024-21.

After Ms. Barnes presentation, the floor was open for questions. The hear further questions and comments on this discussion made by the Committee, please click on the link below.

Ms. Marlene Gafrick made a motion to approve. A second motion for approval was made by Mr. Jason Smith. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website here.

## CARRY OVER SPEND DOWN - ADDED PROJECTS FOR REVIEW

Ms. Callie Barnes presented on the Carry Over Spend Down – Added Projects for Review. On December 15, 2023, the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) programmed (in the Transportation Improvement Program [TIP]) 60 projects represented by 25 sponsors with \$335,225,653 of federal funds. These projects were programmed to help spend down the region's carry over balances. One of the 60 projects (with a total project cost of \$500,000) was cancelled. All remaining carry over spend down projects will let or be transferred to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) by the end of August 2025. Local government sponsors agreed to participate in the Regional Strategic Transportation Fund (RSTF) program for 39 of the 60 carry over spend down projects. Draft Interlocal Agreements (ILAs) for the RSTF program were sent to local government sponsors for 13 of the 39 projects. If all 39 projects are successful, the RSTF program will accrue approximately \$23M for which local government sponsors can compete in the future for certain projects.

H-GAC identified several additional projects (see Item 09-2, in the August 14, 2024 TAC Packet) that can let or be transferred to FTA by the end of August 2025 for TPC consideration to fund with the carry over spend down effort. There are 2 projects represented by 2 sponsors requesting an additional \$17,600,000 of carry over spend down funds. Both projects meet at least 2 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Visions and Goals (the same analysis and determination as conducted for the currently programmed carry over spend down projects). One project is requesting 1,600,000 Transportation Development Credits to satisfy the local match requirement. The  $2^{nd}$  project sponsor would provide the 20% local match.

This item was preview and discussion only.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website here.

#### RELIABILITY, CONGESTION, AND AIR QUALITY PERFORMANCE MEASURES UPDATE

Ms. Karen Owen presented on Reliability, Congestion, and Air Quality Performance Measures Update. A performance-based transportation planning process is a federal requirement in the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Federal legislation created Transportation Performance Management to focus federal funds on addressing the challenges facing the National Highway System. Performance Management is a useful tool for tracking regional performance over time and can illustrate how we are meeting the regional goals for improved performance of the transportation system. The process for measuring performance consists of gathering data, formulating a quantitative forecast, setting targets, monitoring conditions, and reporting target progress. The second federal performance period spans four years, from 2022 to 2025. H-GAC has responsibility for these federal measures in the areas of person and freight travel reliability, congestion, and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality tailpipe emission reductions. In 2022, the Transportation Policy Council adopted 2024 and 2026 targets for these measures. H-GAC reached the midpoint of the four-year performance period. Performance reporting was required by the federal deadline of October 1, 2024. To hear details of this update, please click on the link below.

This item was for information and discussion only.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website here.

#### COMMUTE SOLUTIONS MONTH RESOLUTION

Ms. Jamila Owens presented on the Commute Solutions Month Resolution. Commute Solutions is a travel demand management outreach and education program that provides marketing, education, and outreach about transportation options in the region that can help reduce congestion and improve air quality. The Commute Solutions program is administered by the Houston-Galveston Area Council, in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation, regional transportation agencies, area employers and universities, local governments and other community organizations.

2024 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Commute Solutions program. This year the Federal Highway Administration and the Texas Department of Transportation have given the Commute Solutions program the "green light" to pilot an Ozone Action Campaign during this time. Ozone Action campaigns provide marketing to encourage people to make choices that can reduce ground level ozone during a subset of the peak ozone season. September in recent history, has been one of the worst months for ground level ozone exceedances in our region.

In celebration of the 30th year of the Commute Solutions Program, H-GAC staff requested to recognize September 2024 as Commute Solutions Month, Resolution 2024-22. During the month, H-GAC staff will pilot an Ozone Action Campaign, Breathe Easy September, that will:

- **Encourage** the region to try transportation strategies that can reduce ground level ozone during the peak ozone season (ex: Trip chaining, taking transit, carpool, vanpool, fueling up at night).
- Partner with area transit providers to provide funding support to help people try transit on Fridays in September.
- Partner with additional agencies such as the Texas Department of Transportation ConnectSmart program,
  Air Alliance and METRO Star vanpool program to raise awareness about the campaign and strategies that
  can reduce ground level ozone during this time.

Ms. Perri D'Armond made a motion to approve. A second motion for approval was made by Ms. Catherine McCreight. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website here.

#### COMMUTER AND TRANSIT PILOT PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Alan Rodenstein presented on the Commuter and Transit Pilot Program Update. The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Commuter and Transit Pilot Program is designed to develop services that reduce vehicle emissions and vehicle miles traveled in the eight-county Metropolitan Planning Area. H-GAC has worked with transit agencies, management districts, cities, and counties since 1999 on various commuter and transit projects. A significant result of the program has been the growth of regional commuter services, which started with CMAQ pilot projects and were sustained over time, resulting in increased intercity mobility for the region.

Pilot projects typically last three years; after the pilot is completed, other funding sources are used if the service is sustainable. H-GAC and the project sponsor work through a Call for Partners to develop, fund, and implement new regional transit services. To hear more details on this update, please click on the link below.

This item was for discussion and information only.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website here.

#### AERIAL GONDOLA TRANSIT SYSTEM FOR THE CITY OF SUGAR LAND

Ms. Melanie Beaman gave a presentation on the Aerial Gondola Transit System for the City of Sugarland. During the City of Sugar Land's Mobility Master Plan development and extensive public engagement efforts, the community has expressed the need to expand on the existing transit services that are available to residents and visitors. One way to address the need is through the City's Microtransit Pilot project, which is set to start this fall and is meant to supplement Fort Bend County's Commuter Park & Ride and Demand Response services with first mile/last mile transit connections, day-of ride requests, and increased availability within the service area zone. An additional way is with a traditional fixed-route bus service that circulates between activity centers. This type of transit does not work very well in a suburban environment like Sugar Land without the population density to support it. The community has been divided over the concept as well with many against traditional bus-type service operating on crowded streets.

Ms. Beaman discussed topics ranging from mobility challenges in the City of Sugar Land, traditional grade separations, benefits that aerial transit can provide, the concept of the Aerial Gondola System, systems used globally with similar concepts, safety record on aerial transit, structure of the Gondola System, the current phases of the Aerial Gondola in the City of Sugar Land and how the project aligned with the RTP Vision and Goals. To hear further details on this presentation, please click on the link below.

This item was for discussion and information only.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website here.

#### UPDATE ON THE TITLE VI PROGRAM

Mr. Ayo Jibowu gave an update on the Title VI Program. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in any program or activity conducted by recipients of Federal financial assistance. Discrimination includes the denial of meaningful access for persons with limited English language communication skills. To continue to be eligible for federal transit or highway funds, H-GAC must update its Title VI Program every three years and show that the agency complies with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Title VI regulations. H-GAC fully complies with Federal Title VI nondiscrimination requirements.

Mr. Jibowu briefly described the Title VI Program, showed maps of population distribution, and the next steps on this update.

A draft of the updated Title VI Program can be found on the H-GAC website at: <a href="http://www.h-gac.com/title-vi-program">http://www.h-gac.com/title-vi-program</a>. The Title VI Program update is set to be completed by September 2024.

This item was for discussion and information only.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website here.

#### **PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

#### A. Project Selection Process Update

Mr. Vishu Lingala provided a brief update on the Project Selection Process. To hear the details on this update, please click on the link below.

For Information Only. No action needed.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website here.

#### B. Future Amendments

Mr. Jim Dickinson provided an update on Future Amendments. To hear the details on this update, please click on the link below.

For Information Only. No action needed.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website here.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The following announcements were shown on the slide for the upcoming meetings:							
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Ms. Allie Isbell, Assistant Director of Transportation, made an additional announcement in reference to H-GAC, MPO 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon for Friday, September 27, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. H-GAC Staff will be sending a "Save the Date," email invite, with more details to come on the luncheon.

# <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

Chair Veronica Chapa-Gorczynski adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 11:49 a.m.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website <a href="here">here</a>.

First Vice Chair Transportation Advisory Committee

# ATTACHMENT 1

# TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE (Roll Call) August 14, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

# NOTES:

- 1. Attendance is marked with "X" in the corresponding column for the Member and/or Alternate.
- 2. Where both the Member and Alternate are present, the Alternate is marked with an asterisk (\*) after the "X" to indicate that this person does not count toward quorum or votes for this meeting.

<u>Member</u>	<b>Present</b>	Representing	<b>Alternate</b>	<b>Present</b>
<u>Chair</u>				
Veronica Chapa Gorczynski	X	Business Interests	David Kim	
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair				
Morad Kabiri, P.E.	X	Smaller Cities	Jildardo Arias	
2nd Vice Chair				
Perri D'Armond	X	Transit	Shawn Davis	
Dan Johnson, P.E., CFM		Smaller Cities	Andy Rodgers	X
Joe Garcia	X	Smaller Cities	Brian Winningham	
Ken Fickes		Transit	Vernon Chambers	
Ruthanne Haut	X	Transit	Todd Stephens	
Shelley Sekula-Gibbs, M.D.	X	Environmental	Sue Theiss	X*
Katherine Parker		Environmental	Carl Woodward, P.E., CFM	
Marlene Gafrick	X	Planning	(Vacant)	
David Wurdlow		Planning	Katherine Summerlin, AICP	X
Catherine McCreight	X	Planning	Brenda Bustillos, PhD	
Marlisa Briggs	X	<b>Business Interests</b>	Amy Skicki	X*
Nikki Knight		Citizens Interests	Dexter Handy	X
Sherry Weesner, P.E., CPM		Citizens Interests	Irma Sanchez	X
Bruce Mann	X	Port of Houston	Rohit Saxena	
(Vacant)		Ports	Dean Corgey	
Brian Alcott	X	Toll Road	Amar Mohite	
Robert Castaneda		Toll Road	David Gornet	X
Stephen Gage	X	Active Transportation	Patricia Kievlan	
Aubin Phillips	X	Active Transportation	Joe Cutrufo	
James Brown		Airport	Marcel Allen	
Joe Compian		Regional Planning	(Vacant)	
Clint Harbert	X	METRO	Alan Clark	X*
Nancy Peron, P.E.		TxDOT-Beaumont District	Carolina Lopez-Herrera	

Member	<b>Present</b>	Representing	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Present</u>
Varuna Singh, P.E.	X	TxDOT-Houston District	Jeffrey English, AICP	
Wael Tabara, P.E.	X	Brazoria County	Karen McKinnon, P.E.	
Natalie G. Lopez	X	Chambers County	Cory Taylor, P.E.	
Stacy Slawinski, P.E.		Fort Bend County	Rick J. Staigle, P.E.	
Michael Shannon, P.E.	X	Galveston County	Nancy Baher, P.E.	
Patrick Mandapaka, Ph.D,		Harris County	Susan Fraser, P.E.	
AICP	X			
David Douglas		Liberty County	Hon. Jay Knight	
Jason Smith	X	Montgomery County	Jean Mann	X*
Ross McCall		Waller County	Luke Fortkamp	
Brant Gary	X	City of Baytown	Martin Scribner	
(Vacant)		City of Conroe	Chris Bogert, P.E.	
Robert Winiecke, P.E.,				
CFM	X	City of Galveston	Brandon Cook	
Fabio Capillo	X	City of Houston	Khang Nguyen, P.E.	
Christopher Sims	X	City of League City	Cara Davis	
Marcus Snell		City of Missouri City	Joi Johnson	X
Sarah Benavides		City of Pasadena	Mark Gardemal	
Lorenzo Wingate		City of Pearland	Rajendra Shrestha, P.E., CFM	<u>X</u>
Melanie Beaman	X	City of Sugar Land	Sagnik "Nik" Raha, P.E.	
Kim Golden, P.E.		City of Texas City	Jack Haralson, P.E.	
	32 22	Total Voting Membership Total Voting Membership Present Required for Quorum		