

# TRANSPORTATION AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE

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## MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, August 08, 2024 – 2:00 P. M.  
Houston- Galveston Area Council of Government  
Virtual Teams Meeting

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### MEMBER PRESENT

Port of Houston – Kenneth Gathright  
Harris County Transit – Ken Fickes  
Citizens Transp. – Dexter Handy  
Fort Bend County – Perri D’Armond  
H-GAC – Andrew DeCandis  
Baytran – Amy Skicki  
Evolve Houston – Casey Brown  
TxDOT – Nancy Peron  
Air Alliance Houston – Alexander Spike

### ALTERNATE PRESENT

University of Houston – Bruce Race  
Port Houston – Kelli Gallagher  
H-GAC – Pharr Andrews  
The Woodlands Township – Nicole Mathews

### OTHERS PRESENT

### STAFF PRESENT

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Karen Owen  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Vinny Polignano  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Carlos Lugo  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Sydni Ligons  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Craig Raborn  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Robyn Egbert  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Gloria Brown  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Jamila Owens  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ben Finley  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Vishu Lingala  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Maggie Isied  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Qun Zhao  
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Rodney Siqua

- a. The TAQ Subcommittee Members and Alternates were presented with action's items; discussion items were presented; and the meeting concluded with agency reports and no member announcements.
- b. Visit <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/transportation-committees/TAC/transportation-air-quality-subcommittee/agendas.aspx> to view the meeting materials for this meeting.

## CALL TO ORDER

### ITEM 1A. Introductions

Ken Fickes called the meeting to order members and alternates introduced themselves.

### ITEM 1B. Approval of Meeting Summary (03-21-2024)

Meeting Summary approved.

## ACTION ITEMS

**ITEM 2A. Reliability Congestion and Air Quality Performance Measures Request for Endorsement-Karen Owen**  
Karen Owen presented federal performance measures focused on the national highway system, including travel reliability, congestion, and air quality. She discussed historical data, targets, and recommendations for future targets, taking into account the impact of COVID-19 and population growth on travel patterns and reliability levels. Karen also presented the draft recommendations for the Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan to the H-GAC subcommittees, seeking their endorsements and feedback.

Transportation Air Quality subcommittee suggested scheduling another meeting in September to allow for further discussion and decision-making.

## DISCUSSION

### ITEM 3A. Commute Solutions Month-Robyn Egbert, H-GAC

Robyn Egbert discussed Commute Solutions month an Ozone action campaign for the month of September. The goal is to bring awareness to the region on how residents can lower their ozone emissions during the month of September. Different options were discussed for ways to commute. As well as free Fridays on select routes.

### ITEM 3B. Rider 7 Introduction-Pharr Andrews, H-GAC

Phar Andrews gave some background on rider 7 which H-GAC was awarded a grant. She discussed the funding for this project was created by the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature which renewed the rider 7 Air Quality Program and its' appropriations for the FY24 25 Biennium for areas not designated nonattainment.

It was further discussed the program was expanded and now to include a separate initiative for areas that are at risk for being nonattainment for PM 2.5 and it appropriated \$2.5 million for more affected counties. We are eligible for this funding due to our region monitored annual PM 2.5 values. Our region will receive over \$400,000 in Rider 7 activity funding during this biennium.

In closing, the discussion continued that they anticipate this project to begin in September and end December 2025.

### ITEM 3C. ZEU Plan Introduction-Vinny Polignano, H-GAC

Vinny Polignano gave an overview on study of existing and estimating future vehicle populations in the region. The goal is to assess our ability as a region in terms of changing fueling and future infrastructure needs anticipated with those future vehicle populations. They are looking to assess a guiding document that can direct all those planning efforts in the ZEV space and provide a foundation for future funding opportunities.

The discussion continued with they see zero emission vehicles as an opportunity. This will include the battery electric vehicle or ZEV as well as fuel cell electric vehicles. It was also pointed out that there are about 300,000 EV's in Texas.

Twenty-five percent of which are within the Houston region. Members were informed that their already seeing EVs and we know where we're at. The press space of a hydrogen boom in this region and to adequately account for this extension of ZEV in the region. H-GAC as the region's MPO, is developing a guiding plan.

This project is currently in the beginning stages of reviewing existing ZEV plans.

### OTHER BUSINESS

#### ITEM 4A. Agency Announcements

- ✓ Andrew DeCandis announced to the committee that our efforts to apply for phase two Climate Pollution Reduction grant back in April, we did not receive funding for that.
  
- ✓ Transportation Grant Workshop  
West Pearland Library  
Teaching Theatre  
Monday, August 19  
11:00-1:30 P.M.  
Please register at-  
[Baytran.org/](http://Baytran.org/)

#### ITEM 4B. Member Announcements

- ✓ Transportation-Maggie Isied
- ✓ Transportation-Vinny Polignano

Next Meeting: September 11, 2024

### ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:41 P.M.