

15. POST HOUSTON FIFA WORLD CUP 2026 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND MODELING UPDATE

BACKGROUND

The FIFA World Cup 2026 presented both major opportunities and challenges for the H-GAC MPO region as the region hosted the world's largest sporting event. Effective mobility planning was essential to support the safe and efficient movement of spectators, residents, officials, teams, and the workforce before, during, and after the matches. The FIFA World Cup Scenario Planning and Modeling Study provided H-GAC and regional partners with a data-driven framework to assess potential transportation impacts, identify corridors of concern, evaluate operational strategies, and prepare for game-day conditions.

This presentation provides a study overview, post-event analysis comparing the modeled conditions with actual transportation conditions observed during the FIFA World Cup, and tools developed that can be leveraged in future. It also highlights the successes, challenges, and lessons learned to improve transportation planning and operations for future large-scale events.

CURRENT SITUATION

A selected consultant began the FIFA World Cup mobility planning study in August 2025. H-GAC worked closely with regional partners through stakeholder meetings and workshops to identify key transportation challenges and develop weekday and weekend event scenarios.

H-GAC used scenario-based modeling to evaluate potential congestion, operational risks, and mitigation strategies and shared the findings with regional partners to support event preparation and operations. The "Plan to Operate: Houston's Scenario-Based Approach to FIFA 2026" connected planning and modeling with real-world transportation operations.

Following the event, H-GAC is conducting a post-event analysis to compare planned and modeled conditions with actual conditions, assess the effectiveness of the strategies, and identify lessons learned and best practices for future large-scale events.

ACTION REQUESTED

Information only.