

**MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL
FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION
MANAGEMENT AREA**

DATE: Friday March 23, 2018
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: Houston-Galveston Area Council, 3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor, Room B, Houston,
Texas 77027

Chairman Matt Sebesta called the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) to order at 9:30 a.m.

ITEM 1. CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

Secretary Tom Reid announced that a quorum of TPC membership was present; 14 members comprise a quorum. A quorum was declared present and recorded on the Roll Call, which is included with these Minutes as Attachment 1.

ITEM 2. INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Sebesta invited introductions from Council members and staff.

ITEM 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public at today's meeting.

ITEM 4. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 27, 2018 MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

Secretary Reid motioned for approval of the January 27, 2018 meeting Minutes and Mr. Chuck Wemple seconded the motion. The Council voted and approved the Minutes.

ITEM 5. RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER LARRY GREEN TO THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL

Chairman Sebesta read the Resolution of Commendation recognizing the service of Council Member Larry Green and expression of condolences to his family and friends.

Council Member Amanda Edwards motioned for approval of the Resolution honoring Council Member Green, and Council Member Robinson seconded the motion. The Council voted and unanimously approved the Resolution.

Council Member Edwards and Council Member Robinson expressed their respect for Council Member Green and what he has meant personally to each of them.

Mr. Donald Perkins, Chief of Staff for Council Member Green, highlighted his contributions, recalled fond memories, and spoke highly of his value to the City of Houston.

A moment of silence was observed by the Council out of respect for Council Member Green.

ITEM 6. APPROVAL OF TPC NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee Chair James Patterson informed the Council of the results of the Nominating Committee's recommendation of candidates to fill the two vacancies on the Technical Advisory Committee. The Committee recommended the advancement of Mr. Richard Zientek (Union Pacific RR), from alternate to primary for the *Intermodal Interests* position vacated by Mr. Clark Martinson, and the appointment of Ms. Maureen Crocker (City of Houston) as alternate for the other *Intermodal Interests* position vacated by Mr. Carlos Ortiz (HAS).

Commissioner Janiece Longoria motioned for approval of the Nominating Committee's recommendations, and First Vice Chair Ken Clark seconded the motion. The Council voted and approved the recommendations as outlined by Committee Chair Patterson.

ITEM 7A. RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE 2017-2020 TIP AND 2040 RTP

Mr. Dickinson reviewed one amendment for the Council's approval for additional funding for construction of the SH 288 Truck Weigh Station inspection project. The proposed cost increase of \$1.3 million would be divided between H-GAC and Brazoria County on a 50/50 split. This would add \$636,000 to the federal portion and to the Brazoria County match resulting in a total project cost of \$3,739,000.

Council Member Robinson motioned for approval of the Resolution amending the TIP and seconded by Secretary Reid. The Council voted and approved Resolution 2018-06.

ITEM 7B. REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS TO THE TIP AND RTP

Mr. Dickinson reviewed administrative modifications to 20 projects. These administrative amendments were presented for information only.

- Minor modifications to limit designations and clerical corrections to funding amounts to four (4) previously programmed TASA bike/pedestrian/Livable Centers projects. Change sponsorship of Texas City shared-use path.
- Advance City of Pearland Hughes Ranch Road widening to FY 2018.
- Delay ten (10) project lettings one fiscal year.
- Remove ROW phase from City of Pearland Fite Road extension project.
- Merge two sections of Gessner Drive reconstruction.
- Merge two program years of Regional Freeway Incident Management.

ITEM 7C. PREVIEW OF FUTURE AMENDMENTS TO THE TIP AND RTP

Mr. Dickinson previewed three draft amendments this month for possible action at a future meeting. These amendments would modify the FTA 5307 funding and program Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) for Fort Bend County Public Transportation’s Capital, Planning and Operating projects based on amounts approved by the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (Metro) Board of Directors on January 25, 2018.

These amendments are presented for information only and are subject to change prior to a request for action next month.

ITEM 7D. RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE 2018-2019 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Nicholas Williams presented three proposed amendments to make the following changes to the 2018-2019 UPWP:

1. Changes the federal funding source budgeted for an update of the Brazoria County Thoroughfare Plan and associated policies from Surface Transportation Program (STP) to Transportation Planning Funding (TPF).
2. Changes the federal funding source budgeted for a pedestrian facility data collection project from STP to TPF.
3. Adds a transportation resiliency and durability to extreme weather study and associated funding.

Mr. Williams added that these amendments were recommended for TPC approval by the Technical Advisory Committee at its February 14th and March 14th meetings.

A motion was made by Mr. Tom Lambert for approval of the Resolution amending the 2018-2019 UPWP and seconded by Commissioner Rusty Senac. The Council voted and approved Resolution No. UPWP 18/19-5 as outlined by Mr. Williams.

ITEM 8. RATIFICATION OF LETTER TO TxDOT REGARDING PROJECT CSJ 3510-06-0079 DIRECT CONNECTORS AT SH99/SH249

Mr. Alan Clark explained he learned in mid-February that amendments to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) approved by the Transportation Policy Council since October 2017 were still pending final approval within TxDOT. As a consequence, several projects programmed for contract letting later this year could be delayed for an unknown time period. Based on conversation with TxDOT’s Division Director for Planning and Programming, staff learned the delay was the result of concerns with advancing from the Regional Transportation Plan to the TIP one project, the construction of four direct connectors between the tolled lanes of SH 99 and SH 249 (CSJ 3510-06-007).

After consultation with TPC officers, Mr. Clark, transmitted a letter to Mr. James Bass, TxDOT Executive Director, requesting further processing of our amendment advancing the SH 99/SH 249 direct connectors (project CSJ 3510-06-007) be delayed and that TxDOT proceed with all other TIP amendments approved by the TPC. Although this letter does not alter or revoke the action taken by TPC, it is important that the Policy Council be informed regarding the difficulty the Texas Transportation Commission now has advancing tolled projects in the state given direction provided by the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

The SH 99/SH 249 direct connectors are expected to be ready for contract letting in the fall of 2019. After the letter from H-GAC, TxDOT has subsequently processed all pending TIP amendments approved by TPC.

Mr. Clark is requesting that this letter to TxDOT be ratified by the Council.

Commissioner Patterson expressed a major concern that the Policy Council is submitting to blackmail by delaying the SH 99/SH 249 direct connectors project. Eight county judges signed the document that allowed the Grand Parkway Toll Road Authority to do this project. The TxDOT Grand Parkway Toll Road Authority is a separate entity, and he does not believe this to be a TxDOT project. This money is coming out of the Grand Parkway Toll Road project. Commissioner Patterson believes the Council may be setting a precedent by agreeing to delay this project.

Some discussion and further clarification regarding this action followed.

Commissioner Patterson motioned for approval of the ratification of the letter to TxDOT and Mayor Joe Zimmerman seconded the motion. The Council voted to ratify the letter as requested by staff.

A complete discussion of this item is available in the TPC meeting audio recording at: <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/transportation-committees/TPC/2018/03-mar/default.aspx>.

ITEM 9. REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

- A. Transportation Planning Activities - Mr. Clark invited questions from members regarding planning activities for February and March.

Commissioner Senac, Chair of the High Capacity Transit Task Force, presented a progress report on its activities.

Council Member Amanda Edwards, Vice Chair of the Task Force, added a brief report on the status of the Work Groups and expected results.

Mr. Thomas Gray of the H-GAC staff elaborated on the progress of each of the Work Groups and next steps to be taken.

A complete discussion of this presentation is available on the TPC meeting audio recording at: <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/transportation-committees/TPC/2018/03-mar/default.aspx>.

Mr. Tucker Ferguson made a special presentation to congratulate Commissioner Rusty Senac (Chambers County) for receiving the 2018 Texas Road Hand Award at the Texas Transportation Commission meeting. Commissioner Senac was applauded and congratulated by his fellow TPC members.

Mr. Clark mentioned that recent activities in the air quality area and called attention to two issues. One is the major lawsuit involving Volkswagen over software that allowed some vehicles to pass the emissions test without meeting the emissions standards. A comment letter from the Board of Directors referencing this information is included in the members' meeting materials.

The second issue in the air quality area involves a recent court case challenging the way transportation air quality conformity determination must be made. Although US EPA may appeal the court decisions in this case, staff will continue to monitor any subsequent actions and communicate them to the Council as appropriate.

- B. H-GAC Board of Directors – Items submitted to the H-GAC Board of Directors in March are summarized in this item. The Board approved an agreement that allows H-GAC staff to work with the City of Houston to reinstitute the Quick Clearance Program. This program supports towing of stalled vehicles on crowded freeways to a safe, nearby location off the freeway at no cost to the vehicle owner/operator. A start date for this activity will be announced later.

Mr. Clark added that public outreach is well underway for the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan. Three public meetings have been held so far and more are scheduled, including presentations to some County Commissioner's Courts. The schedule for remaining public meetings is included in members' meeting materials.

Representative Ed Thompson asked Mr. Clark to coordinate with his office on additional air quality information and developments in the Volkswagen court case.

Commissioner Laura Ryan added comments regarding discussions and feedback during the meeting. She highlighted the importance of input to the Commission when tough decisions have to be made and assured the Commission's support when needed.

ITEM 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next TAC meeting – April 18, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., Rm B
- Next TPC meeting – April 27, 2018, at 9:30 a.m., Rm B

ITEM 11. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Sebesta adjourned the meeting of the TPC at 10:40 a.m.

Hon. Tom Reid, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)
FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA
March 23, 2018**

ROLL

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Baytown, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Robert Hoskins Council Member, District 5	City of Baytown
	<u> x </u> Honorable Charles Johnson – Alternate	
Conroe, City of	_____ Thomas Woolley Interim Director of Engineering	City of Conroe
	_____ Chris Bogert – Alternate	
Galveston, City of	_____ Honorable Craig Brown Council Member	City of Galveston
	<u> X </u> Rick Beverlin - Alternate	
Houston, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable David W. Robinson – 2 nd VC Council Member, At-Large 2	City of Houston
	_____ Honorable Karla Cisneros - Alternate	
Houston, City of	_____ Vacant Council Member	City of Houston
	<u> X </u> Honorable Amanda Edwards - Alternate	
Houston, City of	<u> X </u> Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E. Director, Public Works & Engineering	City of Houston
	<u> x </u> Maureen Crocker – Alternate	
League City, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Larry Millican Council Member, Position 3	City of League City
	_____ John Baumgartner – Alternate	
Missouri City, City of	<u> X </u> Scott Elmer, P.E. Assistant City Manager	City of Missouri City
	_____ Shashi Kumar, P.E. – Alternate	
Pasadena, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Cary Bass Council Member	City of Pasadena
	_____ James Rodriguez – Alternate	

**TPC Agenda Item 4
Attachment 1**

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	
Pearland, City of	<u> X </u> _____ _____	Honorable Tom Reid Mayor - Secretary Jon Branson –Alternate	City of Pearland
Sugar Land, City of	<u> X </u> _____ _____	Honorable Joe Zimmerman Mayor Hon. Carol McCutcheon – Alternate	City of Sugar Land
Texas City, City of	_____ <u> X </u> _____	Phil Roberts Mayor Pro Tem Doug Kneupper, P.E. - Alternate	City of Texas City
City of Bellaire	<u> X </u> _____ _____	Honorable Pat McLaughlan Council Member, City of Bellaire Honorable Natalie Picha - Alternate	Smaller Cities, Harris County
Brazoria County	<u> X </u> _____ _____	Honorable Matt Sebesta County Judge - Chairman Honorable David Linder – Alternate	Brazoria County
Chambers County	<u> X </u> _____ _____	Honorable Rusty Senac Commissioner Jimmy E. Gore - Alternate	Chambers County
Fort Bend County	<u> X </u> <u> x </u> _____	Honorable James Patterson County Commissioner, Pct 4 Paulette Shelton – Alternate	Fort Bend County
Galveston County	<u> X </u> _____ _____	Honorable Kenneth Clark Commissioner – 1st Vice Chair Judge Mark Henry – Alternate	Galveston County
Harris County	_____ _____ _____	Honorable Ed Emmett County Judge Honorable Jack Morman – Alternate	Harris County
Harris County	_____ <u> X </u> _____	Honorable Steve Radack County Commissioner, Pct 3 Gary Trietsch, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Liberty County	_____ _____ _____	David Douglas Engineering Director Honorable Greg Arthur - Alternate	Liberty County

**TPC Agenda Item 4
Attachment 1**

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Montgomery County	<u> </u> Honorable Charlie Riley <u> </u> County Commissioner, Pct 2 <u> </u> Honorable Craig Doyal – Alternate	Montgomery County
Waller County	<u> </u> Hon. Justin Beckendorff <u> </u> County Commissioner <u> </u> Yancy Scott, P.E. - Alternate	Waller County
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	<u> </u> Carrin Patman <u> </u> METRO Chair <u> X </u> Thomas Lambert - Alternate	METRO
Houston-Galveston Area Council At Large	<u> </u> Jack Steele <u> </u> Executive Director <u> X </u> Chuck Wemple – Alternate	H-GAC
TxDOT	<u> X </u> Quincy Allen, P.E. <u> </u> District Engineer <u> x </u> Eliza Paul, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Houston District
TxDOT	<u> X </u> Tucker Ferguson, P.E. <u> </u> District Engineer <u> </u> Adam Jack, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Beaumont District
Port of Houston Authority	<u> X </u> Honorable Janiece Longoria <u> </u> Commissioner/POH Chair <u> </u> Phyllis Saathoff – Alternate	Other Transportation Interests
Gulf Coast Rail District	<u> X </u> Bert Keller <u> </u> Chairman/GCD <u> </u> Carol Lewis, TSU – Alternate	Gulf Coast Rail District
	<u> 28 </u> Total Voting Membership	
	<u> 23 </u> Voting Membership Present	
	<u> 14 </u> Required Quorum	

**TPC Agenda Item 4
Attachment 1**

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>NON-VOTING MEMBERS</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Freight Rail Interests	<u> X </u> Brenda Mainwaring Vice President, Public Affairs	Union Pacific Railroad
Freight Rail Interests	<u> X </u> Hugh McCulley	BNSF Railway
Texas State Legislator	<u> X </u> Hon. Ed Thompson	8-County Region
Texas State Legislator	<u> </u> Hon. Sylvia Garcia	8-County Region
Wharton County	<u> X </u> Hon. Phillip Spenrath County Judge	Wharton County
TxDOT Yoakum District	<u> X </u> Paul Reitz, P.E. District Engineer	TxDOT Yoakum District