



Houston-Galveston
Area Council

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ride Transit for Free Every Friday in September Across the Texas Gulf Coast Region

H-GAC and Regional Transit Partners Expand Free Fare Fridays for Ozone Action Month

Houston, TX – The [Houston-Galveston Area Council](#)'s (H-GAC) [Commute Solutions](#) program and regional transit partners are offering free bus rides every Friday in September to encourage residents to choose public transportation during Ozone Action Month. Through the Free Fare Fridays program, riders can save money, reduce vehicle emissions, and help improve air quality across the region.

This year, the program expands to include additional communities through a partnership with Gulf Coast Transit District bringing free transit options to residents in Brazoria and Galveston counties. Participating transit providers across the region are offering free rides to encourage more people to choose public transportation as an alternative to driving alone.

"Choosing transit is one of the easiest ways residents can help reduce vehicle emissions and improve air quality," said Jamila Owens, assistant director of Transportation at H-GAC. "Free Fare Fridays gives people an opportunity to try transit, discover available services, and see how one small change can make a difference for our region."

Where to Ride Free

Residents can ride free every Friday in September on participating routes from:

- [Gulf Coast Transit District](#)
- [Harris County Transit](#)
- [Fort Bend Transit](#)
- [The Woodlands Township Transit](#)
- [Conroe Connection Transit](#)

Details, schedules, and participating routes are available at yourcommutesolution.org/breathe.

Why Transit Matters

Transportation is a major source of air pollution in the Houston-Galveston region. In fact, on a regular workday with high-traffic activity, 60 percent of ground-level ozone contributions come from vehicular traffic emissions according to the 2023 National Emissions Inventory developed by

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the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Choosing transit, carpooling, vanpooling, or combining trips can help reduce the number of vehicles on the road and lower emissions that contribute to ground-level ozone.

Free Fare Fridays also gives residents a chance to explore transit options they may not have used before and find convenient ways to travel throughout the region.

More Ways to Improve Houston Air Quality

Along with riding transit, residents can help reduce ozone pollution by:

- Carpooling or vanpooling when transit is not available
- Avoiding engine idling while parked
- Keeping vehicles maintained for better fuel efficiency
- Fueling up in the evening to reduce emissions
- Combining trips to drive less

About Free Fare Fridays

Free Fare Fridays is a partnership between H-GAC's Commute Solutions program, TxDOT, Harris County METRO, Fort Bend County, The Woodlands Township, the city of Conroe, and Gulf Coast Transit District. The program is supported by [Air Alliance Houston](#), [Houston ConnectSmart](#), and [METRO Vanpool](#). For full details, visit yourcommutesolution.org/breathe.

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About H-GAC

The [Houston-Galveston Area Council](#) (H-GAC) is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials from the 13-county greater Houston area planning region, which includes an area of 12,500 square miles and nearly eight million people. H-GAC promotes 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.

About the Metropolitan Planning Organization

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) works with local, regional, and state agencies to plan, prioritize and invest federal transportation funds in regional projects. Since 1974, the [Houston-Galveston Area Council](#) and the [Transportation Policy Council](#) have served as the MPO staff and policy board for the eight-county metropolitan transportation planning area, which includes Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties. Together they guide regional transportation planning and coordination.