

11. COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AND SPECIAL GENERATORS SURVEYS

BACKGROUND

The Transportation Planning and Programming Division of the Texas Department of Transportation sponsors a State-wide comprehensive set of travel surveys which includes the eight-county Metropolitan Planning Area. The eight counties include: Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller.

The purpose of the surveys is to collect data and information needed as input to the regional travel demand model for the Metropolitan Planning Area. The model is an important planning tool used to forecast future traffic levels on area roadways, evaluate the region's transportation plan, and aid in the region's air quality conformity analyses.

CURRENT SITUATION

H-GAC staff is currently completing the update of the new regional travel models and simultaneously developing new travel forecasting tools using mesoscopic or microscopic techniques. The enhancement and application of current models as well as development of new analysis tools require a complete understanding of existing regional travel characteristics and patterns obtained through travel survey and used for its testing and development.

Since modeling results may be used in determining the conformity status of transportation plans to federal clean air regulations, the use of accurate and up-to-date data from regional travel surveys is important to Texas Department of Transportation who sponsors this survey and the Metropolitan Planning Organization. This is designed to capture post COVID-19 characteristics of commercial vehicles travels and special generators within the eight-county Metropolitan Planning Area and used as inputs into the H-GAC regional travel demand model. H-GAC staff's role is to serve as a member of the Steering Committee that plans, designs, and supervises the execution of the data collection process.

The Project Kick-off meeting was held in February 2025. The Pilot Survey took place in March 2025, and the actual data collection is scheduled between April 2025 – September 2025, while the data expansion will happen in the Spring of 2026.

The four Special Generator Surveys in Galveston County include: University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), Texas A&M University at Galveston, Galveston College Main Campus, and Galveston College ATC Campus. The sample size for the Metropolitan Planning Area is estimated at 2,350 responses based on stratified targets.

ACTION REQUESTED

Information Only.