12. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

BACKGROUND

A Congestion Management Process (CMP) is required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to be developed as part of the metropolitan planning process in urbanized areas with a population over 200,000. These metropolitan areas are known as Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) and are officially designated by the Secretary of Transportation using population figures from the latest decennial census.

Title 23, Section 450.0320 of the USC requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), such as H-GAC, to "address congestion management through a process that provides for safe and effective integrated management and operation of a multimodal transportation system."

A detailed update of the 2025 Congestion Management Plan has been underway since early 2026. A nationally recognized outside congestion management company (Cambridge Systematics) has worked with H-GAC staff to develop a more robust and comprehensive plan. This will become an ongoing Comprehensive Management Plan that also functions as an annual process, allowing for an annually updated Congestion Management Process. The process will provide annual data, strategies, and evaluation from a Multimodal and Operational perspective across various facets of Congestion Management.

CURRENT SITUATION

Staff and consultants are developing the 2026 Congestion Management Plan. Goals and objectives are aligned with the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, and a new, expanded Congestion Management Map is proposed to address regional growth in emerging high-congestion corridors.

The agency has supplemented existing federally required Performance Measures with additional multimodal, safety, air quality, and resiliency metrics to provide a more comprehensive perspective on regional transportation congestion to guide future investment decisions. Ongoing and completed transportation projects will be evaluated before and after completion to gauge their impact on congestion.

Staff are reviewing the draft final report, with an additional public meeting and comment period scheduled for the end of the year. Presentation of the plan and request for TPC approval are scheduled for early 2027.

ACTION REQUESTED

Information Only.