

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

DATE: Friday July 26, 2019  
TIME: 9:30 a.m.  
PLACE: Houston-Galveston Area Council, 3555 Timmons Lane, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room B, Houston,  
Texas 77027

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Chairman Ken Clark called the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) to order at 9:33 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 Clark invited introductions from Council members and staff.

**ITEM 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Recognizing the large number of persons in attendance desiring to provide comment on Agenda Item 8, Chairman Clark recommended that, with the concurrence of the Policy Council, this item and Agenda Item 9 be considered next. By reordering these agenda items, those desiring to provide comment on them would have the benefit of hearing the staff presentation of these items prior to providing their comment.

As shown in Table 1 below, sixty-eight persons provided oral public comment on Agenda Item 8, which can be viewed on the livestream recording found at:

<https://hgac.swagit.com/play/07262019-568> (Items 3 & 8 Part 1 of 2)

<https://hgac.swagit.com/play/07262019-568> (Items 3 & 8 Part 2 of 2)

Transcription of the oral livestream comments and all written comments received on Agenda Item 8 can be also found at:

[http://h-gac.com/transportation-policy-council/meeting-agendas/documents/2019/july/Transcribed%20Documents\\_TPC%20NHHIP.pdf](http://h-gac.com/transportation-policy-council/meeting-agendas/documents/2019/july/Transcribed%20Documents_TPC%20NHHIP.pdf)

<http://h-gac.com/transportation-policy-council/meeting-agendas/documents/2019/july/ITEM-08-North-Houston-Highway-Improvement-Program.pdf>

As shown in Table 2 below, nine persons indicated a desire to provide public comment on Agenda Item 9. Due to the extreme length of the TPC meeting, oral comments were not received and those signed up to provide comment on Agenda Item 9 were subsequently invited to do so in writing or in person at the August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Transportation Policy Council. Written comments received on Agenda Item 9 can be found at:

<http://h-gac.com/transportation-policy-council/meeting-agendas/documents/2019/july/ITEM-09-Approval-of-Resolution-Supporting-Retention-of-SH99.pdf>

Table 1. Register of Commenters on TPC Agenda Item 8

Name	Agency Representing
Dominic Mazoch	Self
Bakeyah Nelson	Air Alliance Houston
Jeff Trevino	Resident
Jim McIgnvale	Resident
Jeremy Copeland	Self
Desiree Alejandro	Self
Dr. Inge Ford	Self
Greg Boyler	AAH Self
Dwight Jefferson	Self
Janet Roe	Stop TxDOT I-45
Machelle Esthella Blackwell	Resident of Near Northside
Susan Graham	Stop TxDOT I-45
Vanesa Medrano	Stop TxDOT I-45
Dr. Sonia Noyola	Self
Oscar Slotboom	Self
Eric Erickson	Individual /Stop TxDOT I-45
Jessica Hulsey	Second Ward
Jonathan Ross	Azr Alliance Houston
Stella Mireles Walters	Safe Walk Home
Peggy Robinson	Montie Beach Civic Club
Robert Holley	Fairhousing Neighborhood Rice Village
Oni Blair	Link Houston
Mary Filley	3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward
Dexter Handy	Complete Street Coalition
Harrison Humphreys	Air Alliance Houston
Marlisa Briggs	North Houston Association
Kevin Moore	Eastwood Civic Association
Joann Mata	Greater Houston Coalition for Justice
Bob Harvey	Greater Houston Partnership
Delvin Dennis	Othon Engineering
Randall Baxley	Self
Andrea French	TAG

Stephanie Thomas	Public Citizen
Jessica Wiggins	Bike Houston
Simone Kern	Houston Parents
Molly Cook	Self
Itay Porat	Self
Alejandro Perfer	Melrose Civic Club -Northline Comm
Laila Khalili	Avenue
Beth Lousteau	Self-Houston Parents/Near Northside
Fabian Ramirez	Stop TX DOT I-45
Philip Salerno	CTC
Mary Schuttz	Member:Northhill Neighborhood Association
Carol Kern	Near Northside/North Lindale
Nancy Saibara-Naritomi	KPFT.org 90.1 FM
Sara Montelongo	State Senator Carol Alvarado
Monte Large	Near Northside resident
Susan Chadwick	Save Buffalo Bayou
Regan Lutter	Bayou City Waterkeeper
Diana Lerma Pfeifer	Lindale Park Stop I-45
Abigail Kvinge	Private Citizen Stop TX DOT I-45
Rhonda Skillern Jones	Houston ISD
Daphne Scarborough	Richmond Avenue Coalition
Joetta Stevenson	Fair Housing & Neighborhood Rights
Hon. Jew Don Roney	
Robin Holzer	Self
Consuelo Canbrera	Spanish Speaker
Tanya Debose	Independent Heights
Leticia Ablaza	Air Alliance Houston
Cesar Espinosa	FIEL
Lawrence Battle	Comm. Rodney Ellis
Jay Blazek Crossley	Farm & City
Assata Richards	Emancipation Economic Development
Evelyn Merz	Council
Arueyiel Fortilla	TOP
Robert Holley	TOP
Tomaro Bell	Super Neighborhood Alliance Chain Public Safety Health Finance
Todd Tharker	ACEL

Table 2. Registered Commenters on TPC Agenda Item 9

Name	Agency Representing
Dominic Mazoch	Self
Paul Horn	City of Alvin, Mayor

Marlisa Briggs	North Houston Association
Andrea French	TAG
Jon R. Branson	City of Pearland
Todd Thurber	ACEC Houston
Theresa Rodriguez	Bay Tran
Jay Blazek Crossley	Farm &City
Tanya Debose	Independent Heights
Cesar Espinosa	FIEL

**ITEM 4. APPROVAL OF FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2019 MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY**

Commissioner Justin Beckendorff motioned for approval of the June 28, 2019 meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Billy Combs. The Council voted and approved the minutes.

**ITEM 5A. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2019-2022 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND 2040 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP)**

Mr. Alan Clark requested TPC approval to program federal transit funds sub-allocated to the City of Galveston and approval of Resolution No. 2019-18.

Mr. Weatherford motioned for approval of the Resolution amending the 2040 RTP and the 2019-2022 TIP, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Beckendorff. The Council voted and approved Resolution No. 2019-18.

The presentation, comments and discussion under this item are included in the meeting livestream at:

<https://hgac.swagit.com/play/07262019-568> (Item 5)

**ITEMS 5B AND 5C. ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS AND BRIEFING ON FUTURE AMENDMENTS TO THE 2019-2022 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND 2040 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP)**

Chairman Clark requested questions from the Council on Items 5B and 5C. There were no questions from the Council. These items were for information only.

**ITEM 6. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AUGUST AS COMMUTE SOLUTIONS MONTH**

Mr. Alan Clark presented a Resolution recognizing August as Commute Solutions Month and requested approval.

Mayor Joe Zimmerman motioned for approval of the Resolution recognizing August as Commute Solutions Month, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Weatherford. The Council voted and approved Resolution No. 2019-21.

**ITEM 7. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2020-2021 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AND COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL PLANNING REQUIREMENTS**

Mr. Alan Clark requested Council adoption of the 2020-2021 UPWP and approval of Resolution No. UPWP 20/21-1.

Mayor Joe Zimmerman motioned for approval of the adopting the 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and compliance with federal planning requirements, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Robinson. The Council voted and approved Resolution No. UPWP 20/21-1.

The presentation, comments and discussion under this item are included in the meeting livestream at:

<https://hgac.swagit.com/play/07262019-568> (Item 7 & 13)

**ITEM 8. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION AFFIRMING FUNDING PARTNERSHIP FOR SEGMENT 2 OF NORTH HOUSTON HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (NHHIP) AND THE MITIGATION OF ADVERSE COMMUNITY IMPACTS**

Quincy Allen, P.E., TxDOT Houston District Engineer, introduced Patrick Gant, TxDOT Houston District Project Manager, who presented on TxDOT's request for an MPO funding commitment on the North Houston Highway Improvement Program (NHHIP) Segment 2 within the 2020 Unified Transportation Program (UTP).

Mr. Gant began his presentation by describing the Unified Transportation Program (UTP) which is a statewide, ten-year program of projects. It allocates construction funding from 12 funding categories to various projects across the State. The draft 2020 UTP is currently out for public comment and its adoption is anticipated at the August meeting of the Texas Transportation Commission. The draft 2020 UTP includes a significant amount of funds to advance the NHHIP Segment 2. The draft UTP proposes a funding commitment of \$1.25 Billion for this project which would, if approved by the Policy Council, include \$100 million of Category 2 funding sub-allocated to Houston-Galveston metropolitan region and \$1.15 Billion in funding from other TxDOT funding sources.

Mr. Gant continued his presentation by providing an explanation as to why this project is needed as well as the potential changes TxDOT is incorporating into the project based on public feedback. Mr. Gant described specific examples of existing or proposed improvements which will reduce vehicle crashes, enhance bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, reduce flooding, and improve air quality. Air quality would be improved by reducing unnecessary vehicle idling, increased use of transit and high occupancy vehicles using expanded managed lanes, and financial support for electric or low emissions school busses to nearby schools. He also shared TxDOT's continued efforts to reduce noise from the freeway and reduce the potential displacements of homes and businesses.

Mr. Gant concluded by describing TxDOT's ongoing community engagement and how the feedback received from that engagement will be incorporated into the proposed project. Mr. Gant stated that a decision by the Policy Council to move forward with the proposed funding participation would not preclude changes from being incorporated into Segment 2 but would, in fact, support funding for the continued engineering and design work needed to incorporate proposed changes into the project scope.

Mr. Alan Clark summarized the background material provided and described the draft Resolution 2019-19 which would advance funding for Segment 2 of NHHIP. He stated that the proposed resolution (which was recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee) conditioned its support for the \$100 million in TPC funding based on provision of \$1.5 million for community planning which would complement TxDOT's ongoing efforts to identify additional measures to mitigate potentially adverse impact of the project on adjacent communities. This planning activity could include:

- improved pedestrian and bicycle paths and trails providing connectivity to community destinations and transit services;
- enhanced landscaping, lighting, signage, transit stops and other transportation related amenities that support neighborhood cohesion and livability;
- other transportation related investments that strengthen the historical and cultural identity of affected neighborhoods;
- creation of a "low emissions zone" including neighborhoods adjacent to Segment 2 which would establish priorities for reducing vehicle emissions within the low emissions zone. This could include low or no emissions school buses; reduced truck idling; public access to electric vehicle recharging facilities; incentives for replacement of high emission, heavy duty trucks operating within the zone with low or no emissions vehicles; and enhanced air quality monitoring.

The resolution would also commit an additional \$50M of eligible federal transportation funds for the implementation of recommendations from the community planning activities described above. Finally, the resolution would require regular updates by TxDOT and H-GAC staff on the development of mitigation measures based on refinement of the project scope and design, including any proposed updates to the environmental impact statement.

Commissioner Adrian Garcia indicated for the record he would be a voting alternate member for Harris County.

Honorable Larry Millican motioned to approve \$100 M and move forward with Segment 2 but delay other activities described in the draft resolution. The motion was seconded by Second Vice Chair Justin Beckendorff.

Honorable Lina Hidalgo requested clarification of the motion. Was the motion to approve Item 1 of the Resolution--\$100M in Category 2 funds for the implementation of Segment 2 of the North Houston Highway—and to delay vote on Items 2, 3, and 4 of Resolution No. 2019-19 until further discussion and investigation?

Chairman Clark stated there was a motion and a second on the floor and the Council would proceed to hear public comments on the item. He affirmed no action would be taken on the motion until after public comments were heard and there was discussion. Carrin Patman, METRO, raised a point of order concern that the motion was made prior to hearing public comment. Honorable Matt Sebesta expressed the same concern. Honorable Lina Hidalgo stated she would like to make a substitute motion for consideration following public comment period.

Sixty-eight persons provided oral public comments (please see links provided within the meeting summary for Agenda Item 2). Following the public comment, the Honorable Lina Hidalgo motioned that the vote be delayed until January 2020 to allow time to further assess the project's impact on Harris County residents and the region's residents. Commissioner Adrian Garcia seconded the motion. Chairman Clark ruled that in the absence of Harris County voting member Commissioner Radack and Alternate Gary Trietsch, Harris County Alternate Member Commissioner Adrian Garcia could stand in as voting member in accordance with TPC by-laws and procedural precedence. Therefore, Commissioner Garcia's second is both legal and accepted by the Chair.

First Vice-Chair David Robinson stated as point of discussion and for the record that the primary motion was not vetted with all officers earlier and from the City of Houston standpoint, it would be unacceptable to proceed without the additional mitigating dollars contained in the proposed staff resolution.

Carrin Patman expressed confusion over the meeting process. Chairman Clark explained the procedures and their application to the meeting as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order for Council Members and the general public. Chairman Clark recapped there was a main motion and a substitute motion on the floor for discussion. Because procedural issues were raised, those needed to be addressed before moving forward with discussion.

Members raised various projected-related questions including: addressing public concerns/trust, potential loss of funding, the projects potential impact on both flooding and hurricane evacuation. Mr. Quincy Allen, P.E. of TxDOT explained the consequences of delaying the vote—potential permanent loss of funding for the project. State Representative Dennis Paul was present as an Ex-Officio member and expressed his support for the project and for voting to move forward with the \$100M funds for TxDOT.

Mayor Joe Zimmerman (Sugar Land) called for the question for the reconsideration of Judge Hidalgo's motion to delay consideration of the \$100M funding. If the motion passed, it would become the main motion and would be voted on again as the new primary motion; if it failed, the main motion made by Councilmember Millican would return for consideration.

Judge Hidalgo's motion was opposed by the majority. The main motion was on the floor.

Carrin Patman raised a point of order and motioned for substituting the staff recommendation for the main motion. First Vice Chair David Robinson seconded.

Chairman Clark recognized the receipt of letters provided to the Policy Council from City of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and US Congresswoman Silvia Garcia. The Mayor stated his conditional support for project funding and the Congresswoman requested delay of the proposed action. The Chair then recognized Council Member Millican for discussion on the main motion.

Council Member Millican stated his understanding that the immediate issue was the \$100M for TxDOT and that more time and consideration should be given to the allocation of additional funds as contained in the staff drafted resolution. Carrin Patman commented that the only way she would feel comfortable moving forward on the vote was to include the funding proposed in staff recommendation. She requested that her substitute motion be accepted. David Robinson, as the person who seconded Ms. Patman's motion, stressed the importance of the mitigation funding as essential to meaningful public interaction and to the process of moving forward. Mayor Zimmerman asked Councilmember Millican if he would amend his motion to incorporate the staff recommended funding and request that TxDOT and H-GAC work together to form a plan to update TPC on the process quarterly. Councilmember Millican accepted Ms. Patman's motion as a friendly amendment.

Commissioner Adrian Garcia noted for the record that as mentioned by the Chair, Congresswoman Silvia Garcia has sent a letter in support of delaying a decision on the funding Request and that City of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner sent in a letter supporting the project with stipulations. In addition, he noted that:

Senator Carol Alvarado's staff read her letter of support for delay during public comment;  
State Representative Christina Morales requested a delay;  
Council Member Karla Cisneros supported a delay;  
County Commissioner Rodney Ellis supported a delay;  
State Representative Jessica Farrar supported a delay;  
Council Member Robert Gallegos supported a delay; and  
Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee supported a delay.

The Chair restated the motion on the floor was to accept the staff recommended resolution which included additional funding for community planning, mitigation funding and quarterly reports from TxDOT to the TPC to ensure community's interests and concerns are heard. Council voted to approve the motion. Commissioner Garcia abstained. Judge Hidalgo voted against.

The presentation, comments and discussion under this item are included in the meeting livestream at:

<https://hgac.swagit.com/play/07262019-568> (Items 3&8 Part 1 of 2)

<https://hgac.swagit.com/play/07262019-568> (Items 3&8 Part 2 of 2)

**ITEM 9. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RETENTION OF SH99 (THE GRAND PARKWAY) SEGMENTS B, C, II, AND D IN THE PROPOSED TxDOT 2020 UNIFIED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**

Honorable Matt Sebesta motioned for approval of the Resolution 2019-20 supporting retention of all SH99 projects in the current Unified Transportation Program (the Grand Parkway) for Segments B, C, II, and D be retained in the Draft 2020 Unified Transportation Program. The motion was seconded by Honorable

Robert Hoskins. Chairman Ken Clark raised the question of discussion; hearing no discussion, the Council voted and approved Resolution 2019-20.

The presentation, comments and discussion under this item are included in the meeting livestream at:

<https://hgac.swagit.com/play/07262019-568> (Item 9)

#### ITEMS 10 – 12.

Item 10 was deferred to a future meeting of the Policy Council. Informational Items 11 and 12 were noted.

#### ITEM 13. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Clark adjourned the meeting of the TPC at 2:48 p.m.



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Hon. Tom Reid, Secretary  
Transportation Policy Council

Attachment 1

TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)  
 FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON  
 TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA  
**July 26, 2019**

ROLL

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING</u> <u>MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Baytown, City of	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Robert Hoskins Council Member, District 5 Hon. Heather Betancourth – Alternate	City of Baytown
Conroe, City of	Thomas Woolley Interim Director of Engineering Chris Bogert – Alternate	City of Conroe
Galveston, City of	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Craig Brown Council Member Rick Beverlin - Alternate	City of Galveston
Houston, City of	<u>  X  </u> Honorable David W. Robinson Council Member – 1 <sup>st</sup> -Vice Chair Hon. Martha Castex-Tatum- <u>  X  </u> Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	Honorable Amanda Edwards Council Member Karla Cisneros - Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<u>  X  </u> Jeffrey Weatherford, P.E. Director, Public Works & Engineering Maureen Crocker – Alternate	City of Houston
League City, City of	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Larry Millican Council Member, Position 3 Hon. Hank Dugie - Alternate	City of League City

Missouri City, City of	<u>  X  </u>	Shashi Kumar, P.E.. Director of Public Works Clifford Brouhard – Alternate	City of Missouri City
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Pasadena, City of	_____	Honorable Cary Bass Council Member James Rodriguez – Alternate	City of Pasadena
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<u>AGENCY</u>		<u>VOTING</u> <u>MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
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Pearland, City of	<u>  X  </u>	Honorable Tom Reid Mayor - <b>Secretary</b> Jon Branson –Alternate	City of Pearland
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Sugar Land, City of	<u>  X  </u>	Honorable Joe Zimmerman Mayor Hon. Jennifer Lane – Alternate	City of Sugar Land
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Texas City, City of	_____	Phil Roberts Mayor Pro Tem	City of Texas City
	<u>  X  </u>	Doug Kneupper, P.E. - Alternate	

City of Bellaire	<u>  X  </u>	Honorable Trisha Pollard Council Member, City of Bellaire Honorable Natalie Picha - Alternate	Smaller Cities, Harris County
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Brazoria County	<u>  X  </u>	Honorable Matt Sebesta County Judge – <b>Past Chair</b> Honorable David Linder – Alternate	Brazoria County
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Chambers County	<u>  X  </u>	Billy Combs Commissioner Cory Taylor, P.E. - Alternate	Chambers County
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Fort Bend County	_____	Honorable Grady Prestage County Commissioner, Pct 2	Fort Bend County
	<u>  X  </u>	Stacy Slawinski, P.E. – Alternate	

Galveston County	<u>  X  </u>	Kenneth Clark County Commissioner - <b>Chairman</b> Judge Mark Henry – Alternate	Galveston County
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Harris County	<u>X</u>	Honorable Lina Hidalgo County Judge Commissioner A. Garcia – Alternate	Harris County
Harris County		Honorable Steve Radack County Commissioner, Pct 3 Gary Trietsch, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Liberty County		David Douglas Engineering Director Judge Jay Knight - Alternate	Liberty County
<u>AGENCY</u>		<u>VOTING</u> <u>MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Montgomery County	<u>X</u>	Charlie Riley County Commissioner, Pct 2 Judge Mark Keough – Alternate	Montgomery County
Waller County	<u>X</u>	Justin Beckendorff County Commissioner – 2 <sup>nd</sup> VC Yancy Scott, P.E. - Alternate	Waller County
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	<u>X</u>	Carrin Patman METRO Chair Thomas Lambert - Alternate	METRO
Houston-Galveston Area Council At Large		Chuck Wemple Executive Director <u>X</u> Jeff Taebel – Alternate	H-GAC
TxDOT	<u>X</u>	Quincy Allen, P.E. District Engineer Eliza Paul, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Houston District
TxDOT	<u>X</u>	Tucker Ferguson, P.E. District Engineer Adam Jack, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Beaumont District
Port of Houston Authority		Phyllis Saathoff Executive Director, Port Freeport Roger Guenther, POH – Alternate	Other Transportation Interests
Gulf Coast Rail District		Bert Keller	Gulf Coast Rail District

\_\_\_\_ Chairman, GCRD  
 X  Carol Lewis, TSU – Alternate

28  **Total Voting Membership**

24  **Voting Membership Present**

14  **Required Quorum**

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