



# 2027 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) Development

## TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Catherine McCreight, MBA, MA**  
Director, District Transportation Planning



March 18, 2026



“The UTP is TxDOT’s 10-year plan that guides the development of thousands of transportation projects across the state. It is part of TxDOT’s comprehensive planning and programming process that connects the state’s transportation goals, performance measures and targets to transportation projects preparing for construction. Because funding levels may change in the future, the UTP does not serve as a budget or a guarantee that certain projects will be built. Instead, the plan authorizes TxDOT and local partnering agencies to prepare projects for construction based on potential future cash flow.

Within the UTP framework, TxDOT works with elected officials, local planning organizations and the public to select and fund the state’s highest priority transportation projects to begin construction during the next decade.”

*2026 Unified Transportation Program*

# What is the Unified Transportation Program?



The Unified Transportation Program (UTP) is TxDOT's 10-year plan that guides the development of transportation projects across the state.



## Determines Funding and Distribution

Determines how much transportation funding the state expects to have over the next decade and how to distribute it to address needs across the state.



## 12 Funding Categories

Organized into 12 funding categories that focus on different highway project types or ranges of activities.



## Planning for the Next 10 Years

Includes all transportation projects that TxDOT is developing for construction over the next 10 years.



## Mandated by State Law

Required by state law to be approved by the Texas Transportation Commission each year by August 31.

# Impacts of Financial Forecast on Draft 2027 UTP Distribution

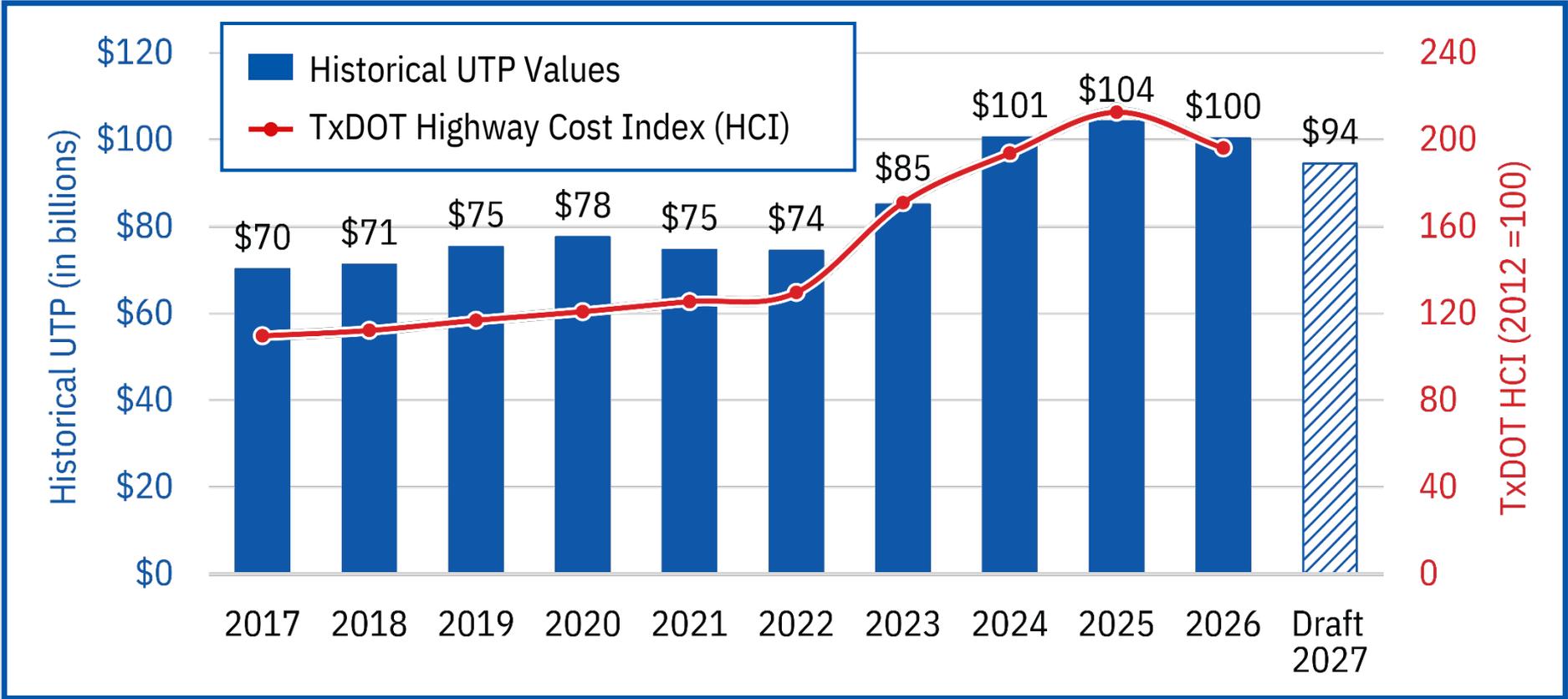


Changes to UTP Funding	2026 UTP (\$B)	2027 UTP (\$B)	Diff (\$B)
UTP Funding Distributions	\$92.3	\$87.5	(\$4.8)
Category 3: Non-traditional Funding	\$9.3	\$7.0	(\$2.3)
<b>Total UTP Funding</b>	<b>\$101.6</b>	<b>\$94.5</b>	<b>(\$7.1)</b>

Changes to UTP Funding Sources	10-Year Impact (\$B)
Federal Adjustments	(\$4.4)
State Motor Fuel Tax & Vehicle Reg. Fee CRE* & Leveling Adjustments	<b>\$2.9</b>
Proposition 1: Certification Revenue Estimate Update & Leveling Adjustments	(\$2.5)
Proposition 7: Certification Revenue Estimate Update & Leveling Adjustments	<b>\$0.2</b>
Texas Mobility Fund Bond Issuance	(\$1.0)
Category 3: Non-traditional Funding	(\$2.3)
<b>Total Changes between 2026 &amp; 2027 UTP Forecast</b>	<b>(\$7.1)</b>

Note: 2027 UTP Category 3 is an estimate and is subject to change

# Historical UTP Investment



Note: TxDOT Highway Cost Index based on twelve month moving average

# Draft 2027 UTP Distribution and Estimated New Funding



Category and Description		New Available Funding	Draft Distribution
1	Preventive Maintenance and Rehabilitation	\$2,252,140,671	\$18,406,812,861
2	Metro and Urban Area Corridors	\$41,299,325	\$9,133,753,320
4R	Statewide Connectivity Corridors (Rural)	\$40,688,884	\$8,998,748,194
4U	Statewide Connectivity Corridors (Urban)	\$31,451,555	\$6,955,821,763
5	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality	\$123,604,375	\$1,821,449,302
6	Structures Replacement (Bridges)	\$325,434,165	\$4,538,806,794
7	Metropolitan Mobility and Rehabilitation	\$358,476,805	\$5,735,628,873
8	Safety	\$231,045,261	\$3,603,724,169
9	Transportation Alternatives	\$161,503,964	\$1,685,258,755
10	Supplemental Transportation Projects	\$145,830,456	\$1,388,670,456
11	District Discretionary	\$177,876,190	\$1,850,000,000
11ES	Energy Sector	\$210,206,080	\$2,714,115,000
11SF	District Safety	\$92,314,202	\$1,191,932,030
12	Strategic Priority	\$103,207,835	\$13,870,043,371
12CL	Strategic Priority (Texas Clear Lanes)	\$176,802,030	\$5,576,802,030
<b>Sub-Total Distribution (Less Cat 3)</b>		<b>\$4,471,881,799</b>	<b>\$87,471,566,918</b>

# Draft 2027 UTP Ten-Year Estimated Total Investment



Type of Funding	Total Funding
<b>UTP Draft Distribution (Less Cat 3)</b>	<b>\$87,471,566,918</b>
Estimated Category 3 Funding	\$7,000,000,000
<b>Total Estimated Draft 2027 UTP Funding</b>	<b>\$94,471,566,918</b>
Estimated Development Costs	\$31,500,000,000
Estimated Routine Maintenance Contracts	\$10,970,000,000
<b>Total Ten-Year Estimated Investment</b>	<b>\$138,941,566,918</b>

# Draft 2027 UTP Distribution – Houston District



Category	2025 Funding Distribution	2026 Funding Distribution	% Change	2027 Funding Distribution	% Change
1	\$ 1,658,754,403	\$ 1,661,528,550	0.2%	\$ 1,639,156,864	-1%
2	\$ 2,834,356,624	\$ 2,426,633,921	-14%	\$ 2,264,405,447	-7%
3	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
4	\$ 2,158,507,982	\$ 1,848,009,303	-14%	\$ 1,724,460,924	-7%
5	\$ 967,582,094	\$ 819,528,406	-15%	\$ 770,290,909	-6%
6	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
7	\$ 1,796,619,448	\$ 1,800,552,099	0.2%	\$ 1,787,221,960	-1%
8	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
9	\$ 208,875,739	\$ 208,418,030	-0.2%	\$ 207,792,200	-0.3%
10	\$ 238,084,585	\$ 73,630,480	-69%	\$ 2,441,300	-97%
11	\$ 326,179,893	\$ 324,362,846	-1%	\$ 325,601,351	0.4%
12	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
	<b>\$ 10,188,960,768</b>	<b>\$ 9,162,663,635</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>\$ 8,721,370,955</b>	<b>-5%</b>



**The continued decrease in funding represents a shift from expanding the UTP portfolio of projects to an increased focus on the development of existing planned projects**

## **If declining trend in UTP funding continues:**

- ✓ Very limited ability to add new mobility projects, slowing the expansion of Texas' highways
- ✓ Delayed delivery of planned projects is likely, especially those with existing funding gaps

## **Funding challenges for project development:**

- ✓ Professional engineering and ROW budgets are limited, adding risk in delivering the current portfolio
- ✓ If UTP funding were to increase, additional resources would also be needed to support project development

**Additional projects can be accelerated if funding becomes available**



# QUESTIONS



# Item 7. Criteria for Subregional Planning Requests



Technical Advisory Committee  
March 18, 2026

# Criteria for Subregional Planning Requests



- Overview

- Subregional Planning serves as a pipeline for including projects that have been through a formal public participation process in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and eventually the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- The purpose of this policy is to establish a process for evaluating and prioritizing Subregional Planning requests to be programmed into the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

# Criteria for Subregional Planning Requests



- Goals & Objectives
  - Guide Decision-Making
    - Guidance for prioritizing requests
  - Enhance Transparency
    - Reduce subjectivity and build trust during the selection process.
  - Align with Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Priorities
    - Ensuring the requests align with RTP goals to enhance mobility, safety, and other priorities for the region's transportation network.



# Criteria for Subregional Planning Requests



## ■ Eligibility

### • Local Sponsors

- Local sponsors with implementation authority, including, but not limited to municipalities, counties, transit agencies, or school districts.
- Other types of sponsors must have a letter of support from the agency with implementation authority within the study area.

### • Scope of Work

- Requests must be planning activities, not design or anything requiring a licensed engineer.

### • Timeline

- Studies must be able to be completed within two (2) years.

# Criteria for Subregional Planning Requests



- Requests & Approval
  - Annual Call for Subregional Planning Requests
    - Up to one (1) call per year to submit requests in preparation for the next UPWP cycle.
  - Evaluation Criteria
    - Requests are reviewed and prioritized base on established evaluation criteria.
  - Approval Process
    - Staff reviews and presents a prioritized list of requests to TAC and TPC for approval to include in the UPWP.

# Criteria for Subregional Planning Requests

- Evaluation Criteria

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>Recency of Studies</b>	Preference for areas without prior studies, or that have not had a plan update within last 5 years
<b>High Growth Areas</b>	Areas experiencing rapid development and need transportation solutions
<b>Regionally Significant Roads</b>	Major roadways and freight corridors within study area
<b>Congestion Levels</b>	Corridor on the Congestion Management Plan network or Top 100 Congested Roads identified in Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) Urban Mobility Report
<b>Funding Allocation</b>	Local, state, or federal funding for other phases

# Criteria for Subregional Planning Requests

- Plan/Study Types

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
<b>Mobility Plan</b>	Single or multiple modes, vision, goals, performance measures, project, program, and policy recommendations (list of projects)
<b>Thoroughfare Plan</b>	Long-range, 25+ years, specific recommendations related to right-of-way, connectivity, typical cross sections, and street classifications (not a list of projects)
<b>Corridor Study</b>	Single or multiple modes, alignment/cross section alternatives/multiple scenarios, access management
<b>Feasibility Study</b>	Single or multiple modes, analyzes alternatives/multiple scenarios to determine the feasibility of a project or program
<b>Other</b>	Anything else that may not fit into any of the above categories (ex. intersection study or other specific transportation topics)

# Criteria for Subregional Planning Requests

- Annual Implementation Reporting

- Annual implementation reports following the completion of a plan/study (up to five years)
- Updates to the Subregional Planning Recommendations Database used to track implementation and the impact of subregional planning efforts throughout the region

<https://www.h-gac.com/subregional-planning>



# Criteria for Subregional Planning Requests



## ■ Next Steps & Call Schedule

- March - April 2026: Present criteria to TAC and TPC
- August – September 2026: Present draft list to TAC and TPC for inclusion in the 2028-2029 UPWP (October 2027 start)
  - \*Could amend some requests into the current 2026/2027 UPWP if funding and staff capacity is available

May - June	June - August	August - September	October - December
<b>Phase 1: Submission</b>	<b>Phase 2: Review</b>	<b>Phase 3: Approval</b>	<b>Phase 4: UPWP Process*</b>
Call Opens	Call Closes	Present draft list to TAC and TPC	Amend 2026/2027 UPWP
Virtual Info Session	Evaluate Submittals		
	Meet with Sponsors		
	Draft Prioritized List		

# Staff Contact



***Monique Johnson, AICP***

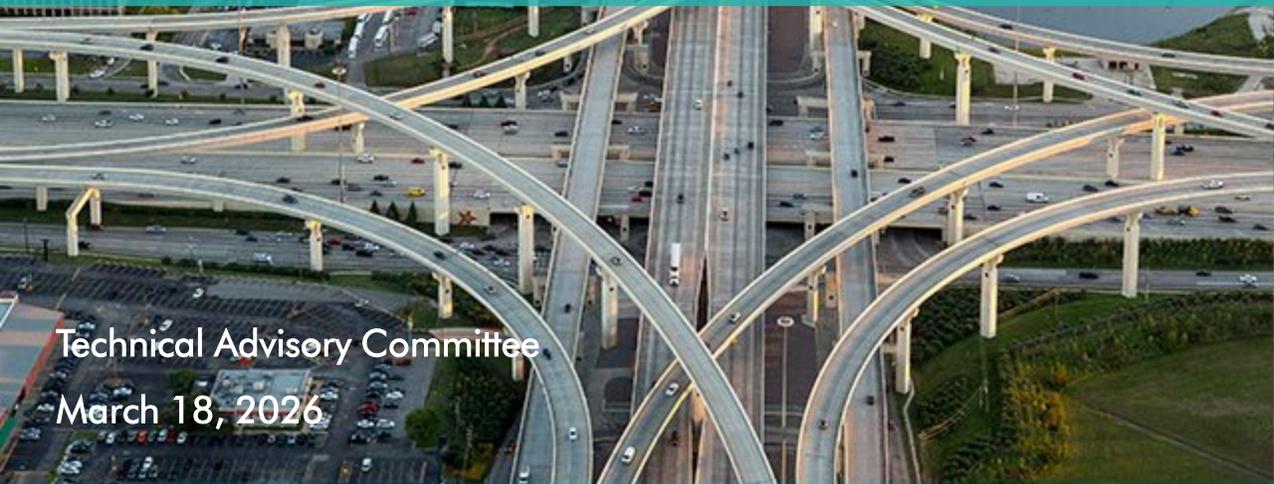
Subregional Planning Manager

[Monique.Johnson@h-gac.com](mailto:Monique.Johnson@h-gac.com)

832-681-2606



# Item 8. Future Amendments to 2025-2028 TIP and 2045 RTP



Technical Advisory Committee  
March 18, 2026

# We Are Here

CONSTRUCTION &  
IMPLEMENTATION

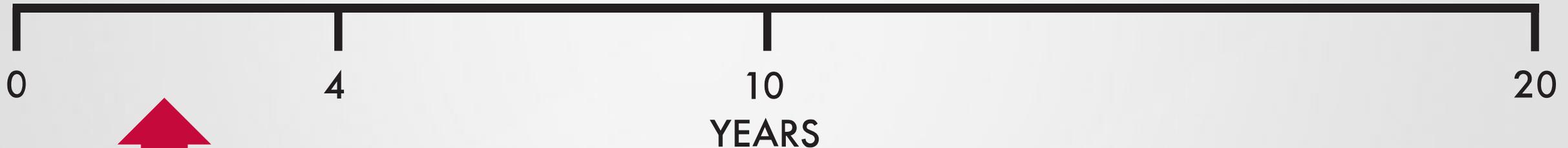
PROJECT  
DEVELOPMENT

VISION  
PLANNING

**TRANSPORTATION  
IMPROVEMENT  
PROGRAM (TIP)**

**10-YEAR PLAN**

**REGIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION  
PLAN**



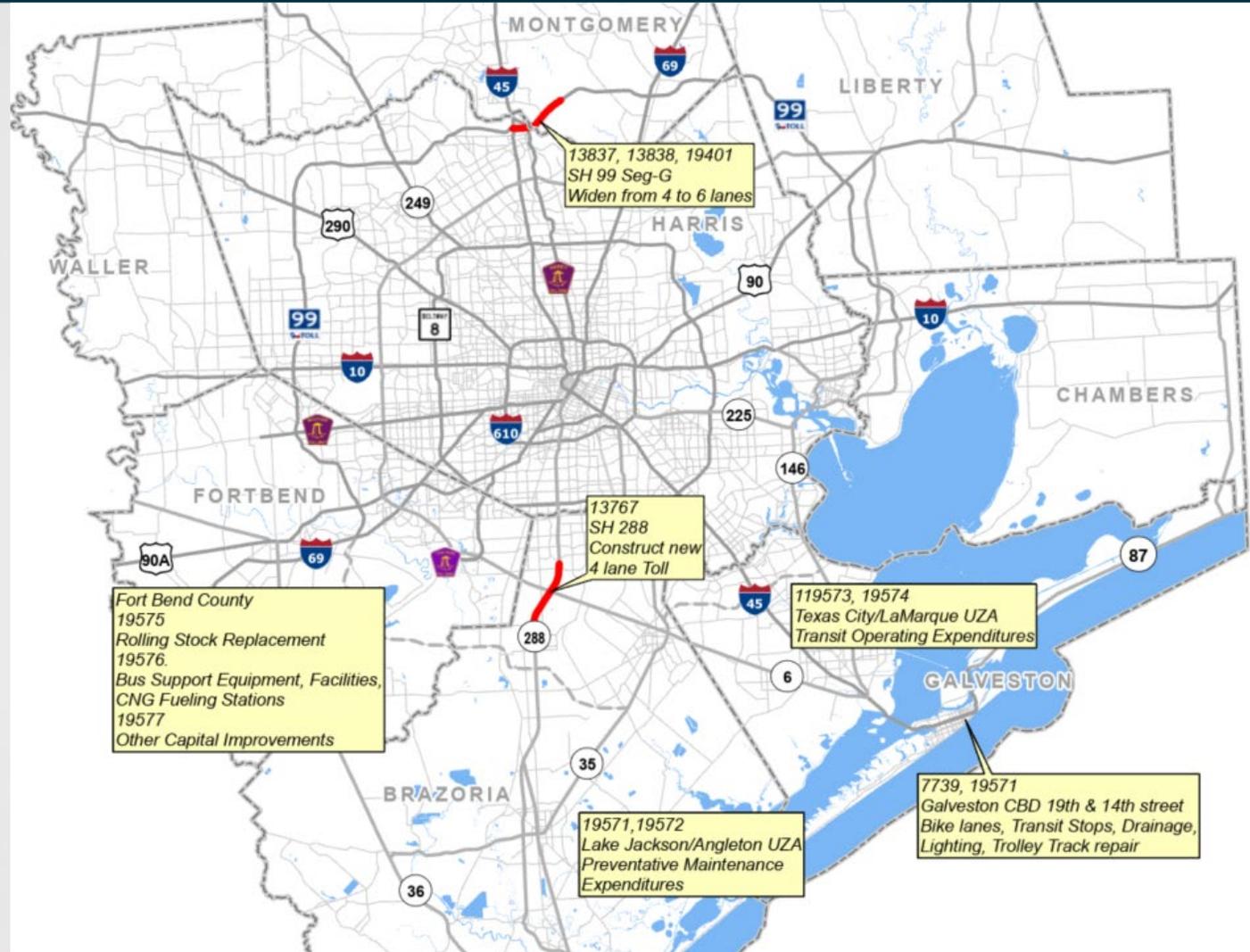
# Future 2025-2028 TIP Amendments

- Program TxDOT HOU SH 99 Seg-G, Phase-2, widening projects (MPO IDs 13837, 13838, 19401) in FY 2027 with \$144.5M of state toll funding at the District's request.
- Program Brazoria County Toll Road Authority's SH 288 tollway construction (MPO ID 13767) in FY 2026 with \$255M of local toll funding at Brazoria County's request.
- Program GCTD transit operating & capital expenditures in Lake Jackson/Angleton & Texas City/La Marque UZAs (MPO IDs 19571, 19572, 19573, 19574) in FY 2026 with FTA Section 5307 funds, matched with TDCs at the District's request.

# Future 2025-2028 TIP Amendments

- Program Fort Bend County Public Transportation rolling stock replacement & facilities improvements (MPO IDs 19575, 19576, 19577) in FY 2026 with FTA Section 5339 funds at the County's request.
- Combine duplicate City of Galveston STBG funded CBD bike lane construction/Livable Communities projects into original project (MPO ID 7739). Cancel MPO ID 19174 and transfer its \$12.0M and 2.4M TDCs into MPO ID 7739 with slightly modified limits.

# Future 2025-2028 TIP Amendments



# Action Requested

- Review and discussion only

# Staff Contact



**Jim Dickinson**  
Senior Planner

[Jim.Dickinson@h-gac.com](mailto:Jim.Dickinson@h-gac.com)

713-993-4597



# Item 9. Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan 2027-2031 Update

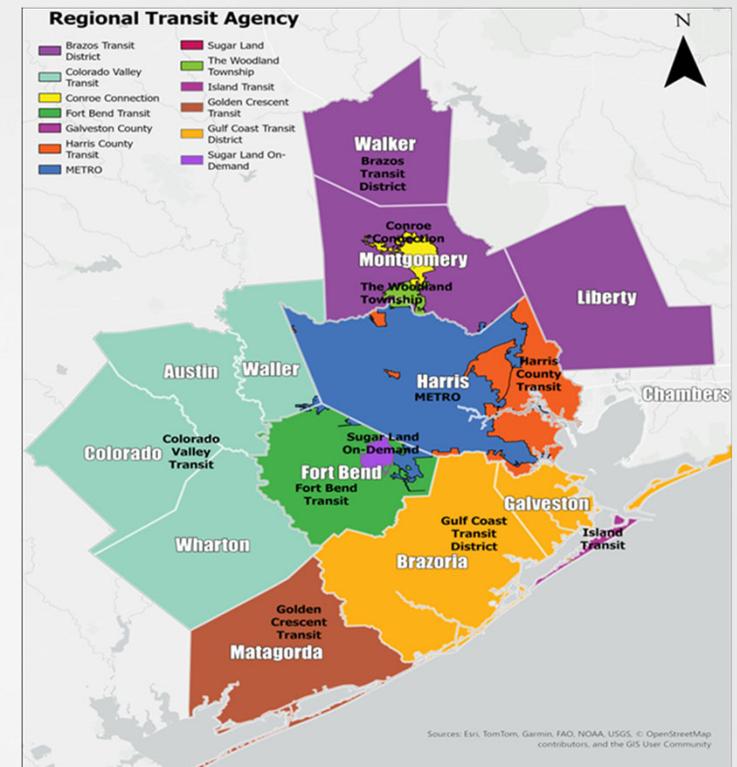


Technical Advisory Committee  
March 18, 2026

# What is the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan?



- A federally and state-required regional plan that is updated every 5 years by the MPO.
- **Covers the 13-County Gulf Coast Region:** Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties.
- The plan coordinates public transit and human service transportation to to:
  - Improve mobility access across the region
  - Identify unmet transportation needs
  - Strengthen coordination between providers
  - Recommend strategies and priority projects
  - Align with TxDOT coordinated planning requirements
- The RPTCP aims to improve access to jobs, education, healthcare, and essential services through better planning, coordination, and investment.
- Supports eligibility for federal programs such as: FTA Section 5310(Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities)
- The RPTCP update is supported through the Federal Transit Administration planning funds administered by TxDOT and managed by the MPO planning program.



# RPTCP Creates Real Improvements



## Prior Recommendations Included:

- Expanding mobility with the Fort Bend Park & Ride and Sugar Land Microtransit improved access to jobs and services.
- RPTCP continues to improve mobility for seniors, people with disabilities, and underserved populations.
- Funding Alignment: Supports studies and pilot projects through RTP, TIP, and CMAQ coordination.
- Mobility Links helps residents find transportation options across the region.



# Timeline & Deliverables



## Background & Data Analysis

- Existing conditions study
  - Transit Need Index
  - Demographic patterns
  - Locating spatial gaps
- August 2025 → Ongoing**

## Public Engagement & Outreach Sprint

- Transit rider survey
  - Provider inventory
  - Community events
  - Public workshops
  - Focus groups
  - Outreach
- January → June**

## Review and Adoption

- Draft recommendations
  - Internal proofread
  - Stakeholder buy-in
  - Plan adoption
  - Turnover to TxDOT (10/30)
- August → October**

# How Can You Help?



1. Distribute the provider survey to transportation providers in your jurisdiction (public, nonprofit, and private). Their input helps us identify service gaps, coordination opportunities, and funding needs specific to your community.
2. Share the public survey through your websites, newsletters, social media, and community networks. We want to hear from everyone:
  - What do you need?
  - Where is travel not working?
  - What barriers exist in your area?
3. Your perspective matters, so please, if you could complete the survey and encourage your boards, staff, and community partners to do the same.

**Survey ends June 30, 2026**

Together, we can improve mobility across the Houston-Galveston region.



# Staff Contact



***Bennie Chambers III, MCD***

Senior Planner

[Bennie.Chambers@h-gac.com](mailto:Bennie.Chambers@h-gac.com)

346-299-9349

***Kareem Heshmat, AICP, CNU-A***

Senior Planner

[Kareem.Heshmat@h-gac.com](mailto:Kareem.Heshmat@h-gac.com)

346-826-9029

- Project website:  
[https://engage.h-gac.com/rptcp\\_2027-2031](https://engage.h-gac.com/rptcp_2027-2031)

Thank you!

