

6A. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA

DATE: Friday, September 26, 2025
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: 3555 Timmons Lane, Conference Room B, Houston, Texas 77027

The presiding officer, Chairman Justin Beckendorff called the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting of September 26, 2025, at 9:34 a.m. to order.

CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM, INTRODUCTIONS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chair Justin Beckendorff recognized Ms. Jamila Owens (H-GAC) to certify the quorum of 16 members was confirmed and documented in Attachment 1. No conflicts of interest were declared by TPC members.

ITEM 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Lucinda Martinez (H-GAC) informed the Council that Spanish translation services were available in the room, and American Sign Language interpretation was accessible online. She invited the Spanish translator to come forward and explain to the public how to provide comments in Spanish. Two individuals offered public comments, emphasizing the need for a more transit-oriented approach to planning and decision-making, and advocating for greater efficiency in existing transportation systems due to rising costs. No written comments were submitted to staff, and no comments were received online. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#).

ITEM 5. MPO DIRECTOR REPORT AND ORIENTATION OF AGENDA, MR. RON PAPSDORF, CHIEF TRANSPORTATION OFFICER, H-GAC

Mr. Ron Papsdorf, Chief Transportation Officer at H-GAC, provided an overview of the September TPC agenda and shared updates on several ongoing transportation planning initiatives:

- Long-Range Strategy Development: Planning efforts are actively underway, with stakeholder input strongly encouraged to help shape future strategies.
- Freight and Tourism Survey: The survey remained open through September 30, 2025, and aimed to gather regional insights to support planning efforts.
- Community Engagement: Mr. Papsdorf has met with most Council members and conducted visits to various communities and organizations across the region to foster collaboration and gather feedback.
- Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations: Mr. Papsdorf attended the AMPO Annual Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, where he serves on the Policy Committee, contributing to national transportation planning discussions.
- H-GAC Board Updates: Mr. Papsdorf provided a brief overview of transportation-related items from the September H-GAC Board agenda, including the approval of the Magnolia Livable Center Study contract on September 16, 2025. Next month, we anticipate a contract award for the Montgomery County Mobility Study. Ms. Pharr Andrews, a member of the Transportation staff, presented an overview of current air quality initiatives and programs to the Board.

Mr. Papsdorf expressed his appreciation for the Council members' time, input, and continued collaboration. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#).

ITEM 6. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Justin Beckendorff presented the Consent Agenda for approval. He asked if any members wished to remove items for further discussion. No requests were made. A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Mayor Kevin Cole and seconded by Council Member Tommy Cones. The Council unanimously approved the Consent Agenda. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#).

ITEM 7. CONGESTION MANGEMENT PROCESS 2025 INTERIM UPDATE, MR. ALAN RODENSTEIN, H-GAC

Mr. Alan Rodenstein (H-GAC) provided an overview of the 2025 interim update to the Congestion Management Process (CMP), which is a federally required, ongoing effort to monitor and manage traffic congestion in the region. Congestion, as defined by FHWA, occurs when transportation system performance becomes unacceptable due to traffic interference. The CMP process is distinct from the CMP plan. The process is continuous and strategic, feeding into the Long-Range Transportation Plan (RTP), the 10-Year Plan, and the TIP. The CMP follows an eight-phase cycle: setting objectives, defining the network, developing measures, collecting and analyzing data, identifying and implementing strategies, and evaluating outcomes.

2025 Interim Update Highlights:

- No major changes to the 2021 process—only administrative updates and cleanups.
- Updates include:
 - New congestion network maps, including SH 99 extensions.
 - Online congestion analysis form (replacing the PDF version).
 - Retirement of outdated software, replaced with a modern congestion analysis tool released last year.
- The next major update is planned for 2026, to align with the 2050 RTP.

The updated CMP report was shared with TIP, RTP, and TSMO subcommittees. The final report is expected to return next month for recommendation and approval. Both the 2021 CMP update and 2025 draft are available on the H-GAC website. A robust discussion occurred after the presentation. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 8. CONFORMITY AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP 2045 PROJECT LISTING), MR. STEPHEN KEEN, AND MR. ANDREW DECANDIS, H-GAC

Mr. Stephen Keen (H-GAC) provided an overview of the updated Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) project listing, a key step in preparing for the 2025 transportation conformity determination, which ensures that planned transportation projects align with federal air quality standards. Reviewed over 1,000 projects in coordination with 70+ sponsoring agencies. Covers projects from the short-term TIP to long-range plans

through 2045. Total estimated investment: \$131 billion. Projects were added, removed, or updated based on their current status.

The RTP listing is organized into four categories:

1. Non-Exempt Projects – Major projects (e.g., highways) requiring air quality review.
2. Non-Regionally Significant Projects – Smaller projects not impacting regional emissions.
3. Exempt Projects – Projects like transit upgrades and park-and-rides that don't require conformity checks.
4. Let Projects – Newly added category for projects that have already been let since the last RTP update in November 2023.

Each county in the region has a tailored mix of projects. Examples include:

- Brazoria County: SH 99, SH 288, SH 35
- Chambers County: SH 99, Mont Belvieu Traffic Management Center
- Fort Bend County: Parkway Toll Road, US 90A, SH 36A
- Galveston County: SH 146, FM 517, transit projects
- Harris County: NHHIP, SH 225, Beltway projects
- Liberty County: US 90, Dayton Relief Route
- Montgomery County: I-45, SH 75, Magnolia Relief Route
- Waller County: I-10 West, US 290, US 90

The draft RTP listing is available online for public review. Final submission to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is expected soon. Stakeholders with questions about specific projects are encouraged to contact Stephen Keene or the programming team.

Mr. Andrew DeCandis (H-GAC) provided an overview of the transportation conformity process, which ensures that major transportation projects included in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) comply with federal air quality standards. He explained that conformity is required for regionally significant projects to ensure they do not worsen air pollution. This is done by modeling projected emissions and comparing them to limits set by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). If emissions remain below those limits, the region is considered in compliance. Currently, the region is nearing the end of the first phase of the conformity process, which includes public review and comment. The public comment period is open through October 10, and all related materials—including project listings, model inputs/outputs, and a comment form—are available on the conformity website. The analysis uses the most stringent air quality standard currently in effect (2008 Ozone Standard) and also includes a check against the pending 2015 Ozone Standard. The good news: the region meets both standards. A formal request for approval of the conformity determination is expected at the next meeting. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#).

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 9. PAVEMENT AND BRIDGE PERFORMANCE MEASURES, MS. KAREN OWEN, H-GAC

Ms. Karen Owen (H-GAC) presented an update on the region's progress toward federally required pavement and bridge performance targets for the National Highway System (NHS). These measures support the Regional Transportation Plan's goal of achieving and maintaining a state of good repair for critical

infrastructure. Federal law requires a performance-based approach to monitor the condition of NHS pavements and bridges. The NHS includes interstate and non-interstate roadways, as well as bridges. Pavement conditions are assessed using roughness, cracking, rutting, and faulting. Bridge conditions are based on the deck, superstructure, substructure, and culverts. Ms. Owen provided a recap of the Bridge, Pavement, Interstate and Non-Interstate conditions and trends, target adjustments, investment and maintenance efforts. Information has been reviewed by the TIP and RTP subcommittees. A formal recommendation by the TAC is expected next month, followed by a request for approval by the Transportation Policy Council. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available on the official meeting recording [HERE](#). For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 10. TAC BYLAWS DRAFT REVISIONS, MR. JASON SMITH, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Mr. Jason Smith, TAC Bylaws Chair, provided a presentation on the TAC Bylaws revision. In April, the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) initiated a review of the TAC bylaws. The Bylaws Committee held multiple meetings to evaluate and revise the document. A final version is expected to be presented for approval next month, following additional feedback and final adjustments.

Key Proposed Changes

Committee Name

- Rename from Transportation Advisory Committee back to Technical Advisory Committee.
- This change clarifies the committee's role as a technical advisory body, not a policy-making entity.

Membership Structure

- Small Cities: Increase from 3 to 8 seats (1 per county within the MPO boundary).
- City of Houston: Increase from 1 to 3 seats.
- Toll Road Authorities: Permanent seats added, including HECTRA and Brazoria County Toll Road Authority.
- The Woodlands: Added as a permanent seat (in line with TPC bylaws).
- Houston Airport System: Assigned the airport seat due to its regional significance.
- Port Freeport: Added as a permanent member.
- Active Transportation, Business, Economic Development, Freight: Consolidated and streamlined.
- Removed Seats: Regional planning, environmental planning, citizen interest, and business interest (some merged or reduced).

Appointment Process Updates

County, city, and board-appointed members will no longer require annual reappointment.

- MPO staff will send a year-end reminder listing current appointees.
- If no changes are submitted, members will be automatically reappointed in January.
- Appointing bodies may change their representative at any time.

At-Large Positions

- Term length extended from 1 year to 2 years.
- Responds to feedback that members need more time to become effective contributors.
- Reduces turnover and improves continuity.
- A biannual call for nominations will be held, with fewer seats open due to the revised structure.

Additional Updates

- Agenda schedules and packet distribution timelines have been aligned with TPC procedures.
- The goal is to produce a long-lasting, functional bylaws document that provides clear guidance for future committee operations.

A final TAC Bylaws Committee meeting is scheduled to incorporate remaining feedback. The revised draft will be distributed to TAC and TPC in advance of the next meeting for review and comment. Final approval will be requested at the next TPC meeting. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 11A. FUTURE AMENDMENTS 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP), MR. JIM DICKINSON, H-GAC

A summary of the proposed revisions to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program is included below.

- Delay ten TxDOT Houston District construction projects on various roadways (MPO IDs 209, 282, 290, 13864, 17221, 17233, 18048, 18156, 18516, 18721) to FYs 2029-2033 of the Ten-Year Plan to match the FY 2026 TxDOT Unified Transportation Program (UTP) which was approved by the Texas Transportation Commission on August 21, 2025.
- Delay eight TxDOT Houston District construction projects on various roadways (MPO IDs 965, 7564, 14249, 17224, 18402, 18514, 19023, 19024) to FY 2028 of the TIP and FYs 2029-2030 of the Ten-Year Plan due to statewide level letting.
- Delay the City of Pearland's Mykawa Road widening (MPO ID 17082) to FY 2029 the Ten-Year Plan due to TxDOT's statewide level letting.
- Delay METRO's Inner Katy Corridor bus rapid transit construction (MPO ID 18405) to FY 2033 of the Ten-Year Plan due to TxDOT's statewide level letting.
- Delay Lake Houston Redevelopment Authority's Northpark Drive construction (MPO ID 18033) to FY 2029 of the Ten-Year Plan due to TxDOT's statewide level letting.
- Delay the City of League City's Landing Boulevard widening and reconstruction (MPO ID 17080) to FY 2029 in the Ten-Year Plan due to TxDOT's statewide level letting. Add \$2.3M of federal/local Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds, split 80/20, to cover the unforeseeable requirement to relocate a utility tower.

- Delay eighteen TxDOT Houston District Right-of-Way acquisition projects on various roadways (MPO IDs 18977, 18978, 18979, 18980, 18981, 18982, 18983, 18984, 18985, 18986, 18988, 18989, 18994, 18995, 18996, 18997, 18998, 18999) to FY 2028 of the TIP and FYs 2029-2035 of the Ten-Year Plan due to Right-of-Way Program budget constraints.
- Add engineering as an authorized phase of work to TxDOT Beaumont District's FM 565 widening project (MPO ID 17113) with an additional \$4.3M of federal/state Category 2 Metropolitan Mobility funding and delay it to FY 2027 at the District's request.
- Add \$1.3M of federal/state Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funding to TxDOT Beaumont District's FY 2023 SH 105 widening project and turn bay project (MPO ID 18031) to cover increased construction engineering costs caused by site conditions.
- Add \$3.5M of federal/state CMAQ funding to TxDOT Beaumont District's FY 2025 US 90 grade separation construction at the UP railroad (MPO ID 18036) to cover increased construction engineering costs caused by site conditions.
- Add \$2.5M of federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding to Chambers County's CR 486 reconstruction project (MPO ID 19078) to cover increased cost estimates caused by the inflation of labor and materials. Add 550K Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) in lieu of matching funds.
- Delay the City of Tomball's FM 2920 reconstruction (MPO ID 17085) to FY 2029 the Ten-Year Plan per the agreement between the City and TxDOT Houston District and update the description of work.
- Delay four of METRO's capital construction and system implementation projects (MPO IDs 18260, 18761, 18762, 18846), from FY 2025 to FY 2026 at METRO's request.
- Program four City of Galveston/Island Transit FFY 2024 and 2025 apportionments of Federal Transit Administration Section 5337, State of Good Repair Program, in FYs 2026-2028 with local matching funds (MPO IDs 19546, 19547, 19548, 19549).
- Program the City of Mont Belvieu's Eagle Drive reconstruction and widening engineering phase (MPO ID 18061) with \$4.5M of federal/local STBG funding in FY 2027 in preparation for the construction phase (MPO ID 19410) in FY 2030.

ITEM 11B. 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS, MR. JIM DICKINSON, H-GAC

In accordance with the H-GAC Public Participation Plan (PPP) administrative amendment requirements, these amendments are being processed within the stipulated limits. A summary of the modifications to the 2025-2028 TIP is included for information below.

- Add engineering as an authorized phase of work to four Montgomery County FY 2026 projects: two projects grouped in the TxDOT Statewide Rehabilitation and Maintenance Program (MPO IDs 19203, 19209) and two Intelligent Management System implementation TIP projects (MPO

IDs 19236, 19237) at the sponsor's request. Delay the Montgomery County ITS implementation (MPO ID 19236) to FY 2026. No additional funding is requested.

- Delay two Gulf Coast Transit District Category-10 funded maintenance projects (MPO IDs 19029, 19032) from FY 2025 to FY 2026 in anticipation of available funding.
- Cancel the North Houston District's Imperial Valley Walking and Biking Connection's project (MPO ID 19034) from the TxDOT Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Program at the sponsor's request due to a change in priorities.
- Modify the locations of the Harris County Precinct-4's Traffic Signals Project (MPO ID 19206) at the sponsor's request.

Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#).
For Information Only. No action needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJORNMENT

Chair Justin Beckendorff announced upcoming meetings and adjourned the September TPC Meeting at 11:46 a.m. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#). For Information Only. No action needed.

Hon. Lesley Briones, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council

Attachment 1
 MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)
 FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON
 TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA
September 26, 2025

ROLL

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	
Baytown, City of	_____	Honorable Jacob Powell Council Member	City of Baytown
	<u> X </u>	Jason Reynolds – Alternate	
Conroe, City of	<u> X </u>	Honorable Howard Wood Council Member	City of Conroe
	_____	Norman McGuire – Alternate	
Galveston, City of	<u> X </u>	Honorable Marie Robb Council Member	City of Galveston
	_____	Hon. David Finklea - Alternate	
Houston, City of	_____	Honorable Sallie Alcorn Council Member	City of Houston
	<u> X </u>	Honorable Willie Davis- Alternate	
Houston, City of	_____	Honorable Carolyn Evans-Shabazz Council Member	City of Houston
	<u> X </u>	Honorable Joaquin Martinez - Alternate	
Houston, City of	<u> X </u>	Randy Macchi Director -Houston Public Works	City of Houston
	_____	David Wurdlow - Alternate	
League City, City of	<u> X </u>	Honorable Tommy Cones Council Member	City of League City
	_____	Honorable Andy Mann - Alternate	
Missouri City, City of	<u> X </u>	Shashi Kumar, P.E.. Director of Public Works	City of Missouri City
	_____	Nicholas L. Cook – Alternate	
Pasadena, City of	_____	Sarah Benavides, P.E. Sr. Assistant Public Works Director	City of Pasadena
	_____	Mark Gardemal – Alternate	

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Pearland, City of	<u> X </u> _____ Honorable Kevin Cole- 2nd Vice Chair Mayor _____ Trent Epperson-Alternate	City of Pearland
Sugar Land, City of	<u> </u> _____ Vacant	City of Sugar Land
	<u> X </u> _____ Honorable Suzanne Whatley – Alternate	
Texas City, City of	<u> </u> _____ Honorable Dedrick Johnson Mayor _____ Jon Branson - Alternate	City of Texas City
Smaller Cities – Position 1	<u> X </u> _____ Hon. Joe Garcia City of Pattison _____ Honorable Chad Nesvadba-Alternate City of Needville	Smaller Cities
Smaller Cities – Position 2	<u> X </u> _____ Hon. Sally Branson City of Friendswood _____ Hon. Ross Gordon-Alternate City of Bellaire	Smaller Cities
Smaller Cities – Position 3	<u> </u> _____ Hon. John Escoto City of Shenandoah _____ Hon. Matthew Dantzer-Alternate City of Magnolia	Smaller Cities
The Woodlands Township	<u> </u> _____ Dr. Ann K. Snyder Chair, The Woodlands Township Board _____ Craig Eissler-Alternate	The Woodlands Township
Brazoria County	<u> X </u> _____ Matt Hanks, JD, P.E. County Engineer _____ Honorable David Linder – Alternate	Brazoria County
Chambers County	<u> X </u> _____ Honorable Ryan Dagley County Commissioner _____ Honorable Tommy Hammond-Alternate	Chambers County
Fort Bend County	<u> X </u> _____ Honorable Grady Prestage County Commissioner, 1st Vice Chair _____ Stacy Slawinski, P.E. – Alternate	Fort Bend County

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Galveston County	_____ Honorable Robin Armstrong County Commissioner _____ Honorable Joe Giusti– Alternate	Galveston County
Harris County	_____ Honorable Lesley Briones- Secretary County Commissioner, Pct. 4 X _____ Roberto Treviño, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Harris County	_____ Honorable Adrian Garcia County Commissioner, Pct. 2 _____ Milton Rahman, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Liberty County	X _____ Honorable Jay Knight County Judge _____ Honorable Bruce Karbowski - Alternate	Liberty County
Montgomery County	X _____ Honorable Mark Keough County Judge _____ Matt Gray – Alternate	Montgomery County
Waller County	X _____ Honorable Justin Beckendorff County Commissioner – Chair _____ Kendric Jones- Alternate	Waller County
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	_____ Elizabeth Gonzalez Brock METRO Chair X _____ Thomas Jasien-Alternate	METRO
TxDOT-Houston	X _____ Glenn Allbritton, P.E. District Engineer _____ Varuna Singh, P.E.– Alternate	TxDOT Houston District
TxDOT-Beaumont	_____ Vacant District Engineer X _____ Ana I. Mijares, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Beaumont District
Port Freeport	_____ Phyllis Saathoff Executive Director _____ Rob Lowe-Alternate	Port Freeport
Port Houston	X _____ Charlie Jenkins Chief Executive Officer _____ Kerrick Henny-Alternate	Port Houston

AGENCY

VOTING MEMBERSHIP

REPRESENTING

Gulf Coast Rail District

 X Veronica Chapa-Gorczynski
 GCRD Chair
 Hon. Jon Keeney-Alternate

Gulf Coast Rail District

 31 **Total Voting Membership**

 24 **Voting Membership Present**

 16 **Required Quorum**

AGENCY

NON-VOTING EX-OFFICIOS

REPRESENTING

Texas State Senate

 Hon. Carol Alvarado

8-County Region

Freight Rail Interests

 Clint Schelbitzki

Union Pacific

Texas State Legislator

 Hon. Dennis Paul

8-County Region

Wharton County

 X Hon. Phillip Spenrath

Wharton County

NON-VOTING

H-GAC

 X Chuck Wemple

H-GAC

TxDOT-Houston

 X Catherine McCreight

TxDOT-Houston