

# **TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE**

## **MEETING SUMMARY**

**May 20, 2025– 1:30 P.M.**

**Houston-Galveston Area Council**

**3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX 77027**

**Virtual**

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### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robert Benz, P.E.– Texas A&M Trans. Institute  
Tom Kuczynski– Fort Bend County Public Trans.  
Jamie Woodall–Executive Dir. of School Safety  
Ken Fickes– Harris County  
Meer Jumaní– Harris County  
Billy Combs– Private Citizen  
Melody Galland– TxDOT  
Sgt. Saul Luera– City of Missouri City  
Brian Mansfield– City of Friendswood-EMS  
Jack Hannigraff– East End District

### **ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Vernon Chambers– Harris County Transit  
James Keener– TxDOT-Houston  
Rohit Saxena– Port Houston  
Darrell Borchardt– TTI  
Perri D’Armond– Fort Bend County Public Transportation

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Cassandra Marshall – H-GAC  
Yetunde Oyewale– H-GAC  
Rodney Sigua– H-GAC  
Diane Domagas– H-GAC  
Jamila Owens– H-GAC  
Qun Zhao– H-GAC  
Keehren Baah– H-GAC  
Monique Johnson– H-GAC  
Sydni Ligons– H-GAC  
Veronica Waller– H-GAC  
Allie Isbell– H-GAC  
Susan Jaworski– H-GAC  
Gloria Brown– H-GAC  
Lucinda Martinez– H-GAC

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Brian Smith

### **ITEM 1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

## **ITEM 2. Public Comments**

- None

## **ITEM 3. Acceptance of Minutes: March 25, 2025**

- Meeting Minutes held for quorum.

## **Discussion**

### **ITEM 4. State of Safety Reports: Keehren Baah (H-GAC)**

Keehren Baah provided an overview of the 2024 State of Safety Report, focusing on various crash data, including trends in Harris County, which showed an increase in crashes and fatalities. Allie Isbell emphasized the importance of obtaining crash rate data for better county comparisons, while Robert Benz noted the correlation between vehicle miles traveled and population growth. The committee discussed potential metrics for the 2025 report, including federal highway safety measures and data sources.

### **ITEM 5. Safety Workshop: Robert Benz (TTI)**

Plans for a safety workshop were outlined, focusing on crash statistics and the factors contributing to accidents. Robert encouraged input on workshop topics, emphasizing the importance of educating elected officials. Robert discussed the importance of documenting safety programs implemented by different agencies to improve safety outcomes. He emphasized the need for collaboration and sharing best practices to reduce crash rates and fatalities. Keehren added that upcoming safety action plans would incorporate safer design standards and proven tools to enhance safety.

### **ITEM 6. Safety Action Plan Update: Keehren Baah (H-GAC)**

Keehren Baah updated the group on the safety action plans associated with the Safe Streets for All grant, noting that the council is in the final stages of contract approval. The funding approach has been finalized, and planning funds will be utilized for the development of the safety action plan. A safety task force will be established for joint applicants, with a kickoff planned for July.

### **ITEM 7. Round Table of Regional Safety Topics**

The group recognized the interconnectedness of traffic safety and broader public safety issues, advocating for better communication with the courts and comprehensive education for law enforcement and judges. Keehren provided an update on safety action plans linked to the Safe Streets for All grant, indicating progress toward final approval and the formation of a safety task force. Additionally, Jack announced a road and rail safety workshop scheduled for July, aimed at establishing best practices across the region.

## **Announcements**

1. Transportation Policy Council (TPC)-May 23, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. (In person)
2. Transportation Advisory Council (TAC)-May 14, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. (In-person)
3. Transportation Safety Committee (TSC)- July 29, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. (virtual)

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, July 29, 2025

**Meeting Adjourned at 2:38 p.m.**