

12. REGIONAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

BACKGROUND

The Regional Active Transportation Plan (RATP) is H-GAC's long-range planning document that envisions the future of active transportation within the region. The RATP's goal is to create an all ages and abilities regional active transportation network to meet the need for pedestrian, bicycle, and multimodal connections both now and in the future. This is accomplished through the encouragement of active transportation as a viable primary mode of travel and identifying active transportation projects for inclusion within the long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the ten-year plan, the four-year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), and the Unified Planning Work Program.

Updating the RATP is a task prescribed in the 2026-27 UPWP and should be done to reflect current and future infrastructure needs. The latest regional growth forecast predicts the population to increase by almost 3 million people by 2050. The most recent regional active transportation plan was completed in 2019 and published as an appendix to the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (<https://www.h-gac.com/pedestrian-bicyclist-planning/2045-active-transportation-plan>). The 2045 RTP utilized data on safety, health, demographics, the current network and its usage to properly define the existing conditions of active transportation in H-GAC's MPO area. The plan organized existing conditions data into a county-level focus area analysis that identified areas of most need for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

CURRENT SITUATION

Consultant selection for the 2050 Regional Active Transportation Plan has concluded and the planning process will kick-off later this year. H-GAC staff are developing internal and external timelines to ensure the plan is completed efficiently. The 2050 RATP will inventory existing active transportation infrastructure, review local planning studies and design guidelines, and conduct a robust public engagement process to inform what the future active transportation network should look like. Opportunities to synergize with the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) planning and outreach processes will be sought to ensure active transportation project recommendations align with the vision and goals of the RTP. Upon plan completion (one year from kick-off), H-GAC will have a list of short- and long-range active transportation project recommendations that project sponsors may then submit for inclusion in H-GAC's fiscally constrained documents, such as the RTP, 10-Year Plan, and TIP.

ACTION REQUESTED

Information only.