



## NEWS RELEASE

### HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### H-GAC Addresses Transportation Safety Issues with Regional Safety Plan

**Houston, TX** -- According to the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), motor vehicle crashes increased more than 40 percent from 2012 to 2016 within the region. With a rise in traffic congestion, crashes, and fatalities, H-GAC developed the Regional Safety Plan to provide a framework that will address the most prominent transportation safety issues. Using a data-driven approach, the plan identified frequent motor vehicle crash types and outlined targets to achieve reductions in those focus areas. The plan's focus areas include impaired driving, distracted driving, speeding, intersection safety, bicycle and pedestrian safety.

"The Regional Safety Plan will become an important vehicle for addressing the region's most severe traffic safety issues," transportation principal planner, Stephan Gage, said. "We developed the plan in collaboration with regional stakeholders to outline specific strategies and goals to achieve safety performance measures," Gage added.

To communicate with residents and partner organizations about the plan's safety strategies and to collect public comments, H-GAC will hold a public meeting on July 25 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the offices of H-GAC located at 3555 Timmons Lane, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Conference Room B in Houston.

"It is so important for H-GAC to connect with our communities and engage in a two-way conversation about the plans for our region, especially as it concerns safety," Meagan Coughlin, public outreach manager for H-GAC's transportation department said. "We encourage residents to attend the public meeting, learn about the plan, and share their safety priorities with us," Coughlin added.

For more information about the Regional Safety Plan or to submit a public comment, visit [h-gac.com/transportation-safety](http://h-gac.com/transportation-safety).

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*H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments in the 13-county Gulf Coast Planning Region—an area of 12,500 square miles and seven million people. H-GAC is designated by the State of Texas as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation planning in Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties.*