

TRANSPORTATION AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, August 7, 2019 – 2:00 P. M.

Houston-Galveston Area Council of Government Offices
3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77027

(Meeting Held – Second Floor, Agency Conference Room 2-A)

MEMBER PRESENT

Eco Options – Pat Shelin
Fort Bend Transit – Perri D’ Armond
Harris County – Ken Fickes, CCTM
Port Houston. – Ken Gathright
The Woodlands Township – Todd Stephens
TxDot Houston – Charles U. Airiohuodion
West Houston Association – Auggie Campbell
H-GAC – Clint McManus
HGAC – Andrew DeCandis

ALTERNATE PRESENT

Air Alliance Houston – Harrison Humphreys
METRO – Danny Silva
METRO – Edmund Petry
TxDot Houston – Brenda Bustillos

STAFF PRESENT

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Sandra Holliday
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Graciella Lubertino
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Kathryn Vo

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Conklin –Center Point Energy

BRIEFING

Overview

- a. The TAQ Subcommittee Members and Alternates were presented with actions items; a series of information items were delivered; and the meeting concluded with agency reports and member announcements.
- b. Visit <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/transportation-committees/TAC/transportation-air-quality-subcommittee/agendas.aspx> to view the meeting materials for this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM 1A. Introductions

Chairman, Ken Fickes, called the meeting to order, and members introduced themselves.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 2A. Approval of Meeting Summaries (10-2-18 & 5-14-2019)

Chairman, Ken Fickes, entertained a motion to pass the TAQ subcommittee meeting summaries for (10-2-18 & 5-14-19). The meeting summary minutes were approved.

ITEM 2B. Election of Officers

Chairman, Ken Fickes, entertained a motion to nominate officers by a vote.

1. Perri D’ Armond-Chairman
2. Bakeyah Nelson-Vice Chairman

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 3A. EVolve Houston (Michael Conklin, Center Point Energy)

Michael Conklin briefed the subcommittee members on EVolve Houston, which is a coalition of sustainability minded academic government and business partners, who will share a vision of clean transportation, better air quality and less greenhouse gases through electrified transportation. It began, January 18, The University of Houston and City of Houston worked with Center Point Energy, and held the first meeting, the reception from everyone was positive. A total of 150 people was present. A workshop was held, in May, 75 people were present.

Mr. Conklin added, they are preparing to launch as an independent 501 C3 organization. This organization will carry forward the mission for facilitating pilot projects in general coordination of electrified transportation here in the Houston area. Right now, we have around 9,000 of them. In the next years, we are looking to have 110,000, which is about three percent of the on road fleet. We need specific infrastructure in place to make this happen.

Electric Vehicles (EV's) are expected to evolve over the next decade. From now, until 2024, they are expected to grow based on economics and availability. About 2028, they are expected to be priced at the same price point as the internal combustible vehicles, this will help to carry the sell. Also, as more models are released that consumers like, this will help boost the (EV) market. Consumers sales show that sixty percent of the people drive SUV's and trucks. It is important that the advertising funds are spent. Consumers just don't buy alternative vehicles. They need to see advertisements.

Mr. Conklin also mentioned if we can make a dent in transportation, we can help to bring our air quality into attainment. Sixty -seven percent comes from transportation. Houston can remain a leader as we transfer into a low carbon future, by bringing more jobs to Houston,

Electricity uses our local grid infrastructure. Until mid-2020, (EV) adoption is held back by lack of availability and affordability. After that, it will be held back by lack of public charging. The most important benefit, (EV) is emission reduction. The most important thing to focus on is policy. Affordability of the vehicle and availability of infrastructure. If the state supports us of this, it becomes easier to do.

ITEM 3B. North Houston Highway Improvement Project Health Impact Assessment (Bakeyah Nelson, Air Alliance Houston)

Dr. Bakeyah Nelson of Air Alliance Houston (AAH) gave an update on the progress of a joint effort between AAH and the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) to develop a health impact assessment of the North Houston Highway Improvement Project the upcoming I-45 reconstruction.

Go to <http://www.h-gac.com/board-of-directors/advisory-committees/regional-air-quality-planning-advisory-committee/meeting-materials.aspx> for the slides used in these presentations.

ITEM 4A. OTHER BUSINESS -Committee Chairperson

a. Agency Announcements

Brenda Bustillos (TxDOT Houston)

They have been developing an application for 34 months. They now have a signed contract. It will now be launching after several months of procurement. This app will help to reduce congestion, assist with trip planning, and partner with metro to develop a single payment system. They are also networking with H-GAC and will be reaching out to Fort Bend and Harris county transit.

Ken Fickes (Harris County)

About the last year Harris County has been working on a demonstration project. They have been waiting on funding from the general land office-disaster funds. This will help to establish and operate five additional bus routes. Generally, North (I-10), and West of FM 2100. They are working closely with Metro to coordinate this service. The start up date is expected to be the first of November. Five public meetings are expected to be held beginning in September.

Perri D' Armond (Fort Bend Transit)

They are launching a new bus operating facility. It is about eighty percent complete. The facility will be comprised of a bus wash, parking, fuel depo, and room for expansion. Right now, they are spread across four different locations.

Perri D' Armond (Fort Bend Transit)

They are in the beginning stages for the West Park and Ride expansion. It will be Northside of West Park Tollway and East side Grand Parkway. The land county already owns this. A small area is being condemned. They have been trying to work this out for two years. The attorney has already sent out letters. They hope to move forward with building West Park and Ride.

Edmund Petry (METRO)

Metro Next.org is in the process of finalizing within the next two weeks. A call for a vote to approve and bring to referendum has begun. Visit the website <http://www.metronext.org> for updates.

b. Member Announcements

No announcements

Next meeting will be October 2, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 P.M.