



HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120

Houston, TX 77027

www.h-gac.com | @HouGalvAreaCog

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Kristina Michel / 713.993.4559 / kristina.michel@h-gac.com

PUBLIC MEETINGS ON MARCH 22 WILL HELP DECIDE HOUSTON-GALVESTON REGION'S NEXT ROUND OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program Includes Bus-rapid transit, Freight, Mixed-use Street Development, and Air Quality Improvement Projects to Benefit the Region

HOUSTON, TX – The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) will host two virtual public meetings at 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22 to discuss the newest iteration of the Transportation Improvement Program.

This new 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program will identify those transportation infrastructure improvement projects that should be prioritized for construction or implementation in the region over the next four years.

The projects outlined are implemented by local governments in the eight-county Houston-Galveston metropolitan planning area as well as area management districts, transit agencies, and the Texas Department of Transportation. They cover everything from a new inner Katy bus-rapid transit project to add mobility options along IH 10 into downtown Houston; major highway reconstruction and widening projects – including FM 517 in Brazoria and Galveston counties, IH 45 in Galveston, and SH 105 in Montgomery County – projects to help mitigate air quality and improve freight movement; and mixed-use street developments that improve safety and better accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians.

Residents and stakeholders living and working in the Houston-Galveston region are invited to attend the meetings, submit public comments, and help shape the direction of the region's vast, ever-growing transportation system.

“The Houston-Galveston metropolitan planning area is at a critical juncture when it comes to transportation planning,” said Adam Beckom, transportation manager at H-GAC. “The decisions we make regarding where we dedicate our resources and what kinds of projects we choose to invest in will set the stage for how resilient we are, our ability to accommodate our region's continued rapid growth, and what quality of life will our residents have in the future.”

Houston-Galveston Area Council

H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials from the 13-county Gulf Coast planning region, which includes an area of 12,500 square miles and more than 7 million people. H-GAC works to promote efficient and accountable use of local, state, and federal tax dollars; serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local governments; and helps analyze trends and conditions affecting the region. For more information, visit www.h-gac.com.



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Meeting information, including how to register, view a full list of projects and where they are located, and submit public comments, is available at www.h-gac.com/transportation-improvement-program/2023-2026. Both meetings will cover the same information. They will take place online and will include options to join via Zoom or dial in by phone. H-GAC will provide a Spanish translator and an American Sign Language interpreter for the hearing impaired at both meetings.

Meeting attendees will hear from H-GAC experts about some of the major projects included in the draft 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program, and they will have the opportunity to ask questions, share their thoughts about the projects, and make public comments. The public comment period is open now and will remain open until Monday, April 4. In addition to providing public comments at the meetings, residents and stakeholders may submit comments by emailing PublicComments@h-gac.com or by calling 1-855-363-2516.

“Now, more than ever, we need the public’s involvement and engagement in the transportation planning process,” said Beckom. “We encourage residents and stakeholders to not only attend these public meetings, but also share information about them with their family members, their neighbors, their colleagues at work, and their communities. Never has there been a more important time to get involved with H-GAC. Help us plan for the region’s future.”

The Transportation Improvement Program is a fiscally constrained financial plan of transportation projects that are slated for construction or implementation over the next four years. Projects included in the Transportation Improvement Program were previously selected by the H-GAC Transportation Policy Council and are considered priorities for the region. The included projects cover all aspects of transportation, such as transit, highways and roadways, bicycle and pedestrian, preventative maintenance, rehabilitation, air quality programs, and transportation operations.

To learn more about the Transportation Improvement Program and other transportation programs at H-GAC, visit www.h-gac.com and click the “Mobility” button on the home page. For a full schedule of H-GAC meetings and events, visit www.h-gac.com/calendar.

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