

Transportation Policy Council

January 23, 2026

Good morning, TPC Members. I last spoke to the Council in December 2023, but I would ask for your attention again to the state of our regional mobility. Does our future hold, regardless of price tag, improved regional mobility or perpetuated chaos? Over those two years, we've had the IH610/69 interchange completed, with no apparent benefits other than shedding the punishment of orange barrels and rough pavement grades, and the IH10/White Oak Bayou/Houston Ave project started, shifting severe punishment of our regional road users from uptown to downtown. Our streets and our transit system are hosting increased crime. I'm sure many of you have your own examples closer to your communities of the region. There is a better way, and a more cost effective way, and true 3C planning can help us get on that better path. And, it is not too late to avoid the regional debacle that NHHIP as currently designed will bring over the next 12 years and forever thereafter. When was the last time any of you drove on the Pierce elevated during morning or evening traffic? Just consider for a moment the state's past and recent use of eminent domain for our interstate highway system and the needs of the public for emergency evacuation routes. The region needs less congestion. and cap structures should not be the first answer to that need. Please remember that even if funding is coming through Washington, DC, it's still our public money. Spending insatiably with federal and local dollars will just buy chaos. And our state's entry into the infrastructure capital market appears to be about as effective as the federal student loan program

Thank you for your service to the public of the Houston-Galveston region on these very important matters. May the Lord bless you with wisdom and courage and hearts for service as you meet tomorrow.

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