

5A. MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025, 9:30 A.M. MEETING

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Morad Kabiri, called the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Chair Kabiri gave a brief overview of the housekeeping rules. After the housekeeping rules, the Chair called on Ms. Jamila Owens, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Assistant Director, to do the Roll Call.

A list of Committee representatives and alternates attending the meeting is included with these minutes as Attachment 1. There were 37 members in attendance; 22 are required for a quorum.

The meeting agenda and materials are available on the TAC website at:
<http://www.h-gac.com/transportation-advisory-committee/meeting-agendas-and-minutes.aspx>.

In addition, the livestream recording is available at: <http://www.h-gac.com/transportation-advisory-committee/meeting-livestream-archive.aspx>.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A written public comment was received and read into the record. To hear this public comment, please click [here](#). There were no public comments made from the floor.

ITEM 4. ORIENTATION TO AGENDA AND MPO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR REPORT

The report was presented by Ms. Allie Isbell, the MPO Assistant Director, who provided a brief overview of meeting agenda for September 10th TAC Meeting. Ms. Isbell highlighted a single action item—approval of the August meeting minutes—and noted that the remaining agenda items were primarily for informational purposes. Ms. Isbell additionally drew attention to two upcoming events: the HGAC Regional Air Quality Summit on September 24th, an all-day conference, and a tour organized by the Greater Houston Freight Committee scheduled for October 16th. Flyers with additional event details were made available to committee members.

To hear the MPO Director Report in its entirety, please click on the link [here](#).

ITEM 5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Kabiri entertained a motion for Consent Agenda Item; 5A) Meeting Minutes Summary for August 13, 2025, TAC Meeting.

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Jason Smith. A second motion for approval was made by Mr. Wael Tabara. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item are available [here](#).

ITEM 6. TAC BYLAWS DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The TAC Bylaws Committee Chair, Mr. Jason Smith presented the TAC Bylaws Draft Recommendations to the TAC Committee. The Transportation Advisory Committee's [Bylaws](#) define the purpose, membership, quorum requirements, and other rules for conducting TAC meetings. The TAC Bylaws were last amended on January 15, 2020, by the Transportation Policy Council (TPC). TAC members have expressed interest in prior meetings to review TAC and TAC Subcommittee Bylaws for effectiveness and efficiency of H-GAC staff and committee members' time. A TAC Bylaws Committee was created in April 2025, which included Jason Smith (Chair), Perri D'Armond, Catherine McCreight and Ken Fickes.

The group developed draft recommendations for TAC Bylaws updates, which were presented as a briefing at the September 10th TAC Meeting. The primary objective was to seek initial feedback on the proposed

recommendations and bring this item to the TAC in October for action, recommending the Bylaws for approval by the TPC during their October meeting. A redlined version, clean proposed version, and a membership comparison table followed the background paper. Here were some key highlights of the recommendations discussed at the TAC meeting:

1. Purpose of Review

- The TAC Bylaws Committee was formed to review and revise the bylaws to better align with current practices and the Transportation Policy Council (TPC).
- Members expressed an interest in reviewing TAC Bylaws and TAC Subcommittee Bylaws

2. Membership Structure Changes

- Current TAC Membership: 44 members → Proposed: 45 members.
- Key changes:
 - Small Cities: Increase from 3 to 8 seats (one per county).
 - Dedicated Seats:
 - Houston Airport System (HAS)
 - Port Houston
 - Port Freeport
 - Toll Road Authorities
 - Major Transit Providers (Metro, Harris County, The Woodlands, Fort Bend)
 - Freight (focused on trucking)
 - Business & Economic Development
 - Active Transportation
- **Concerns Raised**
 - Lack of proportional representation (e.g., Harris County has many small cities).
 - Removal of environmental, planning, and citizen interest seats.
 - Attendance issues with small city representatives.
 - Risk of losing subject matter expertise.

3. Term Adjustments

- Appointed Positions: Changed from 1-year terms to indefinite, at the discretion of the appointing entity.
- At-Large Positions: Changed from 1-year to 2-year terms to allow members time to gain experience and contribute meaningfully.

4. Name Change Proposal

- Revert committee name from *Transportation Advisory Committee* back to *Technical Advisory Committee* to better reflect its purpose.

5. Meeting & Agenda Protocols

- Written notice for agendas: 7 calendar days prior.
- Full packet delivery: 72 hours before the meeting.

6. Subcommittees

- Subcommittees were discussed but not revised in this round.
- Future plans to strengthen subcommittee roles and ensure they feed into TAC effectively.

7. Process & Governance

- Clarification needed on:
 - Nomination process for at-large members.
 - Officer succession and election timing.
 - Eligibility of elected officials with potential conflicts of interest.

To hear the recommendations and comments made by the Committee, please click on the link below for details.

This item was for information and discussion only.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item are available [here](#).

ITEM 7. CONFORMITY AND REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION (RTP) 2045 PROJECT LISTING

Mr. Stephen Keen and Mr. Andrew DeCandis presented on Conformity and Regional Transportation (RTP) 2045 Project Listing. H-GAC is required to ensure that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and amendments are consistent with the region's air quality goals. This determination is referred to as Air Quality Conformity and involves the modeling of emissions produced by vehicles within the eight-county Houston-Galveston-Brazoria Nonattainment Area to comply with and conform to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Within the NAAQS, the metropolitan planning area is classified as "severe" for the 2008 8-hr ozone standard and as "serious" for the 2015 8-hr ozone standard. Due to these non-attainment designations, all regionally significant projects, regardless of funding source, must be considered in this analysis and found to conform before federal actions related to the projects can be made. These actions include but are not limited to funding obligations, releases for rights-of-way acquisition or final design, and approvals of environmental documents and permits.

In addition, recipients of federal-aid highway and federal transit funds, including local governments and other public agencies, are required to ensure that regionally significant projects which do not use federal funds also satisfy conformity requirements (40 CFR § 93.121). To accommodate changes to project lists, project scopes, and project schedules, new conformity analyses are periodically performed as needed.

Staff prepared a new conformity determination to support project list updates for the 2045 RTP. The draft conformity documentation can be found at the following link: <https://www.h-gac.com/transportation-conformity/2025>. Below are brief highlights from Mr. Stephen Keen and Mr. Andrew DeCandis' presentation. To hear this report, click on the link below.

1. RTP Update Overview

- Purpose: Update the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) in preparation for the 2025 Transportation Conformity Determination.
- Scope: Reviewed over 1,000 projects with 70+ sponsors over an 8–9 month period.
- Financials:
 - Expenditures: \$131 billion
 - Revenues: \$141 billion
 - Maintains fiscal constraint from previous 2045 RTP.

2. Project Categories

- Part 1: Non-Exempt Projects
 - Regionally significant (e.g., new interchanges, freeway lanes, transit with fixed guideways).
 - Require air quality conformity.
- Part 2: Non-Regionally Significant (NRS) / ERA Projects
 - Examples: intersection improvements, bus terminals.
 - Can proceed without conformity.
- Part 3: Exempt Projects
 - Examples: hike/bike trails, transit enhancements.
 - Do not require conformity.

- Part 4: Let Projects
 - Already let or ready for construction since last conformity (Nov 1, 2023).

3. Air Quality Conformity Process

- Presented by: Andrea DeCandis, Air Quality Program Manager.
- Purpose: Ensure transportation projects do not worsen air quality in non-attainment areas.
- Process Timeline:
 - Local Analysis: 5–6 months
 - State/National Review: 3–5 months (involves FHWA, EPA, TCEQ, TxDOT, METRO)

4. Ozone Standards & Emissions

- 2008 Standard: Region meets all motor vehicle emissions budgets.
- 2015 Standard: Budget approved by TCEQ, pending EPA approval — region still conforms.
- Precaution: Analysis includes both standards to avoid delays if EPA approves the 2015 budget mid-process.

5. Public Engagement

- Comment Period: Sept 10 – Oct 10
- Website: hgac.com/transportation-conformity/2025
- Email for Comments: transportation.conformity@h-gac.com

6. Additional Note

- PM2.5 (Fine Particulate Matter): Not currently addressed due to lack of formal non-attainment designation

This item was for information only.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item are available [here](#).

***ITEM 8. CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS (CMP) UPDATE**

Due to time constraints, this item was not presented and will be revisited at the October TAC meeting.

ITEM 9. PAVEMENT AND BRIDGE PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Ms. Karen Owen presented the Pavement and Bridge Performance Measures. The federal laws Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act require a performance-based process to monitor the conditions of pavements and bridges of the National Highway System, set performance targets, and report on progress. H-GAC is responsible for setting pavement and bridge targets for the eight-county region. Measuring and tracking the performance of the region's transportation system is an approach to evaluate the effectiveness of transportation investments and to track progress toward achieving goals. Monitoring the performance of these important assets fulfills one of the five goals of the Regional Transportation Plan, to Achieve and Maintain a State of Good Repair. Additionally, ensuring a State of Good Repair for pavements and bridges is critical to safety, the movement of goods and people, as well as economic development. Staff conducted a comprehensive evaluation with TxDOT and local governments for the data review analysis. Below are brief highlights from Ms. Karen Owen's presentation. To hear the progress made towards achieving the 2024 pavement and bridge targets, please click on the link below.

Overview

- Federal laws (FAST Act & IIJA) require performance-based monitoring of pavement and bridge conditions on the National Highway System (NHS).
- H-GAC sets regional targets for pavement and bridge conditions across the eight-county area.
- This supports the Regional Transportation Plan goal: Achieve and Maintain a State of Good Repair.

2024 Performance Report

- **Bridge Conditions:**
 - Consistent improvement since 2018.
 - In 2024, 0.4% of bridges were in poor condition.
 - All three bridge targets (good, fair, poor) were met.
- **Interstate Pavement Conditions:**
 - Fair condition reached 56% (missed target of 54%).
 - Good condition was 43% (missed target of 45%).
 - Poor condition met target at 0.1%.
- **Non-Interstate NHS Pavement:**
 - Fair and good condition targets were met.
 - Poor condition was 4.4%, missing the target by ~1%.

Target Setting

- Regional targets were set using a four-year moving average through 2024 and held flat through 2026.
- Mid-point review allows for adjustments to 2026 targets, but staff recommends maintaining current targets.

Investments & Collaboration

- TxDOT and local governments use pavement management systems for regular surveys and maintenance planning.
- Coordination with TxDOT's Houston and Beaumont Districts informs future investments.
- Dedicated funding and ongoing data collection are expected to support progress toward 2026 goals.

Staff recommends maintaining the 2026 targets as the Transportation Policy Council originally approved, with a reevaluation planned during the next reporting cycle in two years.

This item was for information only.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item are available [here](#).

ITEM 10. PLANNING ACTIVITIES

A. Administrative 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Mr. Jim Dickinson provided a brief update on 2025-2028 TIP Administrative Amendments to the Committee. To hear this update, please click on the link below.

For Information Only. No action needed.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item are available on the TAC website [here](#).

B. Future 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Mr. Jim Dickinson provided a brief update on 2025-2028 TIP Future Amendments to the Committee. To hear this update, please click on the link below.

For Information Only. No action needed.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item are available on the TAC website [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Houston Regional Air Quality Summit	September 24	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	The Cullen Building at Baylor College of Medicine 1 Baylor Plaza Houston, TX 77030 Virtual
Regional Air Quality Program Advisory Committee (RAQPAQ) Meeting	September 25	10:00 a.m.	Virtual
Transportation Policy Council (TPC) Meeting	September 26	9:30 a.m.	H-GAC Office
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee Meeting	October 1	9:30 a.m.	Virtual
Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Subcommittee Meeting	October 8	1:30 p.m.	Virtual
Regional Transit Coordination (RTC) Subcommittee Meeting	October 9	9:30 a.m.	Virtual
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting	October 15	9:30 a.m.	H-GAC Office
Clean Cities Stakeholder Meeting	October 15	12:00 p.m.	Virtual
Pedestrian Bicyclist (Ped-Bike) Subcommittee Meeting	October 16	9:30 a.m.	Virtual
Greater Houston Freight Committee (GHFC) Meeting	October 16	1:30 p.m.	Tour

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Morad Kabiri adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 11:31 a.m.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item are available on the TAC website [here](#).

Attachment 1

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE SEPTEMBER 10, 2025, AT 9:30 A.M.

NOTES:

1. Attendance is marked with "X" in the corresponding column for the Primary Member and/or Alternate Member.
2. Where both the Primary Member and Alternate Member is marked with an asterisk (*) after the "X" to indicate that this person does not count toward quorum or votes for this meeting.

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Present</u>
<i>Chair</i>				
Morad Kabiri, P.E.	X	Smaller Cities	Jildardo Arias	
<i>1st Vice Chair</i>				
Perri D'Armond		Transit	Pamela Lebrane	X
<i>2nd Vice Chair</i>				
Brian Alcott	X	Toll Roads	Amar Mohite	
Brenda Bustillos, Ph.D., P.E.	X	Active Transportation	Lisa Graiff	
Yuhayna Mahmud	X	Active Transportation	Luis Guajardo, AICP	
James Brown		Airports	Bill Zrioka	
Amy Skicki	X	Business Interests	Scott Harper	
Marlisa Briggs	X	Business Interests	Kris Larson, LPM, AICP	
Irma Sanchez		Citizen Interests	Dexter Handy	X
			Sherry Weesner, P.E., CPM	X*
Alan Steinberg, Ph.D.	X	Citizen Interests	Sue Theiss	
Andrea French	X	Environmental	Shelley Sekula-Gibbs, M.D.	
Scott Nichols	X	Environmental	Alan Clark	X
Clint Harbert, AICP		METRO	Nancy Peron, P.E., PMP	
Lisa Collins, P.E.	X	TxDOT – Beaumont Dist.	Catherine McCreight	X
Grady Mapes, P.E.		TxDOT – Houston Dist.	Jeffrey English, AICP	X
Catherine McCreight		Planning	(Vacant)	
David Wurdlow	X	Planning	Christina Cabral	X*
Marlene Gafrick	X	Planning	Candice Armenoff	
Callie Barnes	X	Port Houston	Rob Lowe	
Dean Corgey		Ports	Hon. Lori Klein Quinn	X
Hon. Dan Davis		Regional Planning	Brian Winningham	
Andy Rodgers	X	Smaller Cities	Byron Hebert	
Kathie Reyer		Smaller Cities	David Gornet	
Robert Castaneda		Toll Roads	Todd Stephens	
Ruthanne Haut	X	Transit	Vernon Chambers	X*
Ken Fickes, CCTM	X	Transit	Karen McKinnon, P.E.	
Wael Tabara, P.E.	X	Brazoria County	Cory Taylor, P.E.	
Zachery Vogler, P.E.		Chambers County		

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Present</u>
Stacy Slawinski, P.E.	<u>X</u>	Fort Bend County	Rick J. Staigle, P.E.	<u></u>
Michael Shannon, P.E.	<u>X</u>	Galveston County	Nancy Baher	<u></u>
Patrick Mandapaka, Ph.D., AICP	<u>X</u>	Harris County	Kristian Heighway	<u>X*</u>
Hon. Jay Knight	<u>X</u>	Liberty County	Hon. Greg Arthur	<u></u>
Jason Smith	<u>X</u>	Montgomery County	Thomas Woolley	<u></u>
Ross McCall, P.E.	<u></u>	Waller County	Luke Fortkamp, P.E.	<u></u>
Brant Gary	<u>X</u>	City of Baytown	Martin Scribner	<u></u>
Greg Hall, Jr.	<u>X</u>	City of Conroe	Chuck Purvis	<u></u>
Robert Winiecke, P.E., CFM	<u>X</u>	City of Galveston	Brandon Cook	<u></u>
Fabio Capillo	<u></u>	City of Houston	Johana Clark, P.E., PTOE, ENV SP	<u>X</u>
Christopher Sims	<u>X</u>	City of League City	Cara Davis	<u></u>
(Vacant)	<u></u>	City of Missouri City	Joi Johnson	<u>X</u>
Sarah Benavides, P.E.	<u></u>	City of Pasadena	Mark Gardemal, P.E.	<u></u>
Lorenzo Wingate	<u>X</u>	City of Pearland	Fabiola de Carvalho, CFM, AMP, MIAM	<u></u>
Melanie Beaman	<u>X</u>	City of Sugarland	(Vacant)	<u></u>
Kim Golden, P.E.	<u></u>	City of Texas City	Jack Haralson, P.E.	<u></u>
	<u>44</u>	Total Voting Membership		
	<u>37</u>	Total Voting Membership Present		
	<u>22</u>	Required Quorum		