



Item 08. Regional Safe Routes to School Update



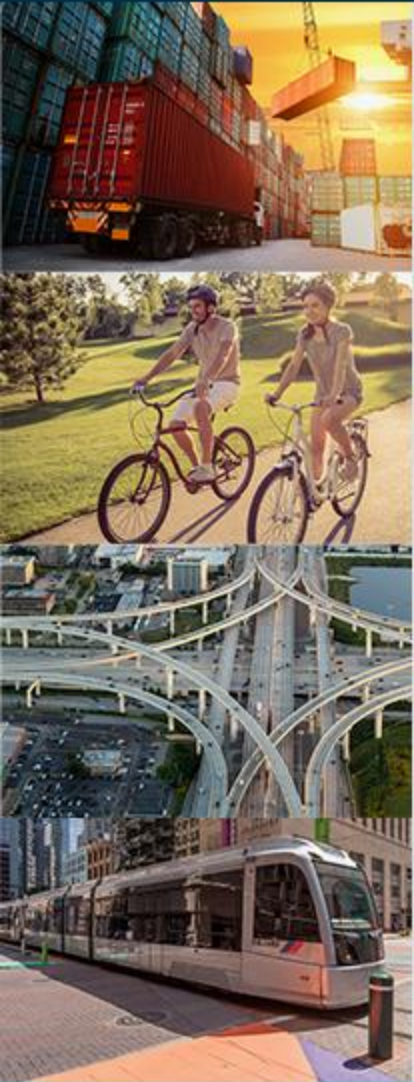
Brian D. Smith, II (H-GAC)
Transportation Policy Council (TPC)
December 19, 2025

Regional Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

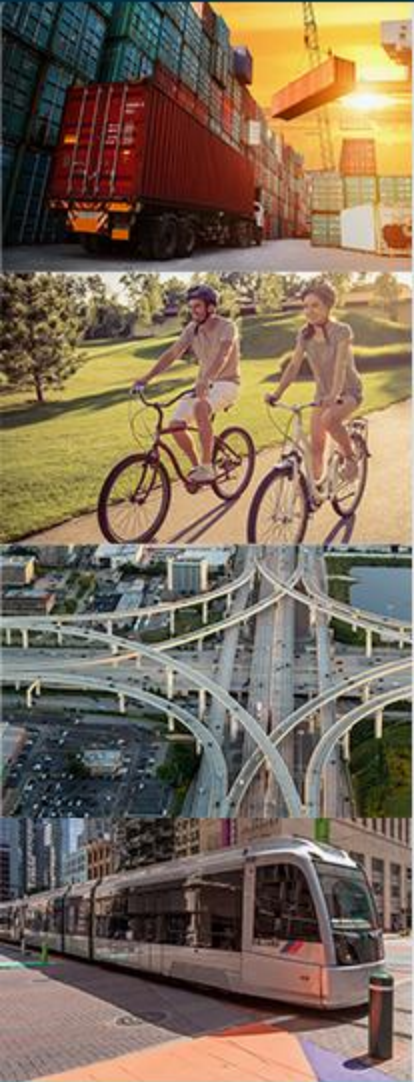
Program Framework

Creating a regional Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is identified in the goals of H-GAC's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- Conduct a literature review and best practices study of SRTS, including recommendations for the MPO's role in moving SRTS forward in the region.
- Provide planning support for implementation of SRTS best practices in the region.
- Provide technical support for regional, local area, corridor, and site-specific SRTS plans



SRTS Infrastructure vs Non-Infrastructure Project Examples



Infrastructure (Capital Improvements)

- Bikeways
- Sidewalks
- Shared-use paths
- Intersection and crossing treatments

Non-Infrastructure (Studies and Engagement)

- SRTS planning studies
- Education and encouragement events (Bike to School Day; walking school buses; learn to ride)
- Crossing guard programs
- Policy development

SRTS Infrastructure: TASA Call for Projects



- <https://www.h-gac.com/transportation-project-selection-process>
- Download Statement of Project Interest Form
 - Project title, location, description
 - Total Cost
 - Proposed improvement type and desired project outcome
 - Investment Category (Active Transportation)
- Submit via email:
sponsorsprioritylist@h-gac.com
- Previously submitted forms do not need resubmission unless changes are needed.

Transportation Project Selection Process

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About the Transportation Project Selection Process

H-GAC conducts a Project Selection Process that assesses projects' proposed alignment with the goals from the 2045 RTP Update, federal requirements, and guidance from the H-GAC's Transportation Policy Council.

H-GAC has developed eight investment categories described below that translate the diverse goals, priorities, and requirements into discrete groupings of projects. H-GAC utilizes a combination of the investment category focused criteria, planning factors, and a cost-benefit analysis for project scoring.

View the Draft H-GAC Transportation Project Selection Process Handbook for more information.

[Transportation Project Questionnaires Search](#)

Submit Your Project(s) for Consideration

To have your project(s) participate in H-GAC's selection process, you'll need to first complete our [Statement of Project Interest](#) form.

Eligible sponsors may submit potential projects for consideration by submitting basic project information as statements of projects interests on a rolling timeline. Project information that can be provided in a statement of project interest includes:

- Project Title
- Project Location (facility limits)
- Project Description
- Total Cost
- Desired Project Outcome
- Proposed Improvement Type
- Investment Category

[Download the Statement of Project Interest Form](#)

How to Submit Your Statement of Project Interest Form

Please submit your completed Statement of Project Interest form via email to sponsorsprioritylist@h-gac.com.

How to Submit a Questionnaire for Your Project

Questionnaires for your submitted projects will be completed using our online Transportation Project Questionnaire form. To access this form, please follow these steps:

Contact Information

Would you like to contact us about this topic? Please contact:

Vishu Lingala
Vishu.Lingala@h-gac.com
713-993-4561

Draft Project Rankings

- All Major Projects
- All High Growth
- All Operations Imp
- All Resiliency
- Transit Ranking

Draft Regional Goods Movement Projects

- Top 20 Projects
- Total Score and Ranking

Project Recommendation

- Approved Projects in Five Categories

Documents

- Next Steps Timeline
- Draft H-GAC Transportation

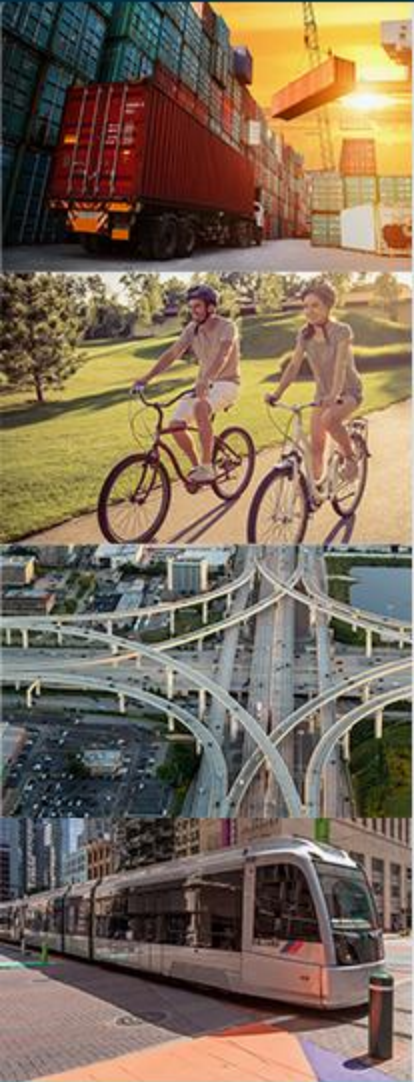
SRTS Non-Infrastructure Pilot: Campus-level

Providing support for SRTS plans is one of the three goals explicitly stated in the UPWP.

- Campus-level plans are more cost-effective than piloting a study at the ISD-level.
- Encouragement activities (Bike to School Day events, walking school buses, etc.) done in tandem would reinforce public engagement during plan generation.
- Opportunity to cast a wide net.



SRTS Non-Infrastructure Best-Practices



Best Practice: Maricopa Association of Governments

Maricopa Association of Governments conducts campus-level SRTS studies via its Transportation Alternatives (TA) program. Local sponsors are encouraged to apply for funding (currently \$41.6k per study as of 2025); studies are completed within the MPO's existing consultant contracts and local match funding can be provided in-kind, reducing the administrative burden on local governments. Stakeholder committees must have representatives from both the local school system and municipal government/right-of-way owners. The plan takes approximately 6-8 months to complete.

Plan Contents

- Boundary: 1-mile radius around campus
- Existing Conditions
 - Ped/Bike/Vehicle counts; focus on school ingress and egress times, to/from the school
 - Bus routes and loading/unloading zones
 - Crash data
 - Ped/Bike infrastructure inventory
- Parent and student survey
- School site inventory: traffic control, crossing locations, bicycle storage, etc.
- At minimum 1x school-community meeting
- Walking/Biking route map with opportunities and project recommendations

SRTS Next Steps



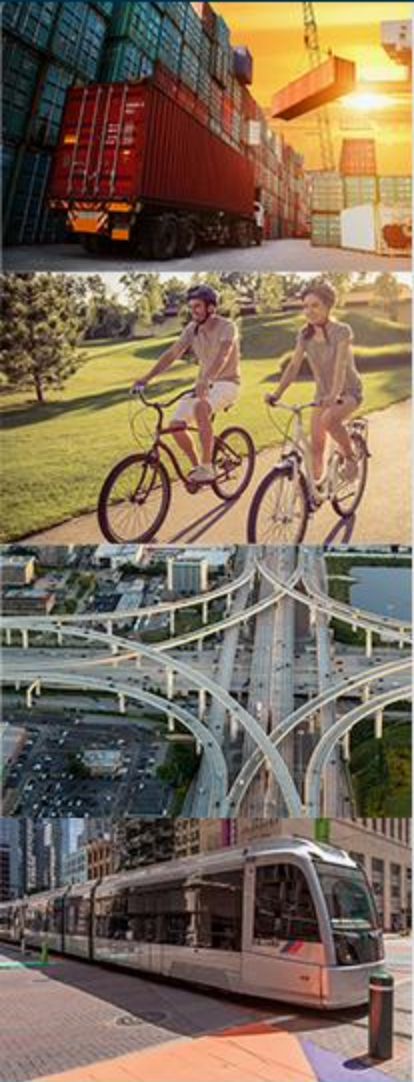
Infrastructure

- ISD-specific TASA materials (one-pager, FAQ)
- Continue collecting Statements of Project Interest
- Open TASA Questionnaire (February 9, 2026)

Non-Infrastructure

- Determine feasibility, adaptability of MAG program to inform pilot
- Complete non-infrastructure pilot program framework
- Present to Pedestrian-Bicyclist subcommittee in January; TAC/TPC TBD
- Assemble toolkit materials; engage local stakeholders

Contact



Brian D. Smith, II
Principal Planner, Active Transportation
Brian.Smith@h-gac.com
(832) 681-2670

Chris Whaley
Senior Planner, Active Transportation
Christopher.Whaley@h-gac.com
(713) 993-2439