

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SECOND ROUND OF PUBLIC MEETINGS WILL HELP SET THE VISION, TOP PRIORITIES OF H-GAC'S LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

HOUSTON – Residents and stakeholders have another opportunity to share their thoughts on how to make getting around the Houston-Galveston region safer and better for years to come. The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) will host a second round of public meetings mid-October through early December to decide the top transportation priorities and strategies for its 2045 Regional Transportation Plan – which is being updated this year – and how they will drive the plan's vision moving forward.

Earlier this year, H-GAC held a series of public visioning meetings and put out a survey to gauge residents' and stakeholders' thoughts on what they like and don't like about traveling around the region. H-GAC also sought to understand the key factors that should steer the way investments are made to the region's transportation network.

"The first round of public meetings and the visioning survey were meant to collect as much feedback as possible. We wanted to understand the concerns people have about the current transportation system and each community's unique transportation needs," said Mike Burns, principal transportation planner at H-GAC. "At this next round of public meetings, we'll work to build a consensus around priorities and strategies included in the updated 2045 plan."

In the second round of public meetings, H-GAC representatives will present the visioning survey results and a summary of feedback received during the visioning outreach period. They will then share a preliminary vision developed based on this feedback and how this vision will help guide the strategies and investment priorities to create a safer, more reliable, more equitable, and multimodal transportation system.

"We received a lot of great feedback from communities across the region. What we have heard so far is that when it comes to transportation, our residents want safety, resiliency, reliability, equity, accessibility, and livability. These will be the key strategies to realizing the preliminary vision we will present at the public meetings. We need everyone's engagement to make sure this is the right vision," said Burns.

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 <u>h-gac.com</u>.



HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120 Houston, TX 77027 <u>h-gac.com</u> I @HouGalvAreaCog

The second round of public meetings will take place at the following dates, times, and locations:

Chambers County Thursday, Oct. 13 | 6-7:30 p.m. Houston Raceway Park 2525 FM 565 Baytown, TX 77523

Brazoria and Galveston County Thursday, Nov. 3 | **6-7:30 p.m.** Friendswood Public Library 416 S. Friendswood Dr. Friendswood, TX 77546 **Liberty County Thursday, Oct. 20 | 7-8:30 p.m.** Dayton Community Center 801 S. Cleveland St., Suite B Dayton, TX 77535

Fort Bend County Monday, Nov. 14 | 6-7:30 p.m. Sugar Land City Hall 2700 Town Center Blvd. N. Sugar Land, TX 77479

Montgomery County Thursday, Dec. 1 | 6-7:30 p.m. Magnolia Event Center 11659 FM 1488 Magnolia, TX 77354 Waller County Thursday, Oct. 27 | 6-7:30 p.m. The Pattison House 3602 North St. Pattison, TX 77423

Harris County Thursday, Nov. 17 | 6-7:30 p.m. Houston-Galveston Area Council 3555 Timmons Ln., 2nd floor Houston, TX 77027

All the public meetings will have Spanish language interpreters and American Sign Language interpreters for the deaf community. The Fort Bend County and Harris County public meetings will also have Mandarin and Vietnamese language interpreters. Residents and stakeholders can learn more information about the meetings and how to get involved at <u>www.h-gac.com/RTP</u>.

The Regional Transportation Plan is the region's long-range plan prioritizing transportation projects in the eight-county Houston-Galveston metropolitan planning area. The plan is updated every four years and is a framework for what the region's transportation system will need to look like to sustain the population and its socioeconomic needs. The plan also identifies the strategies and investments necessary to get there.

H-GAC serves as the metropolitan planning organization for the region. Decisions are guided by a broad group of planners and engineers, elected officials, transportation agencies, community stakeholders, and members of the public.

To learn more about the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan update, visit <u>www.h-gac.com/RTP</u>.

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To learn more about H-GAC's other transportation and regional planning programs, visit <u>h-gac.com</u>.

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