

## 5A. SUMMARY OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

### LONG RANGE PLANNING

#### Sub-regional Planning Initiatives (SPI)

- Pearland FM 518 Corridor Study: A meeting with the City of Pearland and TxDOT was held on April 28 for a final review of alternatives. Staff anticipates presenting the study recommendations to the City Council at the end of June 2025.
- Pearland Mobility Plan: A joint Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council workshop is scheduled for May 19 to review the Mobility Plan and the Thoroughfare Plan updates. Public hearings with the Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council to adopt updates to the Thoroughfare Plan are anticipated for June 2025.
- Chambers County Thoroughfare Plan: The Commissioner's Court adopted the Chambers County Thoroughfare Plan on April 22, 2025.
- Washington Ave Corridor Study: A third public meeting is scheduled to present the refined recommended alternatives to the public. The meeting will take place on May 29 at MECA (Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts) located at 1900 Kane St, Houston, TX 77007 from 6:00pm – 7:30pm.
- Cemetery Road Corridor Study: H-GAC staff is reviewing the preferred alternative and final report.
- Friendswood Parkway (Friendswood Lake) Corridor Study: H-GAC staff and the City of Friendswood are reviewing alternatives for the corridor developed by the consultant team. The alternatives will be presented during the next Focus Group and Public meetings, anticipated for Summer 2025.
- Friendswood Active Transportation Plan: The data collection and existing conditions assessment began in April and is anticipated to conclude in June 2025. Details about upcoming walk/bike audits, and the first Steering Committee, Stakeholder, and Public Meetings will be provided in future Planning Activities Reports.
- Buffalo Bayou East Design Concept: The first public meeting was held on April 17 at The Deluxe Theatre and drew approximately 60 attendees. A walk audit and two bike audits were conducted on April 8, 9, and 30 in collaboration with key stakeholders. On May 1, the project team held a meeting to kick off the second phase of the project, which includes developing preliminary recommendations for improvements to key corridor connections and identifying opportunities for transit-oriented development surrounding the 5th Ward/Denver Harbor Transit Center. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for June 26.

#### Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

- The consultant scope for RFP is finalized and has been uploaded into the procurement portal.
- The Visioning and Existing Conditions combined survey have been developed and is under final review.
- A Tourism focused and Freight focused survey was recently developed.
- We have curated a list of locations to host public meetings as well as researching available dates and location layout.

- Public meeting phase 1 (series 1) format and engagement activities are being identified and developed. The 2050 RTP public presentation/meeting in a box (roadshow) being developed, along with associated training materials are starting to be developed.
- The draft website copy is being revised to address review comments.
- The welcome video script and RTP explainer video script are being revised and in the final stages. Production will start soon.
- The radio advertisements have received final approval and the Project Management Plan has also been finalized.
- Staff is coordinating with DAR regarding traffic flow data. The data pulled is being formatted for visualization of commute flow, freight flow, transit flow, etc. The initial demographic analysis has been completed and is under review. The Origin/Destination analysis, which is in progress, includes the identification of major travel pairs. Major activity center identification and analysis are being developed.
- 2045 RTP Update Amendment list and conformity network is under QA/QC, and on schedule.

#### Safety Planning

- Contract negotiations continue with the Safety Action Plans consultant.
- The transportation safety committee is meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- A transportation safety workshop for TAC and TPC is being developed.
- State of Safety report formats are under final review. Data availability research is in progress.

#### Freight Planning

- The Greater Houston Freight Committee (GHFC) met on April 17, 2025. Meeting materials and recordings can be found on the GHFC Webpage. The next meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2025.
- Staff continues to implement policies and recommendations from the Regional Goods Movement Plan.

#### Resiliency Planning

- The PROTECT grant is on-hold by FHWA.

### **SHORT RANGE PLANNING**

#### Project Programming

- Staff processed amendments and administrative modifications to the TIP projects based on sponsors requests and quarterly project tracking meetings.
- The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee met on Wednesday, May 7. The Subcommittee discussed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for project descriptions, and the latest milestone policy working group meeting.
  - The next meeting will be on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM via Microsoft Teams.

#### Performance Measures and Targets

- No updates this month.

#### Pedestrian and Bicyclist Planning

- The Pedestrian-Bicyclist Subcommittee met on Thursday, April 17.
- Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Call for Projects: The Pedestrian-Bicyclist Subcommittee is holding a workshop-style special meeting May 29<sup>th</sup> to give final comments on the Active Transportation Investment Category Criteria, used to evaluate applications when the call opens. After

the criteria is finalized by the subcommittee, staff will present them to the TIP Subcommittee, TAC, and TPC.

- Safe Routes to School: H-GAC staff is in the early stages of identifying stakeholders for the regional SRTS program as recommended in the literature review.
- Counter Program: Staff deployed new counters on behalf of Buffalo Bayou Partnership at 4 sites that have previously had monitoring conducted. Staff plan to retrieve these counters in late May. H-GAC and Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) staff continue to coordinate on contracts for both permanent and mobile counter installation.

#### Tracking and Monitoring

- Conduct Quarterly Meetings on project included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Prepare meeting minutes for each quarterly TIP Meeting
- Update Master tracking spreadsheet for all TIP projects based on quarterly TIP Meetings
- Prepare list of actions items and amendments needed for TIP Projects per quarter meetings
- Coordinate with programming group as needed for project amendments
- Conduct additional meetings with local government sponsors and TxDOT as needed/requested
- Prepare for, attend and participate in the Project Development/Delivery Milestone Policy Workgroup
- Prepare for and present at TAC/TPC May Meetings

#### **TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC OUTREACH**

##### Regional Planning Outreach

- Dayton Transit Study - The second phase of public meetings begins on Tuesday, June 24, from 5:30–7:00 PM at the Dayton Community Center, and an online meeting on Wednesday, June 25, from 1:30–3:00 PM.
- Transportation Conformity - Anticipating public engagement any time between July and September 2025.
- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) - All preparations remain on track for the virtual public meeting on May 15 at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- FY2026–FY2028 DBE Triennial Goal - Virtual consultation workshops will be held on Tuesday, June 10 at 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., followed by a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, June 17 from 5:30–7 p.m. A public notice announcing the proposed goal will run in the Houston Chronicle in June.
- Washington Avenue Corridor Study - The final public meeting will be held on Thursday, May 29 from 6–7:30PM at MECA.
- Regional Transportation Plan – Staff are currently selecting locations and dates for Phase 1 of the project with a goal of hosting public meetings and beginning outreach in July.

##### Safety Outreach

- Freight Safety Campaign – Staff conducted peer exchange with NCTCOG to determine baseline targets for advertising.

#### **AIR QUALITY**

##### Air Quality Planning

- Planning for the Regional Air Quality Summit on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cullen Auditorium at Baylor College of Medicine, is progressing well. The agenda has been finalized, and speaker invitations have been extended. Staff are coordinating with the Government

Relations team to secure an impactful keynote speaker and is currently finalizing meal planning for the full-day event. Efforts are also underway to incorporate actionable components into the summit to ensure attendees leave with clear strategies and takeaways. Event branding is complete, and the website and registration are expected to launch as early as next week.

- TCEQ's Rider 7 project is funding that is available to near nonattainment areas to support projects that may assist with the development of the State Implementation Plan (SIP). This month, staff completed competitive, sealed solicitation to solicit a qualified contractor for services to support this project. Based on this solicitation, three responsive bidders were selected and approved by the H-GAC Board of Directors. Staff have completed the internal pre-award audit and have begun the contracting process. The selected contractor will gather PM2.5 data collected from a variety of local and regional air quality sources to create a regional particulate data repository. The contractor will analyze this data using statistical tools to better understand PM2.5 patterns in the region and will undertake a source apportionment and modeling study to better understand how common sources of particulate pollution contribute to our region's monitored PM2.5 concentrations.
- Staff recently hosted a kickoff meeting to welcome Outreach Strategists, LLC, our new engagement consultants, to the CPRG planning team. The team is now developing a Public Participation Plan (PPP) with a goal of building on existing regional climate planning efforts, including those from the City of Houston and Harris County. In parallel, branding and collateral materials for the public-facing CPRG campaign are currently in development.
- Staff have initiated regional conformity activities to support the 2025-2028 TIP and the updated 2045 RTP project listing by conducting a conformity kick-off meeting with conformity consultation partners. Staff have received comments on the Pre-Analysis Consensus Plan (PACP), and plan to recirculate the PACP with all edits incorporated to confirm all information is correct before modeling.
- Staff have begun working on an air quality data hub, which will compile different air quality resources and efforts across the region.
- Staff continue to incorporate new data into the H-GAC Electric Vehicle dashboard to support stakeholders.
- Staff continue to develop educational material related to zero emission vehicles. The Regional Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Study is nearing completion of the draft report and is presenting interim findings to various subcommittees. Additionally, staff have near-final versions of ZEV informational material, to include a webpage for agency efforts in the sphere and one-page explainer documents that answer key questions about these emerging technologies for regional stakeholders.
- Staff will host the first RAQPAC Health Subcommittee meeting this month, which provides a regional forum to discuss air quality and health-related projects and topics. Staff will work with the subcommittee members to outline some goals and deliverables.
- Staff, in response to a RAQPAC leadership inquiry, have begun to solicit feedback from subcommittees regarding educational materials about PM2.5. While in its early stages, the eventual deliverable will be highly readable, informative, and aim to increase awareness of the pollutant's health impacts.

#### Clean Vehicles Grant Programs:

- Staff identified a truck Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) that meets Buy America requirements. This is an important step that supports eligibility for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding in future vehicle replacement grant programs.
- Staff completed the closeout of an Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). The AFA provided grant funding to 14 subrecipients to replace 44 heavy-duty diesel trucks, resulting in an estimated Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) reduction of 98.5 tons.
- Staff initiated the closeout process for four Clean Vehicle sub agreements and began working with one new applicant on a potential new vehicle replacement project.

#### Clean Cities Coalition:

- A Coalition Co-Director joined other Texas Coalition representatives on a panel at the Texas Solid Waste Association of North America (TxSWANA) Conference in Austin. The session highlighted the value of Clean Cities Coalition partnerships, the role of alternative fuels in the solid waste sector, and how regional coalitions can support related projects.
- A Co-Director attended the Advanced Clean Transportation Expo in Anaheim, California, featuring over 500 exhibitors showcasing alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure equipment. In addition to attending keynote presentations and breakout sessions, the Co-Director represented the National Clean Cities and Communities program at its informational booth.
- Coalition staff submitted key reports, including the Quarterly Fuel Price Survey, 2025 Quarter 1 Progress Report, and the 2024 Clean Cities Annual Report. The Annual Report recorded the highest gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE) savings (21.7 million gallons) and the largest greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction (190,985 tons) since reporting began in 2010.

### **MPO PROGRAMS**

#### Incident Management/Tow and Go

- Tow and Go: H-GAC staff worked with Tow and Go partners to perform a quality review of historical tows conducted. Staff also work with partners to streamline the tow audits in the Regional Incident Management System.
- Staff attended multiple incident management meetings including the wrecker vendor's meeting, the TIMS (Traffic Incident Management) meeting, and the Houston Safety Coalition Meeting.

#### Regional Incident Management Outreach

- Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Trainings – Staff are promoting training dates and sharing the registration link through email marketing and social media.
- Tow and Go General Awareness Campaign – Paid advertising and outreach begins in June and ends December 31.

#### Transit Planning

- TSU Automated Transit Study: TSU sent project management documents and invoices for February and March, along with a letter outlining project delays. Staff are working with TSU to process these documents and schedule additional invoice training.
- A public meeting for the US 90A Transit Corridor study was held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at the Fort Bend County Library – Missouri City Branch. Staff anticipates a follow-up presentation to the Gulf Coast Rail District Board of Directors in June.
- The Dayton Transit Plan Technical Memorandum I Report submitted includes existing conditions, phase I public outreach and a summary of transit needs. Staff is reviewing draft report.

- Staff received a literature review for the Regional Transit Information Study. Public outreach for the study is on hold until TXDOT approves funding for a new grant agreement.
- TxDOT has recommended a \$250,000 grant to H-GAC to update the Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan (RPTCP) for 2027-2031. Staff are awaiting the draft agreement which is expected to arrive in late May 2025.
- Year 2 of CMAQ Commuter and Transit Pilot is under way between Fort Bend Transit and Downtown Houston.
- Sugar Land Microtransit Pilot service continues.
- The next meeting of the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee is July 10, 2025.
- Staff is seeking permission to negotiate with the highest-ranked Regional Bus Study RFP respondent from the H-GAC Board of Directors at their May, 20, 2025 meeting.
- Staff conducted the regional transit ridership survey for the first quarter of 2025.
- US 90A - Final study meeting was held on April 23 with 74 people in attendance.
- Staff is nearly complete with the H-GAC Transit Planning website for public access. This website will hold all transit and coordinated transit studies that have been completed.

#### Safety Outreach

- Adult Bike Safety: A background paper has been prepared for the May Board of Directors for an item to enter an agreement (Interlocal Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding) with the League of American Bicyclists to conduct up to four weekend-long seminars to certify individuals as "League Cycling Instructors" who will teach safety classes across the 8-county Metropolitan Planning Area.
- Teen Drivers Education: April Board of Directors was set for April 15, 2025. Consent board item was approved. Staff submitted a letter of concurrence to TxDOT. Staff also completed and submitted the Pre-Award Audit Review to internal audit.
- Youth Traffic Safety: Request for Proposal is open for solicitation on open gov. Closing date is set for May 15, 2025. Evaluation Process will begin on May 19, 2025.
- Regional Safety Campaign: Met with communications and procurement team about the Ride, Don't Drive Influencer Campaign. Communications drafted a Strategy Summary, Media Plan and Influencer Brief. A letter of Justification was submitted to TxDOT for approval on Influencer Brief.
- Staff continues to attend monthly meetings; TSMO, MPO Meetings, TIP subcommittee, TAC subcommittee, FIFA Transportation workgroup, Freight Subcommittee, Rail Mobility Task Force and the Houston Traffic Safety Coalition TxDOT.

#### Hurricane Evacuation

- Staff finalized the 2025 Hurricane Evacuation Maps. One notable change is the addition of HWY 87 on the Bolivar Peninsula in Galveston County as an official hurricane evacuation route.
- Staff shared the maps with Emergency Management stakeholders across the region.
- Hurricane Preparedness Campaign - Paid advertising and outreach begins June 1 and ends October 31.

#### Intelligent Transportation Systems and TSMO Planning

- ITS Architecture Plan has been completed. The webpage is being curated and will be ready for posting by the end of May.

#### Title VI/Language Access

- Staff conducted an outreach event at the May 3, 2025, Cinco de Mayo festival event held at the Navigation Esplanade in Houston's East End district. The occasion permitted the dissemination of

information about the updated Language Access Plan as well as other benefits and services offered by the MPO.

#### Congestion Management Process

- Developing RFP with procurement for outside contractor to develop 2026 update and a Freight Management Congestion Technical Memorandum.

#### Travel Demand Management (Commute Solutions)

- Launched Commute Solutions media buy campaign in April 2024. Garnered over 5 million digital ad impressions from April 1 - 30, 2025.
- Yourcommutesolution.org had over 10.2K website views, and over 8500 new visitors to the webpage through extensive marketing and outreach initiatives during April 2024. This is a 3500% increase from the month prior.
- Outreach activities have steadily increased due to growth in Commute Solutions team and having the manpower to support these activities. We conducted public outreach at the US 90a Public Meeting (April 23, 2025) and scheduled several upcoming events through the region, including:
  - East End Cinco de Mayo Fest (May 3, 2025)
  - Energy Corridor's Energy Fest (May 3, 2025)
  - Chevron's Bike to Work Day (May 13, 2025)
  - Waller Area Chamber of Commerce (May 14, 2025)
- Published thought leaderships article that was published on yourcommutesolution.org, h-gac.com, and the Houston Business Journal
- Commute Solutions is planning for the Free Fare Friday campaign with the H-GAC communications team for September 2025
- Actively working with selected vendors to secure an Emergency Ride Home vendor for the MPO region
- Commute Solutions prepared its request for a TDM platform (web and app-based) that will serve as the backbone of the current and future TDM services provided. The procurement of a TDM-specific platform is recommended by the consultant, AECOM, to position the TDM program as the regional source for trip reduction support and expertise. Its launch is expected later this year.

#### **TRAVEL DEMAND MODELING & FORECASTING**

- Staff continues to provide travel demand and forecasting modeling supports to support the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP), and other traffic and travel related data developments within the H-GAC MPO region that supports sub-regional and corridor studies. These include modeling support for TxDOT and non-TxDOT projects such as:
- I-10 Ramp Reversal Study (TxDOT): Delivered the model outputs for no-build and build scenarios for analysis years 2023 and 2030 on April 24. A follow-up request for an additional 2030 scenario is in progress. Ongoing
- Westpark Tollway Study (TxDOT): Sent out the Alt-3 reversible managed lane scenario output for 2023 on April 22. A request for an additional 2045 scenario has been received and is currently being processed. Ongoing
- Friendswood Corridor Study (HGAC): Provided additional no-build and build scenario model runs for 2040 and 2045 along Friendswood Parkway. Loaded network and turning movement outputs were sent on April 23. We are continuing to follow up on this request. Ongoing
- BCTRA & FBCTRA T&R Studies: Supported preparation for sub-regional modeling as part of the study. On hold.

- SH 288 Study: (county project). 2023, 2025, 2030, 2035, 2040 & 2045 model runs with demographic data developed by consultant. on-going.
- Traffic Project for Mont Belvieu: Calibrated the TDM for the 2023 base year and provided a 2030 model run using the calibrated network with the I-10 ramp reversal scenario (between SH 99 and FM 565). Ongoing.
- Westpark Toll Road Corridor Study: (HCTRA Project). Working on Alt 3 reversable High Occupancy Toll (HOT).
- Fairmont Parkway Improvements – Segment 4-Driftwood Drive to 14th Street: (Harris County project). Provided 2030 loaded network and will run build scenario when it becomes available. Ongoing.
- Regional Transportation Program & Conformity:
- Travel Demand Modeling Network development – QA/QC current 2045 update project listing for Transportation Planning Council (TPC) approval - working with inhouse Transportation Improvement program (TIP) staff and TxDOT for listing and network consistency. ongoing
- Code Travel Demand Modeling network segments according to the Project listing for up-coming Modeling runs. Ongoing
- Staff are also involved in the development of the air quality dashboard, review of the CMAQ emission reduction calculations) in the pipeline ongoing.
- Pre-Analysis Consensus Plan (PACP): I have been working with the conformity team on addressing comments received from our external partners.
- Updated/Modified/Added RTP GIS files that include Roadway, TSM, Transit, Active Management with projects from the 2045 update listing. Ongoing
- Finalized Hurricane Zip Zone and Evacuation Route maps for May distribution
- Performance Measure Comparisons: Analysis and evaluation of the change in pavement condition percentages. Perform analysis and prepare maps showing both Pavement and Bridge Condition ratings for 2023. Tables are produced indicating actuals and target % goals.
- The bridge condition comparison is ongoing.
- Staff continues to work with consultants in the H-GAC Travel Demand Modeling development and transition to the Agent platform, review of the Agent and OpenPaths model documentation, building and testing Agent model integration in OpenPaths, and the completion of the Time of Day (TOD) development with weighted H-GAC and TxDOT counts.
- Staff completed Airport Sub-Model development, reviewed project deliverables, and conducted sensitivity tests.
- Travel Demand Modeling Updates:
- Staff continues to coordinate with Cambridge Systematics and team of sub-contractors in the Travel Demand Model Update and Maintenance tasks in the areas of:
- Model validation/calibration - exploring the Travel Demand Model outputs and comparison with count data for validation/calibration purposes.
- Model validation/calibration - incorporating weaving movement into the existing travel demand modeling to accurately account for delays at weaving locations in the network.
- Regional household survey data - investigating the new trends in the regional survey data for model validation and calibration purposes
- Updated and tested the model Turn Prohibited input file for the latest network.

- Prepared external station traffic counts and shared with CS.
- Reviewed model in OpenPaths CUBE and AGENT.
- World Cup 2026 Modeling:
- Staff continue to coordinate with the H-GAC procurement team for the consultant procurement for the support of the forthcoming World Cup (FIFA) competition coming to the Houston area in 2026.
- Conducted an Airport Sub-model test run for the World Cup scenario.
- Discussed World Cup model development with the team and regional stakeholders.
- Staff continues to coordinate with the TxDOT TP&P and procured consultant for the:
- Commercial Vehicle and Galveston County Special Generator survey in the H-GAC region,
- Coordinate with H-GAC Outreach team for the development of the awareness video and messages for the commercial vehicle and special generator surveys.
- Continue to work with the H-GAC Internal Audit team for the review and vetting of the H-GAC's Board selected consultant for the Major Universities Surveys.
- Staff continues to coordinate effort with interested partners on the development of the scopes of work for the forthcoming Regional Transportation Models & Tools which includes two major tasks; Advance Transportation Scenario Planning Tools and Big Data Acquisition.