




**HOUSTON- GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL**  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**TO:** H-GAC Board of Directors  
**SUBJECT:** Board Report  
**FROM:** Chuck Wemple   
**DATE:** November 9, 2021

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I'm looking forward to seeing you at our monthly Board Meeting next week. COVID-19 levels continue to decline in Harris County and we encourage you to attend the November meeting in person if possible. We will maintain a Zoom option for board members who wish to remain remote for the near future. Please contact [me](#) or [Michelle Anderson](#) if you have questions.

The November 2021 Board packet is attached for your review. A summary is included below.

**Consent Agenda** – The consent agenda includes seven items that are routine, continuation of ongoing activities, and/or opportunities to expand our service to the region. The combined items represent \$8.95 million in contracts.

Transportation related items include an opportunity to partner with the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) to conduct the 2022 transit ridership survey. This survey produces important data that helps guide current and future investments in our transit network and identify new opportunities to increase service. Total amount is \$1.5 million.

We have a series of seven subregional studies designed to address traffic congestion, future growth, freight, and traffic safety in Chambers County, Galveston County, Houston, Pearland, and Friendswood. Total amount is \$2.7 million. And four pedestrian and bicycle projects located in Harris County Precinct 4, Houston, and Friendswood. Total amount is \$1.5 million.

We are also prepared to launch feasibility studies on a bus rapid transit system that would include communities and traffic corridors in the central portion of our region – from Houston to Fulshear, Westchase into Fort Bend County, and more. Total amount of \$2.5 million.

The consent agenda also includes approval of the October 2021 Board Meeting minutes, an amendment to a workforce system contract, and revisions to the Natural Resources Advisory Committee bylaws.

**Election Committee** – will meet at 8:15 a.m. to participate in an orientation meeting and begin the process of considering nominations for each Board officer position for recommendation to the full Board.

**Finance and Budget Committee – will meet at 9:00 a.m.** to consider the monthly financial report and finance-related items on the Board agenda including the third quarter investment report, the 2022 recommended salary and benefit program, and our second review of the draft H-GAC 2022 Budget and Service Plan. The presiding officer will conduct the meeting in-person at the H-GAC office.

**Budget and Service Plan** – We will have our second review of the draft H-GAC 2022 Budget and Service Plan this month. The budget process includes three steps: presentation of a draft budget in October; presentation of any revisions in November; and action of the final version in December. We have a few relatively minor changes to discuss and will present a high-level overview and field any questions.

**Regional Conservation Initiative Priority Projects List** - In April 2021, H-GAC began the second phase of our 13-county initiative on assisting local governments in voluntarily conserving our natural areas and open spaces. This phase focuses on project implementation and development of a priority projects list, and is being funded by a 2-year grant from the Houston Endowment.

**H-GAC Advisory Committee Appointments** – are made by H-GAC’s Board as a whole, based upon nominations from individual Board members and other groups. This month we have several nominations to the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, Regional Flood Management Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee, and Transportation Policy Council for your consideration.

**Water Resources Committee** – will include a recap of a November 9 workshop for Home Rule cities on Priority Flood Mitigation and continued discussion on the development of a Method of Distribution for the regional allocation of Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation funds.

**Spotlight** – Our spotlight this month will focus on our Livable Centers Implementation status update and report card.

I appreciate your engagement and deliberation on the important action items before us. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the agenda items.



**AGENDA**  
**HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**November 16, 2021 10:00 AM**

Hybrid Meeting: 3555 Timmons Lane  
Houston, TX 77027  
- and -  
Zoom Webinar: [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_eZjDop0OT5OxSkwyHOJkVg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eZjDop0OT5OxSkwyHOJkVg)

1. INVOCATION
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. PUBLIC COMMENT - Members of the public may participate by registering to attend onsite; by sending comments to BoardPublicComments@h-gac.com; by joining online via our website; or by dialing 1-877-853-5247 or 1-888-788-0099 (Webinar ID 896 2329 8940; Participant ID 197721; Passcode 727407).
4. DECLARE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
5. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MIKE TEMPLE, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN SERVICES

**ACTION**

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed are of a routine nature and may be acted on in a single motion unless requested otherwise by a member of the Board.

- a. H-GAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 19, 2021  
Request approval of the minutes of the October 19, 2021 H-GAC Board Meeting. (Staff Contact: Rick Guerrero)
- b. NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NRAC) BYLAWS REVISION  
Request approval of changes to the Natural Resources Advisory Committee bylaws. (Staff Contact: Jeff Taebel)
- c. WORKFORCE SYSTEM CONTRACT  
Request authorization to increase the Collaborative for Children's budget by \$750,000. The total contract is \$7,750,000. (Staff Contact: Mike Temple)
- d. 2022 REGIONAL TRANSIT ON-BOARD SURVEY  
Request authorization to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with METRO to accept \$400,000 of local contribution towards the Regional Transit On-Board Survey; and to negotiate contracts with consultants in the ranked order determined for an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 to conduct the Regional Transit On-Board Survey. (Staff Contact: Craig Raborn)
- e. SUB-REGIONAL MOBILITY AND CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDIES – FUNDING AGREEMENT  
Request authorization to enter into an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation in the amount of \$2,700,000 to fund the Sub-regional Mobility and Corridor Planning Studies. (Staff Contact: Craig Raborn)

- f. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING STUDIES – FUNDING AGREEMENT  
Request authorization to enter into an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation in the amount of \$1,500,000 to fund the Active Transportation Studies Bundle. (Staff Contact: Craig Raborn)
  - g. HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT FEASIBILITY STUDIES – FUNDING AGREEMENT  
Request authorization to enter into an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation in the amount of \$2,500,000 to fund the High-Capacity Transit Feasibility Studies Bundle. (Staff Contact: Craig Raborn)
7. FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE  
Report on activities and Committee recommendations.
- a. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2021  
Request approval of the monthly financial report ending October 31, 2021. (Staff Contact: Nancy Haussler)
  - b. INVESTMENT REPORT – THIRD QUARTER 2021  
Request approval of the third quarter Investment Report ending September 30, 2021. (Staff Contact: Nancy Haussler)
  - c. RECOMMENDED SALARY AND BENEFIT PROGRAM 2022  
Presentation and discussion of recommended employee salary ranges for 2022 and vacation cap. Possible action in December. (Staff Contact: Nancy Haussler)
  - d. PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED H-GAC 2022 BUDGET AND SERVICE PLAN  
Presentation and discussion of proposed H-GAC 2022 Budget and Service Plan. Possible action in December. (Staff Contact: Chuck Wemple)
8. COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
- a. REGIONAL CONSERVATION INITIATIVE – PRIORITY PROJECTS LIST  
Request approval of the Regional Conservation Initiative – Priority Project List. (Staff Contact: Jeff Taebel)
9. H-GAC ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS
- a. H-GAC 2021 ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS  
Request approval of appointments to H-GAC advisory committees. (Staff Contact: Rick Guerrero)

## **INFORMATION**

10. WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
- a. WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE UPDATE  
No action requested. For information only. (Staff Contact: Jeff Taebel)
11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- a. H-GAC SPOTLIGHT – LIVABLE CENTERS IMPLEMENTATION  
No action requested. For information only. (Staff Contact: Anita Hollman)

b. CURRENT AND UPCOMING H-GAC ACTIVITIES

Report on current and upcoming H-GAC activities. (Staff Contact: Chuck Wemple)

12. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, H-GAC will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending H-GAC functions. Requests should be received by H-GAC 24 hours prior to the function.

## **H-GAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 19, 2021**

### **Background**

The H-GAC Board of Directors convenes on the third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Meeting minutes are prepared following each Board meeting to summarize any action taken and document the attendance of Board members.

### **Current Situation**

A summary of the October 19 meeting of the H-GAC Board of Directors is attached and recommended for approval.

### **Funding Source**

N/A

### **Budgeted**

N/A

### **Action Requested**

Request approval of the minutes of the October 19, 2021 H-GAC Board Meeting. (Staff Contact: Rick Guerrero)

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Board Meeting Minutes - October 16 2021                      Cover Memo

**MEETING MINUTES  
H-GAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
October 19, 2021**

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**ATTENDANCE ROSTER**

The following members of the Board of Directors (Board) of the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) attended all or a portion of the October 19, 2021 Board meeting in person or via videoconference:

Colorado County Judge Ty Prause  
Fort Bend County Commissioner Andy Meyers  
Galveston County Commissioner Ken Clark  
Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald  
Walker County Commissioner Jimmy Henry  
Waller County Judge Trey Duhon  
Wharton County Judge Phillip Spenrath

City of Baytown Council Member Charles Johnson  
City of Deer Park Councilman Bill Patterson  
City of Friendswood Councilmember Sally Branson  
City of Galveston Mayor Craig Brown  
City of Houston Council Member Sally Alcorn  
City of Houston Council Member Letitia Plummer  
City of La Porte Councilmember Bill Bentley (Alternate)

City of Lake Jackson Mayor Gerald Roznovsky  
City of League City Council Member Larry Millican  
City of Missouri City Council Member Jeffrey Boney  
City of Pearland Mayor Kevin Cole  
City of Sugar Land Mayor Joe Zimmerman  
City of Texas City Commissioner Jami Clark

*Home Rule Cities (Less than 25,000):*  
City of Dickinson Councilmember William King III  
City of Sealy Mayor Carolyn Bilski

*General Law Cities:*  
City of Waller Council Member Nancy Arnold  
City of Pattison Mayor Joe Garcia

*Independent School Districts:*  
Huntsville ISD Trustee Rissie Owens

The following Board members were not marked in attendance at the October 19, 2021 Board meeting:

Austin County Judge Tim Lapham  
Brazoria County Commissioner Stacy Adams  
Chambers County Commissioner Mark Tice  
Harris County Commissioner Adrian Garcia  
Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo  
Liberty County Judge Jay Knight

Montgomery County Commissioner Charlie Riley  
City of Conroe Mayor Pro Tem Raymond McDonald  
City of Huntsville Mayor Andy Brauning  
City of Pasadena Councilmember Cary Bass  
City of Rosenberg Mayor Kevin Raines

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Board Chair, Wharton County Judge Phillip Spenrath, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 via webinar and teleconference at 1-877-853- 5247.

## **ROLL CALL**

Chair Spenrath asked Rick Guerrero, Houston-Galveston Area Council Director of Intergovernmental Relations, to conduct the Board of Directors roll call. Mr. Guerrero conducted the roll call and announced that a quorum was present. Mr. Guerrero then welcomed several special guests, including Brooke Bacuetes, Melissa Washington and Randall Lee Freeze from the General Land Office; Hudson Peterson and Jay Guerrero from Senator Cornyn's office; and Mayor Dr. Brian Rowland with of the City of Prairie View. Several of our H-GAC Board Alternates were also present: City of Sugar Land Councilmember Stewart Jacobson and City of Kemah Council Member Teresa Vazquez-Evans, representing General Law cities.

### **1. INVOCATION**

Matagorda County Judge Nate McDonald gave the invocation.

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Waller County Judge Trey Duhon led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Texas Flag.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Spenrath invited comments from any members of the public who wished to participate during the call and asked Mr. Guerrero if any public comments had been received via email prior to the meeting. Mr. Guerrero stated that no members of the public were at the onsite meeting nor had we received any public comments via the email address posted publicly. He then opened the floor for public comments to those who had joined the meeting via webinar or teleconference. Mr. Guerrero announced if there was anyone on the line who would like to make a public comment, they could do so now by stating their name and they will have three minutes to make a public comment. He asked them to unmute their microphones at this time. There were no additional public comments, therefore, Chair Spenrath proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

### **4. DECLARE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Chair Spenrath called for any Board member with a conflict of interest to declare it at that time. Hearing none, Chair Spenrath proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

### **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chair Spenrath called for the Consent Agenda and asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he entertained motions from the floor for approval of the thirteen items on the Consent Agenda.

Galveston County Commissioner Ken Clark moved to approve the Consent Agenda and City of Sugar Land Mayor Joe Zimmerman seconded the motion. Chair Spenrath then called for a vote, upon which the vote resulted in unanimous approval by all members present.

The following items were acted on by approval of the consent agenda:



- a. **H-GAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES – September 21, 2021** – approved the minutes of the September 21, 2021 H-GAC Board Meeting.
- b. **DIESEL EMISSION REDUCTION GRANTS – HOUSTON FREIGHT DISTRUBUTION ELECTRIFICATION CONTRACT WITH HIRSCHBACH MOTOR LINES** – authorized to enter into a contract with Hirschbach Motor Lines for an amount of \$778,726.
- c. **TEXAS CLEAN RIVERS PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 CONTRACT AMENDMENT** – authorized to amend existing contract with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for regional water quality monitoring in a total amount of \$2,231,230 with an increase of \$300,000.
- d. **LIVABLE CENTERS PLANNING STUDIES** – authorized to execute interlocal contracts totaling \$107,500 with the recommended local study partners.

**6. FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE**

**a. Monthly Financial Report – September 2021**

Vice Chair Kenneth Clark recognized Nancy Haussler, H-GAC Chief Financial Officer, to present the Financial Report for September. Ms. Haussler stated we had received most of our membership dues, however, there were a few we were following up on. The Energy Purchasing Corporation continued to lag as reported in previous months. As for Cooperative Purchasing, it still had not reached its projection, however, she anticipated it would. The last quarter of the year is typically their largest and she not concerned about this program at this time. Ms. Haussler asked if there were any questions on the Financial Report. There being none, City of Dickinson Mayor Pro Tem William King II moved to approve, and Mayor Zimmerman seconded the motion. Vice Chair Clark called for the vote, which resulted in unanimous approval by all members present.

**7. BUDGET AND SERVICE PLAN**

**a. Orientation to Budget and Service Plan Process**

Chair Spenrath adjourned from the regular board meeting at 10:13 a.m. to convene the budget workshop where the Budget and Service Plan was to be presented and discussed. Chair Spenrath recognized Chuck Wemple, Executive Director of H-GAC.

Mr. Wemple began his presentation by stating H-GAC’s fiscal year runs on the calendar year beginning in January and ending in December. A draft budget is presented to the board in October with another revised draft in November and then action and adoption of the budget at the December board meeting. He moved on to giving a quick overview on how H-GAC is funded, special items of note and the presentation of the 2022 budget and service plan.

H-GAC is funded about the reverse of a typical city or county. H-GAC has no taxing authority and rely heavily on state and federal funded programs, grants and other funds that come to the agency to deliver services and grants out to the region. Mr. Wemple explained the difference between restricted and unrestricted revenue. Restricted revenue comes to us for a specific purpose and need and can only be spent on that, very little flexibility. Local funding is comprised of local dues revenue, different agreements for fee for service & other types of funds

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from community partners and sources, these local funds have more flexibility. Finally, the Cooperative Purchasing Program, H-GACBUY is where funds are highly flexible, unrestricted and can be used to establish our balances, a variety of reserve balances and several other activities that are not covered by state and federal grants and keep our dues low. Our dues have stayed at four cents per person since the 1970s and since our dues are low, we can focus on enterprise programs for those important unrestricted funds. He concluded this portion by stating the unified H-GAC budget has been on an upward trend since 2000, there has been variation over time, depending on what is occurring in our federal and state programs, but overall, the trend is up in recent years and has been dramatically up over time.

**b. Presentation of Proposed H-GAC 2022 Budget and Service Plan**

Mr. Wemple continued with the overview of the draft 2022 Budget and Service Plan. He began by briefly stating H-GAC's accomplishments in 2021. In 2021 H-GAC maintained an excellent level of service across all our programs. H-GAC improved how we approached our work, achieved greater amount of customer & public service in our region and explored new programs. Even with the COVID situation and working remotely, H-GAC still improved operations and explored new services and programs. Examples of new programs and outreach have been the implementation of the High-Speed Internet Action plan, relationships with the Houston Endowment and our Water Resources Committee on flood management.

2022 will bring several challenges and opportunities, but we will be focusing on strengthening and expanding HGACBUY and our loan programs. The plan for HGACBUY is to improve the product lines, prices, improve purchases through HGACBUY and maintain a strong compliance on the procurement requirements. We are also looking to create and launch a Rural Transportation Planning Organization. As for our loan program, we look to create deeper relationships with our banks and other funding sources to assist our small businesses. Other opportunities we look forward to is recruiting and retaining our talented staff, creating a better work atmosphere with future renovations of our workplace and with new technological advances we look forward to spending more time in our communities and tailoring customer service to those communities that may have challenges in getting to our offices in the city.

Mr. Wemple continued that there will be a standard dues adjustment. Dues are adjusted based on population growth every 10 years based on the census. The rate of four cents per person remains the same, has stayed the same for decades, however, it will be adjusted based on population growth, so with our 2020 census the membership dues revenue will increase. It will increase from \$395,538 to \$462,137 and a net increase of \$66,609 for the entire region. H-GAC has also included a merit pool for 2022, the proposed merit pool dollar is \$835,516 which translates to about a 4% merit pool. Lastly, flexible workspace renovations have been included in the proposed budget. This would allow H-GAC to reduce our footprint and create a mix of in-person and hybrid to provide opportunities for more collaboration across our departments. We have tenant improvement money which means we spend now and get reimbursed to cover half of the work. Then money would be taken from our two reserve funds, our Enterprise fund, which is generated by HGACBUY, which we occasionally make transfers into our general fund. The current balance in this fund is about 21 million. We would also take funding from our general fund which helps with various parts of our agency and is an emergency reserve, which currently has about 11 million.

The total unified budget is up almost 18%, the vast majority in our workforce program.

Pass-through funds which come in the form of services to constituents/communities, grant studies and other activities are up 17.5%. And operations, which completes all the work, is up 20%. Departments that are going upward in changes are the following: Workforce, Transportation, Aging, Data Services, Community & Environmental and our capital is up as well. Only two areas where H-GAC saw decreases and that was with Public Services, due to the completion of the Harris County loan program and local funds due to our revenue streams down almost \$5,000 in 2022.

Mr. Wemple then yielded the floor to Ms. Haussler, who continued with the presentation. The budget and service plan were designed to primarily summarize and provide different views of H-GAC's revenue and expenditure stream. She explained that H-GAC receives most revenue from various grantors and our funding streams are shared across departments. Ms. Haussler emphasized that H-GAC's budget has a shared administrative cost tool, which pools executive director and finance department costs and distributes them across our grants. Grant management requires distribution based on methodology and use of an indirect cost method. In conclusion, the projected change in fund balance for 2022 will be about \$882,397.

Chair Spenrath opened the floor to questions regarding the Budget and Service plan presentation, being none, he adjourned the workshop at 10:43 a.m. and reconvened back to the regularly scheduled October board meeting.

## **8. WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

### **a. Water Resources Committee Update**

Chair Spenrath recognized Fort Bend County Commissioner Andy Meyers, who called on Jeff Taebel, Director of Community and Environmental to present item 8a. Mr. Taebel requested approval of the Water Resources Committee recommendations to H-GAC's Priority Flood Mitigation Projects list.

Mr. Taebel began by stating the Water Resources Committee was seeking approval to elevate one item and adding a second item to the regional flood mitigation project priorities list. The San Jacinto River master plan has been a tier two project on the list, however, now this study is at a phase where 16 discreet capital projects that include measures such as detention and channel improvements which would benefit Harris, Montgomery counties as well as portions of the City of Houston. The second item is the creation of a new category that is termed as urgent need. This project is related to the City of Columbus and the loss of a plant that would leave the city without a wastewater treatment facility, which could lead to dumped pollution into the Colorado River. The committee has agreed that there are three criteria for defining an urgent need category within the projects list. One, time sensitivity, two, there is no feasible alternative and third, it poses a significant threat to an entire community. This loss of a plant in the City of Columbus would greatly impact an entire municipality gravely, hence the urgency.

Chair Spenrath called for a motion to approve the request, Commissioner Meyers moved to approve, and Mayor Zimmerman seconded the motion. Chair Spenrath called for the vote which resulted in unanimous approval by all members present. After the vote, there was brief discussion in which Judge McDonald requested a second motion to elevate the recently created urgent need project of the City of Columbus wastewater plant to a tier one status within the

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mitigation projects list. His motion was seconded by City of Pattison Mayor Joe Garcia. Chair Spenrath called for the vote which resulted in unanimous approval by all members present.

## **9. H-GAC ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

### **a. H-GAC 2021 Advisory Committee Appointments**

Chair Spenrath recognized Rick Guerrero, Director of Intergovernmental Relations to request approval of appointments to our H-GAC Advisory Committees. Mr. Guerrero took to the floor and presented 5 nominations to 3 of H-GAC's Advisory Committees and requested approval from the Board for the appointments. City of Waller Councilmember Nancy Arnold moved to approve, and Mayor Garcia seconded the motion. Chair Spenrath called for the vote, which resulted in unanimous approval by all members present.

## **10. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON H-GAC BOARD COMPOSITION**

### **a. Select Committee Report – H-GAC Board Composition**

Chair Spenrath recognized Mr. Wemple who spoke on behalf of Commissioner Adrian Garcia. Mr. Wemple gave a brief update in which the committee continues to meet monthly and will have additional meetings in November and December. Conversations before the committee include possible changes to by-laws regarding composition of Board of Directors. Options presented are to have no change, incorporate weighted voting that would accommodate growth in the region, or incorporate a similar weighted voting option that focuses on population growth in a slightly different way. He concluded his report by stating more updates will be shared with the board in November.

## **11. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **a. H-GAC Spotlight – Census Update**

Mr. Wemple recognized Dr. Pramod Sambidi, Modeling Manager in Community & Environmental. Dr. Sambidi began his presentation by stating the importance of the 2020 Census. The census determines the number of seats a state can gain at the US Congress, which in the last decade Texas added four million people and gained two house seats, the census also determines how much funding a state, county or city gets from federal agencies. It also assists in redrawing our district and political boundaries across the region to accurately show population in the jurisdictions.

Census data released last month was preliminary, and included, total population by race and ethnicity, voting age population, housing units and group quarter population. In 2022, the Census anticipates releasing more detailed information that includes, demographic and housing characteristics such as age, gender, household type, housing tenure and relationship to householder. Houston was one of the major metros that added over one million people in the last 10 years which ranks at number three in terms of percentage growth. According to the census, Houston ranks number four in the nation and is inching closer to Chicago. The population growth in the last 10 years shows Houston at 9.8% increase compared to Chicago's 1.9%. Houston will likely inch closer or surpass Chicago within the next 10 years.

Within H-GAC's 13 county region the population has increased tremendously. Over the last two decades, 1.2 million people have settled into our region and our current population is 7.3 million. By counties Harris added 638,000, Fort Bend added 237,000 and Montgomery county added 164,000. In the last 10 years Houston added 205,000 and some of our mid-size cities such as Pearland, Sugar Land, League City and The Woodlands have all passed 100,000

in population. There has also been tremendous growth in suburban cities such as Fulshear, Iowa Colony, Manvel and Mont Belvieu indicating our region is sprawling.

According to the numbers the most growth in our region has been between Beltway 8 and the Grand Parkway, accounting for 51%. The area between the Grand Parkway and the 8-county region has added 35%, the area inside Beltway 8 accounted for 15% and rural counties accounted for 1%. The breakdown by race and ethnicity is becoming more and more diversified as indicated by the decrease in Anglo population from 40% to 34%. The Hispanic population has gone from 35 to 37%, Asian population has increased from 6 to 8% and Fort Bend county is the most diversified counties not only in the state but in the nation.

Within the Group Quarter Population there has been a decrease in the correctional and juvenile facilities and an increase in college dormitories. However, one concerning issue is the increase in population in nursing homes indicating our population is aging and we need more senior healthcare services.

Dr. Sambidi concluded his presentation by stating all data was available online and H-GAC created a tool to access data for counties, cities, ISDs, congressional districts, voting districts as well as census facts. The links provided were [datalab.h-gac.com/2020census/](http://datalab.h-gac.com/2020census/) and [www.h-gac.com/census-data](http://www.h-gac.com/census-data)

#### **b. Current and Upcoming H-GAC Activities**

Mr. Wemple took to the floor to report on current and upcoming H-GAC activities. Mr. Wemple began by stating the National Association of Regional Councils Executive Director's Council Meeting held in Galveston was a success and many Executive Directors made the trip to Texas to attend.

Other items of importance; H-GAC's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium was also a success with maximum capacity attendance at the Briar Club. There will be a video link shared with our members which is a nice aspirational video of H-GAC's 55 years in public service. He also mentioned proposing a Board retreat sometime at the end of 2022 to focus on big things the agency should be focused on moving forward. Mr. Wemple reminded the Board of small city caucus meetings for General Law and Home Rule cities scheduled for early November. He concluded his report with the meeting of our Election Committee which will prepare recommendations for the officers of the Board, if anyone was interested in serving he asked to communicate their interest to him or other committee members.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, Chair Spenrath adjourned the October Meeting of the H-GAC Board of Directors at 11:20 a.m.

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## NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NRAC) BYLAWS REVISION

### Background

The Natural Resources Advisory Committee serves as a subcommittee of the H-GAC Board of Directors for the purpose of providing information and recommendations on natural resources related topics and projects. The Natural Resources Advisory Committee is composed of a wide array of stakeholders, representing member governments, private industry, public groups, and citizens. The composition of the Natural Resources Advisory Committee body, and its governing bylaws, were last updated in 2011.

### Current Situation

In May 2021, Richard Chapin – Chairperson of the Natural Resources Advisory Committee, assembled a Bylaws Subcommittee to take a comprehensive look at the composition of the Natural Resources Advisory Committee to ensure it is representative of the diversity of our region and to afford more individuals and organizations access to the capacity-building opportunities that service on an H-GAC committee provides. The first reading took place on August 5, 2021, with the second reading occurring on November 4, 2021.

The proposed updates were unanimously approved during both readings, and include the following notable changes:

- Clarifying the responsibilities (**Article II**) of the Committee
- Adding three named, committee designated representatives (**Article III**) and clarifying the nomination process (**Article IV**)
- Refining the process for filling vacancies (**Article VII**)
- Updating procedures around correspondence and the conveyance of meeting materials to include virtual means (**Article IX**)

### Funding Source

N/A

### Budgeted

N/A

### Action Requested

Request approval of changes to the Natural Resources Advisory Committee bylaws. (Staff Contact: Jeff Taebel)

### ATTACHMENTS:

▫ NRAC Bylaws Update 2021

Backup Material

BYLAWS

of the

HOUSTON - GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL  
NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

ARTICLE I

The Natural Resources Advisory Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors of the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) to assist and advise elected officials in their decision ~~making~~ responsibilities, by making recommendations on issues related to natural resources ~~in the Gulf Coast Planning Region~~.

RESPONSIBILITIES

ARTICLE II

1. Review and advise H-GAC's Board of Directors on natural resource related goals and objectives, as requested.
2. Identify issues and propose work programs to fulfill the objectives of the Natural Resources Advisory Committee ~~and pertinent legislation~~.
3. Review and advise on H-GAC work programs in natural resources including land, air, water, and energy resources areas, with a focus on regional conservation and water quality planning resources.
4. ~~Provide opportunities~~ for all segments of the public to participate in natural resource planning.
5. Maintain a broad-based Committee membership that represents the region's demographic and geographic diversity.

MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE III

1. The Natural Resource Advisory Committee shall consist of ~~thirty-ninesix~~ (39) members.
2. There shall be ~~twenty-sixthree~~ (26) designated members drawn from key entities in the H-GAC area who are involved in natural resource issues as delineated in Attachment A.
3. There shall be *one* (1) representative from each county within the 13-county H-GAC planning area, recommended by the county representatives sitting on the H-GAC Board of Directors.

APPOINTMENT-MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE IV

1. Committee appointments shall be approved by the Board of Directors of the H-GAC, after receiving recommendations from the Natural Resources Advisory Committee.
2. Appointees will serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors, and may be replaced at any time.
3. Appointments shall be for a two-year period, or until a successor is appointed.

4. Each person appointed shall signify acceptance of membership in writing. Such acceptance shall include a commitment to attend the meetings of the Committee. If any member is absent for three consecutive meetings of the Committee, he or she is subject to removal on a majority vote of the Committee at a meeting of the Committee where a quorum is present.
5. A Committee member may designate in writing to the Chairperson the name of a specific person who may participate on his/her behalf at any meeting of the NRAC. The Presiding Officer of the NRAC shall recognize such alternates, having received written notice prior to or during the meeting and such alternates shall be able to vote on Committee business.
6. ~~Whether or not~~ a member has designated ~~sent~~ an alternate, the member shall be accounted ~~not~~ present and counted toward quorum when the alternate is present on their behalf.
7. The Chairperson may appoint individuals to serve on the Committee in an *Advisory* capacity should a specific expertise be needed and not already represented on the Committee. The term of service will be determined by the Chairperson. The appointment and term of the *Advisory* member shall be subject to approval by the Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting.
8. When nominating NRAC members, the Committee shall consider a nominee's expertise on the conservation of air, water, ~~and~~ land, and energy resources. Additionally, ~~consideration shall be given to committee balance in terms of the~~ being representative of the region's diverse populations.

## OFFICERS

### ARTICLE V

1. The officers of the Committee shall be a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, elected by a simple majority of those present and voting at the meeting at which these bylaws are adopted; and subsequently, at the first meeting after January 1 of each year. Officers shall serve a term of two years. After two years a new Vice Chairperson shall be elected, and the current Vice Chairperson shall assume the Chairmanship.
2. All normal powers of the presiding officer shall be vested in the Chairperson.
3. The Vice Chairperson shall preside in the absence of the Chairperson. In the absence of both officers, the presiding officer for that meeting will be named by caucus of the Committee members ~~present~~ present and will be assisted in their duties by the H-GAC Staff Coordinator.
4. Upon the vacancy of an office through any eventuality, a replacement will be elected from the current membership by majority vote at a meeting of the Committee where a quorum is present.



QUORUM

ARTICLE VI

1. *A quorum shall consist of 12 members.*

VACANCIES

ARTICLE VII

1. Upon occurrence of a vacancy for a local government-appointed position through any eventuality, the member of the Board of Directors of the H-GAC responsible for nominating that position shall immediately be notified in order that the vacancy be promptly filled.
- ~~1.2.~~ Upon occurrence of a vacancy for a NRAC-appointed position, the Chairperson will form a Nominating Subcommittee to recommend nominees for consideration by the Committee at its next regular meeting where a quorum is present.
- ~~2.3.~~ When a vacancy is filled, the appointee shall serve the duration of the unexpired term to which he or she is appointed.

SUBCOMMITTEES

ARTICLE VIII

1. Subcommittees shall be appointed by the Chairperson on an *ad hoc* basis.
2. Appointments may include both current Committee members and individuals not on the Committee but who have particular knowledge of an issue.
3. The Chairperson shall appoint the Chair~~man~~ of the subcommittee from current Committee membership.
4. When active, the subcommittee shall present a report to the Committee at regularly scheduled or called meetings.

PROCEDURES

ARTICLE IX

1. All meetings will be open to the public and posted in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. At all meetings, the Committee shall provide opportunity for public comment.
2. Any matter brought to a vote will be enacted by a simple majority vote of the members present, except for those matters provided for specifically in other paragraphs of these bylaws; If a member is unable to attend a meeting at which a vote will be taken and that member has given prior notification, that member may participate via ~~phone conference~~virtual means and may vote and will be counted present. Members are strongly encouraged to attend meetings in person. ; Members are limited to no more than two phone conference calls per year;
3. These bylaws will be enacted upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present, each member having been emailed or otherwise sent a copy at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which they are considered.

4. These bylaws will be reviewed by the Committee every five years or may be amended upon the petition of a majority of the membership ~~present~~. Proposed changes will be developed by a bylaws subcommittee and presented as recommended to the Committee. Proposed changes may~~and be amended or~~ enacted by the vote of two-thirds of the membership present at the next meeting, the petition or proposal serving as the first reading in such a case, and the vote to deny or enact serving as the second reading, provided, however, that the members have been emailed or otherwise sent a copy ~~in~~ writing (10) days prior to the second reading.
5. The Committee shall meet *at least quarterly, or at the call of the Chairperson.*

These bylaws shall become effective upon approval of the Natural Resources Advisory Committee and ratification by H-GAC's Board of Directors. All amendments shall be ratified by H-GAC's Board of Directors.

## ATTACHMENT A

**NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
COMPOSITION AND METHOD OF APPOINTMENT**

The Natural Resources Advisory Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors of the Houston-Galveston Area Council to assist and advise elected officials on issues related to environment and natural resources of the region.

**Responsibilities**

1. Review and advise H-GAC's Board of Directors on natural resource related goals and objectives, as requested.
2. Identify issues and propose work programs to fulfill the objectives of the Natural Resources Advisory Committee.
3. Review and advise on H-GAC work programs in natural resources including land, air, water, and energy resources, with a focus on conservation and water quality planning.
4. Provide opportunities for all segments of the public to participate in natural resource planning.
5. Maintain a broad-based Committee membership that represents the region's demographic and geographic diversity.

**Total Membership - 39 members**

**Designated Representatives 26 members**

*H-GAC is the state-designated regional planning agency for the 13-county Gulf Coast Planning Region. Designated representatives are drawn from local government and other key agencies within the region that are involved in environmental and natural resource issues.*

- Academic Representative
- *City of Houston Water Resources*
- *Harris County Public Health ~~and Environmental Services~~*
- *Harris County Pollution Control Services Department*
- *Harris County Flood Control*
- *Public Health Representative*
- *Gulf Coast ~~Waste Disposal~~ Authority*
- *River Authority Representative*
- *Builder/Developer Representative*
- *Conservation Groups (3)*
- Soil & Water Conservation Representative
- Agricultural Representative
- *Consulting Engineer Representative*
- Cities Other Than Houston (2)
- Small Cities Less than 25,000
- *Industry (2)*
- Power Generation or Transmission Utility\*
- *Chambers of Commerce (2)*
- *Private Citizens (2)*

- *Professional Organization Related to Environmental Issues*
- *(Advisory Members to be determined as needed)*

**County Representatives            13 members**

*There are 13 counties in the H-GAC planning region. The county representative shall be appointed by that county's representative to the H-GAC Board of Directors:*

- *Austin County*
- *Brazoria County*
- *Chambers County*
- *Colorado County*
- *Fort- Bend County*
- *Galveston County*
- *Harris County*
- *Liberty County*
- *Matagorda County*
- *Montgomery County*
- *Walker County*
- *Waller County*
- *Wharton County*

## WORKFORCE SYSTEM CONTRACT

### **Background**

H-GAC, on behalf of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, contracts with the Collaborative for Children to provide technical assistance, consulting, best practice support, and provider enrollment into the Texas Rising Star quality rating system for early education and child care providers.

### **Current Situation**

Recent action by the Texas Legislature requires that all early education and child care providers participating in the Workforce Solutions network have a quality rating in the state's Texas Rising Star system or be working toward a quality rating.

To become a part of Texas Rising Star system, providers agree to participate in a rigorous training and mentoring program. As they improve in quality, providers advance in the Texas Rising Star ranking system and become eligible to receive higher reimbursements for providing quality care and educational activities. Collaborative for Children assessor and mentor staff members work directly with providers for the training and mentoring. Currently, we have 446 Texas Rising Star-rated providers out of a total of 1,783 network providers.

We propose adding \$750,000 to Collaborative's Workforce Solutions contract to hire additional assessor and mentor staff to assist those network providers who do not already have a Texas Rising Star rating. This will allow those providers to remain in the Workforce Solutions network and deliver quality education and care for families and children.

### **Funding Source**

Texas Workforce Commission

### **Budgeted**

No – amends budget

### **Action Requested**

Request authorization to increase the Collaborative for Children's budget by \$750,000. The total contract is \$7,750,000. (Staff Contact: Mike Temple)

## 2022 REGIONAL TRANSIT ON-BOARD SURVEY

### Background

Houston-Galveston Area Council and the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) are partnering to conduct the 2022 Fixed-Routes Weekday Regional Transit On-board Origin/Destination Survey. This survey provides information about the characteristics and travel patterns of transit users in the H-GAC region by collecting statistically valid information from transit riders using the light rail, fixed-route local bus, and commuter bus. The transit data collected will be used in the H-GAC's Regional Travel Model and newly developed Activity-Based-Model. It will also be used in the development of travel demand forecast and analysis, Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, and a variety of transportation planning studies. H-GAC, METRO, TxDOT, and seven other fixed-route transit providers in the H-GAC region are collaborating on this project.

### Current Situation

We have allocated \$1,100,000 of Transportation Planning funds and expect to receive a local contribution from METRO of \$400,000 for a total project cost of \$1,500,000. We are requesting an authorization to enter into Interlocal Agreement with METRO to receive \$400,000 for this project.

Proposals were solicited to assist with the Regional Transit On-Board Survey and three responses were received. A Consultant Selection Committee evaluated, scored, and ranked the proposals in the following order:

- 1) ETC Institute
- 2) Dikita Management Services
- 3) Creative Consumer Research

We are requesting authorization to negotiate contracts in the ranked order listed for the Regional Transit On-Board Survey.

### Funding Source

Federal – Transportation Planning Funds: \$1,100,000

METRO – Local Funds: \$400,000

Total: \$1,500,000

### Budgeted

Yes

### Action Requested

Request authorization to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with METRO to accept \$400,000 of local contribution towards the Regional Transit On-Board Survey; and to negotiate contracts with consultants in the ranked order determined for an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 to conduct the Regional Transit On-Board Survey. (Staff Contact: Craig Raborn)

## **SUB-REGIONAL MOBILITY AND CORRIDOR PLANNING STUDIES – FUNDING AGREEMENT**

### **Background**

As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Houston-Galveston region, H-GAC is responsible for working with its member jurisdictions to identify, coordinate, and conduct transportation planning projects. Staff solicited transportation planning project proposals and received requests from local governments for planning assistance. H-GAC's Transportation Policy Council approved the inclusion of various sub-regional mobility and corridor planning studies in the Unified Planning Work Program and allocation of federal funds in the Transportation Improvement Program.

### **Current Situation**

We are requesting authorization to enter into an Advance Funding Agreement with Texas Department of Transportation for \$2,700,000 to fund H-GAC's Sub-regional Mobility and Corridor Planning Studies Bundle consisting of the following seven sub-regional studies:

- Cemetery Road Corridor Study (Galveston County)
- Chambers County Thoroughfare Plan (Chambers County)
- City of Pearland Mobility Study (City of Pearland)
- First Ward/Old 6 Ward Mobility Study (City of Houston)
- FM 518 Corridor Study (City of Pearland)
- Friendswood Lakes Boulevard Corridor Study (City of Friendswood)
- Washington Avenue Corridor Study (City of Houston)

The attached map illustrates the approximate study areas of these projects. Each sub-regional plan will be customized based on the unique needs and conditions of the area. The sub-regional plans enable local, regional, and state governments to create a transportation and land use vision and develop recommendations for multimodal transportation system. Robust stakeholder coordination and public involvement will be conducted in the studies. Outcomes from these studies will be incorporated into regional and local plans and considered for future funding opportunities.

### **Funding Source**

Federal – Surface Transportation Block Grant Funds: \$2,700,000

### **Budgeted**

Yes

### **Action Requested**

Request authorization to enter into an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation in the amount of \$2,700,000 to fund the Sub-regional Mobility and Corridor Planning Studies. (Staff Contact: Craig Raborn)

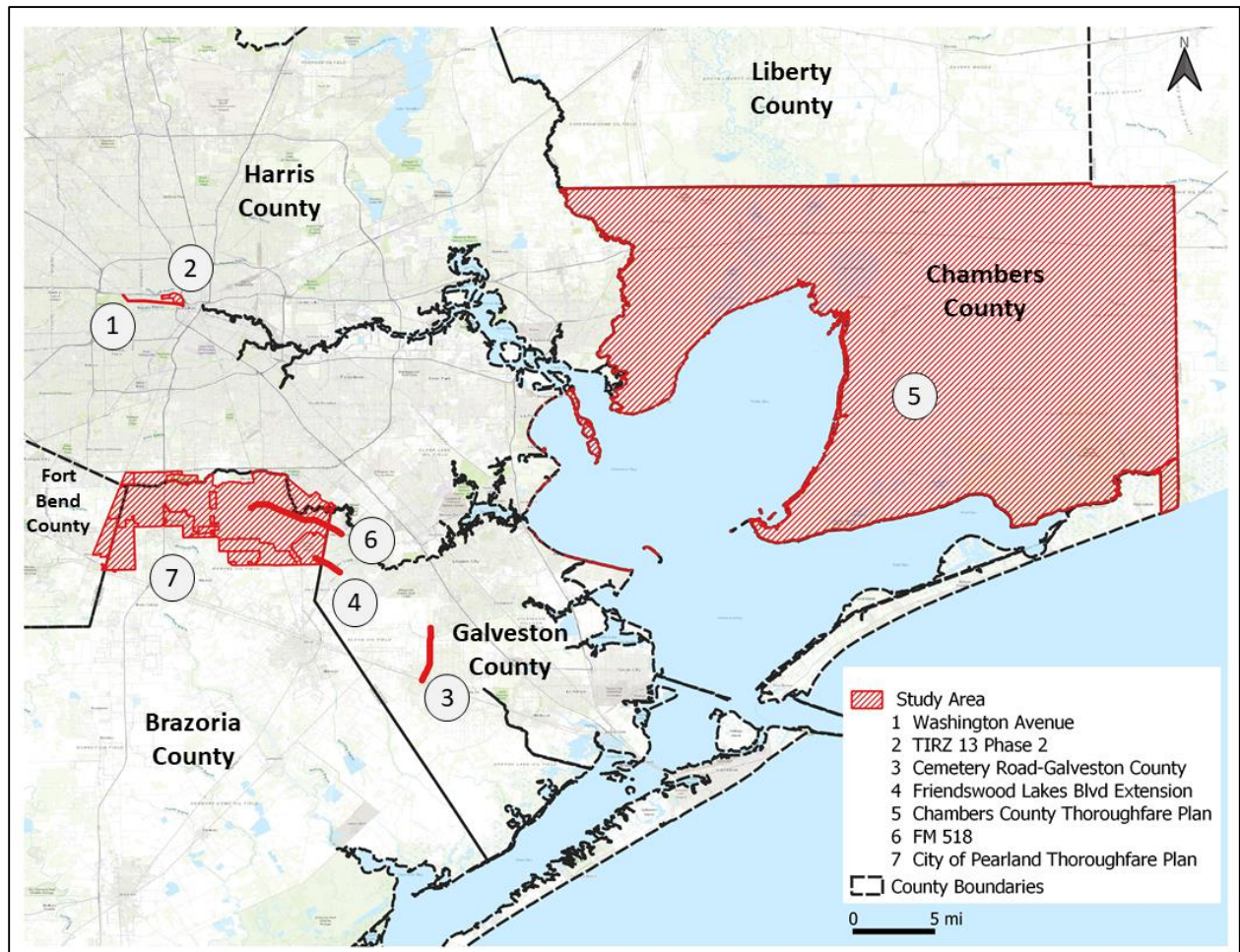
**ATTACHMENTS:**

▢ Map of Planning Projects

Exhibit



### Attachment 1 – Map of Planning Projects in the Subregional Planning Studies Bundle



## **ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING STUDIES – FUNDING AGREEMENT**

### **Background**

As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Houston-Galveston region, H-GAC is responsible for working with its member jurisdictions to identify, coordinate, and conduct transportation planning projects. Staff solicited transportation planning project proposals and received requests from local governments for planning assistance. H-GAC's Transportation Policy Council approved the inclusion of various active transportation planning studies in the Unified Planning Work Program and allocation of federal funds in the Transportation Improvement Program. Active transportation planning studies identify needs and opportunities within a study area and develop recommendations for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

### **Current Situation**

We are requesting authorization to enter into an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation for \$1,500,000 to fund the Active Transportation Studies Bundle, consisting of the following four studies:

- Bay Area Bicycle-Pedestrian Safety Plan in Harris County Precinct 2
- Buffalo Bayou East Design Concept Development in conjunction with the Buffalo Bayou Partnership
- Master Trail Plan in partnership with the City of Friendswood
- Memorial Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Study conducted with the Energy Corridor District

### **Funding Source**

Federal – Surface Transportation Block Grant Funds: \$1,500,000

### **Budgeted**

Yes

### **Action Requested**

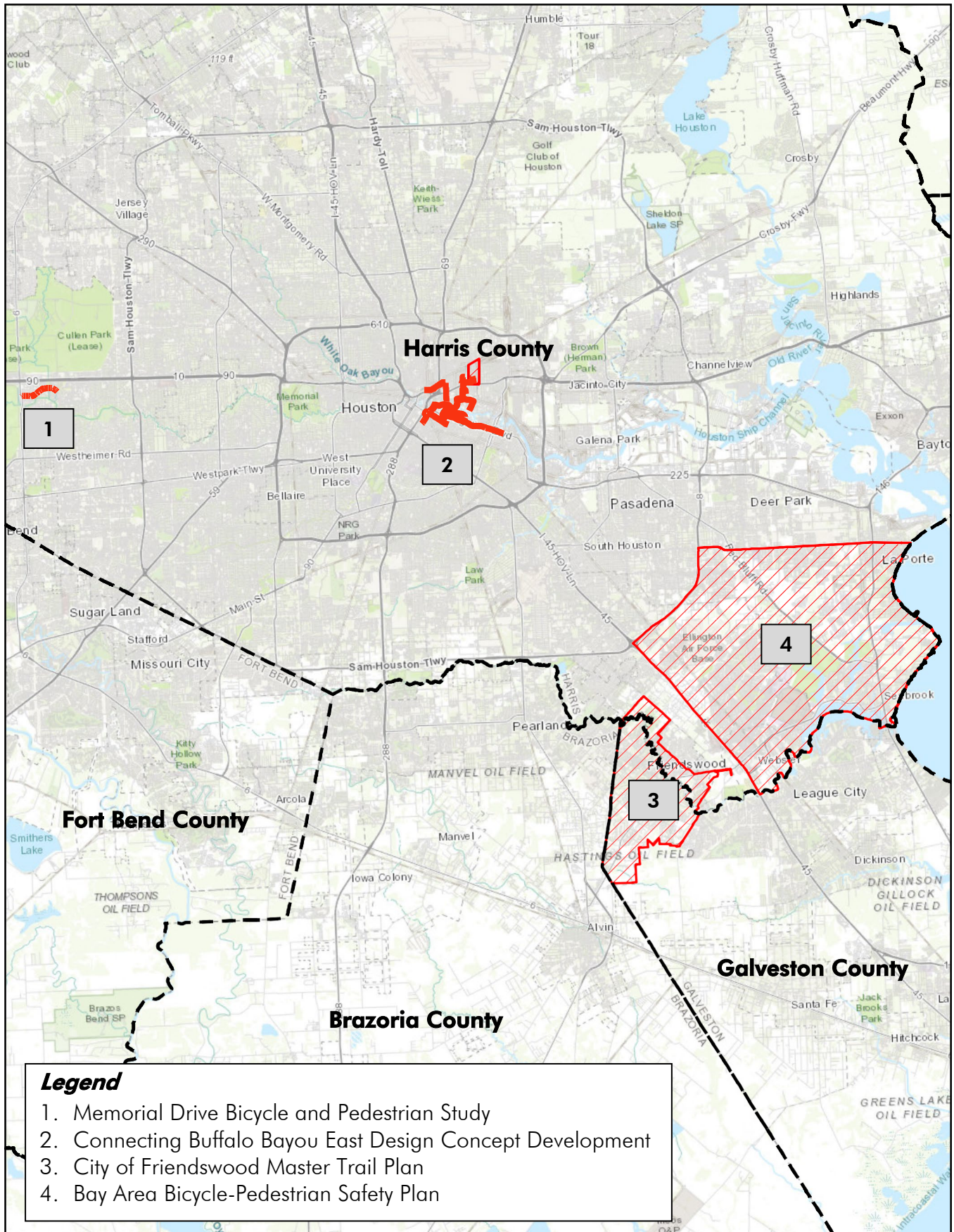
Request authorization to enter into an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation in the amount of \$1,500,000 to fund the Active Transportation Studies Bundle. (Staff Contact: Craig Raborn)

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

▫ Active Transportation Projects Map

Backup Material

# Attachment 1: Active Transportation Planning Projects



## **HIGH-CAPACITY TRANSIT FEASIBILITY STUDIES – FUNDING AGREEMENT**

### **Background**

The H-GAC's 2045 Regional Transportation Plan includes recommendations for a high-capacity transit network to support economic growth, mobility and quality of life in the region. The recommendations included a fiscally constrained Priority Network developed through robust collaboration with the High-Capacity Transit Task Force created by the Transportation Policy Council in 2017. One of the key recommendations is to conduct feasibility studies on the corridors included in the High-Capacity Transit Priority Network to examine issues related to implementation and funding in further detail. The Transportation Policy Council has allocated \$2,500,000 in the Transportation Improvement Program for the feasibility studies.

### **Current Situation**

Staff requests to enter into a \$2,500,000 Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation to fund the H-GAC's High-Capacity Feasibility Studies Bundle, which will support the following studies:

- The Outer Westpark feasibility study will explore the extension of Metro's planned Bus Rapid Transit paralleling the Westpark Toll Road westward into Fort Bend County.
- The regional bus study would address a service gap that currently exists outside of the region's core and has potentially rapid implementation.
- Additional corridors from the High-Capacity Priority Network identified through stakeholder coordination.

### **Funding Source**

Federal - Surface Transportation Block Grant Funds: \$2,500,000

### **Budgeted**

Yes

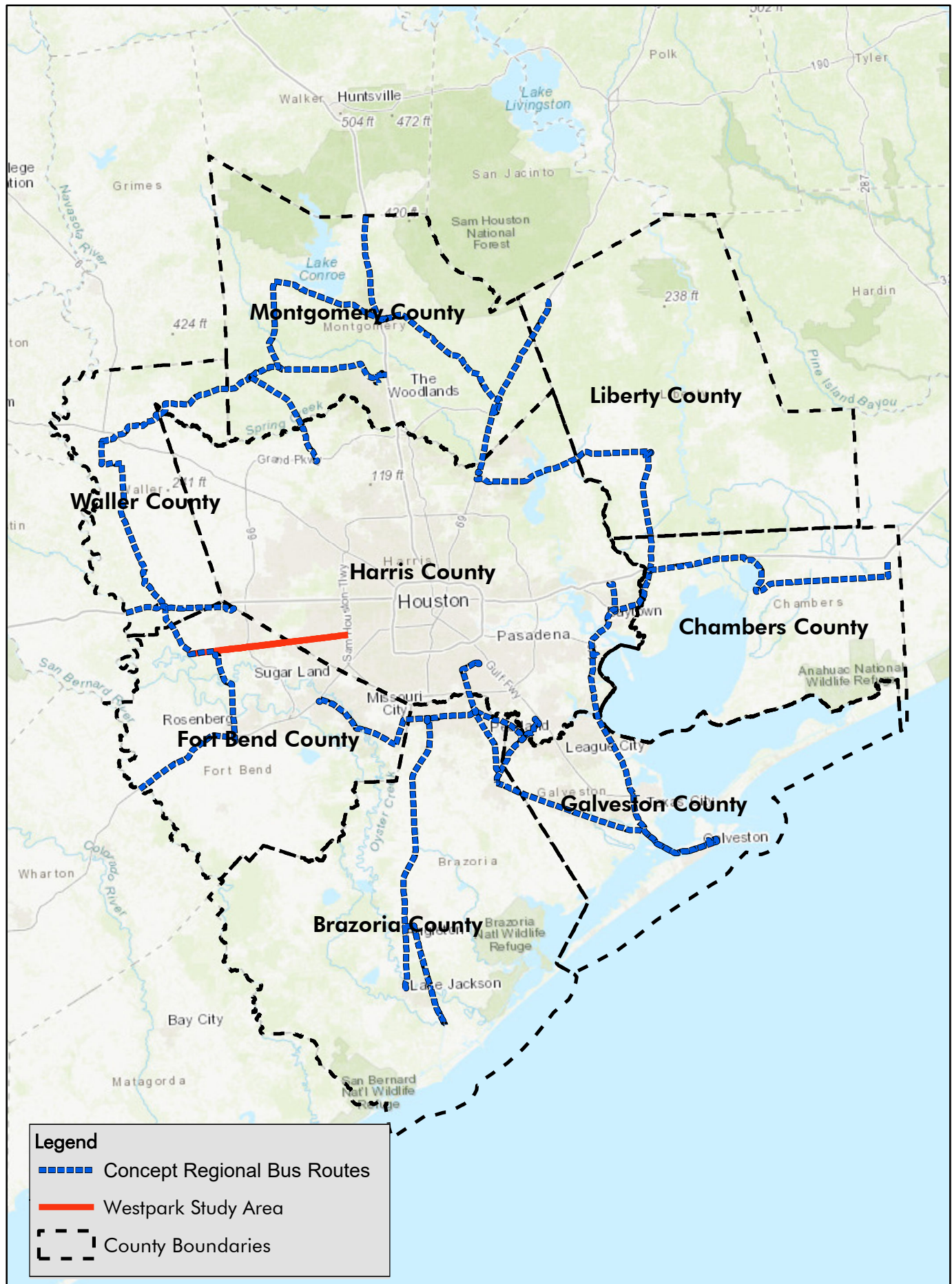
### **Action Requested**

Request authorization to enter into an Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation in the amount of \$2,500,000 to fund the High- Capacity Transit Feasibility Studies Bundle. (Staff Contact: Craig Raborn)

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- High Capacity Transit Projects Routes                      Backup Material

# Attachment 1: High-Capacity Transit Planning Projects



## MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2021

### **Background**

N/A

### **Current Situation**

N/A

### **Funding Source**

N/A

### **Budgeted**

N/A

### **Action Requested**

Request approval of the monthly financial report ending October 31, 2021. (Staff Contact: Nancy Haussler)

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- ▢ Monthly Financial Report - October 2021
- Cover Memo

**HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL  
FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT  
For the Ten Months Ended October 2021**

	Budget Year to date	Actual Year to date	Variance Dollar	%
<b>Combined Revenues and Expenditures</b>				
Revenues	\$ 338,357,413	\$ 281,064,040	\$ (57,293,373)	-17%
Expenditures	(337,853,396)	(279,159,294)	58,694,102	-17%
<b>Change in Combined Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 504,017</b>	<b>\$ 1,904,745</b>	<b>\$ 1,400,729</b>	

Change in Fund Balance by Fund Type				
Change in fund balance - General Fund	\$ 67,071	\$ 253,083	\$ 186,012	
Change in fund balance - Gulf Coast Regional 911	746,258	1,507,168	760,910	
Change in fund balance - Enterprise Fund	204,370	144,495	(59,875)	
<b>Total Change in Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$ 1,017,698</b>	<b>\$ 1,904,746</b>	<b>\$ 887,048</b>	

**Variance Analysis**

The presentation of the change in fund balance by fund type is intended to highlight the effects of revenue and expenditure transactions by fund. The General Fund (GF) consists of those funds not associated with grant programs or enterprise activities. The Special Revenue Fund (SRF) consists of those funds that are restricted for a specific purpose. HGAC's grant programs are in this fund. The Enterprise Fund is used to track activities of the Cooperative Purchasing program and the Energy Purchasing Corporation. The variances of specific revenues and expenditures are explained on the second page of this report.

\*\*\* The Cooperative Purchasing program has contributed a \$154,790 an increase toward the Enterprise fund balance YTD, and the Energy Purchasing Corporation is reflecting a (\$10,295) decrease to the Enterprise fund balance.

**HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL  
FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT  
For the Ten Months Ended October 2021**

	Annual Budget	Budget Year to Date	Actual Year to Date	Variance Dollar	%
<b>Revenues</b>					
<b>General and Enterprise Fund</b>					
Membership dues	\$ 395,538	\$ 395,538	\$ 361,328	\$ (34,210)	-9%
HGAC Energy Purchasing Corporation (a)	90,000	75,000	68,859	(6,141)	-8%
Cooperative Purchasing fees (b)	5,500,000	4,583,333	3,506,318	(1,077,016)	-23%
Gulf Coast Regional 911 fees	2,728,558	2,273,798	3,375,614	1,101,815	48%
Interest Income (c)	25,000	20,833	3,105	(17,728)	-85%
Other	5,667,519	4,722,933	3,894,072	(828,860)	-18%
<b>Total General and Enterprise Fund revenues</b>	<b>\$ 14,406,615</b>	<b>\$ 12,071,436</b>	<b>\$ 11,209,295</b>	<b>\$ (862,140)</b>	<b>-7%</b>
<b>Special Revenue Fund</b>					
Federal Grant (d)	\$ 3,483,782	\$ 2,903,152	\$ 256,478	\$ (2,646,674)	-91%
State Grants	388,059,391	323,382,826	269,598,265	(53,784,561)	-17%
<b>Total Special Revenue Fund revenues</b>	<b>\$ 391,543,173</b>	<b>\$ 326,285,978</b>	<b>\$ 269,854,743</b>	<b>\$ (56,431,235)</b>	<b>-17%</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 405,949,788</b>	<b>\$ 338,357,413</b>	<b>\$ 281,064,038</b>	<b>\$ (57,293,375)</b>	<b>-17%</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Personnel	\$ 27,109,725	\$ 22,591,438	\$ 22,445,849	\$ (145,589)	-1%
Pass-through funds - grant €	363,718,774	303,098,978	245,980,949	(57,118,029)	-19%
Consultant and contract services (e)	8,030,158	6,691,798	6,540,388	(151,410)	-2%
Lease of office space	1,851,444	1,542,870	1,438,346	(104,524)	-7%
Equipment (g)	1,920,640	1,600,533	449,725	(1,150,808)	-72%
Travel (f)	263,448	219,540	72,942	(146,598)	-67%
Other expense	2,529,886	2,108,238	2,231,094	122,856	6%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 405,424,075</b>	<b>\$ 337,853,396</b>	<b>\$ 279,159,293</b>	<b>\$ (58,694,103)</b>	<b>-17%</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues over(under) Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 525,713</b>	<b>\$ 504,017</b>	<b>\$ 1,904,745</b>	<b>\$ 1,400,728</b>	

**Variations:**

- a). The Energy Purchasing Corporation will not meet revenue projections this year. A new vendor has been engaged to improve performance, but results may lag in the short-term
- b). Cooperative Purchasing is not meeting projections due to supply chain issues; however, activity in the program is robust and revenue projections may carry forward into 2022 before being realized.
- c). Interest income is down due to the Federal Reserve holding interest rates low. H-GAC will have some investment maturities before the end of the year.
- d) Federal pass-through revenue and expense in an EPA program administered by the Transportation department is delayed in 2021. This funding and revenue will be included in the 2022 fiscal year budget.
- e) Pass-thru expenses and corresponding revenue is down in three major program areas: Transportation, Workforce, and Criminal Justice. Transportation and Workforce received additional funds in 2021 that will carry forward in 2022.
- f) The travel budget was anticipating that Covid restrictions would end in 2021. We are starting to see some easing of restrictions and requests for in-person events that include in-region and out-of-region travel, so we expect that our expenses will increase later in the year.
- g). Equipment budget included a tenant improvement allowance for modifications to H-GAC's office space. While some funds have been spent on planning these renovations, the bulk of the renovation will occur in 2022 after Board approval.



## INVESTMENT REPORT – THIRD QUARTER 2021

### **Background**

N/A

### **Current Situation**

N/A

### **Funding Source**

N/A

### **Budgeted**

N/A

### **Action Requested**

Request approval of the third quarter Investment Report ending September 30, 2021. (Staff Contact: Nancy Haussler)

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- Third Quarter 2021 Investment Report PDF

**Houston Galveston Area Council  
Investment Report  
For the Nine Months Ended September 30, 2021**

	Book Value	Market Value	Percent of Portfolio	
<b>Beginning Balance 12/31/2020</b>				<b>\$ 8,495,373.76</b>
Certificate of Deposit (Maturity 6/11/2022) Yield 0.05% Chase Bank	1,045,581.76	1,045,581.76	12.30%	
Certificate of Deposit (Maturity 11/10/2021) Yield 0.05% Chase Bank	3,107,628.79	3,107,628.79	36.57%	
Money Market Fund Yield 0.049% BOA Balance as of June 30, 2021	4,344,260.06	4,345,171.95	51.13%	
	<b>\$ 8,497,470.61</b>	<b>\$ 8,498,382.50</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 8,498,382.50</b>
 Total Investment Income Y-T-D	 <b>\$ 3,008.74</b>			

The above securities are in compliance with PFIA and the investment objectives stated within the H-GAC Investment Policy.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jean Mahood  
 Investment Officer

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nancy Hausler  
 Chief Financial Officer

## RECOMMENDED SALARY AND BENEFIT PROGRAM 2022

### Background

H-GAC operates under a policy-oriented job classification system, emphasizing:

- Common classifications of similar jobs
- Ranges structured to allow recognition of performance
- Individual evaluation of each employee
- Pay for performance

The Board annually reviews and approves agency job classifications. The classifications group comparable jobs and set the minimum and maximum salary for each job group. An individual's compensation within the range will be determined by management's evaluation of current performance and expectation of future performance. Each year the schedule is reviewed for equity using multiple data sources. This year's review has included a study of the state salary schedule, other regional councils, and our local market.

Additionally, state law requires regional councils to implement a salary classification system similar to the State of Texas compensation system. Salary classifications must be submitted to the Governor's office for review.

### Current Situation

A comparison of H-GAC's 2022 Proposed Salary Ranges to the State Salary Ranges for the 2022-2023 biennium is provided in Attachment A. The state did not adjust their salary ranges from the previous biennium. H-GAC staff reviewed this and felt that limiting H-GAC's ranges to the state schedule would reduce H-GAC's competitiveness in the local market. Therefore, H-GAC adjusted the ranges from the state's schedule by the prevailing rate difference of 18.9% for the proposed ranges for 2022. This rate differential is provided by the Texas Workforce Commission. Modifying the salary ranges may result in some limited market adjustments for a small number of employees who are currently below the minimum of their range. This salary range will allow H-GAC to recognize performance achievement which has been included in the budget at a 4% merit pool.

Due to the pandemic, many of our long-term employees have been unable to take vacations. As a result, some of these employees are at risk of losing earned vacation time. H-GAC is requesting an adjustment of an additional 20 hours to the vacation cap to allow employees to roll forward a portion of their vacation accrual into 2022. All other benefits remain unchanged from 2021.

We recommend a salary structure which is comparable to the state's schedule with adjustments that both reflect market conditions and allow employee growth in each pay range. The proposed schedule will allow management to compensate employees on merit. H-GAC does not offer cost of living adjustments or other across-the-board adjustments. (See Attachment A)

### Funding Source

N/A

**Budgeted**

N/A

**Action Requested**

Presentation and discussion of recommended employee salary ranges for 2022 and vacation cap. Possible action in December. (Staff Contact: Nancy Haussler)

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 2022 Pay Range Matrix - Board Schedule
- Cover Memo



H-GAC Proposed Salary Range Matrix 2022											
H-GAC Level	H-GAC Description	H-GAC Titles	2022 Proposed Salary Range			2021 Salary Range			State Salary Group	2022-2023 State Salary Range	
			Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum			
6	Professional II	Accountant	\$50,228	\$75,639	\$93,875	\$42,244	\$61,191	\$80,137	B-21	\$48,278	\$78,953
6		Accounting/Finance Coordinator							B-20	\$45,158	\$73,788
6		Administrative Coordinator							B-19	\$42,244	\$68,960
6		Auditor									
6		Communications Coordinator									
6		Data Analyst									
6		Excutive Assistant									
6		Financial Analyst									
6		GIS Analyst									
6		Human Resources Benefits Coordinator									
6		Inspector									
6		Loan Coordinator									
6		Operations Analyst									
6		Outreach Coordinator									
6		Payroll Analyst									
6		Planner									
6		Procurement Coordinator									
6		Program Coordinator									
6		Quality Assurance Analyst									
6		Recruiter									
6		Specifications Coordinator									
6		Systems Analyst									
6		Webmaster									
5	Professional I	Accounting/Finance Specialist	\$43,964	\$61,810	\$76,630	\$36,976	\$51,196	\$65,416	B-18	\$39,521	\$64,449
5		Administrative Assistant							B-17	\$36,976	\$58,399
5		Audit Specialist									
5		Benefits Counselor									
5		Contract Specialist									
5		Data Specialist									
5		GIS Specialist									
5		Human Resources Specialist									
5		Information Specialist									
5		Loan Specialist									
5		Ombudsman									
5		Outreach Specialist									
5		Planner Specialist									
5		Program Specialist									
5		Quality Assurance Specialist									
5		Recods Info Specialist									
5		Web Specialist									
5		Systems Specialist									
4	Skilled III	GIS Technician	\$41,518	\$53,539	\$65,550	\$32,976	\$44,467	\$55,957	B-16	\$34,918	\$55,130
4		PC Support/Helpdesk Tech Program Support									
3	Skilled II	Print and Mail Associate	\$35,003	\$46,712	\$58,420	\$29,439	\$39,287	\$49,134	A-14	\$31,144	\$49,134
3		Receptionist							A-13	\$29,439	\$46,388
2	Skilled I	None	\$31,309	\$40,241	\$49,171	\$26,332	\$33,844	\$41,355	A-11	\$26,332	\$41,355
1	Support	Intern	\$28,276	\$34,861	\$41,447	\$23,781	\$29,320	\$34,859	A-09	\$23,781	\$34,859

## **PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED H-GAC 2022 BUDGET AND SERVICE PLAN**

### **Background**

N/A

### **Current Situation**

N/A

### **Funding Source**

N/A

### **Budgeted**

N/A

### **Action Requested**

Presentation and discussion of proposed H-GAC 2022 Budget and Service Plan. Possible action in December. (Staff Contact: Chuck Wemple)

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- ▢ Budget Summary 2022 November Draft
- Cover Memo

**2022 PROPOSED BUDGET AND SERVICE PLAN  
SUMMARY**

Unified Budget			\$478,863,815
	Increase	18.11%	73,439,737
Pass-through funds			428,461,002
	Increase	17.80%	64,742,228
Operations			50,402,814
	Increase	20.85%	8,697,512
Increases			
Workforce		18.66%	64,440,246
Transportation		20.96%	4,181,907
Shared Services		43.30%	1,698,233
Local Capital		110.55%	1,473,800
Aging		9.30%	1,439,198
Community & Environmental		16.48%	702,401
Data Services		12.67%	553,661
Decreases			
Public Services		9.87%	1,044,858
Local Activities		3.86%	4,850
Employee Benefits			
Released Time		14.47%	\$3,001,263
Insurance, Retirement and Social Security		<u>32.09%</u>	<u>6,655,302</u>
Total Benefits & Release Time		46.56%	\$9,656,565



## REGIONAL CONSERVATION INITIATIVE – PRIORITY PROJECTS LIST

### Background

At its March 16, 2021 meeting, the H-GAC Board of Directors approved a Resolution of Support for the Regional Conservation Framework. This document identifies strategies that H-GAC can use to support the expansion of voluntary local conservation efforts in the 13-county region under a Regional Conservation Initiative. In April 2021, H-GAC began the second phase of this initiative, focusing on project implementation. This work is being funded by a 2-year grant from the Houston Endowment.

### Current Situation

During Phase 2, H-GAC will actively assist with preparing grant applications, convening stakeholders, and otherwise helping to facilitate implementation of priority conservation projects across the region.

Staff collected information about conservation projects from local governments and non-governmental organizations throughout the region. This information was used to develop a three-level Priority Project List. Levels were determined by the project's alignment with the Regional Conservation Framework and the potential for H-GAC to contribute to its implementation.

- Level 1 – A project for which H-GAC will take a major role in facilitating implementation.
- Level 2 – A project that H-GAC endorses and will provide support in the form of collaboration, technical assistance, and identifying potential funding sources.
- Level 3 – A project that H-GAC will provide general guidance and track to determine future action.

The Project Priority List was reviewed and recommended for Board approval by the Natural Resources Advisory Committee at its November 4, 2021 meeting. The list will be updated quarterly to reflect new projects and/or advance existing projects as they progress.

### Funding Source

N/A

### Budgeted

N/A

### Action Requested

Request approval of the Regional Conservation Initiative – Priority Project List. (Staff Contact: Jeff Taebel)

### ATTACHMENTS:

- |                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| ▢ Priority Conservation Projects List | Cover Memo |
| ▢ Priority Conservation Project Map   | Cover Memo |

**H-GAC PRIORITY CONSERVATION PROJECTS LIST**  
**For consideration by the H-GAC Board of Directors on November 16, 2021**

**LEVEL 1:** Projects that H-GAC will provide significant support and coordination for implementation. These projects align well with one or more of the major initiatives outlined in the Regional Conservation Framework, meet four or more level requirements, and are within H-GAC's service offerings (see Addendum 1). (*Maximum 150 hrs. / per project*)

**1093 Rails to Trails** – The 1093 Rails to Trails local government corporation includes the City of Wallis, the City of Eagle Lake, the City of Weston Lakes, the City of Fulshear, and Austin County. Through the corporation, these entities are working to build a shared-use trail along a rail corridor from Fulshear to Eagle Lake that can accommodate recreational cyclists, create a tourist destination, and generally improve connectivity and safety. H-GAC has been supporting as a regional coordinator and the group would like H-GAC to continue in that capacity and as a grant writer. (*City of Wallis, City of Eagle Lake, City of Weston Lakes, City of Fulshear, and Austin County*)

**Katy Prairie Conservancy's Nine-Square-Mile Priority Area** – The Katy Prairie Conservancy (KPC) is working to acquire or hold conservation easements on properties within a 9-square-mile area in Waller County. H-GAC can help connect the project with federal and state agencies for funding and help provide outreach to improve understanding of the value of nature-based mitigation solutions. (*Katy Prairie Conservancy, Waller County*)

**Conservation and Natural Areas Plan (Parks Master Plan Update)** – The City of Houston wants to update their Parks Master Plan to include management plans for habitat, invasive species, wildlife mitigation, and other conservation measures. This planning effort would be a major step forward in incorporating conservation into the City's parks policy. H-GAC would provide staff support for developing the plan and seeking additional funding to supplement the effort. (*City of Houston*)

**Sargent Beach Nourishment** – Judge McDonald in Matagorda County is working on a phased conservation project that began in 2008 to prevent subsidence at Sargent Beach. Hardened structures are planned and funded, but the County is seeking assistance in funding beach nourishment efforts for 1.5 to 2 miles of shoreline. H-GAC can support this project by funding matchmaking to purchase, transport, and place the sand. (*Matagorda County*)

**Acquisition of ExxonMobil Property** – Harris County Precinct 2 wants to obtain and protect 1,200 acres currently owned by ExxonMobil directly adjacent to the Armand Bayou Nature Preserve. Precinct 2 staff has been working on this project with the Armand Bayou Nature Center and an appraisal of the property is underway by a third party (unaffiliated with ExxonMobil). H-GAC can help broker with ExxonMobil and can help with funding matchmaking. (*Harris County-Precinct 2, Armand Bayou Nature Center*)

**LEVEL 2:** Projects that H-GAC endorses and will provide limited support and coordination for implementation. These projects align well with one or more of the major initiatives outlined in the Regional Conservation Framework, meet two or more level requirements, and are within H-GAC's service offerings. (*Maximum 70 hrs. / per project*)

**City of Houston's Riparian Restoration Initiative** – This large-scale project by the City of Houston will target riparian restoration for 70 parks by removing invasive species and replanting

with native plants. This project will provide multiple benefits, including flood mitigation, water quality, and wildlife habitat. H-GAC can support this project by funding matchmaking. (*City of Houston*)

**Preston-Crenshaw Park** - City of Pasadena is in the early stages of creating a new park on city-owned land, with a walking trail around a pond, wetland plantings, and, potentially, boardwalks and kayak launches. Phase 1 of this project is funded by the recent sale of adjacent land to Petroleum Service Corporation (PSC) for a new office. PSC has also offered \$100,000 in-kind donation to the park. H-GAC can provide outreach to increase public awareness of multiple benefits of the project (flood control, habitat, recreation) and help with funding matchmaking. (*City of Pasadena, Petroleum Service Corporation*)

**Vince Bayou Greenway** - The Vince Bayou Greenway trail in Pasadena is identified in multiple plans and studies, including the recently completed Pasadena Healthy Parks Plan and the Pasadena Livable Centers Study. This project would include an approximately 3-mile-long trail connecting with existing trails. The Pasadena Economic Development Corporation is working to provide funding for initial design and acquisition of land/easements. They hope to apply for other funding to implement within 3 to 4 years. H-GAC serves on the steering committee and can help facilitate relationships with industry partners (*City of Pasadena, Pasadena Economic Development Corporation*)

**Brazos River Corridor Trailheads and Land Acquisition** – The City of Sugar Land plans to add trailheads on 9-mile corridor along the Brazos River to improve access to existing recreational amenities. The City needs help with wetlands delineations, archeological services, other permitting and is also identifying floodway property along the Brazos River that they could acquire to complete the master plan. H-GAC can support this project by funding matchmaking for land acquisition and costs surrounding trailheads. (*City of Sugar Land*)

**Cypress Creek Greenway** – The project goal is to further connect the trails and greenspaces that comprise the Cypress Creek Greenway. Harris County Precinct 4’s Parks Department is seeking to install 4,600 feet of walking trails, including a crossing under a rail bridge north of Cypresswood river near Champion Forest Park. This project serves three primary functions: (1) To increase and connect recreational opportunities for the residents of Precinct 4; (2) To create "elbow room" for flooding, to include resilient structures and accommodate flood waters; and (3) To provide corridors for area wildlife. H-GAC can support this project by funding matchmaking. (*Harris County, Precinct 4*)

**Houston Audubon RESTORE Act Effort** - This project is a broad RESTORE Act effort enhancing Houston Audubon Society's acquisitions and existing properties on Bolivar Peninsula, including the High Island and Bolivar refuges and other areas. The project includes facility and trail enhancements as well as public outreach elements. Additional funding is needed for various project elements, including parking lots. H-GAC can help address funding gaps and conduct outreach. (*Houston Audubon Society*)

**Coastal Prairie Initiative** – Using a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Katy Prairie Conservancy (KPC) set up a large-scale conservation project to acquire, restore, protect, and provide technical services for coastal prairies. Led by KPC, the project involves a large coalition of non-governmental organizations and local governments. H-GAC is a

stakeholder in this project and has an interest in continued support, including helping provide outreach to improve understanding of the value of the project. (*Katy Prairie Conservancy*)

**January Planting (Texas A&M Forest Service Reforestation in Riparian Areas)** - This planting is part of an ongoing program of Texas A&M Forest Service. The program uses corporate donations to do targeted tree plantings with public participation in priority water quality, flood mitigation watersheds. The corporate partners get modeled results of the impact of each planting. H-GAC serves on the steering committee and can help facilitate relationships with industry partners. (*Texas A&M Forest Service*)

**LEVEL 3:** Projects that H-GAC will track and support on a limited basis to determine future action (including moving the project to Level 1 or Level 2 status). These projects may align with one or more of the major initiatives outlined in the Regional Conservation Framework, meet one or more level requirements, and are within H-GAC's service offerings. (*Maximum 45 hrs. / per project*)

**Developing Policy for City of Houston's Legacy Tree Program** – The City of Houston seeks to identify good examples of legacy native trees in Houston's natural areas and propagate stock from their seeds. H-GAC can help identify funding sources. (*City of Houston*)

**Clear Creek Riparian Reforestation** – This City of Pearland project is for riparian reforestation along a natural area along Clear Creek. The project will involve invasive species removal, site preparation, 1,740 five-gallon native trees planted at 10-foot spacing by volunteers/staff, and ongoing watering. Assistance is needed with funding for maintenance costs. This signature project for Pearland will also benefit adjacent Shadow Creek Ranch. H-GAC can support the project by funding matchmaking. H-GAC can support this project by funding matchmaking (*City of Pearland*)

**Gannoway Lake Park** – The City of Sugar Land owns 51 acres at Gannoway Lake Park, and a developer will soon deed 70 to 100 acres, mostly wetlands, to the City. This property is along Oyster Creek. The Parks Department wants to build some boardwalk trails to provide public access but keep the area natural. (*City of Sugar Land*)

**Cullinan Park Improvements** – The City of Sugar Land needs more infrastructure (specifically, parking) at Cullinan Park, maintenance funding for invasive species control and lake management, and funding for additional trail development (including wayfinding for trails in the park). The City is focusing on this park as birding destination with walking trails. H-GAC can support this project by funding matchmaking (*City of Sugar Land*)

**Fort Bend County Hike and Bike Master Trail Plan** - Fort Bend Green plans to use existing data to work with Fort Bend County to establish a master trail plan to link existing greenspace with a greenway/trail system. The data project is underway; planning/trail implementation is not funded. H-GAC can support this project by funding matchmaking. (*Fort Bend Green, Fort Bend County*)

**Tree Strategy Implementation Group** - Facilitated by Houston Wilderness, in partnership with the City of Houston and other local partners, this conservation coordination effort seeks to coordinate tree planting efforts to reach the City of Houston's *Resilient Houston* goal of adding 4.6 million trees. This project is an umbrella effort that includes various local projects. H-GAC can provide information-sharing and coordination. (*City of Houston, Houston Wilderness*)

**Hawkins Ranch in Matagorda County** - Katy Prairie Conservancy (KPC) is working on a conservation easement for the entire 30,000-acre ranch that would be purchased from multiple landowners. KPC has applied to Natural Resources Conservation Service programs and RESTORE, and some philanthropic sources are interested. H-GAC can help to build relationships with local officials and provide letters of support. (*Katy Prairie Conservancy*)

**Schlipf Road Transfer to Waller County** - Katy Prairie Conservancy owns a 152-acre mitigation site and wants to turn the land over to Waller County for a nature preserve. H-GAC can support this project through research and by bringing partners to the table. (*Katy Prairie Conservancy, Waller County*)

**Headwaters to Baywaters** - Katy Prairie Conservancy, along with other non-governmental partners, wants to better involve municipalities and counties that are working on riparian corridor protection from Cypress Creek down to Galveston Bay. H-GAC can help to build relationships with involved municipalities and counties. (*Katy Prairie Conservancy, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, Galveston Bay Foundation, Houston Audubon, Bayou Land Conservancy*)

**Trees for Houston: Education Center** - Trees for Houston is developing a center for education to support their tree planting goals. A Taking Root Capital Campaign to build a center and native plant nursery to supply tree planting efforts is underway. H-GAC can support this project by funding matchmaking. (*Trees for Houston*)

**Summary of Projects by Level and Recommended H-GAC Action(s)**

<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Local Government Partner(s)</b>	<b>Recommended Action(s)</b>
1093 Rails to Trails	1093 RTT Local Government Corporation	H-GAC has been supporting as a regional coordinator and the group would like H-GAC to continue in that capacity and as a grant writer.
Katy Prairie Conservancy's Nine-Square-Mile Priority Area	Not Applicable	H-GAC can help connect the project with federal and state agencies for funding and help provide outreach to improve understanding of the value of nature-based mitigation solutions.
Conservation and Natural Areas Plan (Parks Master Plan Update)	City of Houston	H-GAC would prepare the conservation plan, which could feed into parks master plan. Create guide/model for others.
Sargent Beach Nourishment	Matagorda County	H-GAC can support this project by funding matchmaking.
Acquisition of Exxon Mobile property	Harris County – Precinct 2	H-GAC can help broker with ExxonMobil and help with funding matchmaking.

<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Local Government Partner(s)</b>	<b>Recommended Action(s)</b>
City of Houston's Riparian Restoration Initiative	City of Houston	H-GAC can support this project by funding matchmaking.
Preston-Crenshaw Park	City of Pasadena	H-GAC can provide outreach to increase public awareness of multiple benefits of the project and help with funding matchmaking.
Vince Bayou Greenway	City of Pasadena	H-GAC serves on the steering committee and can help facilitate relationships with industry partners.
Brazos River Corridor Trailheads and Land Acquisition	City of Sugar Land	H-GAC can support this project by funding matchmaking for land acquisition and costs surrounding trailheads.
Cypress Creek Greenway	Harris County, Precinct 4	H-GAC can support this project by funding matchmaking
Houston Audubon RESTORE Act Effort	Not Applicable	H-GAC can help address funding gaps and conduct outreach.
Coastal Prairie Initiative	Not Applicable	H-GAC is a stakeholder in this project and has an interest in continued support, including helping provide outreach to improve understanding of the value of the project.
January Planting (Texas A&M Forest Service Reforestation in Riparian Areas) -	Not Applicable	H-GAC serves on the steering committee and can help facilitate relationships with industry partners.

<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Local Government Partner(s)</b>	<b>Recommended Action(s)</b>
Developing Policy for City of Houston's Legacy Tree Program	City of Houston	H-GAC can help identify funding sources.
Clear Creek Riparian Reforestation	City of Pearland	H-GAC can support the project by funding matchmaking.
Gannoway Lake Park	City of Sugar Land	H-GAC can support this project by funding matchmaking.
Cullinan Park Improvements	City of Sugar Land	H-GAC can support this project by funding matchmaking
Fort Bend County Hike and Bike Master Trail Plan	Fort Bend Green	H-GAC can support this project by funding matchmaking.
Tree Strategy Implementation Group	City of Houston	H-GAC can provide information-sharing and coordination.
Hawkins Ranch in Matagorda County	Not Applicable	H-GAC can help to build relationships with local officials and provide letters of support.
Schlipf Road Transfer to Waller County	Not Applicable	H-GAC can support this project through research and by bringing partners to the table.
Headwaters to Baywaters	Not Applicable	H-GAC can help to build relationships with involved municipalities and counties.
Trees for Houston - Education	Not Applicable	H-GAC can support this project by funding matchmaking.

<b>Non-Leveled / Tracking*</b>	<b>Local Government Partner(s)</b>	<b>Recommended Action(s)</b>
Bayou Land Conservancy Acquisition / Easements	Not Applicable	No active projects, tracking for future support.
City of Houston - Historic Prairie Restoration	City of Houston	No active projects, tracking for future support.
Linear Forest Program	City of Houston	No active projects, tracking for future support.
City of Houston Policies and Ordinances	Not Applicable	No active projects, tracking for future support.
Trees for Houston - Native Trees	Not Applicable	No active projects, tracking for future support.
Piney Point Village Trail Network	Piney Point Village	Tracking this effort. H-GAC can potentially support by matchmaking with cities who have done this before, researching best practices.
City of Houston Green Stormwater Infrastructure	City of Houston	Tracking this effort. H-GAC can support in the future with funding matchmaking.
Lake Creek Greenway	Not Applicable	Tracking this effort.
Katy Prairie Bike Route	Not Applicable	Tracking this effort.
Harris County - Precinct 2 Project #2	Harris County - Precinct 2	Tracking this effort.

\* Submitted projects that don't meet criteria and / or don't have a current role for H-GAC are being tracked separately from the levels.



## ADDENDUM 1 – PROJECT SCORING CRITERIA

Projects were scored and assigned a level using the criteria detailed below.

**Alignment with the [Regional Conservation Framework](#) (one or more must be selected):**

<input type="checkbox"/>	A Flourishing Treescape
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regional Greenway System
<input type="checkbox"/>	Signature Projects

**Other key features of the project (requirements differ by level):**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Project has a well-defined scope.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Land acquisition is complete or in-progress.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project is partially funded or has been funded previously.
<input type="checkbox"/>	There is a history of direct involvement by H-GAC staff on this effort.
<input type="checkbox"/>	There is a history of successful partnership between H-GAC and the project lead.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project lead has coordinated with local partners and communities that may be involved or affected.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project lead has considered equity of access.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project lead has a history of successfully implementing conservation projects.

**H-GAC Service Offerings Requested (select all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant writing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding matchmaking
<input type="checkbox"/>	Meeting coordination
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public awareness
<input type="checkbox"/>	Data support
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

# Regional Conservation Initiative Priority Projects



## **H-GAC 2021 ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

### **Background**

H-GAC advisory committees are appointed by H-GAC's Board as a whole, based upon nominations from individual Board members and other groups. This month there are nominations to the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee, Regional Flood Management Committee, Transportation Advisory Committee, and Transportation Policy Council.

### **Current Situation**

N/A

### **Funding Source**

N/A

### **Budgeted**

N/A

### **Action Requested**

Request approval of appointments to H-GAC advisory committees. (Staff Contact: Rick Guerrero)

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- H-GAC NOVEMBER 2021 ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS      Cover Memo

## **H-GAC NOVEMBER 2021 ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

### **Criminal Justice Advisory Committee**

Advises H-GAC Board on criminal justice programs and funding priorities.

Nominations for terms expiring in May 2023:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>
Gilbert Philips (Primary)	Chambers County – Law Enforcement	Mark Tice
Brian Hawthorne (Alt.)	Chambers County – Law Enforcement	Mark Tice
Terry McConnell (Primary)	At-Large – Victims Services	Jay Knight
John Coleman (Alt.)	At-Large – Law Enforcement	Jay Knight
Eugene Davis (Primary)	Matagorda County-Nonprofit	Nate McDonald
Aaron Bell (Primary)	Brazoria County-Law Enforcement	Stacy Adams
Buck Stevens (Alt.)	Brazoria County-Law Enforcement	Stacy Adams
Carrie Fletcher (Primary)	Brazoria County-Nonprofit	Stacy Adams
Joe Gardzina (Alt.)	Brazoria County-Nonprofit	Stacy Adams

### **Regional Flood Management Committee**

The Regional Flood Management Council's purpose is to assist and advise elected officials in their decision-making responsibilities by making recommendations on issues related to all aspects of flood management in the Gulf Coast Planning Region.

Nominations received for terms expiring May 2022:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>
Briana Gallagher (Primary)	San Jacinto River Authority	San Jacinto River Authority
Matt Barrett (Alt.)	San Jacinto River Authority	San Jacinto River Authority

### **Transportation Advisory Committee**

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) reviews and evaluates H-GAC's regional transportation plans and provides its recommendations to the Transportation Policy Council (TPC). The TAC is an appointed body, which is comprised of representatives of member governments and special citizen interest groups with expertise in transportation planning. TAC members are appointed by the TPC to assist with the coordination of the Transportation Improvement Program, Metropolitan Transportation Plan and other transportation planning activities.

Nominations received for terms expiring in December 2022:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>
Jeff Taebel (Primary)	Regional Planning	H-GAC

Meagan Coughlin (Alt.)	Regional Planning	H-GAC
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### **Transportation Policy Council**

The Transportation Policy Council includes nine county representatives, one Metropolitan Transit Authority member, and two TxDOT members. TPC bylaws also authorize direct appointments for cities over 50,000 population according to the most recent census – Baytown (1), Conroe (1), Galveston (1), Houston (3), League City (1), Missouri City (1), Pasadena (1), Pearland (1), Sugar Land (1), and Texas City (1). In addition, H-GAC appoints one smaller city member (less than 50,000 population) for Harris County or designated city and an at-large appointment traditionally held by a staff member.

Nominations received for terms expiring in December 2022:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>
Nancy Arnold (Primary)	Harris County-Smaller Cities	H-GAC
Sally Branson (Alt.)	Harris County-Smaller Cities	H-GAC
Chuck Wemple (Primary)	H-GAC	H-GAC
Jeff Taebel (Alt.)	H-GAC	H-GAC

## **WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE UPDATE**

### **Background**

The H-GAC Board of Directors Water Resources Committee has been working to identify and support flood mitigation projects of regional significance. The committee also deliberates and provides recommendations to the Board regarding significant funding and policy issues pertaining to flood mitigation and water supply.

### **Current Situation**

The H-GAC Water Resources Committee will meet on November 10, 2021. Agenda items will include a recap of a November 9 workshop for Home Rule cities on Priority Flood Mitigation and continued discussion on the development of a Method of Distribution for the regional allocation of Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation funds.

### **Funding Source**

N/A

### **Budgeted**

N/A

### **Action Requested**

No action requested. For information only. (Staff Contact: Jeff Taebel)

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- ▯ Priority Flood Mitigation Projects List
- Cover Memo

**H-GAC PRIORITY FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS**  
**Approved by the H-GAC Board of Directors on October 19, 2021**

The H-GAC Board of Directors has approved this project priority list, grouped into priority tiers indicating the level of engagement and support H-GAC could provide, and identifying a separate group of projects of urgent need. This list will be regularly reviewed and updated, as necessary.

**TIER 1:** Projects benefitting multiple jurisdictions for which there are specific opportunities for H-GAC to provide support, coordination, or to serve as the lead in securing funding.

**Cedar Bayou Alliance** – Judge Sylvia of Chambers County appointed H-GAC to lead a coalition of governments and industry in the Cedar Bayou watershed of Harris, Chambers, and Liberty Counties to identify joint flood mitigation projects. H-GAC has been working with Cedar Bayou Alliance partners to identify and promote projects of shared priority and to coordinate activities among the entities involved. Longer term steps may include creating a special district/authority to develop revenue and implement resiliency projects in the watershed (*Harris, Liberty and Chambers Counties; Cities of Baytown, Mont Belvieu*).

**Lower Colorado River and San Bernard River Flood Warning System** – Wharton, Colorado, and Matagorda Counties, and the Cities of Bay City, Columbus, and Wharton, along with the Lower Colorado River Authority, have collaborated on a study of the Lower Colorado River, post-Harvey. This project involves new inundation maps that can be used to enhance flood warning information. H-GAC and Wharton County are considering potential funding opportunities to mirror this modeling and mapping project in the San Bernard River and Caney Creek Watersheds and install river gauges in both Lower Colorado and San Bernard systems (*Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fayette, Fort Bend, Lee, Matagorda, Wharton*).

**Chambers County and City of Mont Belvieu Flood Protection Planning for Watersheds** Chambers County and the Cities of Liberty, Dayton and Mont Belvieu, in coordination with other local entities, are initiating a flood protection planning project for approximately 900 miles of watersheds in Chambers, Liberty, Galveston, Harris, and Jefferson Counties. The project will develop hydrologic models for the study area and produce inundation maps for a variety of storm events. The project will also seek to identify areas of highest risk, recommend flood mitigation measures to address them and develop planning level estimates of provable costs. (*Chambers, Liberty, Harris, Galveston, and Jefferson counties; Cities of Mont Belvieu, Liberty and Dayton*).

**Lower Brazos Flood Protection Planning Study** –Includes analysis of medium- to large-scale structural solutions and buyouts, and recommendations for additional modeling, engineering, and environmental studies that benefit parts of the region along the lower Brazos River. The study involved several of H-GAC’s local governments and includes some projects inside the region and others that, while outside the region, would benefit H-GAC counties and their communities (*Fort Bend, Brazoria, Austin, and Waller Counties*).

**Brazos River Pinch Point Project** - This project would use structural barriers to prevent further erosion of a new channel through a pinch point of the Brazos River near Simonton, at a cost of \$25.8 million. The barriers would protect area landowners and communities, prevent

higher river velocities downstream, and ensure the viability of existing emergency evacuation routes and the Allen's Creek Reservoir project (*Fort Bend County, Missouri City, Richmond, Rosenberg, Simonton, Sugar Land, Thompsons, Weston Lakes*).

**Coordinated Detention Pilot Project** – Waller County is seeking funding to implement a study and pilot implementation of coordinated detention basin network and technologies in multiple watersheds. The pilot study would involve two phases of initial evaluation of potential downstream impacts from coordinated releases, focusing on risk mitigation effectiveness and potential adoption of practices by the County. A third phase would involve installation of networked sensors on existing detention basins at multiple locations in the County. The pilot project will evaluate hydrological benefits for potential flood loss reduction, positive impacts to low-to-moderate income communities, and water quality and conservation benefits. The project will also assess how the data may support alternative engineering, construction and maintenance of detention-retention assets and how it may impact placement of future retrofits (*Waller County*).

**Lower Clear Creek and Dickinson Bayou Flood Mitigation Plan Study** – Multiple local partners worked with the US Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a \$1.5 million flood mitigation study of the Lower Clear Creek and Dickinson Bayou watersheds of Galveston County. The local participants included League City, Friendswood, Harris County Flood Control District, and Galveston County, with Brazoria County and Pearland as potential contributing participants. The study was finalized in 2021, and evaluated combinations of detention, conveyance improvements, flood tunnels and other alternatives ranging from \$275 million to \$1.25 billion for Lower Clear Creek and \$220 to \$500 million for Dickinson Bayou. The primary recommendation of the study is a subsequent evaluation to refine estimates of costs and benefits and recommend a preferred alternative. (<https://www.leaguecity.com/3645/Lower-Clear-Creek-Dickinson-Bayou-Waters>) (*Covered areas noted in description*).

**San Jacinto Regional Watershed Master Drainage Plan Projects** – multiple local jurisdictions worked to develop the [San Jacinto Regional Watershed Master Drainage Plan](#). Using Atlas 14 rainfall data to develop inundation maps and estimates of impacted areas, the plan identified flood mitigation projects and policies that can be implemented in the near- and long-term to reduce flood risks to people and property throughout the San Jacinto watershed. (*Harris County Flood Control District, San Jacinto River Authority, Montgomery County, City of Houston*).

**City of Columbus Wastewater Plant Replacement (*Urgent Need Project*)** – The City of Columbus wastewater treatment plant is threatened by erosion caused by recent flood events on the Colorado River. The project would entail the City building a new facility further from the banks of the river. Urgent assistance is needed to prevent loss of service and potential impacts to the Colorado River from the current plant if it is compromised by erosion. (*City of Columbus*).

**TIER 2:** Projects that H-GAC endorses which benefit individual or multiple jurisdictions and for which funding already exists or is programmed.



**Metropolitan Houston Regional Watershed Assessment** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a 22-watershed assessment of drainage planning and flood mitigation in the Houston area in conjunction with the Harris County Flood Control District and other local partners. As part of the study, the project partners are considering a recommendation for a regional coordinating body for flood management. (*22 watersheds in Harris County and adjacent counties*).

**Southeast Texas Flood Control District** – Liberty and Chambers counties are participating in ongoing flood control studies and efforts as part of an 8-county southeast Texas area effort that also includes several area river authorities. Additional work is ongoing through 2021 as a continuation of these studies (*Liberty and Chambers Counties; areas outside the region*).

**Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) Bond Projects** – Projects arising from HCFCD’s [2018 bond program](#) are moving forward throughout the county, and the District is coordinating with local partners (*Harris County*).

**Harris County Flood Tunnel Study** – the first phase of the study identified [flood tunnels as a viable flood management option](#) to study further. The second phase is currently underway, looking at potential routing, and will complete soon. A third phase looking at more specific design will take an additional 12-18 months (*Harris County*).

**TIER 3:** Projects that do not currently have specific components identified that could be advanced for funding. H-GAC will continue to track progress on these projects and provide coordination or support as warranted.

**River Authority Flood Mitigation Implementation**– The committee discussed the potential future role for river authorities to implement flood mitigation planning and implementation activities. San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) is considering this type of approach and also developing a [Flood Forecasting and Reservoir Operations Tool](#) to help predict peak releases from Lake Conroe and better coordinate with local emergency management entities. The expected completion is Spring, 2021 (*Montgomery and Harris Counties; additional counties covered by other Authorities*).

**Flood Upgrades – Fort Bend County** – Fort Bend County is working to improve its flood readiness by incorporating Atlas 14 into its infrastructure planning and design and flood risk assessments as part of an interim drainage criteria manual. Portions of Fort Bend County, especially those areas impacted by Barker Reservoir during Hurricane Harvey, have also been the focus of several recent studies and efforts, including a 2018 study on the feasibility of a levee on the western end of Barker reservoir and a 2019 desilting project (*Fort Bend County*).

**River Authority Flood Mitigation Implementation**– The committee discussed the potential future role for river authorities to implement flood mitigation planning and implementation activities

**URGENT NEED:** Projects that are not necessarily regional, but which address high-impact local risks that are time-sensitive and lack reasonable mitigation alternatives.

### Summary of Projects by Tier and H-GAC Local Governments Benefitting

<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>H-GAC Local Governments Benefitting</b>
Cedar Bayou Alliance	Harris, Liberty and Chambers Counties; Cities of Baytown and Mont Belvieu.
Lower Colorado River and San Bernard River Flood Warning System	Portions of Austin, Brazoria, Colorado, Fort Bend, Matagorda, and Wharton counties and cities therein; portions of Fayette and Lee Counties outside of H-GAC region.
Chambers County and City of Mont Belvieu Flood Protection Planning for Watersheds	Chambers, Liberty, Harris, Galveston, and Jefferson Counties; Cities of Mont Belvieu, Liberty and Dayton.
Lower Brazos Flood Protection Planning Study	Areas within the Lower Brazos River watershed; including some outside the region.
Brazos River Pinch Point Project	Fort Bend County, Missouri City, Richmond, Rosenberg, Simonton, Sugar Land, Thompsons, Weston Lakes
Coordinated Detention Pilot Project	Waller County
Lower Clear Creek and Dickinson Bayou Study	Areas in Harris and Galveston County, League City, Friendswood and other area municipalities within the Clear Creek and Dickinson Bayou watersheds.
San Jacinto River Master Drainage Plan	Harris County, Montgomery County, City of Houston, other local governments and organizations in the San Jacinto River Basin above Highway I-10.
City of Columbus Wastewater Plant Replacement ( <i>Urgent Need Project</i> )	City of Columbus and areas immediately downstream on the Colorado River.
<b>Tier 2</b>	
Metropolitan Houston Regional Watershed Assessment	22 watersheds in Harris, Chambers, Liberty, Galveston, Brazoria, Fort Bend County, Montgomery, and Waller Counties.
Southeast Texas Flood Control District	Liberty and Chambers Counties; six (6) other southeast Texas counties outside the region; River authorities in the study area.
Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) Bond Projects	Harris County
Harris County Flood Tunnel Study	Harris County
<b>Tier 3</b>	
River Authority Flood Mitigation Implementation	Harris and Montgomery Counties, potentially other river authorities and counties.
Flood Upgrades -- Fort Bend County	Areas within Fort Bend County, including those impacted by Barker Reservoir.

## **H-GAC SPOTLIGHT – LIVABLE CENTERS IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Background**

Livable Centers are places where people can live, work, and play with less reliance on their cars. The Livable Centers Program partners with local communities to reimagine auto-focused infrastructure, policies, and programs to be more multi-modal friendly and encourage the development of Livable Centers. The first Livable Centers study was completed in 2009, and today 31 studies have been completed and are on the path to implementation in the region's rural, suburban, and urban communities.

In 2019, H-GAC completed a 10-Year Evaluation and Summary in celebration of the Livable Centers Program decennial that recognizes local partners' ongoing commitment to implementation of study recommendations. In 2021, 31 local partners with completed studies were contacted, and implementation of Livable Centers study recommendations have been updated.

### **Current Situation**

This 2021 Summary Report is an update of the 10-Year Evaluation and Summary of the Livable Centers Program. The Livable Centers summary update is available at <http://www.h-gac.com/livable-centers/implementation.aspx>.

For more information, please contact [Anita.Hollman@h-gac.com](mailto:Anita.Hollman@h-gac.com).

### **Funding Source**

N/A

### **Budgeted**

N/A

### **Action Requested**

No action requested. For information only. (Staff Contact: Anita Hollman)

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- ▢ Livable Centers 2021 Summary Report Update      Cover Memo



Houston-Galveston  
Area Council

# LIVABLE CENTERS

## 2021 SUMMARY REPORT UPDATE & REPORT CARD



# **\$76** Million Increase in New Livable Centers Projects Over Last 2 Years

Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Livable Centers studies do not sit on shelves. By 2021, \$543 million in study-recommended projects were reported as implemented by local sponsors. This is a 16% or \$76 million increase from \$467 million reported in 2019. Local sponsors work with a variety of partners such as developers, private investors, local interest groups, philanthropies, and public entities to make the projects happen!

# LIVABLE CENTERS IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

**90%** of all study areas are on track to recommendation implementation

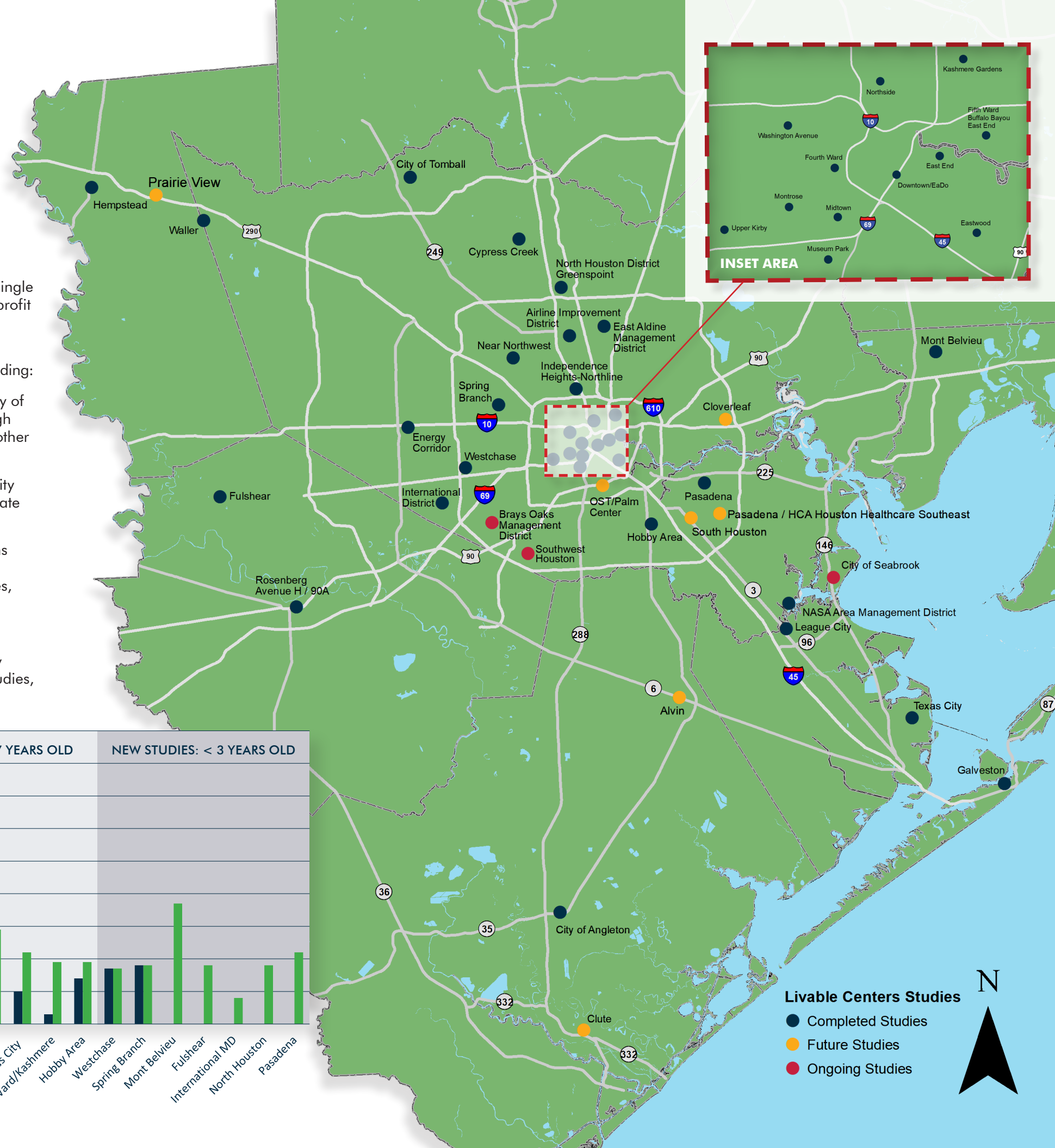
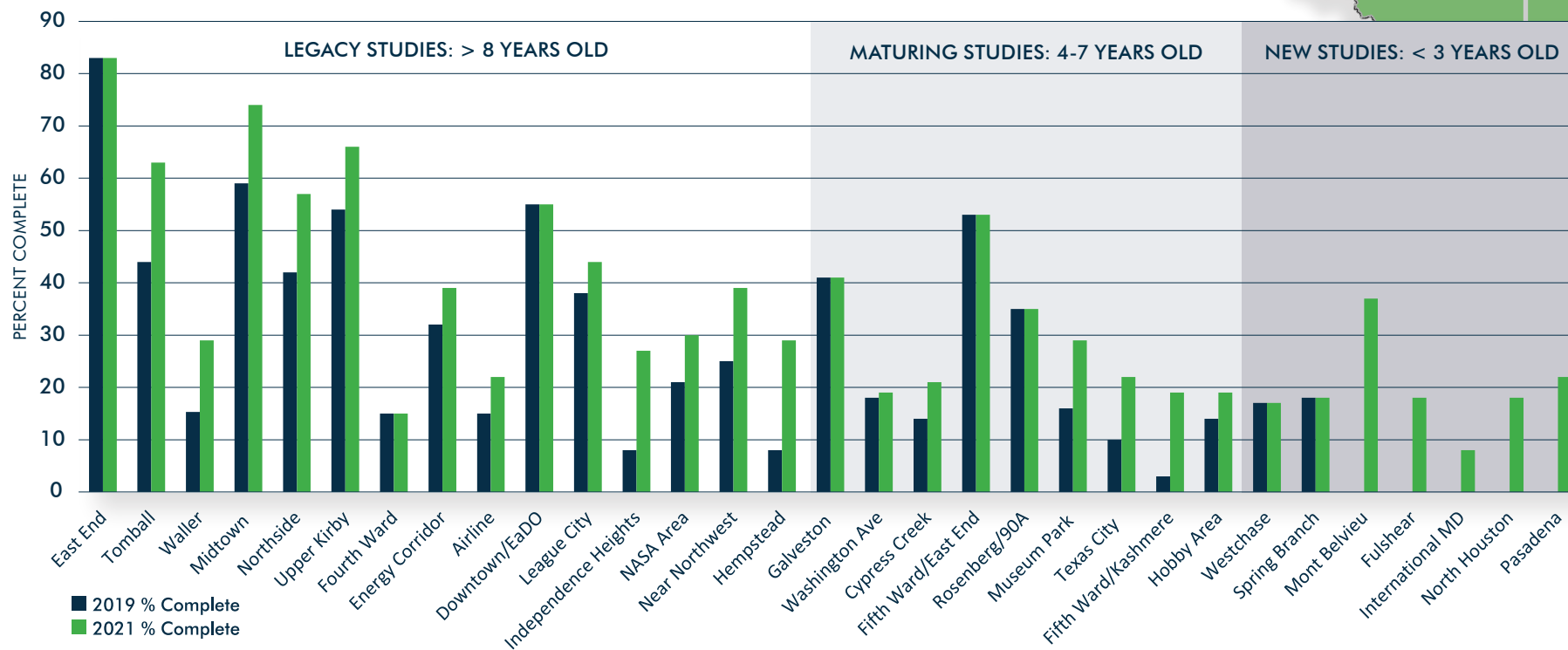
Tracking implementation of Livable Centers study recommendations is an important key to demonstrating the Program's effectiveness. Since implementation is not the sole responsibility of a single entity, H-GAC's tracking system accounts for actions taken by a variety of public, private, and non-profit actors within each study area.

This 2021 Summary Report is an update to the [10-Year Evaluation](#) of the Livable Centers Program completed in the fall of 2019. It covers current implementation status of study recommendations, including:

- **Multimodal Networks** – Infrastructure investments that enhance the accessibility and connectivity of the bicyclist, pedestrian, and transit networks. These recommendations are largely funded through local capital improvement programs, H-GAC's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and other public funds.
- **Housing and Economic Development** – Creating a mix of housing, jobs, and services in proximity to multimodal network. These recommendations leverage partnerships between developers, private investors, and public and non-governmental entities.
- **Placemaking** – Locations within a network where people want to gather. These recommendations can be temporary or permanent and provide an opportunity to highlight unique community characteristics. These recommendations are implemented by local interest groups, philanthropies, and public entities, individually and in partnership.

## Implementation Status

This chart illustrates implementation progress, by study, based on the year of its completion. Legacy studies were completed over 8 years ago; Maturing studies, between 4 to 7 years ago, and New studies, less than 3 years ago.



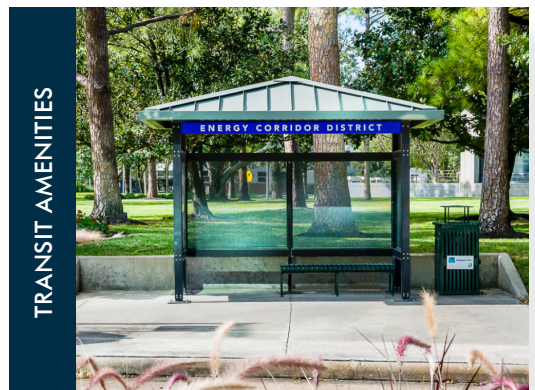
# WHAT'S NEXT: CONTINUED GROWTH & PARTNERSHIP

H-GAC applauds the perseverance of local study sponsors in pursuing implementation of study recommendations over the long term. Still, many face barriers, such as a lack of funding, staffing, training opportunities, and partnerships, which should be addressed as the Livable Centers Program continues to evolve.

This is what we're doing to help:

- **Interactive Planning Tool** – This tool maps all studies in an interactive, searchable format. It ties study recommendations to spatially mapped datapoints which can be incorporated into funding applications, such as H-GAC's TIP and Subregional Mobility Plans.
- **Peer-to-Peer Learning** – H-GAC conducts an annual workshop whose topics reflect challenges and barriers as identified by local sponsors. These workshops offer an opportunity for participants to share best practices and management innovations through an open exchange of idea, knowledge, and brainstorming.
- **Vulnerable Populations** – H-GAC's Livable Centers Need Index was developed in 2021. This tool helps users identify vulnerable populations within the H-GAC region and can be used by local sponsors to develop future TIP projects and grant applications.
- **Air Quality Benefit** – Livable Centers investments are designed to encourage people to walk, bike, or use transit, reducing vehicle miles traveled and improving air quality. H-GAC is developing a methodology to better capture the air quality benefits of these investments.

To learn more about H-GAC's Livable Centers Program visit the program website at [h-gac.com/livable-centers](https://h-gac.com/livable-centers). Click the [Implementation Tab](#) to learn more about each study and its individual report card.



This document was funded, in part, through grant[s] from the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, and Texas Department of Transportation. The views and opinions of the authors, expressed herein, do not necessarily reflect those of the U. S. Department of Transportation or the Texas Department of Transportation.

## **CURRENT AND UPCOMING H-GAC ACTIVITIES**

### **Background**

N/A

### **Current Situation**

N/A

### **Funding Source**

N/A

### **Budgeted**

N/A

### **Action Requested**

Report on current and upcoming H-GAC activities. (Staff Contact: Chuck Wemple)

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