

## 5A. SUMMARY OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

### LONG RANGE PLANNING

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

- Pearland FM 518 Corridor Study: Staff received and are in the process of reviewing the first three chapters of the draft corridor study report. Substantial completion of this project is anticipated in March 2025.
- Pearland Mobility Plan: Steering Committee Meeting #4 will be held on February 20 to review the Plan's recommendations, including updates to the city's Thoroughfare Plan, and to discuss the project prioritization criteria. The next public outreach event to present recommendations for public input is planned for January 18 at the Pearland Farmer's Market. Substantial completion of this project is anticipated in March 2025.
- Chambers County Thoroughfare Plan: Staff received and are in the process of reviewing deliverables for the draft Thoroughfare Plan report. Substantial completion of this project is anticipated in March 2025.
- Washington Ave Corridor Study: The project team has been working on developing the alternatives and are preparing for the next public meeting on March 6 at Memorial Elementary School and a virtual public meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Cemetery Road Corridor Study: The project team held two focus group meetings on February 12 and are refining the alternatives based on the feedback received. The project team is also preparing for the next public meeting on March 25 at Runge Park in Santa Fe.
- Friendswood Parkway (Friendswood Lake) Corridor Study: The first Steering Committee meeting was held on December 18, 2024, to discuss and gather feedback about existing conditions in the study area. Staff are working with the City of Friendswood to identify Focus Group members. The first Focus Group Meeting is anticipated for March 12.
- Buffalo Bayou East Design Concept: The first Steering Committee meeting was held on January 29 to discuss and gather feedback about existing conditions in the study area. A bike/walk audit of the study area and the first Focus Group Meeting are anticipated for March 2025.

#### 2. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

- The 2045 RTP Update Amendment is in process. Staff have sent emails to all RTP project sponsors requesting updated project information for all RTP projects by the end of February.
- Staff will receive updated information, perform QA/QC on the list, and prepare for presentation of the list to the RTP Subcommittee, TAC, and TPC.
- The 2050 RTP began development in late 2024.
  - Public engagement phase 1 products and strategies are being finalized.
  - 2050 RTP Scope and schedule are being finalized. RFP development will follow.
  - A 2050 RTP Steering Committee has been developed, comprised of volunteer RTP Subcommittee members. The goal of the Steering Committee is to provide an informational opportunity to better understand how the RTP is developed and provide meaningful and substantive feedback on granular RTP topics. All interested Subcommittee, TAC, and TPC members are invited to attend and participate.

1. Safety Planning
  - The Safety Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 25, at 1:30 PM.
    - i. Committee goals include the re-imagining of the State of Safety Report, updates to the Safety Action Plans project, and develop periodic safety updates for TPC.
  - Safety Action Plans have completed the pre-award internal audit process and is proceeding to the contract execution phase with the consultant.
2. Freight Planning
  - The HART Advisory Committee continues to meet and discuss solutions for safer grade crossings. The committee will meet February 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.
  - The next Greater Houston Freight Committee meeting is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 1:30pm.
3. Intelligent Transportation Systems and TSMO Planning
  - ITS Architecture Project and Website Update will conclude in April 2025. The Consultant has provided the following:
    - i. Draft of the ITS Plan under review by staff.
    - ii. Draft website content.
    - iii. Interactive information display developed through RAD-IT database.
4. Resiliency Planning
  - The PROTECT grant agreement is undergoing final review and being processed internally for execution.
5. Other Planning Activities
  - The Public Participation Plan (PPP) is being revised and the initial draft is nearing completion.

## SHORT RANGE PLANNING

1. Project Programming
  - Coordinated with TxDOT districts and the local sponsors to prepare TIP amendments. Continue work on preparing recommendations for project selection in 5 investment categories.
2. Pedestrian and Bicyclist Planning
  - Memorial Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Study: The first steering committee meeting was held on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The project team is hosting a series of virtual focus group meetings in mid-late February and are preparing for the first public meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup> at the Energy Corridor District office.
3. Transit Planning
  - The Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee met on Thursday, January 9, 2025. The Subcommittee's next regular meeting will occur on Thursday, April 10, 2025.
  - The Initial Steering Committee for the Dayton Transit Plan was held on February 10 in Dayton. Consulting conducting existing conditions work and stakeholder interviews. Public meetings expected in late March.
  - The Regional Transit Information Study (RTIS) is developing research and peers. Outreach strategies are also under development.

- The Sugar Land Microtransit Pilot Project under CMAQ is tentatively scheduled to start March 18.
- Evaluation of alignment alternatives for the US 90A Transit Corridor Study continues. The Steering Committee met on February 11, 2025. The second Stakeholder Committee meeting and public meeting are expected to be scheduled shortly.
- The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Regional Bus Study was released on February 12, 2025. The proposal submission deadline is March 27, 2025.
- Staff continues to work with METRO and regional transit partners towards implementation of the Regional Transit Connectivity Project. METRO provided an update to regional transit partners and H-GAC staff at the February 6, 2025, standing monthly coordination meeting.

#### 4. Tracking and Monitoring

- Staff conducted quarterly meetings with local government sponsors regarding projects included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Staff drafted minutes of the TIP Quarterly meetings.
- Staff provided H-GAC's TIP Programming Team a list of needed amendments resulting from the TIP Quarterly meetings.
- Staff worked to ensure amendments resulting from the TIP Quarterly meetings are completed.

### TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC OUTREACH

- 2050 Regional Transportation Plan – Phase I
- Travel Demand Management – Commute Solutions
- Washington Avenue Corridor Study
- Energy Corridor Memorial Drive Pedestrian Study
- Incident Management/Tow and Go

### MPO PROGRAMS

#### 1. Incident Management/Tow and Go

- H-GAC in partnership with TxDOT hosted a Traffic Incident Management Train-the-Trainer Course in Fort Bend County at the TxDOT Fort Bend County Maintenance Office. There was a diverse group of attendees from different organizations, police, fire, HCTRA, etc.
- Staff attended the Houston World Cup 26 Transportation Committee meeting at Houston TranStar.

#### 2. Safety Outreach

- Regional Safety Outreach  
Meeting with ConnectSmart team at TXDOT Houston District to discuss Drunk Driving Campaign. The meeting will be held on February 13, 2025. Staff to discuss planning and budget.
- Teen Driver Education and Outreach  
In the Solicitation process with Procurement. Staff answered vendor questions on January 31, 2025. Proposals due February 20, 2025.
- Board approval will be held in April 2025.
- Youth Traffic Safety and Outreach  
In the Solicitation process with Procurement. Proposals due on February 27, 2025.
- Board approval will be held in April 2025.

3. Hurricane Evacuation

Staff has begun revising the 2025 Hurricane Maps.

4. Title VI/Language Access

- Work has begun on the long-term effort to provide notice about the language assistance services available to the public under the updated Language Access Plan. Staff participated in the Lunar New Year event hosted by the Chinese Community Center to provide this information in the Mandarin-speaking community.

5. Travel Demand Management

Staff met with transportation partners to collaborate our efforts on how we can support municipal and federal workers in response to the return to office mandate.

- The marketing lead posted content on H-GAC's social media page that promoted the Commute Solutions program and the added benefits of taking an alternate mode of transportation.
- The team is working with AECOM to develop an employee handbook that outlines the importance of travel demand management within the Houston-Galveston region, and how the program fits within the MPO and COG framework.
- Staff worked with the Data, Analytics, and Research team to gain better insight into traffic volume within the 8-county region, and population and employment growth per county.
- The Outreach lead attended the North Houston Association's Monthly meeting on the topic of the Houston Spaceport (Ellington Field) and connected with the Houston Airport Systems to talk about the incoming workforce to the Spaceport.
- Commute Solutions facilitated the renewal of our partners, TEI Planning & Design and Rice University, for the designation as Best Workplaces for Commuters. The announcement took place during a virtual call on Jan. 30th. when our partners were announced along with over 800 other worksites and universities.
- Commute Solutions is working with the team at Metropia and ConnectSmart to produce a partner appreciation event this spring. Tentative dates have been identified, but not yet finalized. In addition, app users grew by 256 and trip counts equaled 4,025 amounting to a reduction of VMTs by over 5,550 miles.
- Love to Ride joined Commute Solutions at the Jan. 16, 2025, Ped-Bike Subcommittee to provide updates on the mapping tool and the results of the 2024 Biketober campaign. Will Caiger, Head of Projects at Love to Ride, joined us virtually to provide the subcommittee with a full demo of the capabilities of the mapping tool and how it can be utilized for bike planning.
- The Regional Emergency Ride Home contract is currently in the Pre-award Audit process. While waiting for this to be completed, Commute Solutions hosted a discussion with transportation

stakeholders to review the scope of work and discuss the program's alignment with other ERH programs in the region.

#### **CLEAN VEHICLES PROGRAMS PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

- Staff processed an invoice through the H-GAC financial system to release \$540,866.21 in grant funding for the replacement of five diesel-powered school buses with five alternative fuel-powered buses. This project is estimated to reduce NOx emissions by 16.2 tons over the next five years.
- Staff conducted a quarterly Area Emissions Reduction Committee (AERCO) Meeting to provide updates and reports for School Districts that receive AERCO mediated funds through the Clean Vehicle Program.
- Staff continue to monitor vehicle usage data for program participants in H-GAC's Clean Vehicles Program. A total of 107 vehicles have been monitored for January 2025.

#### **GENERAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

- Staff continued working to prepare for three upcoming regional conformity activities over the next three years. This has included outreach to internal staff and external stakeholders to schedule recurring meetings on conformity-related topics and data needs. Staff have met individually with partners, such as TCEQ, to begin gathering information needed to begin the conformity process.
- TCEQ's Rider 7 project is funding that is available to near nonattainment areas to support projects that may assist with the development of the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Our region has been awarded approximately \$450,000 in project funding. Staff have been working since late last year to develop a regional project to support this effort. This month, staff worked with H-GAC's Procurement group to release the RFP and conducted a Pre-Proposal Meeting for interested parties.
- The Houston-Clean Cities Coalition is actively gathering information from regional organizations and businesses about their use of alternative fuels and other strategies that generate fuel use and emissions reductions. This data will help identify trends in alternative fuel usage, assess future needs, and potentially support the development of grant funding programs. Organizations that would like to participate are encouraged to download a form at [houston-cleancities.org](https://houston-cleancities.org), and submit their completed form to staff by March 21, 2025.
- Staff are collaborating with the 2026 Houston World Cup Sustainability Initiative to plan a Regional Air Quality Summit, bringing together students, community stakeholders, policymakers, and industry leaders to address local air quality challenges and solutions.
- In partnership with the Houston Advanced Research Center, staff has completed a regional greenhouse gas inventory and developed a business-as-usual emissions projection for 2050. The team is now procuring an engagement consultant to facilitate community discussions on pollution reduction strategies and public health improvements.
- Staff are finalizing a Zero-Emission Vehicle webpage to serve as a central location for information about agency and regional ZEV efforts. A series of one-page explainer sheets on types of vehicles has been drafted for inclusion on the webpage. The team is reviewing the existing EV dashboard to ensure maximum usability and clarity.
- Drafting of a ZEV study has progressed into analysis of charging and fueling infrastructure, to include GIS analysis of existing stations and suitability of additional areas to aid in site selection conversations.

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

- A consultant has been engaged to provide technical support for the travel demand model's update, validation, and calibration, which includes:
  - ◊ A new calibration platform.

- ◇ An upgraded software version.
- ◇ The addition of new transportation modes.
- Staff continue to refine and maintain the travel demand model and air quality model to ensure readiness for the upcoming air quality conformity requirements in 2025.
- Staff continue to provide ongoing travel demand modeling and data analysis support for regional, subregional, and corridor transportation planning studies.
- Staff continue to provide data and modeling support for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and performance measures.
- Staff continue to work with the consultant to utilize data from the airport travel survey to develop a specialized airport travel demand submodel.
- Staff continue to provide technical support and guidance for the Commercial Vehicle Surveys in the Houston region.
- ◇ Staff are developing the scope of work, managing procurement, and providing technical support for regional surveys planned for 2025, including:
  - ◇ University Travel Survey.
  - ◇ Transit Onboard Travel Survey.
- Staff are finalizing the scope of work for scenario planning tools.