

10. RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER AS COMMUTE SOLUTIONS MONTH

**BACKGROUND**

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Commute Solutions is the region's travel demand management program that provides marketing, education, and outreach about transportation options in the region that can help reduce congestion and improve air quality. The Commute Solutions program is administered by the Metropolitan Planning Organization in partnership with the Houston-Galveston Area Council, Texas Department of Transportation, regional transportation agencies, area employers, higher education, local and county governments, and other community organizations.

September is the anniversary month of the Commute Solutions program. Last year, in honor of the program's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Federal Highway Administration and the Texas Department of Transportation gave the Commute Solutions program the "green light" to pilot an Ozone Action Campaign. The Campaign provided marketing to encourage people to make choices that can reduce ground level ozone during the peak ozone season.

Historically, September has been one of the worst months for air quality in our region. During the pilot in September 2024, transit ridership at participating agencies increased, and continued into the following months, helping to reduce congestion and lower pollution during this critical time.

**CURRENT SITUATION**

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Houston-Galveston Area Council staff are working with the Texas Department of Transportation to continue this campaign as part of Commute Solutions Month 2025 and build on last year's momentum of educating and spreading awareness of how commuters can reduce their ground ozone. Staff are requesting the Transportation Policy Council recognize September 2025 as Commute Solutions Month. During the month, H-GAC staff plan to continue the Ozone Action Campaign, Breathe Easy September, that will:

- **Encourage** the region to try transportation strategies that can reduce ground level ozone during the peak ozone season (ex: Trip chaining, taking transit, carpool, vanpool, fueling up at night)
- **Partner with area transit providers** to provide funding support to help people try transit on Fridays in September.
- **Partner with additional agencies such** as Air Alliance and the Texas Department of Transportation's Connect Smart program to raise awareness about the campaign and strategies that can reduce ground level ozone during this time.

**ACTION REQUESTED**

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Information Only