

5A. SUMMARY OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Sub-regional Planning Initiatives (SPI)

- Washington Ave Corridor Study: The study is complete and has been closed out. The final documents are available on the H-GAC website as well as the Engage website at <https://engage.h-gac.com/wacs>.
- Friendswood Parkway Corridor Study: The consultant is working on the final report for submission to H-GAC and the City of Friendswood for review. The study is anticipated to be completed in April 2026.
- Friendswood Active Transportation Plan: The first community meeting was held on December 18, 2025, at the Friendswood Public Library from 6:00–8:00 PM. An online survey is currently available through January 18, 2026, to help prioritize project recommendations and guide implementation. The survey can be accessed on the project website at [Friendswood Active Transportation Plan](#) | [Engage HGAC](#).
- Buffalo Bayou East Concept: The final community meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2026, from 6:00–8:00 PM at the Warehouse at Turkey Bend. Draft recommendations will be presented to the public prior to finalizing the report.
- North Houston Communities Transportation Priorities Plan (NHCTPP): The Board approved the contract for consultant services on August 19, 2025. The project kickoff is TBD pending TxDOT concurrence with the contract.
- Montgomery County Mobility Plan: The contract is fully executed. Project kickoff is scheduled for January 20, 2026.
- Needville Mobility Plan: The contract for consultant services received Board approval at the December 16, 2025 meeting. The internal audit process is underway, and the project is anticipated to begin in February 2026.
- Liberty County Thoroughfare Plan: Staff has compiled and mapped all comments received during the data-gathering workshop held in October 2025. The compiled comments have been shared with stakeholders. Staff is currently developing the base thoroughfare map to present to the County once completed.
- Waller County Thoroughfare Plan Update: Staff is finalizing the Scope of Work, Project Management Plan, and project schedule to share with the County. The thoroughfare plan update is anticipated to kick off in January 2026.
- Regional Complete Streets Planning Guide (RCSPG): The IIJA requires MPO's to develop a Regional Complete Streets Plan. H-GAC staff will seek consultant services through the RFP process to assist with specific tasks related to developing the RCSPG, while other tasks will be done in-house. Staff is soliciting volunteers to be on the Complete Streets Advisory Committee, who will inform the RCSPG based on the various contexts within our region. The RCSPG was presented to the RTP Subcommittee on December 16, 2025. The RCSPG will also be included in the announcements during the Ped/Bike Subcommittee meeting on January 15, 2026.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

- Conducted the RTP Subcommittee on Tuesday, January 13, 2026.
- Presented RTP2050 Goals to RTP Subcommittee.
- Preparation for Phase II has begun including analysis of Phase I outreach strategy and efforts.

Safety Planning

- Staff reviewed TxDOT crash data as part of the annual Safety Performance Measures process to establish performance targets and prepare the 2025 results for submission to the Federal Highway Administration.
- Staff are coordinating for a joint Regional/Metro/GCRD public meeting scheduled for February 12th. Staff met with the Tow and Go Program to participate in the event.
- Staff continue support and preparation for the bi-monthly Transportation Safety Committee meetings
- The Transportation Safety Committee provided input on the Regional Safety Action Plan.
- Staff prepared a Regional Safety Action Plan update presentation for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Subcommittee scheduled for January 15, 2026.
- Staff reviewed and approved the monthly project invoices to ensure accuracy and contract compliance.
- Staff coordinates with the consultant to monitor ongoing changes within the local safety action plan task force liaisons, to maintain project progress and schedule.

Freight Planning

- The Greater Houston Freight Committee met January 15th at 1:30 p.m., the presentations are available on the H-GAC committee webpage. The next meeting is scheduled for April 16th at 1:30 p.m.
- Staff continues to develop and advance the Freight Grade Separation program guidelines and scope of work
- Staff continues to develop and advance the SS 197/FM 519 Grade Separation Feasibility Study Scope.

Pedestrian and Bicyclist Planning

- Staff opened the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) call for projects. Staff is receiving Statements of Project Interest from potential project sponsors through January 23.
- The TAC's Pedestrian-Bicyclist Subcommittee convened their GIS Network Update Work Group and Project Prioritization Work Group.
- Staff concluded the consultant procurement process for the 2050 Regional Active Transportation Plan request for proposals (RFP) and provided recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval.

Resiliency Planning

- Staff is initiating the procurement process for the PROTECT grant.

TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC OUTREACH

Friendswood Active Transportation Plan

- Social media – Continued social posts started in July 2025 with the latest posts going live on January 3.

SHORT TERM PLANNING

PROJECT PROGRAMMING

- Coordinated with project sponsors and process required amendments to the TIP projects.
- Coordinated with FHWA and FTA on various discussion items.
- Conducted the TIP Subcommittee on Wednesday, January 7.
 - Discussed TIP development, including project information updates, the risk register, and LG project scheduling tool.
 - Draft transit Standard Operating Procedure for Project Descriptions
- Met with contractor to discuss Transportation Project Database
 - Ongoing meetings to finalize the contract.
- Staff reviewed conformity partners' comments on Conformity documentation for the 2045 RTP Update Amendment Appendix B: RTP List and addressed them as appropriate.

PROJECT DELIVERY – TRACKING AND MONITORING

- Staff conducted Quarterly meetings with local government agencies regarding projects included in the 4-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Staff prepared meeting minutes for each quarterly meeting conducted and worked on action/follow up items.
- Staff refined the Draft Project Development/Delivery Milestone Policy
- Staff conducted two Project Development/Delivery Milestone Policy Workgroup Meetings. The recent workgroup sessions have involved getting the draft policy and related tools ready to be presented to TAC/TPC in December.
- Staff created presentations for December TAC/TPC to discuss the update on the Project Development/Delivery Milestone Policy, with the desire for policy adoption at the meeting.
- Staff has collected and analyzed data for presentation prep for a Carry Over Spend Down projects update to TAC/TPC in December.

AIR QUALITY

Air Quality Planning

- Staff prepared an update to air quality-focused public information in support of RTP 2050. This was accomplished using the 2018 Air Quality Initiatives Report and the 2022 PM_{2.5} Advance Path Forward Plan and will serve as the basis for a report on the state of air quality in our region that staff will begin drafting soon (UPWP Subtask 3.3.a).
- Transportation Conformity: H-GAC has received comments on the current transportation conformity determination from statewide conformity partners at the Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) Division of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) at the end of December. This month, staff will work toward completing the incorporation of all suggested revisions to date and will then provide individual responses to each partner who conducted a review and submitted comments (UPWP Subtask 3.3.b).
- Emissions Reductions (ER): H-GAC continues internal and external collaboration to assist with various efforts related to ERs, including the following (Subtask 3.3.c):

- Assistance with scenario modeling for RTP 2050 is ongoing. Previously, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) provided vehicle population data for 2023 and a conservative projection of vehicle populations in 2050, which showed increased proportions of single-occupant vehicles (e.g., passenger cars and trucks). This month, staff will request that TTI make another projection for vehicle populations in 2050 under an “ideal future” scenario with increased transit ridership. These scenarios will then be modeled using the MOVES model to make a statement about potential impacts on air quality with varying transportation investments.
- Efforts to support Free Fare Friday (FFF) and Commute Solutions are complete. Actual ridership data from the campaign were used to calculate the net NO_x, VOC, and CO₂ equivalent ERs that were realized by participating transit partners during the month of September. Additionally, these results were expressed in terms of the number of cars removed from the road by FFF for the purposes of invoicing.
- Staff are in the process of calculating the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) ERs for a microtransit project by the City of Sugar Land. The microtransit project utilizes five electric vehicles in their carpool and three hybrid minivans in their vanpool. The CMAQ ERs for this project have been estimated using the Carpooling and Vanpooling Tool in the CMAQ Calculator Toolkit, and staff have created a calculation guide and post-processing tool that will be reusable in the future.
- H-GAC continued advancing the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program by refining and expanding the Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP). This month staff will complete a first polished draft for review that builds on the EPA-submitted Comprehensive Climate Action Plan by adding regional context, strengthening the health-focused narrative, emphasizing multi-pollutant benefits, and further detailing ozone and particulate matter impacts. Preparations are underway for a public launch in early 2026 to share the final plan with community members, local governments, and stakeholders, highlight how input shaped the strategies, and identify opportunities for regional collaboration. (UPWP Subtask 3.3.a and EPA CPRG grant funding)
- Staff completed the final round of QA/QC on the 2025 ZEV Infrastructure study. It was published on the H-GAC ZEV webpage. A social media/email/newsletter promotion period for the study is nearing completion. AQ group staff is reviewing a draft scope of work (SOW) for the full ZEV Infrastructure plan. Procurement for this SOW is tentatively scheduled for Q1. (UPWP Subtask 5.5.b)
- Staff are continuing to work to complete initial efforts to support the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s (TCEQ) 2024-2025 Rider 7 Program (TCEQ Rider 7 funding):
 - For our currently underway project for the 2024-2025 biennium, staff are working with consultant AECOM to improve knowledge of fine particulate matter within our region. During December, staff and consultants submitted the draft final report to TCEQ for review. Once TCEQ staff complete their review, the project team will revise and submit a final report.
 - Staff are working to develop further Rider 7 efforts to support funding awarded by TCEQ for the 2026-2027 biennium. This will extend regional Rider 7 activities for two more years and provide an additional \$627,967 for project activities over the next two years. During the current period, staff have finalized the contract to support this work and are working to plan for and develop a scope of work to support and an anticipated procurement to support 2026 and 2027 grant activities.

- A vehicle replacement sub-agreement with MTZT Trucking completed its monitor period in December and all sub-agreement requirements have been met. Staff has completed the close out process on this sub-agreement. (AFA 552)
- Following the closeout, MTZT inquired about the possibility of replacing four additional Class 8 trucks. Staff explained that a limited number of Build America / Buy America (BABA) waivers remain available. MTZT promptly submitted an application, which is now under staff review. If eligible, this new MTZT project will utilize the remaining three BABA waivers. (AFA 552)
- Staff will be meeting with TxDOT within the next month to prepare for the kickoff of the next Clean Vehicles Program advance funding agreement. Staff hopes to clarify some final details as we approach the initiation of this new funding source. (AFA 643)
- Staff received a new application for one (1) truck replacement. The application is still in the review process. Staff anticipates that this truck replacement, if eligible, would be funded under the next AFA. (AFA 643)
- Staff received initial training from the GPS provider GoFleet. Vehicles under monitoring have been organized and the "H-GAC Regional Zone" was developed to expedite the monitoring process. A second training session will be scheduled as needed. (UPWP Subtask 5.5.b)

Houston-Galveston Clean Cities Coalition

- Staff engaged with the TESLA Sales Team, who reported plans to increase manufacturing of Class 8 trucks for the region. The TESLA Trucks are BABA compliant. This information was shared with fleet managers that are listed as stakeholders in the Clean Cities Coalition stakeholders. Two companies have expressed interest; one is specifically interested in electric trucks provided that grant funding is available to offset technology and infrastructure costs. (DOE Clean Cities and Communities funding)
- Staff continues to plan for the 2026 Quarter 1 Stakeholder Meeting. Planning activities include identifying and coordinating presenters, compiling a list of available grant funding opportunities, gathering updates on other Clean Cities Coalition events, and conducting outreach to our stakeholders. (DOE Clean Cities and Communities funding)
- The Grants Subcommittee is continuing to plan a webinar focused on "How to Research and Apply for Grants." They have identified three organizations to target for potential presenters: Grants.gov (federal), TERP (state), and a to-be-determined organization representing corporations and foundations. The intended audience for the webinar will be regional stakeholders; however, if the event is successful, we may invite the same presenters to participate in a statewide webinar hosted by all the Clean Cities Coalitions in Texas. (DOE Clean Cities and Communities funding)
- Staff is coordinating with the Center for Houston's Future, the Port of Houston Authority, the University of Houston, and the Texas Hydrogen Alliance to develop a hydrogen workforce job fair event. They have completed our most recent planning meeting and are now moving into the implementation phase. (DOE Clean Cities and Communities funding)
- The International Advanced Clean Transportation (ACT) Expo has requested staff assistance in reviewing event planning. Their role includes suggesting relevant topics, recommending speakers, and helping to secure exhibitors who will attract Clean Cities and Communities stakeholders to the event. The ACT Expo will be offering free admission to the event to the staff for participating. (DOE Clean Cities and Communities funding)

MPO PROGRAMS

Incident Management/Tow and Go

- Social media – Continued bi-weekly social posts.

- Staff worked on the development of our next contract with program partners for the continuation of Regional Freeway Incident Management programs.
- Staff held its regularly scheduled monthly Tow and Go meeting.
- Staff worked internally in preparation of onboarding additional staff to support program operations.

Transit Planning

- The Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee held its regular quarterly meeting on January 8, 2026.
- The Regional Bus Study is underway, with the consultant conducting early project management and data collection activities.
- The Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan (RPTCP) 2027-2031 update is underway. The transit team is advancing the RPTCP in-house, with weekly coordination between staff to finalize data, mapping, and engagement materials, including partnerships with the Area Agency on Aging. Work on the Interim Plan chapters is on track, with key datasets being delivered through January.
- The Regional Transit Information Study (RTIS) is continuing with Steering Committee engagements, and this month will kick off Stakeholder meetings.

Safety Outreach

Teen Drivers Education and Outreach Program:

Outreach Strategists were assigned to research an evidence-based curriculum to confirm its alignment with program requirements. Following this process, the curriculum was reviewed and approved. Consultant to begin outreach efforts.

Youth Traffic Safety Education and Outreach Program:

The contract terms with Texas Children's Hospital are still in the process of being finalized.

Regional Safety Campaign:

Ride, Don't Drive Campaign: An expenditure approval form and supporting documentation are being prepared to initiate a service agreement with Metropia and selected influencers, ensuring that all campaign requirements are met.

Freight Safety Campaign: The campaign's media buy plan has been received and will be reviewed by MPO Program Manager and Senior Manager. A meeting is being coordinated to discuss the campaign budget and campaign timelines.

Hurricane Evacuation: Staff is working to revamp the Together Against the Weather campaign and website. This site will serve as a resource hub for partners across the region to access resources they can utilize and extend to their networks.

Intelligent Transportation Systems and TSMO Planning: No updates for the month of January.

Title VI/Language Access

Staff continue efforts to support the upcoming second round of public engagement activities for the Regional Transportation Plan 2050, including reaching out to contacts and advocates from the different regional communities and seeking tabling opportunities in community events in areas with high LEP populations.

Congestion Management Process

- The Congestion Management Process (CMP) 2026 Update consultant contract approval is underway. Approval and execution of the contract with Cambridge Systematics is expected to be completed before February 1, 2025, when the project is scheduled to start. A kickoff meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 4 with the Consultant and H-GAC staff.
- Data Analytics and Research is conducting a Congestion Management Analysis for Transportation for a capacity expansion of SH 99 in Fort Bend County. Upon review of the analysis by staff, the determination of a capacity expansion waiver will be made. Expected completion is in January 2026.
- The CMP online Story Board is under development, with revisions to the effort expected to be completed by February. Upon placement of the Story Board on H-GAC's website, researchers and the public will have access to a summary of the Congestion Management Process and a review of the highest roadway congestion segments in the region.

Travel Demand Management | Commute Solutions

- Social media – Concluded seasonal social media campaign that promoted safe alternative transportation methods for the holiday season. Monthly Commute Solutions posts continue.
- Staff worked with Gulf Coast Transit District (GCTD) in promoting their new transit service between Galveston Island and the Mainland. Through a concerted marketing and outreach effort, the social media post received over 150,000 impressions and over 6,000 engagements.
- Staff launched planning efforts to host regional partners and share World Cup-specific TDM strategies. The project timeline includes key deliverables through August, with final preparations continuing until the event in January.
- Commute Solutions continued meetings and scope reviews with the Bike Encouragement contractor, Love to Ride. H-GAC's internal audit also began its review of the supporting documents.
- Commute Solutions is in the pre-award audit phase to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the Bay Area Houston Transportation Partnership (BayTran).
- Commute Solutions is in the pre-award audit phase to award a contract to Exemplifi for the website redesign and migration project.
- Regional emergency ride home program is in the contracting phase.
- Staff continues to actively be engaged in the 8-county MPO region, ensuring that staff are actively engaged in their communities and educating commuters and employers about the alternative transportation methods available in the region.

TRAVEL DEMAND MODELING & FORECASTING

- Staff continues to provide travel demand and forecasting modeling to support the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP), the FIFA 2026 World Cup Transportation Scenario Planning and other traffic and travel related data developments, and analysis within the H-GAC MPO region that supports sub-regional and corridor studies. These include modeling support for TxDOT and non-TxDOT projects such as:

TxDOT Projects Support:

- I-10 Inner Katy Corridor Traffic Projection
- FM 1097 Traffic Project (TxDOT)
- I-10 Ramp Reversals (TxDOT)
- Trip Data for TMC (TxDOT)
- 36A South Traffic Projection (TxDOT)
- SH 288 Toll Extension (TxDOT)

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Hardy Downtown Connector Program (HCTRA

Traffic Project for Mueschke Road (Harris County Precinct 4)

Eldridge Parkway Corridor Study (Harris Energy Corridor

Regional Bus Study (Internal – Transportation Department)

CMV-Related Crash Data Analysis (Internal – Transportation Department)

Transit Ridership for 2026 Free Fare Friday (Internal – Transportation Department)

• **Transportation/Modeling & Conformity:**

- Modeling for various scenarios is completed, FHWA reviewed and sent comments, comments received, staff working on response for comments regarding modeling.
- Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) testing the Air Quality Utility for MOVES-5 - Ongoing
- Air Quality Dashboard development at about 90% completion
- Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Modeling and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Support – Ongoing
- Travel Demand Modeling Update at 100% completion, Model Validation and Calibration at about 90% completion.
- Advanced Transportation Scenario Planning Tools (ATSPT) Procurement is on-going
- Spatial Emissions Estimator (SEE) Air Quality Model Tool Update is On-going
- Travel Demand Model (TDM) 2-yrs Consultant On-Call Procurement is On-going

• **World Cup 2026 FIFA Scenario Planning Services:**

- Transportation Modeling to support various World Cup 2026 Scenarios Planning – On-going

• **Regional Travel Surveys Updates:**

- Survey results for Commercial Vehicles delivered to TxDOT for review in October 2025, H-GAC awaits TxDOT approval
- Commercial Vehicle Survey results have been delivered to TTI for review on behalf of TxDOT in October. H-GAC awaits final database from TxDOT
- Major Universities and Community Colleges Surveys - data collection is completed, project is at Expansion stage

SOCIOECONOMIC DATA, MODELING AND APPLICATIONS

- Staff processed and validated the 2024 certified appraisal data for all eight counties, including updated land-use classifications and standardized, model-ready outputs. This work is 95% complete as of December, with final quality assurance underway.
- Model-building inputs were further refined using updated master-planned community data, plat records, and major development activity, including the Fort Bend Tollway expansion. This effort is 90% complete as of December.
- The Travel Demand and Socioeconomic Modeling teams participated in a peer exchange with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), with follow-up work supporting land-use modeling and scenario planning continuing as of December.
- Staff collaborated with the Transportation Department to enhance the Subregional Planning Application. This included adding new Subregional Study Recommendations (Bay Area Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Plan, FM 518 Corridor Study, Old Sixth Ward TIRZ, and Pearland Mobility Study), deploying a new manager application to edit and synchronize layers with the main app,

and implementing a new proposal interface, data-management workflow, and initial UI improvements. The project is 80% complete as of December.

- Development of the Monthly Regional Crash Data Report continued, including downloading and processing the latest CRIS data and advancing the automated Tableau reporting environment. This work is 95% complete as of December.
- In support of the 2050 RTP, staff advanced the Existing Conditions Report, including updates to demographics, land use, and the transportation system based on the 2024 Regional Growth Forecast; Housing Demand and Cost Burden analysis; Regional Activity Centers analysis; and Regional Historical Trends and transportation statistics. Staff also continued development of the Vision, Freight, and Tourism Survey Application, reviewed feedback on the Existing Conditions Report, and prepared materials for the Stage 2 Public Meeting.
- The Model Parcels Update, based on 2024 certified appraisal data for participating counties, is 25% complete as of December, with data ingestion workflows and attribute refinement in progress.
- Staff continued supporting the update of the Regional Public Transit Coordination Plan, including revisions to the Transit Needs Index and Gap Analysis methodology, evaluation of in-house versus consultant delivery, and refinement of staffing requirements and estimated labor hours.