

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

December 02, 2025– 1:30 P.M.

Houston-Galveston Area Council

3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX 77027

Virtual

MEMBERS PRESENT

Robert Benz, P.E.– Texas A&M Trans. Institute
Jamie Woodall–Executive Dir. of School Safety
Bruce Mann– RC Railco
Melody Galland– TxDOT
Lisa Camp– City of Friendswood-EMS
Jack Hannigraff– East End District
Ken Fickes– Harris County Transit

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Johana Clark– City of Houston
Vernon Chambers– Harris County Transit
Jarred Thomas– City of Missouri City

STAFF PRESENT

Cassandra Marshall – H-GAC
Yetunde Oyewale– H-GAC
Caroline Bailey– H-GAC
Qun Zhao– H-GAC
Keehren Baah– H-GAC
Alan Rodenstein– H-GAC
Stephen Keen– H-GAC
M. Statkewicz– H-GAC
Sydni Ligons – H-GAC
Florence Buaku– H-GAC
Carlos Lugo– H-GAC

OTHERS PRESENT

Aysha Kayani– AECOM
Zakaria Sumer

ITEM 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

ITEM 2. Public Comments

- None

ITEM 3. Acceptance of Minutes: July 29, 2025

- Meeting Minutes held for quorum.

Discussion

ITEM 4. Safety Briefing-Regional Safety Action Plan (Robert Benz)

The project led by Kimley Horn with support from multiple sub consultants, is progressing well, with many Stakeholder meetings already completed and more planned in the coming months. While the timeline has relaxed due to funding flexibility, this allows additional time for feedback from committee and other Stakeholders through surveys, interviews, and focus groups.

The plan follows the safe system approach, with H-GAC focusing on safety for people, safer roads, and safer speeds, addressing key issues such as impaired driving, speeding, distraction, and seat belts nonissue through a combination of education, enforcement, and engineering. Consultants are developing targeted countermeasures and practical strategies, considering funding and policy options, while the task force continues to review data and guide the plan's refinement.

Recommendations will be presented to TAC and TPC for adoption, with the goal of producing a well-rounded, actionable Safety Action Plan to reduce crashes and fatalities in the region.

ITEM 5. Resiliency Plan -All Natural Disasters Update (Caroline Bailey)

Caroline Bailey presented findings on regional vulnerability planning, noting the occurrence of significant weather-related disasters in recent years. She explained the assessments that categorized critical assets and their vulnerabilities, emphasizing the need to enhance the resiliency of major roadways. Caroline discussed the Regional Resiliency Tool, which provides criticality and vulnerability assessments for major roadways and bridges. She explained how the tool is being integrated into project selection processes and mentioned the creation of a toolbox of adaptation strategies. Additionally, Caroline outlined plans for a Regional Resiliency Plan funded by a PROTECT grant, aimed at expanding the scope of the pilot program.

ITEM 6. Freight Safety Update (Sydni Ligons)

Sydni Ligons presented the railroad grade separation initiative aimed at improving safety at grade crossings. Sydni discussed the railroad grade separation initiative, emphasizing the need for feasibility studies due to the significant safety issues at grade crossings in Texas. The program will focus on regional coverage and provide local agencies with a framework for project development and funding applications. A call for projects is expected to open in early 2026.

ITEM 7. 2045 RTP Amendment Update (Stephen Keen)

Stephen Keen provided an overview of the 2045 RTP update amendment, which requires conformity approval because of the region's air quality status. The amendment includes 948 projects and 188 local enhancement projects, with a focus on safety improvements and connectivity. The anticipated conformity determination is expected by early 2026.

ITEM 8. Safety Workshop: Discussion (Keehren Baah)

Keehren Baah outlined the plan for a Safety workshop aimed at TPC members in early 2026, requesting input from the Transportation Safety Committee. The workshop will include discussions on safety performance, crash data, and hands-on activities. Bruce Mann proposed swapping two sections of the outline for improved clarity, emphasizing the need for a deeper conversation about changing human behavior related to safety.

ITEM 9. Term Expiration and Nomination Process: Discussion (Robert Benz)

Keehren notified TSC members that we are ahead of the upcoming changes and fully prepared for the next nomination cycle. As a reminder, TSC members are appointed by members of the TPC. Each term is two years, after which the TPC nominates both voting and alternate members for the next cycle. This process occurs every two years. At this time, I am asking committee members to reach out to their respective TPC contacts to discuss nomination. If you no longer have a direct TPC contact, please let us know, we are happy to assist in making that connection. Roster approval is anticipated in early 2026, potentially as soon as January or February. Preparing now will ensure a smooth transition.

ITEM 10. Round table Discussion and Announcements (H-GAC)

During the roundtable, members discussed transportation safety activities and the importance of proactive maintenance. One agency shared its annual night rides with leadership to assess signage, striping, and delineation for safety, prompting discussion on whether other agencies conduct similar evaluations. While some cities noted they focus on priority corridors rather than systemwide reviews, the group emphasized that many safety audit recommendations involve routine maintenance such as signal retiming and restriping. This led to the idea of requiring agencies submitting TIP projects to include a maintenance plan outlining frequency, benchmarks, and funding. TxDOT shared that it already operates under multiyear maintenance plans with performance measures and annual reviews, while city representatives described structured signal timing programs but acknowledged budget challenges. The group agreed to gather high level information on existing maintenance plans within their agencies and continue the discussion.

Announcements

1. Transportation Policy Council (TPC)-December 19, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. (In person)
2. Transportation Advisory Council (TAC)-December 10, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. (In-person)
3. Transportation Safety Committee (TSC)- January 27, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. (virtual)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Meeting Adjourned at 2:50 p.m.