

6A. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA

DATE: Friday, April 24, 2026

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: 3555 Timmons Lane, Conference Room B, Houston, Texas 77027

The presiding officer, Chairman Justin Beckendorff called the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting of April 24, 2026, at 9:36 a.m. to order.

CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM, INTRODUCTIONS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chairman Justin Beckendorff opened the meeting with greetings and requested attendees to take their seats. The Chair asked Ms. Allie Isbell (H-GAC) to conduct the roll call and verify quorum. Ms. Isbell confirmed that a quorum of 16 members was present, as documented in Attachment 1. Chair Beckendorff asked the Council if anyone wanted to declare a conflict of interest on any item on the agenda. No conflicts of interest were declared by any TPC members. All presentations, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Allie Isbell (HGAC) provided instructions to the public on how to submit comments online and informed attendees that Spanish translation services were available onsite, while American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation were accessible online. No written comments were submitted by April 21, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. No public comments were provided in person, and no public comments were provided online. All presentations, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 5. MPO DIRECTOR REPORT AND ORIENTATION OF AGENDA, MR. RON PAPSORF, CHIEF TRANSPORTATION OFFICER, H-GAC

Mr. Ron Papsdorf, Chief Transportation Officer (HGAC) gave a brief update on recent MPO activities and key items. He highlighted two ongoing public comment periods: the draft 2027–2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Public Participation Plan, noting both are available on the MPO website for review and input. Mr. Papsdorf also shared recent outreach and engagement efforts, including participation in the Texas ITE Spring Conference, where Allie Isbell and Catherine McCreight, TxDOT, led an MPO 101 session, and his own participation on a panel discussing regional transportation challenges. He further noted involvement in the Waller County Economic Development Partnership Infrastructure Conference, moderated by the TPC Chair. Mr. Papsdorf provided an update on the ongoing federal certification review, conducted every four years by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Federal representatives were in Houston conducting site visits and stakeholder interviews. A public comment session will occur after this meeting to gather additional input. Mr. Papsdorf also summarized recent H-GAC Board actions supporting MPO activities, including:

- Approval of an interlocal agreement with The Woodlands Township for a World Cup shuttle pilot program

- Authorization of contracts supporting hurricane preparedness outreach, Tow and Go education efforts, and Regional Transportation Plan public engagement.
- Extension of technical support for the TELUS project tracking system during transition to a new platform

Mr. Papsdorf concluded his update by providing an overview of the meeting agenda, noting upcoming consent items, project and program updates, recognition of an outgoing TPC member, and briefings on the TIP, carryover funding progress, and World Cup transportation planning efforts. Mr. Papsdorf concluded his report and returned the meeting to the Chair. All presentations, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 6. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Beckendorff introduced the Consent Agenda noting that it consisted of previously reviewed items. Chair Beckendorff asked the Council if any members wanted to remove any of the items from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration. No requests were made. Chair Beckendorff asked the Council for a motion. A motion was made and seconded. Chair Beckendorff called for a vote. The Council voted and approved the Consent Agenda unanimously. All presentations, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 7. TPC RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION FOR OUTGOING TPC MEMBER, CHAIR JUSTIN BECKENDORFF

Chair Beckendorf introduced a resolution of commendation recognizing Mayor Kevin Cole for his service on the Transportation Policy Council (TPC). Mayor Cole has represented the City of Pearland since 2021, served as Second Vice Chair, and contributed to both the Executive and Nominating Committees. A motion was made and seconded. Following the motion, Council members shared remarks recognizing Mayor Cole's leadership, regional perspective, and commitment to collaboration. Several TPC members highlighted his mentorship to new representatives, his preparedness and thoughtful engagement in meetings, and his strong advocacy for regional approaches to transportation challenges and appreciation for his work both on the TPC and within the region. Mayor Cole offered brief remarks reflecting on his time with the Council, noting the importance of regional collaboration and the need to represent the diverse interests of the Houston-Galveston area. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve and confidence in the continued work of the Council. Chair Beckendorff called for a vote and the Council approved the resolution unanimously. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 8. CARRYOVER SPEND DOWN UPDATE AND STATUS REPORT, MR. SAGNK RAHA AND MR. VISHU LINGALA, H-GAC

Mr. Sagnik "Nik" Raha (HGAC) and Mr. Vishu Lingala (HGAC) provided an update on the region's carryover spend down efforts, highlighting progress made since the policy was implemented to address project delays and high carryover balances in prior years. They noted that before 2022, projects frequently missed key milestones, leading to funding carryover and challenges in programming. Mr. Raha shared the region is actively managing 122 projects totaling approximately \$900 million through quarterly coordination with project sponsors. To date, about \$487 million has been let, with additional projects on track to meet upcoming deadlines.

For the current fiscal year, staff reported:

- 14 projects have already been let
- 37 projects are on track to meet the August deadline
- 2 projects are considered at risk but may still meet the deadline
- 17 projects are not expected to meet the deadline

Mr. Raha explained that delays are primarily due to factors such as AFA (Advanced Funding Agreement) execution delays, TxDOT coordination and priorities, schedule changes, and railroad coordination issues. Mr. Raha concluded his portion of the presentation by providing a detailed recap of the 17 projects that are not expected to meet the deadline.

Mr. Vishu Lingala (HGAC) provided an overview of funding balances, emphasizing that even under conservative scenarios, the region is expected to remain below the 200% federal threshold, meaning there is no anticipated risk of losing funds in either Category 5 (CMAQ) or Category 7 (STBG).

MPO Director Ron Papsdorf added context, noting the region is on track to achieve approximately 75% of the \$900 million spend down effort, representing significant progress. He emphasized that each delayed project has unique circumstances and recommended allowing additional time (“cure period”) for select projects that narrowly miss deadlines before considering reallocation of funds. Staff will return to the TPC at a future meeting with additional details and recommendations on next steps for the projects not expected to meet the deadline. A discussion occurred after the presentation. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Discussion Only. No action needed

ITEM 9. DRAFT FY2027-2030 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) MR. VISHU LINGALA, H-GAC

Mr. Vishu Lingala (HGAC) presented an overview of the Draft FY 2027–2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), explaining the document outlines transportation projects scheduled for implementation over a four-year period and serves as the short-range component of the region’s long-range planning framework. He noted that the TIP is updated every two years and must align with the Regional Transportation Plan, the Statewide TIP, and TxDOT’s Unified Transportation Program.

Key Program Updates

- Addition of project years 2029 and 2030 and removal of 2025 and 2026
- Removal of projects that have already been completed, let, or canceled
- Inclusion of recently selected projects in both development and construction phases

Mr. Lingala also highlighted enhancements tied to the project delivery milestone policy, including the use of risk registers and scheduling tools for MPO-funded projects. These tools will support improved tracking and ongoing performance monitoring through regular updates to TAC and TPC. The draft TIP includes approximately \$14.5 billion in programmed projects against about \$15 billion in available funding, maintaining fiscal constraint and leaving a buffer of roughly \$500 million to accommodate cost adjustments or project advancement. Mr. Lingala emphasized that the TIP is currently undergoing a public comment period, providing multiple opportunities for stakeholders and residents to review and share feedback on

proposed projects. All submitted comments will be compiled and formally addressed, with responses included in the final TIP document. Staff will coordinate with local project sponsors as needed to develop responses, ensuring that feedback is documented. Following the conclusion of the public comment period, staff will finalize the TIP—incorporating public input—and bring it back to the TPC for consideration. If approved, the document will be submitted to TxDOT for inclusion in the Statewide TIP and forwarded to federal partners for final approval. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For discussion only. No action needed

ITEM 10. 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) FUTURE AMENDMENTS, MR. JIM DICKINSON, H-GAC

Mr. Jim Dickinson (HGAC) provided a brief overview of a draft amendment to the 2025–2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), noting how the amendment fits within the broader regional planning framework. The proposed amendment involves a request from Montgomery County to add approximately \$3.3 million in federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds, to be matched with local funding, for the Ford Road reconstruction and widening project. The additional funding would support upgrading the project design to meet federal standards. The project includes two segments, with the western portion already under construction and the eastern segment—located between Needham Road and the Harris County line—scheduled for advancement within the current fiscal year. Mr. Dickinson noted that this item is a draft amendment currently under review and will be brought back to the Transportation Policy Council for formal consideration and approval at a future meeting. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 11. FIFA WORLD CUP SCENARIO PLANNING STUDY UPDATE, MR. JOCHEN FLOESSER, H-GAC AND MR. KOUSHIK ARUNACHALAM, ARCADIS

Mr. Jochen Floesser (HGAC) introduced the FIFA World Cup Scenario Planning Study, noting the region is preparing for seven matches in Houston and an estimated 500,000 visitors. He emphasized the goal of understanding potential transportation impacts and identifying strategies to maintain mobility, safety, and efficient movement of people and goods during the event.

Mr. Koushik Arunachalam (Arcadis) provided an overview of the study approach, which examined regional travel patterns rather than focusing solely on stadium access. The study incorporated data from past major events, extensive scenario modeling, and collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders—including local governments, TxDOT, transit agencies, freight partners, and rideshare providers. A key component of the effort was stakeholder engagement, including workshops with more than 100 participants representing multiple agencies. These workshops helped define potential scenarios, identify risks, and align partners around shared strategies and data.

The study identified three primary strategies for managing travel demand during the World Cup and modeling showed that even modest changes—such as reducing work trips by 20% through telecommuting—could improve travel times by 6–9% regionwide, with even greater benefits in key corridors. The study also identified critical congestion areas, particularly near NRG Stadium and Fan Fest, along corridors such as I-610 and SH 288. Additional impacts are expected on surrounding arterials due to rerouted traffic from navigation apps. The study focused on actionable, near-term strategies. A total of 23 key arterial corridors were identified for focused operational improvements near event areas, with the City of Houston leading

implementation efforts. A new SPEED (Scenario Planning and Event Evaluation Dashboard) tool has been developed to centralize data, model outputs, and operational insights. The presentation highlighted strong coordination among agencies, including TxDOT, Houston TranStar, Metro, and local jurisdictions. Discussion occurred after the presentation. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJORNMENT

Chair Beckendorff informed the Council of upcoming meetings

MPO Federal Certification Review Listening Session	4/24	11:30 a.m.	In Person
Transportation Safety Committee Meeting	4/28	1:30 p.m.	Virtual
Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee Meeting	4/30	10:00 a.m.	Virtual
Technical Advisory Committee Meeting	5/13	9:30 a.m.	Virtual
Transportation Policy Council Meeting	5/22	9:30 a.m.	Virtual

Chair Beckendorff adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

Lesley Briones

[Lesley Briones \(May 26, 2026 10:50:31 CDT\)](#)

Hon. Lesley Briones, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council

Attachment 1
 MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)
 FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON
 METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA
APRIL 24, 2026

ROLL

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Baytown, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Charles Johnson Council Member _____ Kenrick Griffith – Alternate	City of Baytown
Conroe, City of	_____ Honorable David Hairel Council Member _____ Norman McGuire – Alternate	City of Conroe
Galveston, City of	_____ Honorable Marie Robb Council Member _____ Hon. David Finklea - Alternate	City of Galveston
Houston, City of Position No. 1	_____ Honorable Sallie Alcorn Council Member <u> X </u> Honorable Willie Davis- Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of Position No 2	<u> X </u> Honorable Carolyn Evans-Shabazz Council Member _____ Honorable Joaquin Martinez - Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of Position No. 3	<u> X </u> Randy Macchi Director -Houston Public Works _____ David Wurdlow - Alternate	City of Houston
League City, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Tommy Cones Council Member _____ Honorable Andy Mann - Alternate	City of League City
Missouri City, City of	<u> X </u> Shashi Kumar, P.E. Director of Public Works _____ Nicholas L. Cook – Alternate	City of Missouri City
Pasadena, City of	_____ Sarah Benavides, P.E. Sr. Assistant Public Works Director _____ Mark Gardemal – Alternate	City of Pasadena

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	
Pearland, City of	<u> X </u> _____ _____	Honorable Kevin Cole- 2nd Vice Chair Mayor Trent Epperson-Alternate	City of Pearland
Sugar Land, City of	<u> X </u> _____ _____	Honorable Suzanne Whatley Council Member Honorable Jim Vonderhaar – Alternate	City of Sugar Land
Texas City, City of	_____ _____ _____	Honorable Dedrick Johnson Mayor Jon Branson - Alternate	City of Texas City
Smaller Cities – Position 1	<u> X </u> _____ _____	Hon. Joe Garcia City of Pattison Honorable Jerry Mouton-Alternate City of Deer Park	Smaller Cities
Smaller Cities – Position 2	<u> X </u> _____ _____	Hon. John Escoto City of Shenandoah Hon. Dusty Thiele-Alternate City of Katy	Smaller Cities
Smaller Cities – Position 3	<u> X </u> _____ _____	Hon. Sally Branson City of Friendswood Hon. Ross Gordon-Alternate City of Bellaire	Smaller Cities
The Woodlands Township	_____ <u> X </u> _____	Dr. Shelley Sekula-Gibbs Director, The Woodlands Township Board Craig Eissler-Alternate	The Woodlands Township
Brazoria County	<u> X </u> _____ _____	Matt Hanks, JD, P.E. County Engineer Honorable David Linder – Alternate	Brazoria County
Chambers County	_____ _____ _____	Honorable Ryan Dagley County Commissioner Honorable Tommy Hammond-Alternate	Chambers County
Fort Bend County	<u> X </u> _____ _____	Honorable Grady Prestage County Commissioner, 1st Vice Chair Stacy Slawinski, P.E. – Alternate	Fort Bend County

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>	
Galveston County	<u> X </u> _____	Honorable Robin Armstrong County Commissioner Honorable Joe Giusti– Alternate	Galveston County
Harris County	_____ _____	Honorable Adrian Garcia County Commissioner, Pct. 2 Milton Rahman P.E.– Alternate	Harris County
Harris County	<u> X </u> _____	Honorable Lesley Briones- Secretary County Commissioner, Pct. 3 Roberto Trevino – Alternate	Harris County
Liberty County	_____ _____	Honorable Jay Knight County Judge Honorable Greg Arthur - Alternate	Liberty County
Montgomery County	_____ _____	Honorable Mark Keough County Judge Honorable Matt Gray – Alternate	Montgomery County
Waller County	<u> X </u> _____	Honorable Justin Beckendorff County Commissioner – Chair Honorable Kendric Jones- Alternate	Waller County
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	_____ <u> X </u>	Elizabeth Gonzalez Brock METRO Chair Thomas Jasien-Alternate	METRO
TxDOT-Houston	<u> X </u> _____	Glenn Allbritton, P.E. District Engineer Varuna Singh, P.E.– Alternate	TxDOT Houston District
TxDOT-Beaumont	_____ <u> X </u>	Ana I. Mijares, P.E. District Engineer Lisa Collins, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Beaumont District
Port Freeport	_____ _____	Phyllis Saathoff Executive Director Rob Lowe-Alternate	Port Freeport
Port Houston	_____ _____	Charlie Jenkins Chief Executive Officer Kerrick Henny-Alternate	Port Houston

AGENCY

VOTING MEMBERSHIP

REPRESENTING

Gulf Coast Rail District

_____ Veronica Chapa-Gorczyński
 GCRD Chair
 X Hon. Jon Keeney-Alternate

Gulf Coast Rail District

 31 **Total Voting Membership**

 19 **Voting Membership Present**

 16 **Required Quorum**

AGENCY

NON-VOTING EX-OFFICIOS

REPRESENTING

Texas State Senate

 Hon. Carol Alvarado

|8-County Region

Freight Rail Interests

 Clint Schelbitzki-

Union Pacific

Texas State Legislator

 Hon. Dennis Paul

8-County Region

Wharton County

 X Hon. Phillip Spenrath

Wharton County

NON-VOTING

H-GAC

 X Chuck Wemple

H-GAC

TxDOT-Houston

 X Catherine McCreight

TxDOT-Houston