

5A. SUMMARY OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Sub-regional Planning Initiatives (SPI)

- FM 518 Corridor Study: Pearland City Council accepted the study on June 30, 2025. H-GAC staff is in the process of closing out the project.
- Pearland Mobility Plan: Pearland City Council adopted the Thoroughfare Plan on August 11, 2025. H-GAC staff is in the process of closing out the project.
- Chambers County Thoroughfare Plan: H-GAC staff is in the process of closing out the project.
- Cemetery Road Corridor Study: H-GAC staff is in the process of closing out the project.
- Washington Ave Corridor Study: The first draft of the final report was received and is under review.
- Friendswood Parkway Corridor Study: The project team and the City of Friendswood met on September 11, 2025 to review the draft alternatives and technical report. The alternatives and recommendations will be presented during the next Steering Committee, Focus Group, and public meetings, anticipated for October and November 2025.
- Friendswood Active Transportation Plan: The first stakeholder group meeting and walk audit were held on September 4, 2025. The second Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2025. An interactive mapping exercise is available on the project website at [Friendswood Active Transportation Plan | Engage HGAC](#).
- Buffalo Bayou East Design Concept: H-GAC staff and Buffalo Bayou Partnership met with the City of Houston on September 12, 2025 to review preliminary recommendations for improvements to key corridor connections.
- North Houston Communities Transportation Priorities Plan (NHCTPP): The Board approved the contract for consultant services on August 19, 2025. H-GAC staff is in the process of negotiating the scope of work with the consultant team.
- Montgomery County Mobility Plan: The evaluation team completed the proposal review on September 8. The contract for consultant services will be presented for Board approval on October 21, 2025.
- Needville Mobility Plan: The Request for Proposals was advertised on September 10, 2025 and will close on October 23, 2025.
- Liberty County Thoroughfare Plan: H-GAC staff met with Liberty County on September 11, 2025 to finalize the scope of work. The first workshop to gather data about existing conditions is anticipated for October 2025.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

- Freight and Tourism survey for the Regional Transportation Plan went live on September 1 and is set to close on September 30, 2025.
- Additional RTP outreach efforts were conducted at Economic Alliance Public Policy Meeting on August 28 in Deer Park, Texas and at Super Neighborhood 55 monthly meeting in Fifth Ward Houston, Texas. on September 3.
- Summary of public meeting and general survey results was presented to the Regional Transportation Plan Subcommittee on September 10.
- Analysis of data to develop vision, goals, and objectives is ongoing.
- Regional Transportation Plan 2050 Request for Proposals (RFP) has been approved and made public.

- Hosted pre-proposal conference for Regional Transportation Plan 2050 RFP on September 9.

Safety Planning

- On August 22, staff held a coordination meeting with Chief Transportation Officer and Transportation Safety Committee Chair.
- Staff attended the TxDOT Digital Roadway Data User Group meeting on August 19.
- Staff completed crash data research for Q4 2024 on August 15.
- Staff prepared a safety presentation for the Road and Rail Safety Workshop on July 1 then attended the workshop on July 23.
- Staff conducted the budget activity at the 2050 Regional Transportation Plan Public Meetings on the following dates:
 - Brazoria County - July 29
 - Harris County - July 31
 - Fort Bend County - August 6
- Safety Action Plan (formerly Safe Streets for All) updates:
 - The H-GAC Regional and Galveston SAPs websites were live on August 8.
 - Staff presented the Gulf Coast Rail District SAP update at their Board of Directors meeting on August 9.
 - Staff reviewed additional changes to the Project Management Plan and the Public Improvement Plan.
 - H-GAC staff continue to review monthly project invoices for processing.
 - Staff continue to collaborate with the Communications team for earned media support.
- To date, staff has completed all Safety Task Force meeting #1 for the twelve SAPs:
 - City of La Marque – July 17
 - Regional – July 22
 - Gulf Coast Rail District – July 30
 - City of Missouri City – July 31
 - METRO – August 15
- Staff began coordination of the Safety Policy and Program Benchmarking Workshop
- Staff continue to attend weekly and monthly meetings.

Freight Planning

- The Greater Houston Freight Committee Tour is scheduled for October 16th 8 A.M to 1 P.M. You must sign up to reserve your seat. We will tour the Union Pacific Englewood Rail Yard and Port Houston.
 - Registration Link - <https://forms.office.com/r/efvPnG1Fd8>
- Staff continue work on the Railroad Grade Separation pilot program by drafting consultant RFPs as well as preparing to open the call for study locations this fall.

Pedestrian and Bicyclist Planning

- Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) Call for Projects – Regional Multimodal Planning staff met internally with Data Services staff to discuss an online application portal for the upcoming call. The application questionnaire is drafted based on the approved criteria and is

at the staff level for refinements. H-GAC staff held a synchronization meeting with TxDOT staff to confirm the timeline for their TA call and make sure H-GAC's will not conflict.

- Regional Safe Routes to School (SRTS) - Staff met with NCTCOG staff to discuss best practices in building and maintaining their SRTS program. We're planning to have similar discussions with other MPOs referenced in the literature review and ongoing research. Staff met with Harris County Precinct 4 to discuss local SRTS needs and possible ways H-GAC can support local efforts.
- Non-Motorized Counter Program – The contract with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) for permanent counter installation and maintenance services has completed internal approvals and is with H-GAC's Principal Policy and Legal Advisor to review proposed changes from TTI. Once this is complete TTI will be sent the contract for signature.
- Adult Bike Safety – H-GAC staff met with BikeHouston to discuss partnership in facilitating a League Cycling Instructor (LCI) certification seminar sometime in February or March of 2026.
- Memorial Drive Bike and Pedestrian Study – Draft Recommendations and Executive Summary have been received and staff is reviewing.

Resiliency Planning

- Staff is in the process of accepting the PROTECT grant award and executing the grant agreement.

TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC OUTREACH

Regional Planning Outreach

Transportation Conformity: The legal notice ran on September 10, 2025. The public comment period is open from September 10 through October 10, 2025. A Constant Contact email was distributed to promote the comment period and the upcoming public meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, September 17, 2025, from 6–7 p.m. at the H-GAC offices.

Free Fare Friday (Commute Solutions): The Your Commute Solution “Breathe” campaign is promoting Free Fare Fridays this summer, encouraging residents to try transit with free rides on select local bus and rail services. Promotions began August 1, and the first Free Fare Friday kicked off September 1. Visit site: <https://yourcommutesolution.org/breathe>

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program (CPRG): The public survey launched August 11, and the first public meetings begin on Monday, August 25. Outreach includes social media and email engagement for the survey and public meetings. Public meeting dates and survey information can be found here: <https://www.h-gac.com/cprg>

MPO EARNED* MEDIA REPORT – ALL MPO ACTIVITIES

AUG. 11 – SEPT. 11, 2025

<https://app.meltwater.com/report/public/UVqhNAiew3VtY9gUCYDTyNR7>

Password: MPOm3dia_TpC

**Earned media is unpaid publicity, or news coverage, generated through H-GAC's outreach. Advertising Value Equivalent (AVE) estimates the dollar value of this coverage by comparing it to the cost of equivalent*

paid ads. In addition, reach shows how many unique people are exposed to the coverage, helping us gauge both the scale and impact of our media exposure.

SHORT TERM PLANNING

PROJECT PROGRAMMING

- Staff reviewed the draft Standard Operating Procedure with TIP Subcommittee members during the September meeting.
 - Requested members to submit comments before or during the October Subcommittee meeting.
 - Transit SOP will be developed at own pace, in coordination with transit agencies and FTA.
- All applicable FTA transfers were approved for FY 2025.
 - \$148 million in CMAQ and \$148 million in STBG funding transferred to FTA.
- 2045 RTP Update Project Listing submitted with 2025 Conformity Determination documents.
 - Over 1000 projects reviewed with 70+ sponsors.
 - Projects added through Project Selection Process and Project Development Process

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.
- Staff developed a Draft Project Development/Delivery Milestone Policy
- Staff conducted two Project Development/Delivery Milestone Policy Workgroup Meetings. The recent workgroup sessions have involved discussing the draft policy to progress towards the eventual final document.
- Staff met with H-GAC's website team to continue finalizing the “public facing” Project Readiness Screening Tool which will (based on responses to 12 smart form questions) develop “scenario” outputs (such as Categorical Exclusion with United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 14, no Public Meeting needed, no archeology expected, utility agreements/relocations needed, no right-of way needed and no railroad coordination needed) as well as associated schedules per “scenario”
- Staff has researched and implemented, through a “beta” testing, an online scheduling tool to assist with project readiness discussions.
- Staff has coordinated a series of sessions with TxDOT to update and confirm baseline project delivery schedules to assist with project readiness discussions and implement within the project development/delivery milestone policy.

AIR QUALITY

Air Quality Planning

- Final preparations are underway for the September 24 Air Quality Summit at Baylor College of Medicine. Volunteer coordination, catering, and event materials are being finalized, and speakers are being prepped, and slides are being consolidated into a master deck to ensure a smooth program. The event registration has reached capacity and a waitlist is forming.

- Clean Air, Health Communities Engagement inputs and survey responses are being analyzed, and Staff is drafting the sections of the Clean Air Action Plan with the input provided. Staff is also planning for a program review with EPA this month. While coordination with CPRG partners is ongoing to address program and financial items.
- 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). This month, staff worked to finalize the scope of work and the quality assurance project plan. Work is now progressing in order to meet the short deadline for project completion in December of this year. In addition to the current Rider 7 project funded for the 2024-2025 state budget biennium, staff learned this month that the metropolitan planning area will also receive additional funding to support similar project activities under the 2026-2027 state budget biennium. Final funding amounts will be identified in future months.
- Staff continue to undertake regional conformity activities to support the 2025-2028 TIP and the updated 2045 RTP project listing. During the current period, staff completed air quality modeling activities related to the current conformity process and published draft documentation at the H-GAC website: <https://www.h-gac.com/transportation-conformity/2025>. A public comment period is currently underway through October 10, 2025. Comments can be submitted through an embedded form at the link above, or via email to transportation.conformity@h-gac.com. Staff are presenting to TAC and TPC for information in September and will be reaching out to both groups in October to request approval of the regional conformity determination.

Clean Vehicles Grant Programs:

- Staff finalized a contract with a new automated vehicle location service to support the Clean Vehicles Program. The awardee, GoFleet, will monitor vehicle utilization and verify locations of vehicles funded through the Clean Vehicles Program.
- Staff identified four projects eligible for release from monitoring; removed from GPS tracking and initiated contract closeout.
- Staff are currently working with three organizations to develop and submit eligible applications for the three remaining Build America, Buy America waivers under the Clean Vehicles Program and for school bus replacements under the related Clean School Bus Program. Eligible but unfunded applications will be retained for future funding opportunities.
- Next call for projects: Planning and process improvements underway. Key items:
 - Build America, Buy America (BABA) compliance for FHWA-funded projects.
 - Process streamlining.
 - Future eligibility expansion to non-road equipment and EV chargers.
 - Updates to template documents.

Houston-Galveston Clean Cities Coalition:

- Stakeholder engagement: Met individually with eight stakeholders to understand organizational needs and alternative-fuel goals. Key outcomes:
 - Established information sources to support a future regional effort to coordinate electrical codes for EV charging infrastructure. Date of future event to be determined.
 - Formed a Hydrogen Think Tank with the Port of Houston Authority, the Center for Houston's Future, the University of Houston, the Texas Hydrogen Association, and others to address grant funding for a hydrogen infrastructure project. The stakeholder has identified a customer

- at the Port of Houston who will purchase 40 hydrogen trucks pending infrastructure deployment.
- Connected a stakeholder with the Clean Vehicles Program and is helping the stakeholder with an application to replace two diesel trucks with compressed natural gas (CNG) trucks.
- Two organizations submitted documents to become official partners of the Houston-Galveston Clean Cities Coalition.
- Events and initiatives: Coordinating with the Port of Houston Authority and the Center for Houston's Future to co-host a Hydrogen Workforce event in December, aligning goals while sharing workload and costs.
- Meetings attended (virtual):
 - Texas Hydrogen Association
 - Department of Energy (DOE) Clean Cities Coalition Directors' Call – Southwest Region
 - Central Texas Clean Cities Coalition webinar on electrified landscaping equipment
- Coalition operations:
 - Convened the Stakeholder Meetings Subcommittee to plan the next quarterly meeting (October 15, 2025).
 - Engaged the Grants Subcommittee to scan current alternative-fuel funding opportunities. A grant list will be shared at the stakeholder meeting and posted on the website.

MPO PROGRAMS

Incident Management/Tow and Go

- The Tow and Go program provided more than 3400 no cost tows to stranded motorists due to vehicle mechanical failures on dangerous freeways.
- On August 21 H-GAC in partnership with TxDOT and Houston TranStar held a Traffic Incident Management Training, training 55 incident responders providing them with tools and knowledge to ensure they are responding to incidents safely.
- On August 27 H-GAC received the official notice to proceed for the next batch of funding.

Transit Planning

- The US 90A Transit Corridor Study is being completed and final deliverables are being prepared.
- Pre-award activities for the Regional Bus Study are being completed, and staff is preparing to execute a contract with a consultant team led by Cambridge systematics.
- On September 5, 2025, H-GAC staff participated in a secondary review of applications received for the FY 2025 FTA 5310 Call for Projects. METRO will develop a Program of Projects (POP) for these funds based on input provided by H-GAC and other transit providers in the Houston UZA.
- The next meeting of the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee is scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2025.
- The 2nd draft of the Final Report for the Dayton Transit was submitted to staff for review. Presentation of the Final Report to the Dayton City Council is scheduled for October 20.
- The Regional Transit Information Study (RTIS): The project schedule has been reviewed and updated. Community and stakeholder engagement will be relaunched following administrative delays, with the schedule adjusted to better align technical analysis with outreach efforts. Interviews with transit agencies and focus groups are scheduled for September and October.

- CMAQ Pilot (Commuter and Transit) Program: The contract between H-GAC and Fort Bend County for the Transit Park and Ride project has been fully executed under the Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) CSJ: 0912-00-476, Task 1. The September 11 meeting with the Transit Team and Commute Solutions was held to discuss potential CMAQ projects tied to the upcoming \$7 million in funding for 687, and we are now working on a Call for Partners document.
- Regional Public Transportation Coordination Plan (RPTCP): As of September 12, the RPTCP continuation application has been revised and is now under TxDOT review. The scope has been done, and the next step is to begin the procurement process. An update will be provided at the October 9 Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee (RTCS) meeting.
- TSU AV Pilot Research: Staff from Texas Southern University (TSU) are still compiling invoices from earlier in the calendar year. H-GAC staff have advised them that they must be submitted by the end of FY 2025 on September 30th.

Safety Outreach

Teen Drivers Education and Outreach Program: Held Kickoff Meeting with consultant Outreach Strategists, TxDOT and H-GAC MPO staff on August 12, 2025. Provided an overview of project, initial next steps and due dates.

Youth Traffic Safety Education and Outreach Program: Pre-award packet was sent to Texas Children's Hospital for review. Pending pre-award forms from consultant.

Regional Safety Campaign: TxDOT requested additional information on the procurement and selection process for the influencers and for the Sober Ride Don't Drive Campaign. Senior Manager Neely Kim provided additional information to meet requirements. Awaiting approval from TxDOT.

Hurricane Evacuation

- Staff continued to share multiple hurricane preparedness resources including our award-winning publication – 2025 Hurricane Preparedness Guide: Supplement for Seniors & Special Populations.
- Hurricane media buy continues promoting hurricane preparedness information including what to have in your emergency kit, knowing your zip zone and evacuation routes, and more.
- Staff began the process of revamping the Together Against the Weather website.

Intelligent Transportation Systems and TSMO Planning

- No Updates at this time.

Title VI/Language Access

- Staff are evaluating the existing protocols for handling, processing, and documenting Title VI complaints and are working on creating the option for filing complaints online.
- Staff are proactively connecting with community stakeholders to enhance involvement in ongoing transportation planning efforts.
- In compliance with language accessibility requirements, staff are proceeding with the translation of essential documents into the organization's safe harbor languages.

Congestion Management Process

The Draft Interim Congestion Management Plan update is undergoing final review. It will be presented to TAC and TPC as an information item in October. The request for approval will be in November.

Consultant bids for the 2026 Congestion Management Plan Request for Proposals were received on September 11. Bids are under review and recommendations for a preferred consultant will be made in early October.

Travel Demand Management (Commute Solutions)

- Commute Solutions staff attended several FIFA World Cup planning meetings, particularly around how we can support the movement of fans, as well as everyday commuters
- Staff is actively engaged and working with the FIFA Men's Cup host committee to support their transportation planning initiatives.
- Commute Solutions staff are actively working with Downtown Houston+ in supporting their transportation initiatives to alleviate parking and congestion issues for employers within their organizational boundaries
- Commute Solutions began promoting, 'Free Fare Friday,' as part of our Ozone Action pilot to encourage commuters to participate in the upcoming campaign
- The website witnessed over 12K visitors to the site, which is the highest since the start of the media buy campaign in April
- Commute Solutions staff continues to attend events across the region to ensure that they are visibly present and promoting the program.
- Commute Solutions is working with AECOM in building a TDM tool that would allow staff to develop and create an employer specific TDM strategy based on their address.
- Staff attended the Association for Commuter Transportation's International conference. This allowed staff to meet with TDM leaders in the country, as well as network to continuing growing our network of resources.

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 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:
 - ✓ BCTRA Express Lanes Extension Project
 - ✓ I10 Proposed Ramp Study (TxDOT project):
 - ✓ DM Model Runs for MOVES5: To support TTI's development of emission inventories for the MOVES5 SIP.
 - ✓ Spring and Kuykendahl Park Ridership Study (METRO)
 - ✓ Freight OD Request (Port of Houston
 - ✓ FM149 Extension Study (TxDOT project)
- **H-GAC Transportation Department Internal Request and Support**
 - ✓ Base year 2023 Walk Links creation and review

- ✓ Congestion Management Plan (CMP) Mapping
- ✓ Ozone Emission Reduction Calculation
- ✓ Railroad Crossing Database
- ✓ TPC Amendment Map
- ✓ NHS Map
- ✓ Pavement/Bridge Mapping
- ✓ Air Quality Dashboard

- **Conformity Support:**
 - ✓ Conformity Modeling & QAQC
 - ✓ Model runs (4-time of day, AM, MD, PM, OV) for Conformity scenario years 2023, 2026, 2030, 2040, 2045.
 - ✓ Developed summary of project in form of Link-listing spreadsheet for the FHWA
 - ✓ MOVES Model Run for Conformity regional emission analysis

- **World Cup 2026 FIFA Scenario Planning Services:**
 - ✓ Staff attended various meetings with consultant (ARCADIS) for stakeholders' engagement for identification of available resources and level of participations. Stakeholders include METRO, NRG Park, IAH & HOU Airports etc
 - ✓ Staff continues to update web applications that support dashboard for the world cup traffic management scenario planning.

- **Travel Demand Modeling Updates:**
 - ✓ Staff continues with the update of the H-GAC 4-step Regional Travel Demand Model with Cambridge Systematics and team of sub-contractors that includes:
 - Model validation/calibration of the Travel Demand Model outputs to the new count and survey data.
 - Model validation/calibration that incorporates weaving movement into the existing travel demand modeling to accurately account for delays at weaving locations in the network.
 - Truck activity data from multiple sources in the Houston Region to create different data dashboards, tools and visualizations on freight activity to support H-GAC growing need on modeling freight (HGAC Modeling Team, Port Houston).

- **Regional Travel Surveys**
 - ✓ Staff continues to coordinate with the TxDOT TP&P for the ongoing 8-county Commercial Vehicle and the Special Generator survey in Galveston County
 - ✓ Staff continues to coordinate with Contractor (ETC Institute) for the Major Universities and Community Colleges Surveys on a bi-weekly basis, coordinates with contractor and the contacts of the various campuses identified to be surveyed to keep the campuses informed, help contractor identify additional Community Colleges of survey interest within the 8-county region and refine the sample sizes.

- ✓ Staff continues to coordinate effort with H-GAC Procurement team for the procurement of a contractor or team of contractors for the Regional Transportation Models & Tools (Transportation Scenario Planning Tools).
- **Socioeconomic Data, Modeling and Applications**
 - ✓ Staff developed the draft Regional Growth Report, which analyzes socioeconomic trends in the MPO region compared to other major metropolitan areas nationwide. The final report is expected to be published in October 2025.
 - ✓ Staff processed and validated 2024 certified appraisal data for eight counties, including updates to land use classifications and standardized output formatting. 75% complete as of August.
 - ✓ Staff is updating model-building inputs using newly collected data from master planned communities (MPCs), plat records, and development events such as the Fort Bend Tollway expansion. 50% complete as of August.
 - ✓ For the Air Quality Program, staff is developing an interactive, Esri-based real-time dashboard integrating data from EPA, PurpleAir, and Clarity. 90% complete as of August.
 - ✓ Staff published Job-to-Job Flow report for the Houston Metropolitan Statistical Area. It provides new insights into the changing demographics and socioeconomic characteristics for the region, by analyzing the workers moving in and out of the region.
 - ✓ Staff continues assisting with the transfer of consultant-developed web applications—such as Commute Solutions and Subregional Planning tools—to H-GAC’s internal environment.
 - ✓ Staff continues to collect and process Census and Socioeconomic data from various Federal, State and Local agencies.