

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2020-2021 UNIFIED PLANNING  
WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)**

**Background**

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) describes the transportation planning activities to be undertaken by local governments, transit agencies, the Texas Department of Transportation and the Houston-Galveston Area Council a two year period. The current UPWP for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 will expire September 30, 2019. Staff are requesting Transportation Policy Council approval of the next two year Unified Planning Work Program covering fiscal years 2020 and 2021 (October 1, 2019–September 30, 2021).

Through the development of the UPWP, regional transportation planning priorities are identified. The planning activities described in the UPWP are supported with federal, state and local funds.

**Description of the Tasks**

The draft 2020-2021 UPWP includes the following tasks:

**Task I – Administration** describes the administrative support activities such as financial management, contract management, public outreach, and the general management of the MPO. Major sub-tasks include:

- All administrative support for the MPO planning program including the financial management of the MPO's operations, contract management, departmental reporting, the provision of technical assistance to member agencies, and participation in state and national organizations involved in transportation planning and development.
- Development and maintenance of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which describes the transportation plans and programs and the transportation- related air quality planning activities conducted during the fiscal year(s) regardless of funding sources or agencies conducting these activities.

**Task II – Data Development and Maintenance** describes the collection, maintenance, and analysis of transportation data. These activities include the development of socio- economic forecasts and travel demand models to determine where future transportation investments will be made. Major sub-tasks include:

- Advanced-practice regional travel models that incorporate updated modeling practices and theories as well as new travel survey data.
- The review and assessment of traffic data used in base year networks, including Automated Vehicle Identification, Wavetronic, Bluetooth, private data and Automatic Traffic Recorder data resulting in an improved regional transportation modeling network.

- Emissions analyses of transportation projects using the MOVES model.

**Task III – Short-Range Planning** addresses planning for activities taking place within a three-to ten-year timeframe, including the Transportation Improvement Program, the Ten-Year Transportation Plan, as well as transit feasibility studies, and operations planning. Task III also includes ongoing maintenance of the Regional Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), as well as efforts to improve traffic safety in the region and evacuation planning. Major sub-tasks include:

- The development of TIP and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) project tracking system.
- Development and modification of the existing 2019-22 TIP. Maintenance of the 10-year plan for the use of funding allocated to the region, consistent with the TIP and RTP.
- Continued enhancement of the Call for Projects and Project Evaluation processes.
- The provision of assistance to local governments for environmental analyses of projects.
- An update to the regional ITS Architecture.
- The implementation of enhanced freeway incident management programs in the region.
- An updated of the annual State of Safety in the Region reports outlining the traffic safety situation in the region.
- The support of state and local government hurricane evacuation planning, coordination, and implementation efforts.

**Task IV – Long Range Planning** describes planning activities for the long-term including development and maintenance of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as well as ongoing initiatives regarding transportation-related air quality planning, regional bicycle and pedestrian planning, activities involving H-GAC's Livable Centers program, and Transportation Performance Management (TPM) activities. Major sub-tasks include:

- Maintain and update the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan.
- Address federal performance-based planning requirements including the adoption of performance measure targets in the areas of system condition, safety, congestion and air quality, and freight.
- Develop regional, sub-regional, and local area plans; such as Brazoria County Thoroughfare Plan, Montgomery Mobility Plan, Liberty County Mobility Plan, and Southeast Harris County Sub regional Study.
- Conduct High Capacity Transit Feasibility Study.
- To comply with the Clean Air Act as outlined in the State Implementation Plan (SIP), its development and revisions, and to provide implementation assistance for local governments.
- Development of additional Livable Centers plans and projects, assisting local governments in creating quality mixed-use places that reduce dependence on single-occupancy vehicles.
- Encourage strategies designed to decrease the share of trips made by single-occupancy vehicles and promote alternatives such as walking, biking, telework, vanpool, and carpool.

- Integrate and maintain the congestion management process (CMP) into the RTP.

**Task V – Special Studies** includes special one-time planning activities, including major corridor studies/analyses and support of tourism and transportation resiliency planning activities.

- Completed assessment of vulnerability and potential risk of the transportation system to extreme weather impacts utilizing FHWA's Vulnerability Framework.
- Completed update to the Regional Goods Movement Study.
- Develop region-wide resiliency plan.
- Develop strategies to improve transportation connections regional tourist destinations

### **Current Situation**

H-GAC staff prepared the draft of the 2020-2021 UPWP which was reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee and the Transportation Policy Council in June. The document was also made available for public comment, including a public meeting held on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Recommendations for additional transportation planning activities were received from the Cities of Houston and Pearland. These recommendations have been added to the draft document pending additional discussion concerning a final scope and project budgets.

The Draft Final 2020-2021 UPWP Draft is available at the following website for review:  
<http://www.h-gac.com/unified-planning-work-program/default.aspx>

### **Action Requested**

Staff requests TPC approval of Resolution No. UPWP 20/21-1 adopting the 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program and certifying compliance with federal planning requirements.



# Resolution

## NO. UPWP 20/21-1

ADOPTING THE 2020-2021 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA AND CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL PLANNING REQUIREMENTS.

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation, prior to the funding of any planning or capital grant project within an urban region, requires the preparation and adoption of a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) describing transportation planning activities to be accomplished during FY 2020-2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program address the needs for planning Administration/Management, Data Development and Maintenance, Short Range Planning, Long Range Planning, and Special Studies, identifying agency responsibilities by work task and anticipated funding requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Policy Council certifies its compliance with federal planning requirements as outlined in the introduction of the 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program and in accordance with 23 CFR Part 450.334 and 450.220; and

**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Policy Council certifies its compliance with federal and state statutes in regards to debarment, lobbying, procurement practices and ethical practices.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA THAT:**

- The 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is hereby adopted; and
- Cost overruns of up to 25 percent at the activities task level are allowable, provided that the totals as shown in the Funding Summary on Page 6-1 of the 2020-2021 UPWP are not exceeded.

**PASSED AND APPROVED**, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2019, at a regularly called meeting of the Transportation Policy Council for the Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area.

APPROVED:

Hon. Kenneth Clark, Chairman  
Transportation Policy Council

ATTEST:

Hon. Tom Reid, Secretary  
Transportation Policy Council