

7. 2026 – 2027 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is developed by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and documents metropolitan transportation planning activities performed with federal transportation funds as well as other regionally significant projects. The UPWP documents the metropolitan planning requirements, planning priorities of the H-GAC metropolitan area, transportation planning activities, and the related tasks to be accomplished during the two-year planning period of October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2027.

The UPWP serves as the MPO's budget and scope of work outlining activities conducted by internal staff, as well as consultant support needed for specific tasks. The UPWP is approved by the Transportation Policy Council and includes budgets for staff salaries, consultant contracts, software, computer equipment, professional development, business travel, and other related expenses to accomplish the tasks included in the UPWP.

Available funding for activities included in the UPWP is provided to the MPO by the Texas Department of Transportation's Transportation Planning and Programming Division (TxDOT TPP). The funding available through the UPWP includes Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 Funds and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Metropolitan Planning PL-112 Funds (jointly referred to as "Transportation Planning Funds" (TPF)). Funding amounts for MPOs are determined on a formula basis in accordance with 23 CFR § 420.109.

The MPO receives estimates of available TPF funding for future years for budgeting purposes. Based on the latest estimates provided by TxDOT TPP, H-GAC MPO staff estimate available funding for the 2026 and 2027 UPWP fiscal years to total approximately \$50 Million.

CURRENT SITUATION

The 2026-2027 UPWP was drafted by H-GAC MPO staff for submission to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for review and approval.

The public comment period for this document was from May 15, 2025, to June 15, 2025. Two Virtual Public Meetings were held on May 15th at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. During the public comment period, no comments were received.

The 2026-2027 UPWP Draft is available at <https://www.h-gac.com/unified-planning-work-program>.

ACTION REQUESTED

Transportation Advisory Committee recommendation for Transportation Policy Council approval of Resolution No. UPWP 2026/27-00.



Resolution

No. UPWP 2026/27-00

ADOPTING THE 2026-2027 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 the two-year period of 2026-2027; and

WHEREAS, the 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program addresses the needs for planning Administration/Management, Data Development and Maintenance, Short Range Planning, Metropolitan Transportation Planning, and Special Planning Projects/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 2026-2027 Unified Planning Work Program and in accordance with 23 CFR Part 450.334 and 450.222; and

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

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

- **The 2026-2027 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 total as shown in the Funding Summary for 2026-2027 UPWP are not exceeded.**

PASSED AND APPROVED, this 27th day of June 2025, at a regularly called meeting of the Transportation Policy Council for the Houston-Galveston Metropolitan Planning Area.

APPROVED:

Hon. Justin Beckendorff, Chairman
Transportation Policy Council

ATTEST:

Hon. Lesley Briones, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council