

## REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

### A. H-GAC LONG RANGE PLANNING

- The Transportation Policy Council (TPC) approved the 2045 RTP at the May 2019 meeting. Since then staff has forwarded the RTP to the conformity consultation partners for review. Staff is working with the partners to address any outstanding comments. The final draft of the 2045 RTP is available at <http://2045rtp.com/>.
1. Subregional Planning Initiatives (SPI)
    - Staff are finalizing the report for the Waller County Transportation Plan.
    - Staff initiated a Thoroughfare Plan with Brazoria County. Steering Committee meeting round 1 was held in May. Stakeholder Meeting round 1 and Steering Committee meeting round 2 were held in July.
  2. Safety/Operations Planning
    - Staff are working to finalize the 2018 State of Safety Report.
  3. Freight Planning
    - Staff continued to work with consultants and stakeholders on the Ports Area Mobility Study.
    - Greater Houston Freight Committee meeting held June 6, 2019. Next meeting scheduled for August 27, 2019.
  4. Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning
    - Staff completed the final Active Transportation Plan.
    - Staff completed a regional sidewalk layer and have made this data available to the public upon request.
    - Staff initiated development of a regional crosswalk layer.
    - Staff initiated an update to the regional Bikeway Viewer.
    - Staff continued to work with consultants on a Special Districts Study with Spring Branch.
    - Staff initiated a contract for a Bicycle Safety Trainer Program.
  5. Regional Incident Management
    - Staff continue to coordinate with the Houston Police Department and Harris County Sheriff Office on operational issues with the Tow and Go Program. There were 31, 233 “No Cost” tows conducted in the first full year of Program. Preliminary results from the Crash Records Information System (CRIS) show that number of crashes on freeways in the City of Houston where the program was operating have decreased by 5% when compared to the same period of the year before. The number of “No Cost” tows performed in May of 2019 was 2,927.
    - The agreement to with Harris County to expand the program to other freeways in Harris County outside the City of Houston was executed in April of 2019. The Notice to Proceed letter was sent to Harris County in June of 2019.

6. Eco-Logical Update Project

- Staff is working with the development team to continue the refinement of the Eco-Logical tool. Staff is currently preparing for the July advisory group meeting.

**B. H-GAC SHORT RANGE PLANNING**

1. 2019-2022 TIP Update

- Staff continues to process modifications to the 2019-2022 TIP document monthly. Amendments to the TIP that require STIP revision will be sent to the State at the next quarterly STIP amendment cycle. The complete 2019-2022 TIP document and amendments can be found online at <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/tip>.
- Staff continues to work on resolving all outstanding exceptions in coordination with TxDOT, FHWA, and project sponsors.
- Staff is also working on the development schedule for the 2021-2024 TIP document.

2. Transit Planning Update

- The Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP) Statewide Metrics Report for the Gulf Coast Region was submitted to the TxDOT-Public Transportation Division in April.
- Development of the Regional Online Interactive Transportation Resource Database is continuing. Refinements to the contacts and service related information for regional transportation providers have been completed. Coordination with Data Services staff for refinements to the search tool are in process.
- Refinements to the General Transit Feed Specifications (GTFS) input files for the Regional Transit Trip Planner using the Google Transit Platform are continuing. H-GAC staff is coordinating with Harris County Transit staff for the QA/QC related to the Google Transit Pre-Launch checklist. Refinements to the GTFS files in advance of the Pre-Launch Checklist are continuing with several regional transit operators.
- Staff worked on the 2045 "Vision" and "Priority" service networks, high-level cost estimates, and economic impact analysis for the High Capacity Transit Task Force.
- Staff conducted the High Capacity Transit Task Force meeting and presented the final draft report.
- Staff initiated development of a Transit Awareness Program to engage regionally municipalities in transit planning activities.
- Staff initiated development of Transit Oriented Development fact sheets for trial locations.
- H-GAC staff assisted with the launch and continue to support monitoring of Houston's first autonomous shuttle located on Texas Southern University's campus.

## C. PUBLIC OUTREACH

### 1. Transportation Planning Activities

- Staff kicked off the Together Against the Weather digital and social media campaign. This strategy geo targets residents in roughly 50 zip codes along the gulf-coast region of the MPO. Find out how you can be a Hurricane Helper at [togetheragainstheweather.com](http://togetheragainstheweather.com).
- The Brown Bag Lunch Series was held on July 15. President & CEO of Houston Metro, Tom Lambert, presented information on METRONext. More information can be found at [metronext.org](http://metronext.org).
- The public outreach team continues to work on the development of a regional transportation safety public awareness campaign. The campaign will deliver strategic messaging about transportation safety topics such as bicycle and pedestrian safety, driving while intoxicated education and safety, speeding vehicles, and distracted driving.

### 2. Commute Solutions Activities

- In celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Commute Solutions Program, staff began collaborating with some of the Commute Solutions Partners in July to plan and organize a series of public outreach events. The Commute Solutions Month kick-off event will be held on July 24 in Greenway Plaza from 11: a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In recognition of Commute Solutions Month in August, staff were scheduled two (2) park and ride appreciation events at METRO's Texas Medical Center (TMC) Transit Center and the Kuykendahl Park and Ride facility. The Conroe Park and Ride appreciation event and Ribbon-cutting Ceremony for the new Conroe Park and Ride service were also scheduled. Five (5) employer transportation fairs were scheduled and will be held in downtown Houston, TMC, and Conroe.
- Staff gave a Power Point presentation on July 18 about H-GAC's Travel Demand Management (TDM) Program to the "Changing Modes" Workgroup for the North Houston Highway Improvement Program (NHHIP) project at the TxDOT office. Staff explain the importance of more coordination and collaboration between TxDOT, H-GAC and the transit agencies on the implementation of TDM strategies such as mass transit, vanpooling, carpooling, biking, walking, teleworking and alternative work schedules. These TDM strategies would help t reduce traffic congestion, improve mobility and air quality while major construction projects are being planned and implemented.
- Staff gave a Power Point presentation in July to the Workforce Development Group at United Way to discuss ways that H-GAC's Travel Demand Management (TDM) Program staff can assist them in providing commute alternatives to job seekers who need transportation options to get to job interviews and to new jobs.

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## D. CLEAN VEHICLES/HEAVY DUTY DIESEL REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS PLANNING ACTIVITIES

### 1. Clean Vehicles Program

- Staff began processing five (5) new CVP applications

- Staff performed three (3) pre-approval site visits
- Staff responded to incoming phone calls and email requests for program information.
- Staff reached out to prospects, applicants and grant sub-recipients regarding CMAQ grants.
- Staff updated forms to improve usability for applicants and grant sub-recipients.
- Staff continues to work with Purchasing to procure a vendor to monitor and track vehicle usage.

2. Heavy Duty Diesel Replacement Program

- The H-GAC board approved three (3) proposals for four (4) vehicles with a total value of \$663,284.
- Staff responded to incoming phone calls and email requests for program information.
- Staff reached out to prospects, applicants and grant sub-recipients regarding Heavy Duty Diesel Replacement Grants.
- Staff updated forms to improve usability for applicants and grant sub-recipients in English and Spanish.

**E. GENERAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

- H-GAC staff has received a one-year funding extension for the Houston-Galveston Clean Cities Coalition from the Department of Energy (DOE). The \$32,000 in funding that will result from this award will allow H-GAC to continue working with regional fleets to foster economic, environmental, and energy security by working to advance affordable, domestic transportation fuels, energy efficient mobility systems, and other fuel-saving technologies and practices within the region for an additional year.
- In May, Clean Cities staff attended a coordinator training in Dallas to network with other Clean Cities coordinators throughout the nation as well as better understand the needs and goals of the national Clean Cities program.
- Air Quality staff was informed that a proposal to EPA to participate in the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) program requesting over \$500 thousand in funding to replace or repower diesel yard tractors working in regional freight operations with all-electric models has been approved. Work has begun to contract with IKEA North America and Port of Galveston to begin the process of purchasing and deploying these vehicles.
- H-GAC staff has prepared and submitted an additional grant application for the 2019 DERA Request of Applications. The proposed project will continue work to help regional fleets electrify freight operations within the region.
- Staff has completed work on the DOE-funded Zero Emission Delivery Vehicle Demonstration Project. This project partnered with United Parcel Service (UPS) to deploy 18 all-electric delivery trucks within our region for a two-year demonstration period. Even though the project has ended, these vehicles will continue operating within the region for the foreseeable future. Staff is currently preparing to submit the final report to DOE.
- Staff is continuing development of an alternative infrastructure plan for the H-GAC region. This project is in the initial stages and expected to progress over the next several months.

**F. TRAVEL DEMAND FORECASTING**

- Staff continues to provide travel demand modeling technical supports and assistances to support H-GAC's member agencies and their transportation planning studies.
- Modeling support continues for air quality projects including management of technical studies conducted both by the staff and consultants.
- Staff continues the development of an advance Activities Based Model (ABM).
- Staff is working with the conformity consultation partners to address any outstanding comments.