

**Regional Transit Coordination (RTC)
Subcommittee Meeting
Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor, Conference Room B/C
Thursday January 9, 2020
9:30 -11:00 a.m.**

Agenda

1. Introductions and Certification of Quorum (8) – Vernon Chambers,
Harris County Transit, Chair.
2. Public Comments
3. Action Items:
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Approval of RTC Subcommittee Meeting Summaries of July 11, 2019 and
October 10, 2019
4. Information Item(s): (15 minutes or less each)
 - 4.1 Commute Solutions Update - Veronica Baxter-Lamb, Deborah Mayfield, H-GAC
 - 4.2 METRO Regional Fare System Update- Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO).
 - 4.3 Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP) Updates;
 - Interactive Database Workgroup - Mobility Links
 - Google Transit Coordination and Regional Transit Fare System
5. Discussion Topic—Non-Emergency Medical Transportation System Gaps, Barriers and Potential Solutions
6. Agency Reports (5 minutes or less each)

RTC 2020 Quarterly Meetings, April 9, 2020, July 9, 2020, October 8, 2020:
9:30 -11:00 AM, H-GAC Offices, Conference Room B/C.

REGIONAL TRANSIT COORDINATION SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday, October 10, 2019 – 9:30am – 11:00am

Houston-Galveston Area Council

3555 Timmons Lane, 2nd Floor, Houston, Texas 77027 (Meeting Held in Room B/C)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Valerie Marvin – City of Pearland
Perri D’Armond – Fort Bend County Transit
Vernon Chambers – Harris County Transit
Rick Beverlin – City of Galveston

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Jason Jones – Houston Center for Independent Living
Yvette Maldonado – Fort Bend County Transit
De’Andre J. Guinn – City of Conroe
Matt Kouns – The Woodlands Township

OTHERS PRESENT

TxDOT – Travis Madison
TxDOT – Paula Haley Polk
TxDOT – Dana Green
Ted Ross – Connect Transit
Stephanie Nunez – Harris County Transit
Janis Scott – LINK Houston
Katrina Bayer – Central Houston
Denise Wendler – METRO
Reginald Brown - METRO

H-GAC STAFF PRESENT

Kari Hackett
Jamila Owens
Lydia Abebe
Thomas Gray
Alan Rodenstein
Veronica Baxter-Lamb
Lucinda Martinez

BRIEFING

Overview

The RTCS Members and Alternates were presented with the following information and updates on the following: Harris County Transit New Routes using Hurricane Disaster Funds, METRO Mobile Ticketing App Update, Regional Express Transit Framework, Smart Mobility and Automated Vehicles, Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan Updates. Copies of the presentations are included with this summary.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 2A. – Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Vernon Chambers, Chair, Harris County, requested a motion to adopt the agenda.

Action Item Motion: There was no quorum present.

ITEM 2B. – Approval of Meeting Summary

Ms. Vernon Chambers, Chair, Harris County requested a motion to approve the RTC Meeting Summary for the July 11, 2019 meeting as presented.

Action Item: There was no quorum present. This item was deferred until the January 2020 meeting.

ITEM 3. – Public Comment

There were no public comments presented to the subcommittee.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 4.1 – Harris County Transit New Routes using Hurricane Disaster Funds – Stephanie Nuñez, Harris County Transit.

Ms. Stephanie Nuñez, Harris County Transit, informed the subcommittee Harris County Transit applied for Disaster Recovery Funds due to Hurricane Harvey. They are expecting \$3.8 million in December 2019. These funds will target Harvey affected households. Harris County Transit will introduce 5 new routes in the new future as well as connect to Houston METRO from the Mesa Transit Center, Woodforest/Uvalde and 1-10 East/Uvalde.

ITEM 4.2 – METRO Mobile Ticketing App Update – Denise Wendler, METRO

Denise Wendler and Reginald Brown, METRO, updated the subcommittee on the METRO Mobile Ticketing app. Bytemark Inc. was selected as the vendor. The app will be available in iOS and Android platforms and will be available in the Apple and Google stores. Fort Bend County Transit and Harris County Transit will be participating in a Pilot Project to test the new app.

ITEM 4.3 – Regional Express Transit Framework – Katrina Bayer, Central Houston, Inc.

Katrina Bayer presented a proposal to plan for the development of a regional express bus network with two-way all-day services and a regional branding concept that would also represent the various service providers in the region.

ITEM 4.4 – Smart Mobility and Automated Vehicles – Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC

Mr. Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC, briefed the committee on recent developments in Smart Mobility and Autonomous Vehicles. Included in the elements of Smart Mobility were Mobility as A Service (MAAS), Electric Scooters/Micromobility and Transportation Networking Companies. Mobility as a Service is a customer-based concept for transportation based on tailored travel. Micromobility involves short distance of mainly urban trips in one or two person vehicles. Transportation Networking Companies (TNC's) include shared ride companies such as Uber and Lyft.

Developments in autonomous vehicles included the progress of the initial pilot project at Texas Southern University and other programs in the state were reviewed. A brief prognosis for regional transit in coming years was forwarded.

ITEM 4.5 – Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan Updates – Kari Hackett, H-GAC

Kari Hackett updated the RTC on recent developments associated with the Regional Interactive Database initiative, the Regional Transit Trip Planner on the Google Transit Platform and the RCTP Statewide Metrics Report. Copies of the Executive Summary for that report were made available.

ITEM 5. – Agency Reports

Ms. Vernon Chambers, Chair, Harris County, invited committee members to briefly give updates on their agency efforts. Updates were provided by several agencies and included the following highlights:

City of Conroe—Ridership is increasing on local and commuter bus routes, they are moving into new office space.

Harris County Transit- New disaster funded routes should be implemented by January 2020. They received a good response from public meetings about the proposed routes. They will be coordinating passenger assistance driver training (PASS?) during the first quarter of 2020.

Fort Bend County Transit- Introduced new Asst. Director, Yvette Maldonado, and confirmed substantial completion goal for new transit facility in October 2019, with grand opening planned for January 2020.

Central Houston- recommended a contact for potential GTFSS coordination with the transit provider for the new park and ride service offered by the City of Pearland and reminded members about the availability of the 2019 Downtown Commuter survey.

Thomas Gray, H-GAC -Announced that the new Regional Transit Origin-Destination survey is being planned for the Fall of 2020 to coincide with the 2020 Census. Participation from RTCS members will be needed.

Lydia Abebe, H-GAC announced upcoming FTA webinars for public transportation safety plans on October 24 and October 29th. Registration is required.

Gulf Coast Center noted two new facilities will be available and they have restructured some routes.

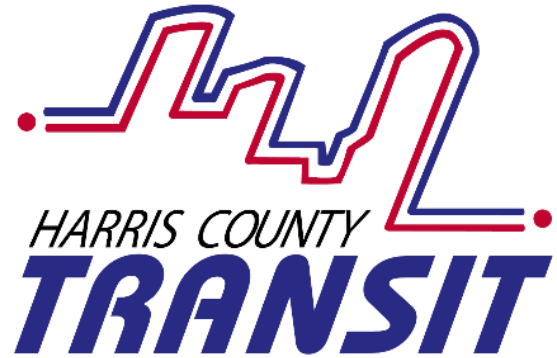
Veronica Baxter-Lamb, H-GAC introduced the new Program Manager for the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) team, Jamila Owens. She noted several TDM related activities that will be expanding such as Guaranteed Ride Home.

City of Galveston- Has started several fare initiatives such as free rides for ADA Paratransit riders, veterans and seniors 65 and over. Ridership is growing compared to previous year. Working with FLIX Bus to expand commuter bus trips between Galveston and Houston, planning to reinstate steel wheel trollies with delivery expected in October.

TxDOT-PTN-Coordinated Call for Projects starting Nov. 12th webinars planned for January 2020 timeframe and applications will be due March 27th (to be confirmed), RCTP Continuation funding opportunities will be coming soon, more details will be provided in a subsequent email message.

Next RTCS Quarterly Meeting – January 9, 2020 (Tentative) H-GAC, 2nd Floor, Conference Room B/C

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am



**Harris County CSD
Office of Transit Services
Disaster Recovery Harvey - Routes**

Harris County Transit

- ▶ Harris County Transit (HCT) applied for Disaster Recovery - Harvey funding in November 2018
- ▶ Expected to be awarded 3.8 million in December 2019 (Award date vs. HC-court date)
- ▶ HCT Fixed-Route service will target Harvey affected households
- ▶ Coordinated 4 public meetings
 - ▶ (1) Leon Grayson Community Center (Precinct 2)
 - ▶ (1) Flukinger Community Center (Precinct 2)
 - ▶ (2) San Jacinto College - North (Precinct 1)



Harris County Transit

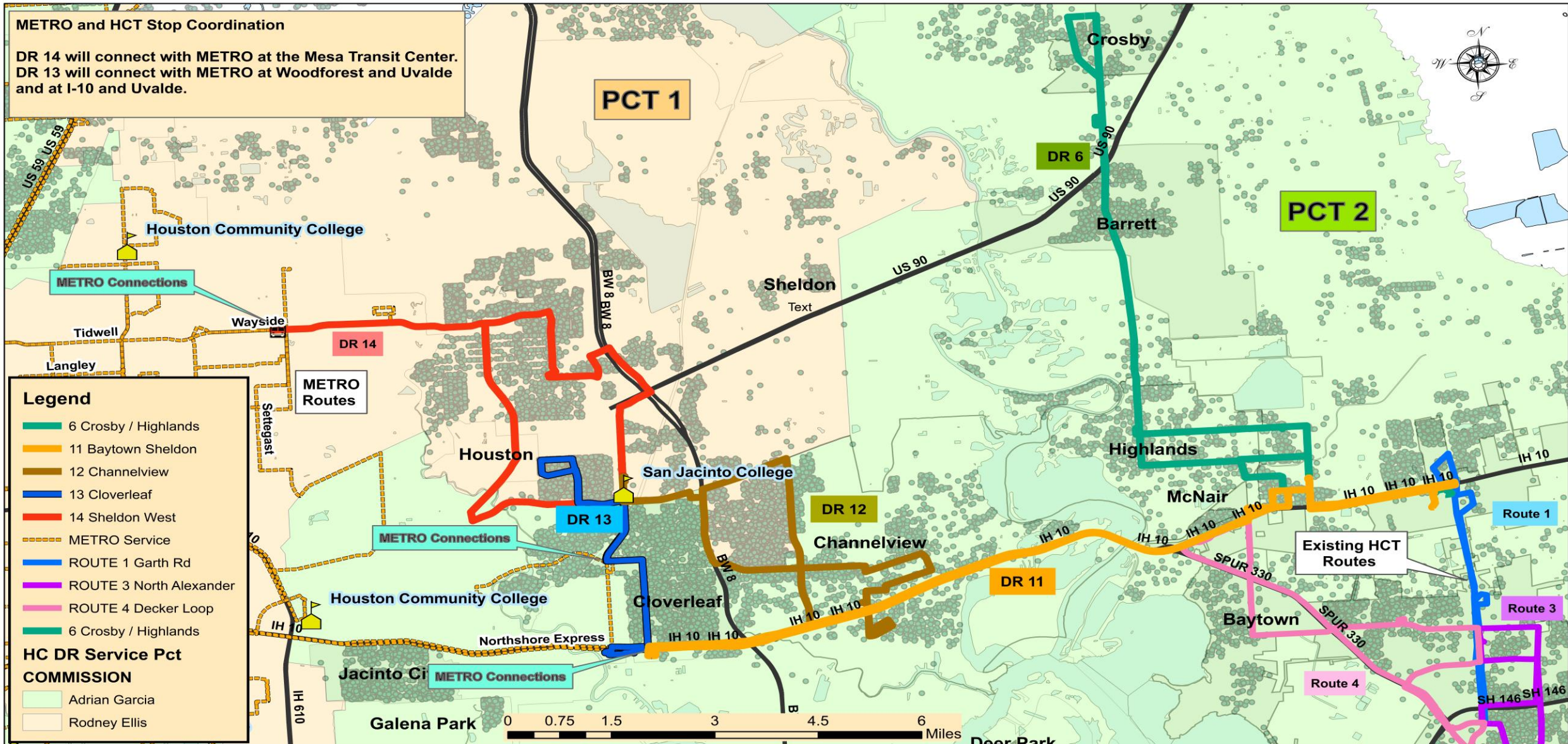
- ▶ Introducing 5 New Routes:
 - ▶ Highlands/Crosby route 6
 - ▶ Baytown Sheldon / Shuttle 11
 - ▶ Channelview route 12
 - ▶ Cloverleaf route 13
 - ▶ Sheldon West route 14

- ▶ Connection to Houston METRO
 - ▶ Mesa Transit Center
 - ▶ Woodforest / Uvalde
 - ▶ I-10 East / Uvalde





HARRIS COUNTY CSD OFFICE OF TRANSIT SERVICES HARVEY DISASTER RECOVERY ROUTES with Harvey Affected Households and METRO Connections



SMART MOBILITY AND AUTOMATED VEHICLES



KEY THEMES

- Brief overview of three elements of smart mobility
- Summary of autonomous vehicles in Texas
- What it means for regional transit

MOBILITY as a SERVICE (MAAS)

- Shift away mobility consumed as a service
- Where many new travel modes– European and large US cities
- Consumers use MAAS app
- MAAS makes the arrangements for the consumer
- Suburban/rural areas

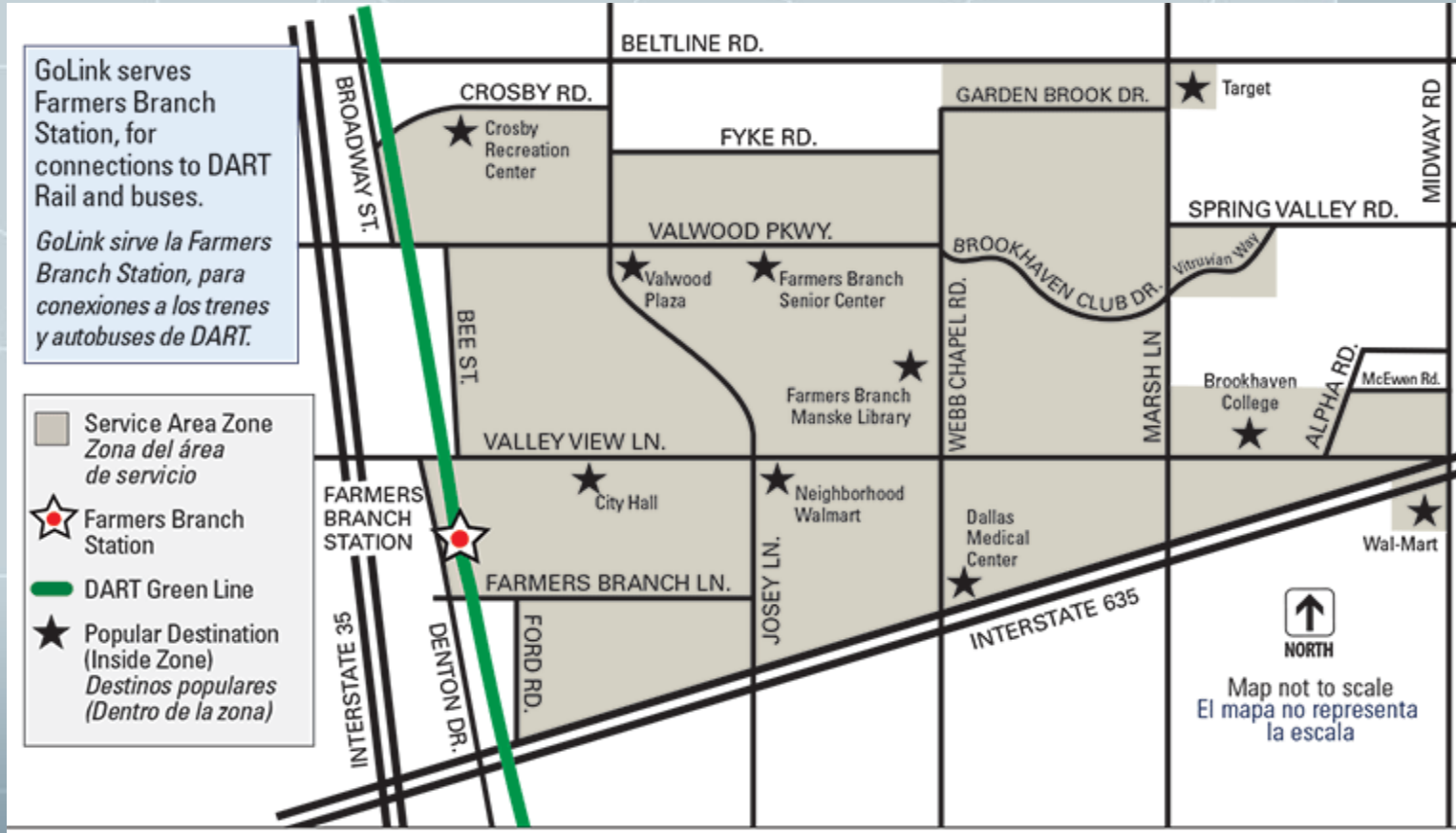
SCOOTERS AND MICROMOBILITY

- Explosion of Electric scooters in all large cities in Texas
- Except: Houston
- Advantages: short range travel in urban areas
- May connect to transit and first mile/last mile
- Disadvantages: Safety, safety and safety
- Does reduce transit ridership for short trips
- Creates conflicts with pedestrians and cyclists

TRANSPORTATION NETWORKING COMPANIES

- Most used in U.S. of smart mobility applications
- Is it a fully viable operating model?
- DART has developed an extensive First mile/last mile services
- “Go Link” Service /UBER runs on 13 routes throughout region
- Provides quality service at lower cost - per DART

DART – FARMER'S BRANCH



AUTOMATED VEHICLES - I

- Early development – Generation 2 EZ 10
- Starting to perform practical tasks in passenger transportation
- Beginning product delivery
- Most US vehicles are Level 3
- TSU (uses EZ 10) and Kroeger projects in Houston
- TSU Challenges: weather, accessible, general acceptance, obstacles, speed, maintenance, range (EZ 10 – Gen 3 is acc)

AUTOMATED VEHICLES - II

- Other challenges: communication, data management, data security
- Operational obstacles (15 mph)
- Phase II in TSU – Houston faces greater challenges
- Other vehicles on the street (Drive Ai) tested in Frisco, TX
- EZ10 used in Arlington pilot between two sports stadiums

WHERE WE ARE HEADED

- Getting out of the initial demonstration phase
- Moving into substantive applications
- In the best of cases providing effective local transportation
- Or they don't work
- More services are inevitably coming
- Usage will expand quickly in coming years

WHAT IT MEANS FOR REGIONAL TRANSIT?

- Fewer resources to implement complex services
- More possibilities will happen
- Community type flexible or first mile/last mile transit service may be mode most affected
- Large non-transit communities will need to look at “new” mobility options

CMAQ AND SMART MOBILITY

- CMAQ informational session on Call for Applications is October 23 at H-GAC 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
- All are cordially invited
- Excellent networking opportunities with private companies

Houston's Future

Regional Express Transit

Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee

10.10.19

Congestion



Central Houston

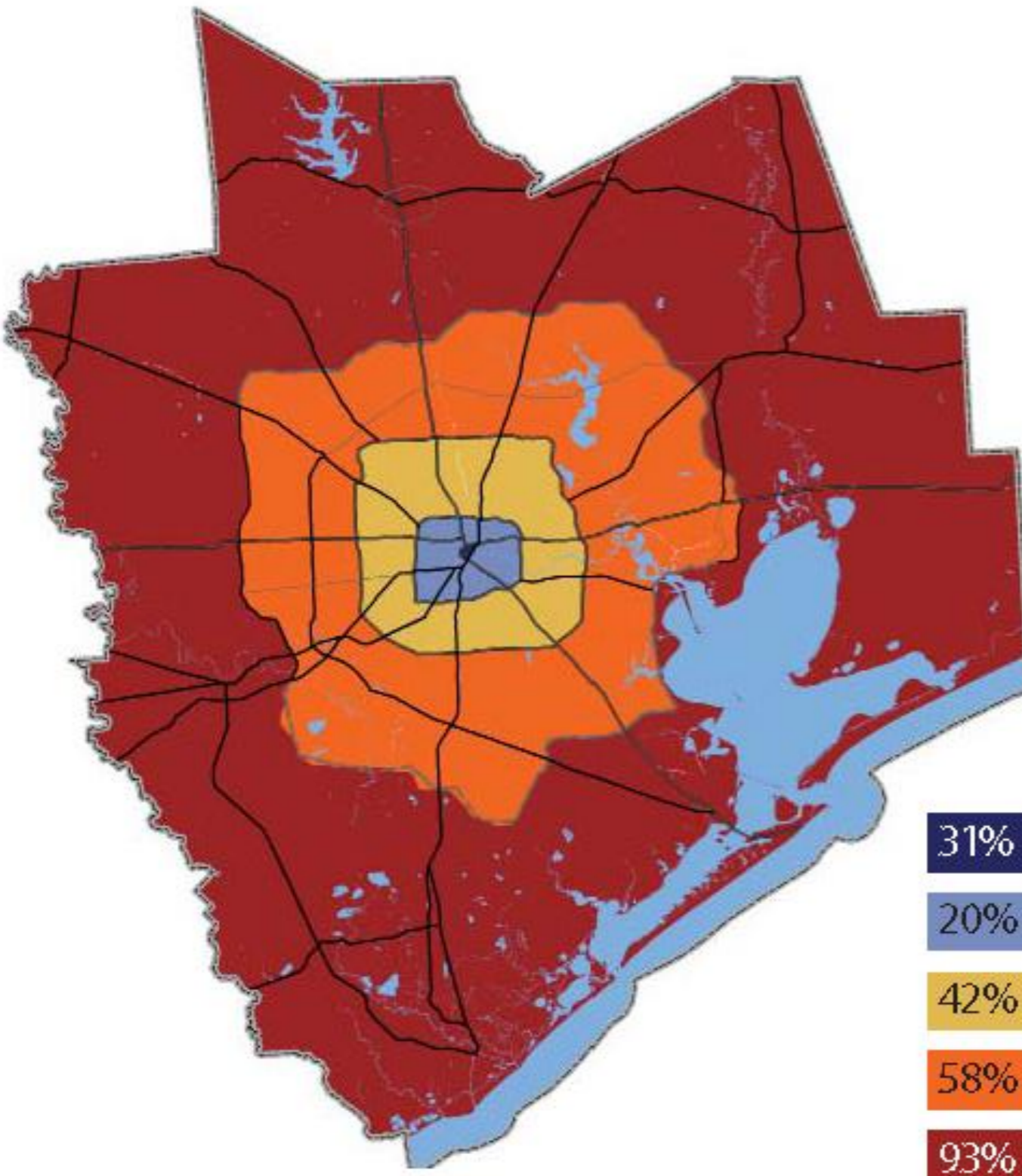


*Houston, We Have A
Congestion Problem*

Future Pain Points



Map 7: Percent Change in Trip Attraction Across the Region



Area	2015 Pop	2040 Pop	% Change
CBD	5,501	12,927	135%
IH-610	505,413	583,872	16%
BW 8	1,680,851	2,166,884	29%
SH-99	2,932,889	4,308,476	47%
Beyond 99	1,327,857	2,485,284	87%

10 Year Delta:

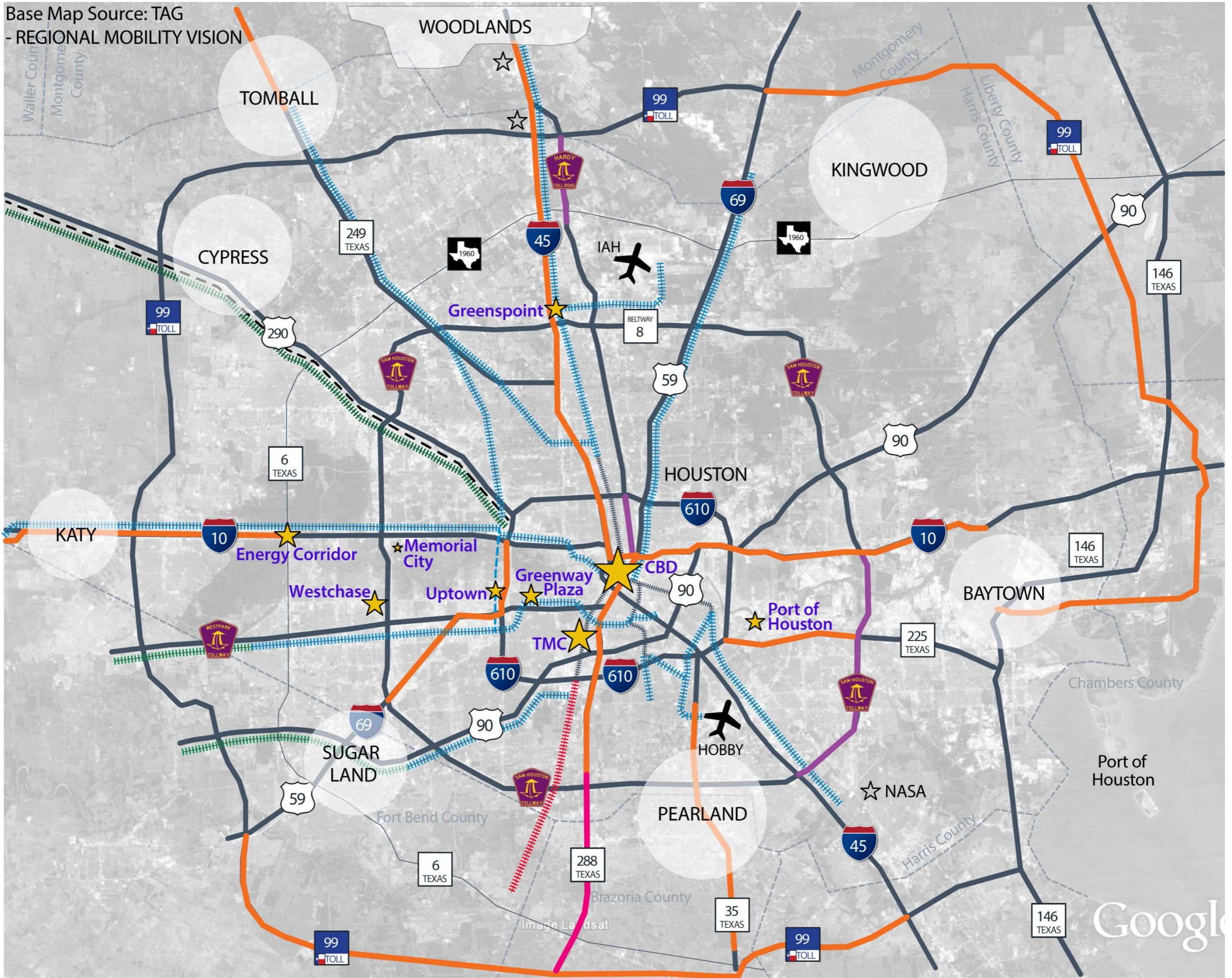
↑ 22 hours

↑ 41.5%

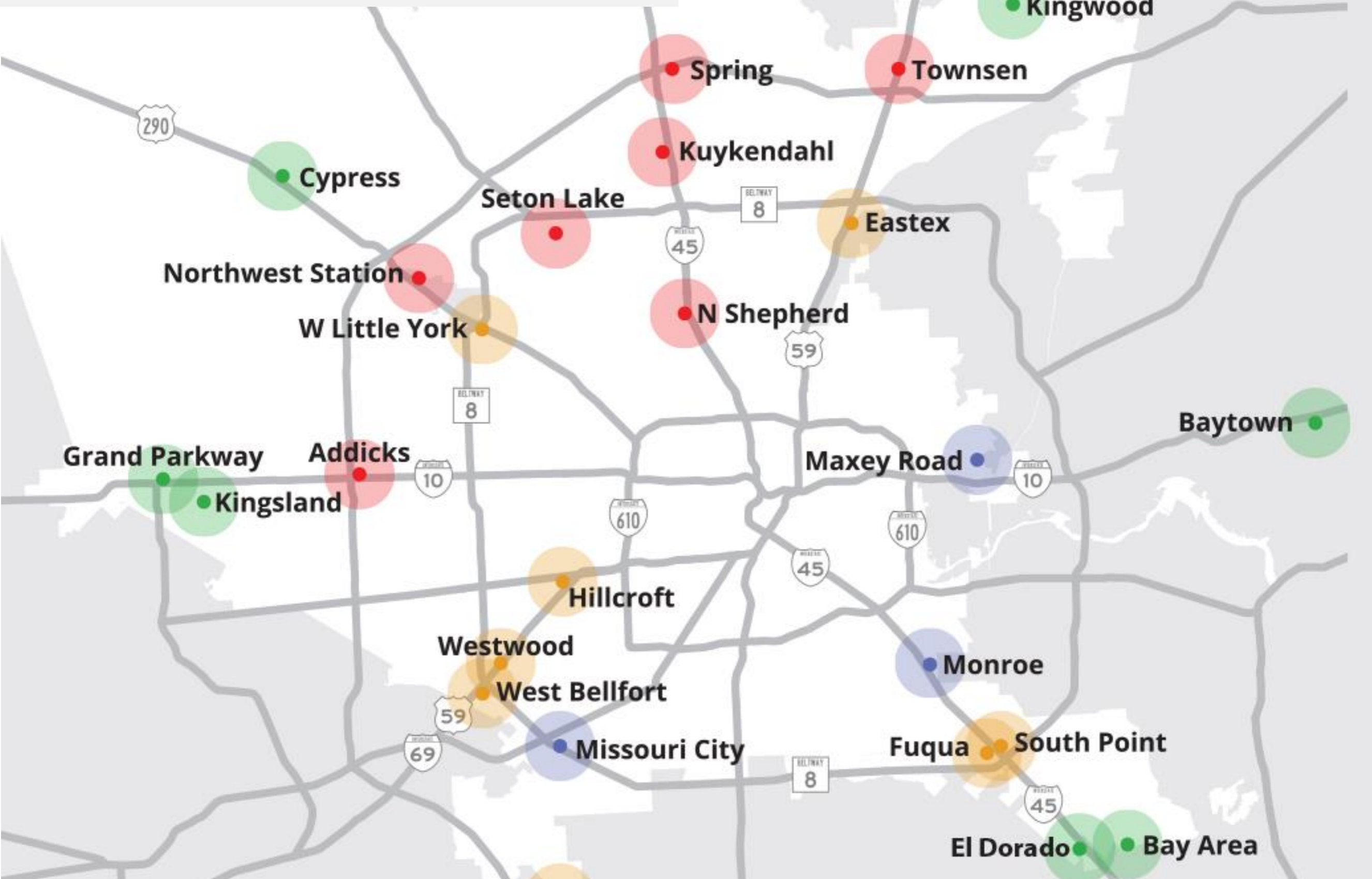
- 31%** Downtown Houston
- 20%** Inside Loop 610
- 42%** Inside BW 8
- 58%** Inside SH 99
- 93%** Outside SH 99

CONNECT ACTIVITY CENTERS

Base Map Source: TAG
- REGIONAL MOBILITY VISION



Park & Ride Facilities

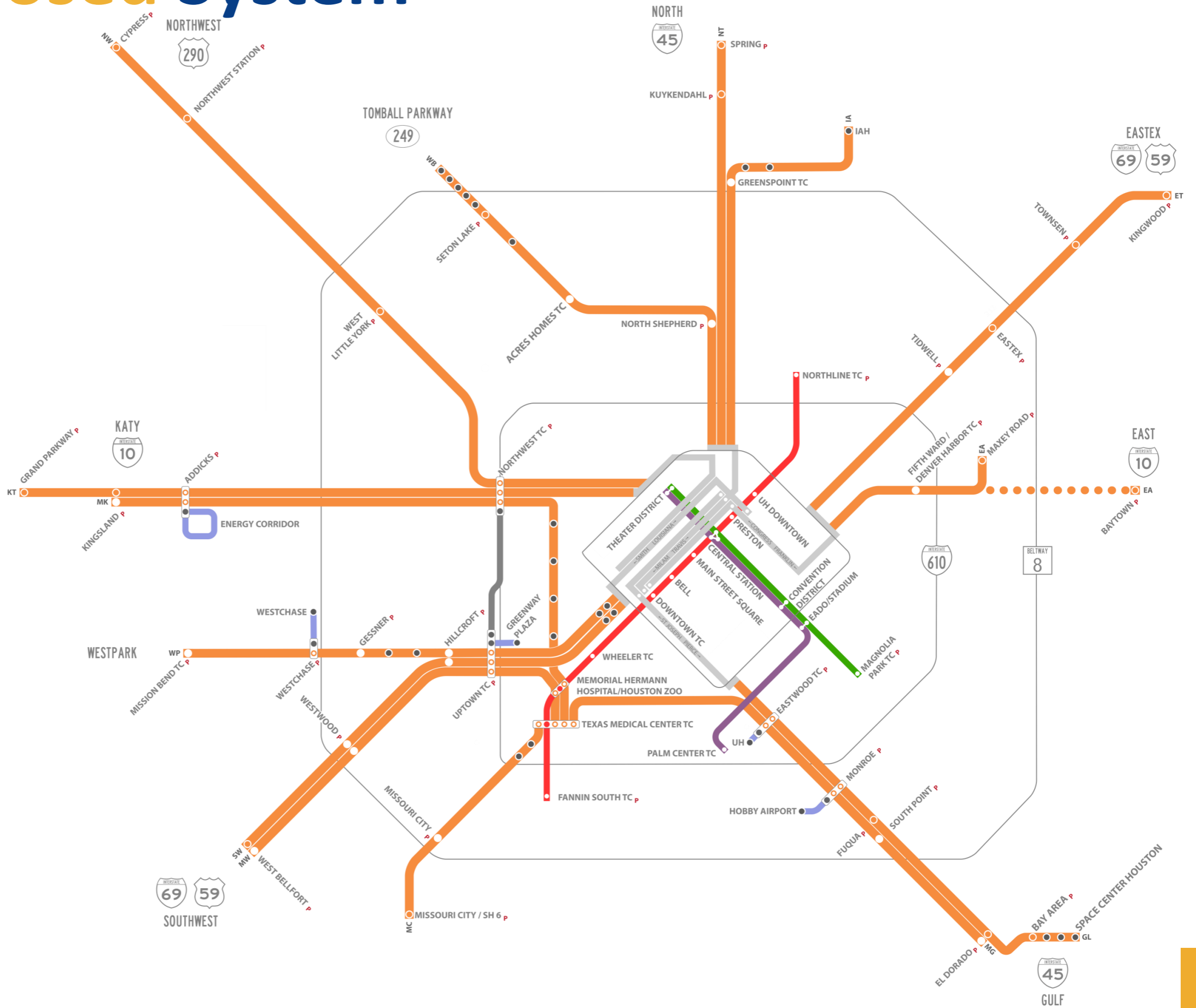


Fare Zone	1	2	3	4
Full Fare	\$2.00	\$3.25	\$3.75	\$4.50

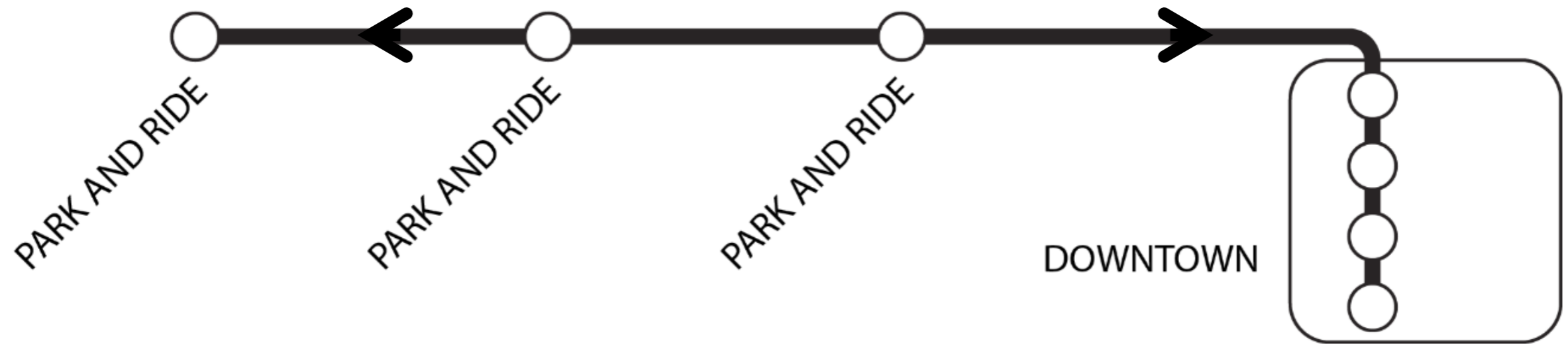
Park & Ride Facilities



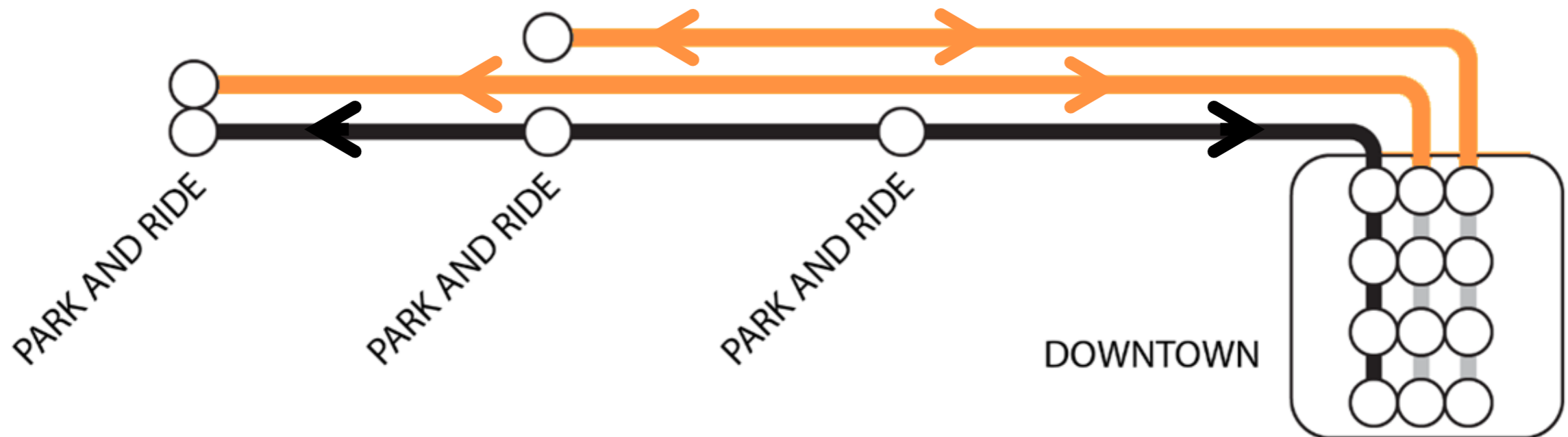
Proposed System



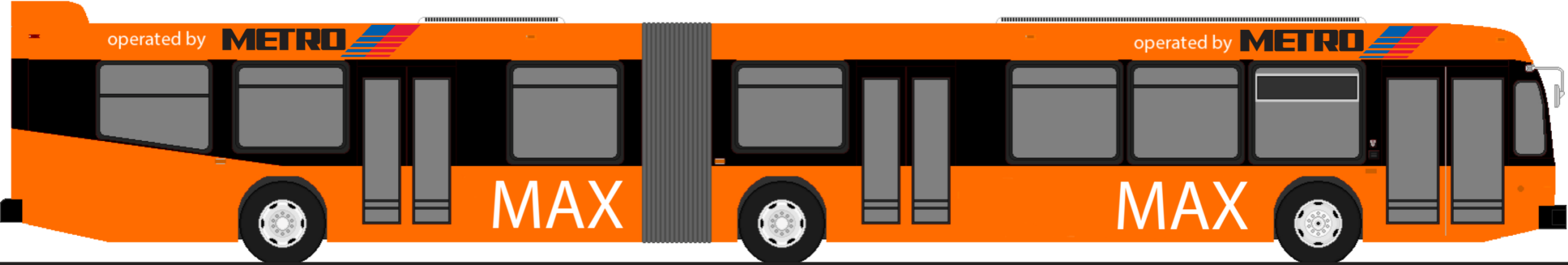
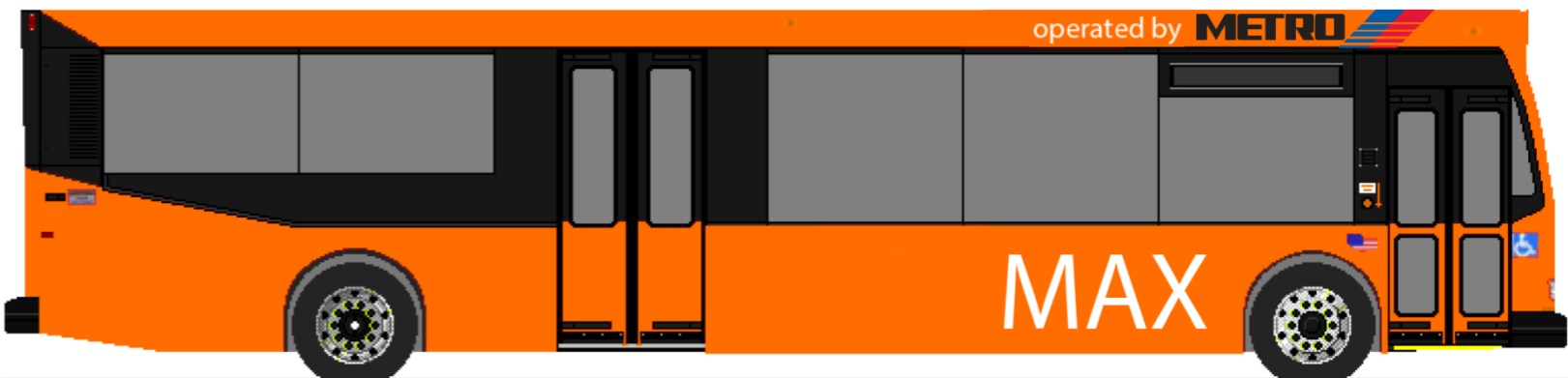
All-Day Base Service - Local Fare



Peak Commuter Service - Premium Fare



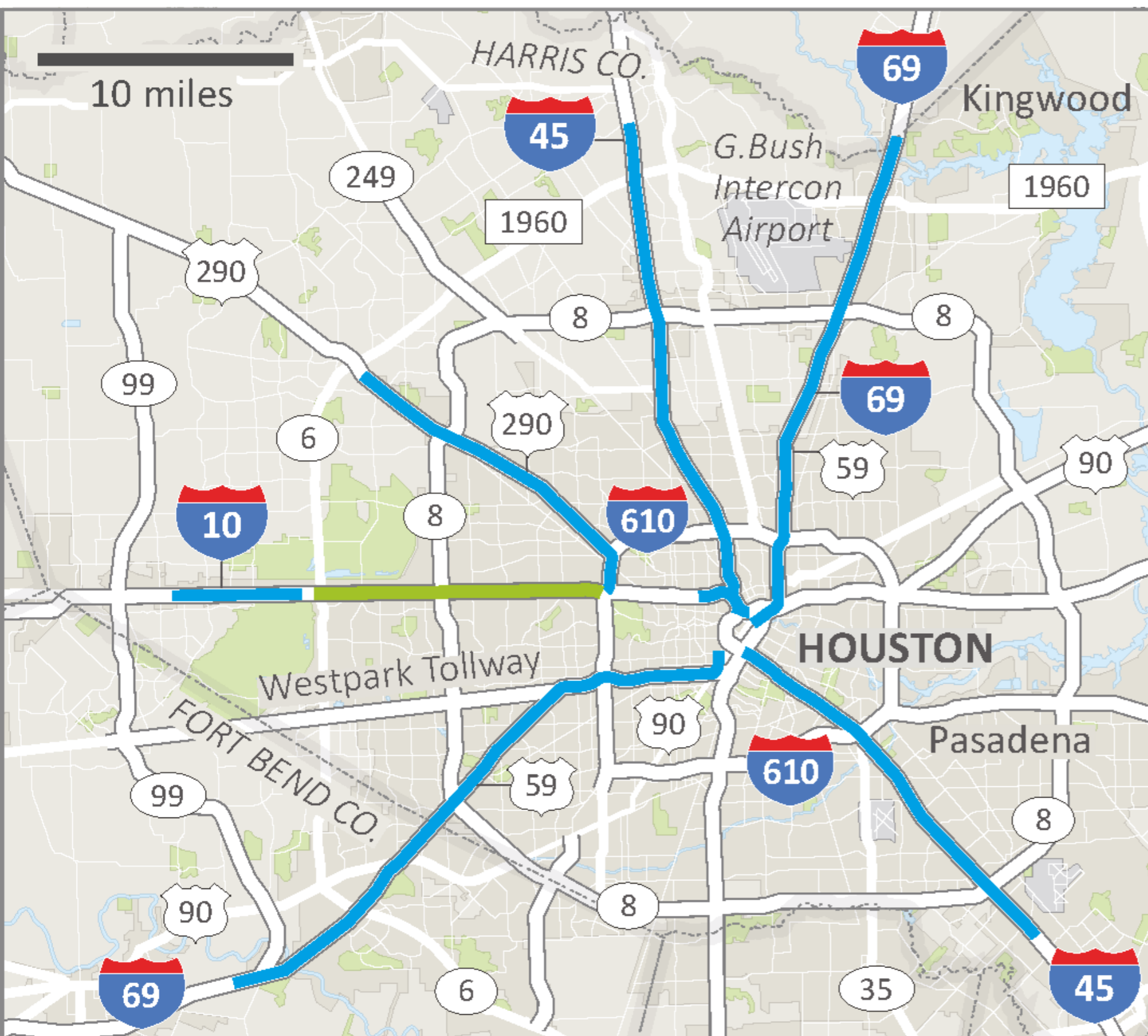
Distinctive Branding



Unique Unified Identity



Extensive HOV Lanes



LEGEND

- Variable Pricing (Open)
- HOV/HOT lanes

HOV = High Occupancy Vehicle
HOT = High Occupancy/Toll

Over 25.4 million users in 2017



 **MANAGED HOV LANE**
EXIT for Plano Pkwy
1/2 MILE

 **MANAGED HOV LANE**
ACCESS LEFT LANE
1/2 MILE







H EXIT 29A-29
Park Blvd
15th St 

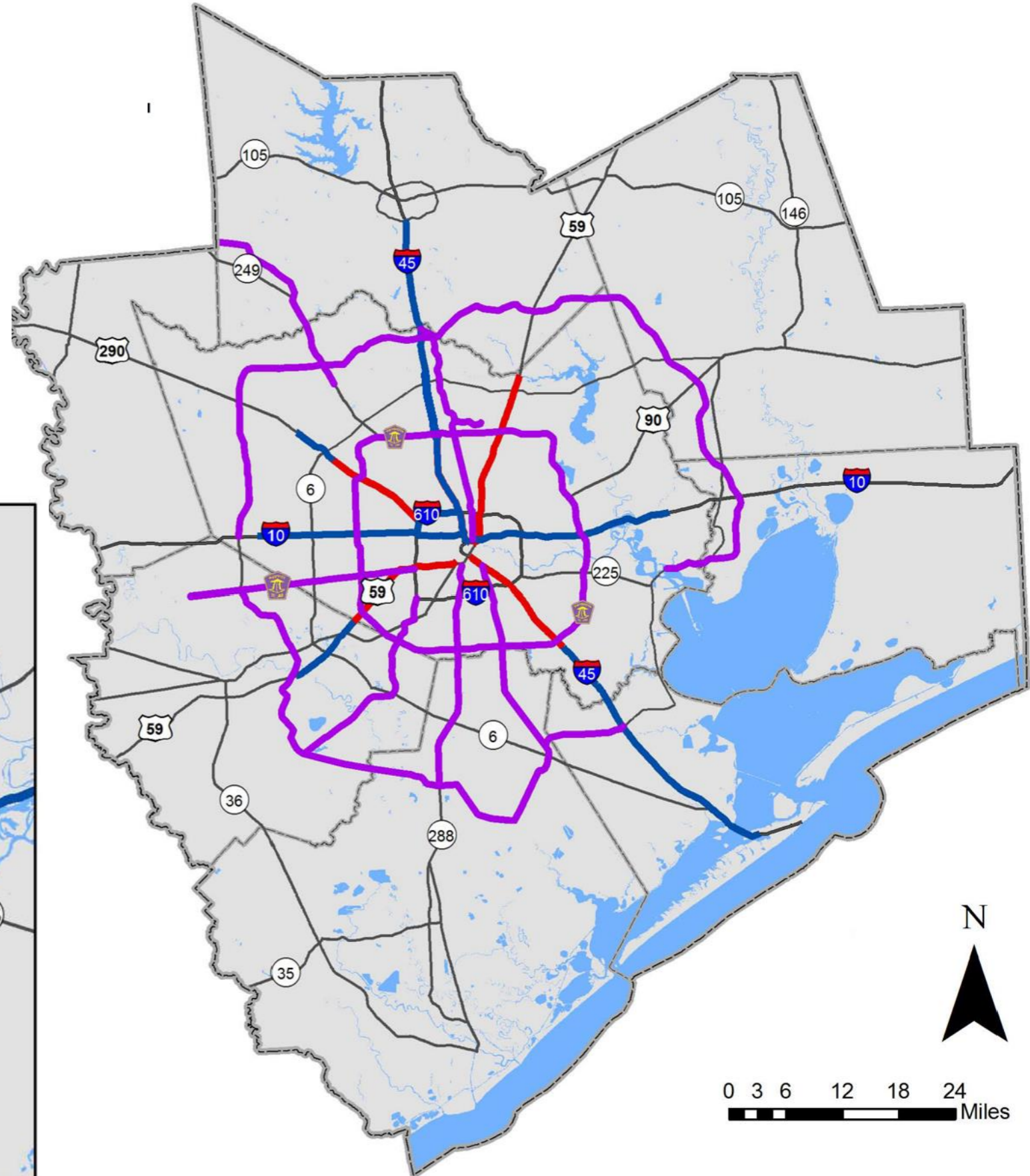
HOV
LANE

Planned HOV Expansions



Central Houston

-  Tollway
-  Two-way HOV
-  Reversible HOV/HOT
-  Interstate Highway
-  State Highway
-  Other Road



MAX is:

- 1. New Service** • Scalable
- 2. New Branding** • Affordable
- 3. New Fares** • Inclusive
- 4. New Infrastructure** • Adaptable

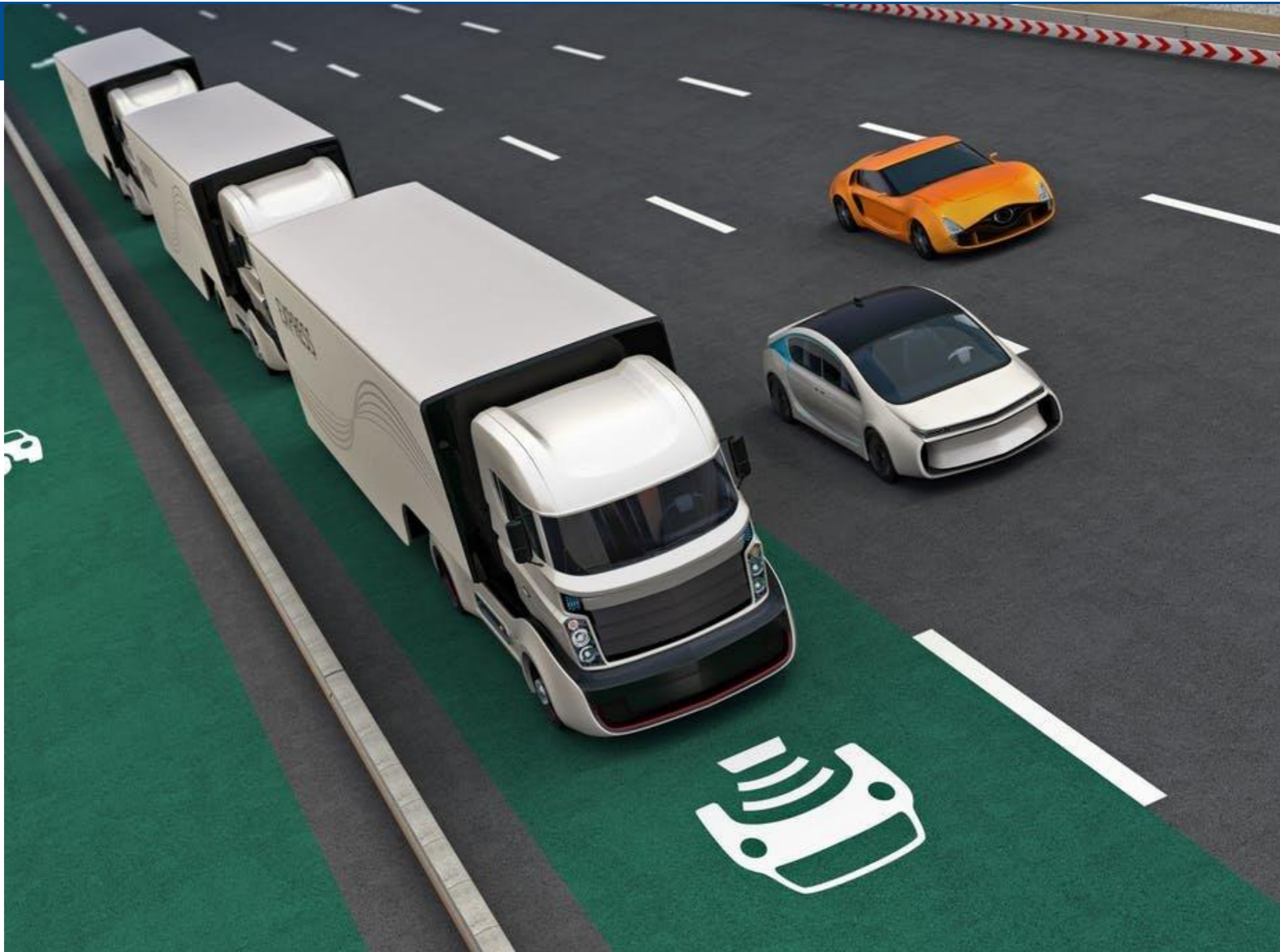
Framework to Change the Service Paradigm

Referendum on November 5, 2019

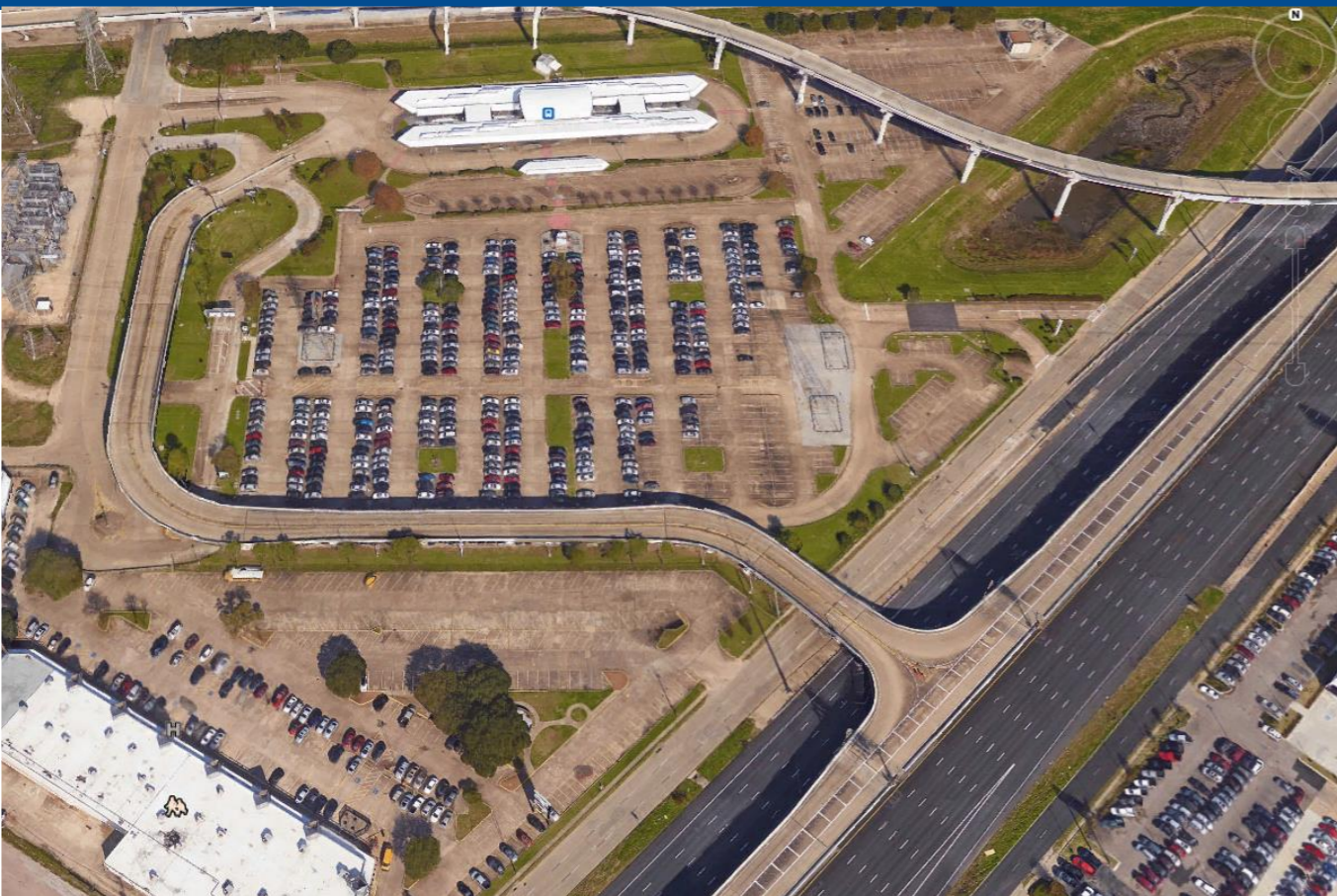
Plan Elements	Estimated Cost in 2017 Dollars
LRT Lines	\$2,100,000,000
BRT Lines	\$3,230,000,000
Regional Express	\$1,560,000,000
Signature and Boost	\$179,000,000
Service Enhancements	\$414,000,000
Plan Total	\$7,483,000,000



Autonomous Vehicles



Immediate Future: Platooning



Source: Google Earth



Source: Houston METRO

Figure ES-3 HOV Lane Direct Connector Lanes to Transit Center Bus Only Facilities

Driverless AV Bus operations will be possible on Houston's HOV Lanes within the next five years

Autonomous Vehicles



Houston is Uniquely Positioned to
Lead the AV Transit Revolution

Thank you!

Katrina Bayer

Transportation Planning Manager

Central Houston, Inc.

kbayer@centralhouston.org



CentralHouston

Centralhouston.org

Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee

Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP) Updates

Kari Hackett

October 10, 2019

Interactive Database One Call One Click

- **Communications Plan**
- **Work Group Meeting**
- **Next Steps Identified**
 - Program name options 10-11-19
 - Review and Update Data 11-28-19
 - Create Landing Webpage 12-1-19
 - Promotion in Regional Focus Newsletter 12-3-19
 - Develop process and schedule for updates 12-31-19
 - Next Work Group meeting—early December

Regional Transit Trip Planner- Google Transit Platform

- Fort Bend County Transit and Harris County Transit-Pilot Mobile Ticketing
- Harris County Transit, Conroe Connection—Pre-Launch Checklist and Quality Reviews
- Island Transit-Detailed bus stop coding in process
- Colorado Valley Transit-detailed coding next
- Brazos Transit District and The Woodlands Transit—GTFS Debugs.

RCTP Statewide Metrics Report 2019

- Executive Summary

- Number of Collaborations
- Number of Organizations or Participants Provided Information about Transportation Planning
- Number of Organizations or Participants Involved in Transportation Planning

Gulf Coast Summary (see handout for details)

Questions ?

Kari Hackett, kari.hackett@h-gac.com 713-993-4576.