

REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

A. H-GAC LONG RANGE PLANNING

- Staff conducted RTP - TIP joints Subcommittee meetings on April 11, 2018. The 2019-2022 TIP and 2045 RTP Investment Priorities for the 2018 project call were the topics of discussion at the meeting.
 - Staff conducted the 2045 RTP public meetings at various locations within the region. A complete list of the public outreach meetings is attached to this packet. For more information on 2045 RTP public outreach opportunities please visit <http://2045rtp.com/>.
1. Subregional Planning Initiatives (SPI)
 - Waller County Transportation Plan: a Steering Committee Meeting occurred on April 10, 2018. Steff gave a presentation of the proposed project recommendations to the Waller Area Chamber of Commerce on April 18, 2018.
 2. Safety/Operations Planning
 - Incident Management Strategic Plan: Staff is following up on the execution of City of Houston's interagency agreement to reinstate the Quick Clearance Program at no cost to the stranded patron. A consultant was selected and a Notice to Proceed was issued for a consultant to prepare public outreach materials and campaign for the Quick Clearance Program.
 - Safety: Staff coordinated to contract with TxDOT for the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program for FY18. Staff coordinated with TxDOT on the scope of work for the Regional Safety Outreach Campaign to be developed. Staff worked a draft report of the Regional Safety Plan.
 3. Freight Planning
 - Staff continued to work on a draft scope of work for the Regional Freight Rail Study.
 4. Hurricane Evacuation Planning
 - Staff published 2018 Hurricane Evacuation Zip Zone Maps on April 3, 2018. Staff coordinated with regional Offices of Emergency Management on updates to the Emergency Evacuation Traffic Management Plan. Staff attended Texas Department of Emergency Management Regional Workshops.

B. H-GAC SHORT RANGE PLANNING

1. 2019-2022 TIP Development Update
 - TIP documents and additional supporting materials can be found online at <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/tip>.
 - Staff worked with TXDOT to develop a TIP development schedule.

- Staff and TXDOT are coordinating efforts to assess current project statuses.
- H-GAC has entered into a contract with EcoInteractive Inc. to supply and support a replacement project database and information management system. The project is progressing and staff anticipates training for agency partners in Spring 2018.

2. Transit Planning Update

- Staff submitted the required FY 2018 Project Grant Agreement (PGA) report to TxDOT-PTN on April 16th for the regionally coordinated transportation planning process (RCTP). Coordination of a Regional Interactive Transportation Resource Database workgroup is in process.
- Work is continuing with the development of General Transit Feed Specifications (GTFS) input files for the Regional Trip Planner using the Google Transit Platform.
- Staff is currently participating in evaluation committees for candidate projects for Federal Formula (Section 5310 and Sections 5307/5337/5339) grants.
- The most recent meeting of the High Capacity Transit Task Force occurred on Thursday, March 8, 2017.

C. PUBLIC OUTREACH

1. Transportation Planning Activities

- Public outreach staff worked with the Federal Highway Administration on the Multi-Jurisdictional Coordination for the Greater Texas Region workshop that took place on March 28-29 at the Norris Conference Center in Houston. Participants discussed how Texas can better connect and work together to address multimodal freight transportation on a multi-jurisdictional scale in the Greater Texas Region and beyond.
- Public outreach staff promoted the 2045 RTP public meetings through a variety of communication tactics such as digital media, social media, media relations, grassroots outreach efforts, presentations, community fairs, and more. For a list of upcoming public meetings, visit <http://2045rtp.com/>.
- Public outreach staff attended the H-GAC annual meeting on March 9 to talk with attendees about the Regional Transportation Plan.

2. Commute Solutions Planning Activities

- Commute Solutions staff made a presentation to the Workforce Solutions Employer Services Group on March 1 to about 80 participants.
- Commute Solutions staff participated in the first quarterly statewide planning meeting with Commute Solutions colleagues at NCTCOG – Dallas; CAPCOG – Austin, and AACOG – San Antonio on March 22.
- Commute Solutions staff attended the 2045 RTP Public Meeting at the Alief Community Center on March 22 and manned the Commute Solutions table and distributed collateral materials, including brochures, STAR vanpool and METRO transit information and promo items. Registered 1 person for vanpooling and scanned and emailed information to METRO STAR staff on March 23.

D. CLEAN VEHICLES/DRAYAGE PROGRAMS PLANNING ACTIVITIES

1. Clean Vehicles Program

- 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 compiled a mailing list of Clean Vehicles contacts to invite to the November 14 Clean Cities Technologies Conference. The invitations were issued by Air Quality Program staff.
- Staff emailed a follow-up invitation to all grant sub-recipients with active projects.
- Staff phoned a few grant sub-recipients whose email invitations bounced, and then reissued their conference invitations.
- Staff worked on developing an online compliance reporting tool for active projects.

2. Drayage Program

- Staff responded to incoming phone calls and email requests for program information.
- Staff reached out to prospects, applicants and grant sub-recipients regarding drayage loans and CMAQ grants.
- Staff updated forms to improve usability for applicants and grant sub-recipients in English and Spanish.
- CMAQ funds totaling \$301,903.59 were disbursed to replace three vehicles whose contractor loan amounts had been paid previously.
- Staff compiled a mailing list of Drayage Program contacts to invite to the November 14 Clean Cities Technologies Conference. The invitations were subsequently issued by Air Quality Program staff.

E. GENERAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ACTIVITIES

- TCEQ is accepting comments and suggestions related to the State Beneficiary Plan Agreement for the VW Settlement Consent Decree. H-GAC staff has coordinated with regional stakeholders through the Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee (RAQPAC) to develop recommendations to TCEQ regarding this plan agreement. These comments were approved at a subsequent H-GAC Board of Directors meeting and transmitted to TCEQ.

Recommended comments regarding the beneficiary agreement are as follows:

- Allow regional governments such as Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Councils of Government (COGs), and Clean Cities Coalitions to administer the dispersal of funds on a regional basis through third-party contracts.
- For third-party contracts, allow use of Settlement funds for administration and outreach.
- Support funding the widest possible breadth of mitigation actions as supported under the final national VW Settlement consent decree.
- Focus dispersing Settlement funding within nonattainment and near-nonattainment areas.
- Allow local governments to receive 100 percent of VW Settlement funds without requiring additional cost share as allowed in the federal consent decree at least in areas adversely impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

- Allow vehicles and equipment destroyed in recent natural disasters to be eligible for replacement with cleaner lower emission technologies.
- TCEQ should consider participating in the EPA State Clean Diesel Grant Program.
- With RAQPAC, staff continues to develop a Regional Air Quality Summit in conjunction with Exxon Mobil and the Greater Houston Partnership. This summit will include stakeholders and researchers to discuss current air quality conditions within the region and actions needed for the region to continue improving. It is anticipated that this event will occur in the early part of 2018.
- H-GAC staff has received a one-year funding extension from the Department of Energy for the Houston-Galveston Clean Cities Coalition. The \$45,000 in funding that will result from this application will allow H-GAC to continue activities to reduce fossil fuel use in the region for an additional year.
- TTI continues to work on a new cooperative research study involving H-GAC, the Port of Houston, and the U.S. EPA. The study is utilizing H-GACs GPS data on their participating Drayage Program trucks, the Port's gate data, and has installed EPA-provided equipment on some of these trucks, as well as other freight vehicles operating in the region, to analyze the impacts of speed, idling and congestion on emissions that are being generated in and around the Port of Houston and warehouse areas. It is anticipated that this report will be completed in Q3 2018.
- Staff continues to develop the annual Air Quality Initiatives report to cover regional air quality improvement programs administered in 2017 with the assistance of H-GAC.
- Staff continues to work on developing a data management plan to better capture and use data that can be used to calculate emission reduction progress resulting from H-GAC air quality projects.
- Staff continues to work on the second phase of an interactive alternative fuel map which allows for alternative fuel users to locate alternative fueling sites and to suggest needed sites. The updated version has been moved to a new platform which allows the map to be used on mobile devices and make use of a modern look and feel. It is also anticipated that additional layers will be added to the map. Use the Interactive Alternate Fuels Finder app online at <http://iaff.h-gac.com/>.
- 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.
- Staff has initiated development on an inventory of buses and other mass transit vehicles within the region. Work is underway to inventory school-related transit vehicles and it is anticipated that this will be expanded to include transit, commuter, and tour buses before the end of the year.

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). The ABM will be complete and in use by the end of 2016.
- Staff continues to develop a dynamic travel demand model for use in corridor analyses.