

5A. SUMMARY OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

LONG RANGE PLANNING

1. Sub-regional Planning Initiatives (SPI)

- Chambers County Thoroughfare Plan study began July 1, 2023. A public meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2024, from 5:30-7:00pm at White Park in Wallisville. The proposed Thoroughfare Plan, and street cross-sections will be presented at a public meeting for the public to view and comment on.
- Washington Avenue Corridor study began October 1, 2023. The study team is developing alternatives to improve traffic flow along the corridor. The next Steering Committee meeting is planned for October.
- Old 6th Ward/TIRZ 13 Mobility study began November 1, 2023. The study team will be presenting draft recommendations for the public to review and comment on at the next public outreach event. The event will be held on October 1, 2024, at the First Ward Civic Club National Night Out, located at The Art Alley at Sawyer Yards, 1502 Sawyer Street, Houston 77007 from 6:30-8:30pm.
- FM 518 Corridor study began November 1, 2023. The study team has identified the needs along the corridor and is developing alternatives to address those issues. The next Steering Committee will be held in early October with a public meeting to be held in mid-November.
- Pearland Mobility study began November 1, 2023. The study team has identified the needs in the City of Pearland and is developing alternatives to address those issues. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held in mid-September. The next public outreach event will be held in mid-October.
- Cemetery Road Corridor Study began March 1, 2024. The first public meeting was held August 22, 2024, at Runge Park (4605 Peck Ave., Santa Fe, TX) from 5:30-7:00pm. The study team is planning a Focus Group Meeting for mid-October and a Pop-Up event on October 12, 2024, at the Santa Fe Country Fest.
- Friendswood's Parkway Corridor began September 1, 2024. The study team will hold the first Steering Committee meeting in November.

2. Freight Planning

- The Greater Houston Freight Committee (GHFC) meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2024. This meeting will be held virtually. Please contact Sydni Ligons at Sydni.ligons@h-gac.com to be added to the meeting invite.
- Staff continue working to implement the policies and programs from the approved Regional Goods Movement Plan (RGMP).
- Staff continues to leverage public and private funding opportunities for regional railroad projects through the Houston Area Rail Transformation (HART). The next HART meeting is scheduled for September 27th at 1:30 pm.

3. Regional Incident Management, Safety, and Operations

- H-GAC in partnership with TxDOT hosted a Train-the-Trainer Training August 26-27. 30 law enforcement officers from different agencies across the region joined us for this training.
- The Tow and Go Public Awareness Campaign is on-going with educational information streaming on radio, through digital and social media, and billboards across the region.
- Hurricane Preparedness and Awareness Campaign for 2024 is on-going.
- H-GAC Staff participated in a live television interview with KPRC Channel 2 to discuss the addition of SH146 to the Hurricane Evacuation Map.
- Staff attended the Houston Traffic Safety Coalition Meeting.
- Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan is undergoing procurement process. Currently evaluating responses to RFP. Tentative contract start date February 2025.
- Safety Activity Report will start this month at both TAC and TPC. Goals are to promote safety initiatives, request tasks for the Transportation Safety Committee, and fill Committee membership.

4. Environmental Planning

- Staff continue to follow local Environmental Justice news as they relate to the H-GAC Title VI Nondiscrimination Program and will inform the triennial update to the regional Title VI Program Update and report on activities in furtherance of Environmental Justice.

5. Resiliency Planning

- H-GAC's MPO was one of the 80 recipients that will receive funding from the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program. The program awarded \$829.6 million in grant funding to fund projects to improve the resilience of the surface transportation system.
- H-GAC will receive \$1.1 million to develop a Regional Resilience Improvement Plan for the surface transportation system of an eight-county region that experiences repeated extreme weather events, natural disasters, and hazardous flooding conditions. The project will fine-tune previously developed strategies, identify gaps in planning, create a list of priority improvements that can be implemented in the short- and long term, and include a risk-based assessment of vulnerabilities to roadways, culverts, ditches, medians, and other transportation assets.
- Staff coordinated letters of support for regional partners PROTECT Grant Program applications.
- Staff completed work on the Resilience & Durability Pilot project as part of the FHWA program to develop transportation-specific resiliency best practices and strategies. The draft report has been finalized and accepted by FHWA. Staff has completed an update of the Foresight Panel on Environmental Effects report with outcomes from the Pilot project. For more information visit: www/h-gac.com/resiliency-planning

6. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

- The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) subcommittee provides guidance and oversees the progress of the RTP. The committee must meet quorum, and meetings are held every second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is October 9, 2024, at 1:30 PM.

- The 2045 RTP Update was approved by TPC in April 2023. The final report and 33 associated appendixes are available online: <https://engage.h-gac.com/2045rtpupdate>
- Staff has finalized the RTP Project Development Process and online portal for project intake.
- The RTP Project Sponsor Workshop was held on May 15th, 2024. The workshop has 40 attendees (20 in-person and 20 virtual). The agenda included: overview of RTP Project Development Process, how to submit a project online, and presentations on publicly available, free to use data applications to enhance project submission.
- The RTP Project Development Process closed the application portal on August 7. Internal evaluations have been completed, and fiscal constraint is now being implemented. This process will result in a new RTP project listing.

7. Other Planning Activities

- Staff continued to monitor regional travel impacts of COVID-19. Regional travel volumes were monitored through StreetLight data. Transit ridership numbers are now reported quarterly from transit agencies in the region. Permanent pedestrian/bicyclist counters provide updates on counts along regional pedestrian/bicyclist facilities. Staff have developed an online [COVID-19 Regional Traffic Impacts App](#) which displays vehicular, active, and transit transportation patterns during the Pandemic.
- Work is underway to update the Language Access Plan (LAP). The LAP examines the need for language assistance by individuals with limited proficiency in the English language (LEP) within the MPO region and specifies what services will be offered to overcome the language barriers. Efforts to update the LAP include a survey to gather information about the non-English languages spoken around the region. Information gathered through the survey will help updates to the Language Access Plan (LAP) and the triennial update to the H-GAC Title VI Program. Related activities include the community roundtables, which are aimed at opening a dialogue and creating long-term partnerships with advocates, representatives, and members of the racial and ethnic minority groups and other underserved populations.
- Work is also underway to update the Title VI Program as required by the Federal Transit Administration.

SHORT RANGE PLANNING

1. Project Programming

- Staff coordinated the amendments to the 2023-2026 TIP document. Staff coordinated with TxDOT and local governments on the proposed amendments to the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan.
- Staff met with local sponsors as part of the quarterly TIP monitoring efforts.
- Staff worked on the development of project selection criteria for the next Call for Projects and coordinated with various subcommittees.
- Staff completed the project selection process for the Carryover Balance projects. These are projects that can be ready for implementation within the next 2 years. The effort included the selection of over \$335 M in surface transportation projects identified for project development

activities and construction. Over the spring, staff will work to program these projects into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

- Staff completed and the TPC approved projects for the Regional Goods Movement investment criteria. Over \$150M in regional projects that encourage the safe and efficient movement of goods in the region. These projects will be submitted into the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program in the Spring of 2024.

2. Pedestrian and Bicyclist Planning

- Staff are continuing to work with the Data Analytics department to update the Regional Bike Network Map. Larger communities that have submitted their data are now live on the Regional Bike Network map. Staff have started the process of updating the Sidewalk data layer.
- The consultant selection process for the Connecting Buffalo Bayou East Design Concept study continues with execution of consultant contract and ILA by July 2024.
- Staff entering into contract negotiations with TEI Planning + Design for the Memorial Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian safety study. Project is estimated to begin by September 1, 2024.
- City of Friendswood proposal evaluation will continue with Proposer interviews anticipated end of July 2024.
- The Bay Area Ped Bike study is ongoing. An open house was held on June 6th to share proposed recommendations with the public. Recommendations are currently being finalized. The final meeting of the Task Force is being scheduled for the week of July 29th. H-GAC staff have reviewed slides from the contractor for this meeting & are also reviewing a draft of the final report.
- Staff attended various meetings such as the City of Houston Bicycle Advisory Committees, Texas Pedestrian Coalition, Houston Safety Task Force, etc.
- Staff continue to work with Procurement to publish a request for proposal for counter installation work, which closed on January 11th. Staff confirmed that mobile counter activities are also eligible for inclusion in the contract. Staff are working to confirm if the budget for this expanded contract may necessitate Board of Directors' approval.

3. Transit Planning

- The next meeting of the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2024.
- The US 90A Corridor Transit Study began on March 12, 2024. Staff has launched a website for the study in partnership with the consultant. The second Steering Committee meeting was held on Thursday, August 29 and the Gulf Coast Rail District was briefed as to the study's progress on Tuesday, September 10. The first Stakeholder Committee meeting is currently being scheduled.
- Staff is developing the Regional Bus Study, which will examine the feasibility of bus services connecting outlying communities to each other as well as the urban core. This AFA-funded study could be supplemented by an additional TxDOT grant to cover the entire 13-county H-GAC service area, which is recommended by the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan.
- Procurement has been completed for a consultant for the Transit Information Study, and the H-GAC Board of Directors at their June 2024 meeting, authorized H-GAC to enter a contract with

the preferred consultant. We are still awaiting financial and budget information from the consultant.

- The Pearland Transit Study Alternatives Analysis draft was completed, and preparation of the Final Report is scheduled for completion of a final report by September 30. Presentation of the report and study to Pearland City Council, TAC, and TPC are expected to occur in October.
- The Board of Directors approved two years of funding for Microtransit pilot service in the City of Sugar Land. An interlocal contract has been executed. Sugar Land is competitively securing a turnkey operator. Service is expected to begin in the Fall.
- The Dayton Transit Study contract is under review for internal approval. A City of Dayton-H-GAC interlocal agreement is also under approval review. The study is expected to begin this fall.
- Staff are working with METRO and regional transit partners to continue implementation of the Regional Transit Connectivity Project. Harris County Transit and Fort Bend Transit have gone live with Mobile Ticketing under the new partnership project. H-GAC and METRO are currently working to integrate all partners into the Regional Data Management System. A standing monthly meeting is being scheduled to discuss next steps for distributing operations support to the partner agencies.
- Data collection for Transit Asset Management performance measures is complete. Staff have contacted all agencies & have updated plans from all agencies. Staff began presenting the results to internal subcommittees in February. Staff presented to TAC & TPC for information in March. Staff presented to TAC for recommendation of FY 2026 targets & to TPC for approval of these targets in April. H-GAC staff are exploring options to reimagine the structure & data used in reporting these performance measures in the future. Staff met with NCTCOG in early July to discuss their process for collecting and analyzing this data.
- The contract for research tasks by Texas Southern University (TSU) on phase II of METRO's autonomous vehicle pilot linking the campus of TSU & The Eastwood Transit center is in progress. All internal approvals have been completed and it is awaiting signature from TSU.

TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Planning for the following projects is currently underway or were completed recently:
 - RTP Project Submission Process
 - Safe Streets 4 All
 - Commute Solutions (Ozone Action Campaign)
 - Commute Solutions (Bike Month)
 - Commute Solutions (Connect Smart Pilot Program)
 - Tow & Go – Media Buying
 - Hurricane Preparedness Campaign
 - EJ/Title VI – Awareness Initiative (Connecting Communities)
 - Language Access Plan Update
 - Pearland Public Meetings – Phase II
 - US 90A Transit Corridor Study
 - Air Quality – Climate Change Engagement for MPO's Collar Counties

COMMUTE SOLUTIONS

- Commute Solutions continues to work with the multiple transportation partners across the region in preparation for the Breathe Easy/Ozone Action Month Pilot September 2024. The campaign will launch on September 1, 2024, and will be announced via social media and bulk emails. The materials have also been customized to accommodate each partner that is providing subsidized rides on Fridays.
- Commute Solutions and ConnectSmart continued their outreach planning with Rice University including the upcoming student orientation and Amazing Race, a transit adventure requiring students to navigate town using ConnectSmart. ConnectSmart and Rice University are also assembling a team of student ambassadors who are invested in sustainability projects.
- Love to Ride launched the Biketober campaign and is building the contacts list and recruiting participants. Biketober will take place throughout the month of October and Love to Ride and Commute Solutions will encourage riders of all levels to download the app, ride, and encourage others to join.
- AECOM submitted an updated scope, schedule, and budget for the implementation tasks of the TDM Redesign project. A few tasks include developing a sales & outreach strategy guide, structured onboarding plan, behavioral interventions, and the creation of an employer recognition plan. The tasks are expected to be completed early 2025.
- The evaluation for the Regionwide Emergency Ride Home Program was completed and all vendor responses were uploaded for review.

CLEAN VEHICLES PROGRAMS PLANNING ACTIVITIES

- Staff continue to work on a project to reassess the availability of Buy America compliant vehicles suitable for inclusion as part of the Clean Vehicles Program. Staff are continuing to work to reach out to manufacturers of vehicles and as well as electric vehicle charging equipment to discuss Buy America requirements and the availability of compliant equipment. Staff are also working with in-house council to review federal Buy America rules and assess processes that agency programs can use to comply with these regulations. This work is ongoing and is anticipated to conclude no later than Q4 of 2024.
- Staff are continuing to limit the initiation of new vehicle replacement grants while efforts are underway to resolve ongoing Buy America issues. Once these issues are resolved, staff anticipate resuming awards for new applications.
- Staff are continuing to work with grant recipients who have recently received vehicle deliveries to support ongoing grant activities and process invoice materials for ongoing projects. These efforts are nearly complete and should wrap up within the next couple of months.
- Staff continue to monitor post-delivery projects that have not yet met the contractually required emission reductions based upon subrecipient performance. This monitoring effort ensures that grant recipients' usage of vehicles remains within grant requirements and that vehicle use and mileage commitments are met. Staff are currently monitoring 132 project vehicles.

GENERAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ACTIVITIES

- H-GAC continues to administer \$1 million in planning funds through the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). Staff are working with project partners to gather data and plan for the development of the upcoming Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. Staff will also hold an

informational workshop for H-GAC members on August 15th at 10:00am to provide information about the CPRG program as well as an update on the effort to date.

- H-GAC continued to work on regional efforts to support the Department of Energy sponsored Houston-Galveston Clean Cities Coalition. Under this program, staff worked 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.
- Staff have been working since late last year to develop a regional project for TCEQ's Rider 7 project. This funding is available to near nonattainment area to provide funding for projects that could assist with the development of the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Our region is eligible for the PM_{2.5} portion of this program and has been awarded approximately \$450m in project funding. The H-GAC Board of Directors has approved H-GAC acceptance of this funding, and staff are working to finalize contract details. Staff are continuing to develop a scope of work to support this effort and anticipate quickly receiving approval from TCEQ.
- Staff continues to administer and Environmental Protection Agency-funded Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant to deploy all-electric yard tractors at local freight warehouses. Staff have been working with IKEA to replace two existing diesel yard tractors at their Baytown facility with all-electric models.

TRAVEL DEMAND MODELING & FORECASTING

- Staff continues to provide travel demand and forecasting modeling supports to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP), and other traffic and travel related data developments within the H-GAC MPO region that supports sub-regional and corridor studies for both TxDOT and other H-GAC member agencies projects. These include modeling support for TxDOT projects such as: I-610 South Feasibility & Schematic projects, SH 36A Feasibility Study, SH 99 (Grand Parkway Segment A), I-10E PEL Study that included Select link analysis model runs, Pearland Mobility Study which included coding of 22 arterial roads and more than 80 local collectors, HH modification in 74 TAZs, and employment modification in 67 TAZs, H-GAC internal support for the US 90 Transit Study, Title VI Program Modeling Support for 2045 no-build and 2023 Beltway 8 free model run. This project included calculating Level of Service (LOS) by Facility Type, accessibility to jobs by EJ category, trip characteristics, 10-year project data, etc., Brookshire-Pattison Mobility Study / FM 529 Extension model run which included model run with 6 projects coding update, Chambers County Thoroughfare Plan Study that involved conducting model run with updated 2045 network and socio-demographics data.
- Staff completed ATOM 3 test run on the 2023 model, including result analysis with comparisons of region-level and facility type performance measures, as well as sector-level OD trip tables against the existing ATOM 2 model, ran the Air Quality (AQ) PM_{2.5} analysis for Houston region for the years 2023 and 2045 for TxDOT projects.
- Staff working with TxDOT TP&P and the TTI for the forthcoming commercial vehicle survey in the H-GAC MPO region, completed the review and accepted the Household Survey reports and

awaits the deliverables, continue to coordinate with H-GAC website team to develop a data and survey website for H-GAC completed and on-going surveys,

- Staff continues to coordinate with RSG Consultants under the ETC Institute Survey contract for development of the Airport sub-model, working with the H-GAC Internal Audit team and the contract team on Travel Demand Model Update and Maintenance contract, continue to work with the TTI on the Planning phase of the eight major Universities surveys.

Safety Outreach Program

- Staff met with Children's Hospital to develop scope of work for conducting the 2025 Youth Traffic Safety Program.
- Staff met with compliance coordinator and finance to review, learn and discuss the Texas Children's contract process, reviewing the workflow to ensure we are on the right track.
- Staff attended meetings including Transportation Systems Management and Operations Subcommittee Meeting and the Transportation Improvement Program Subcommittee.
- Staff continues to work on the background Paper for the Board of Directors for the Youth Traffic Safety Program.