

6A. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA

DATE: Friday, August 22, 2025

TIME: 9:35 a.m.

PLACE: 3555 Timmons Lane, Conference Room B, Houston, Texas 77027

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The presiding officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Grady Prestage called the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting of August 22, 2025, at 9:35 a.m. to order.

CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM, INTRODUCTIONS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Grady Prestage recognized Ms. Allie Isbell (H-GAC) to certify the quorum of 16 members was confirmed and documented in Attachment 1. No conflicts of interest were declared by TPC members.

ITEM 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Allie Isbell (HGAC) informed the Council Spanish translation services were available in the room with a notable improvement in accessibility services. For the first time, Spanish translation services were available online via live stream, fulfilling a prior request. American Sign Language interpreters were also available online. Ms. Isbell requested the Spanish translator come forward and inform the public on how to make comments online in person and online in Spanish. Two individuals provided public comments offering insights and concerns regarding the region's transportation system. No written comments were submitted to staff and no comments were made online. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 5. MPO DIRECTOR REPORT AND ORIENTATION OF AGENDA, MR. RON PAPSDORF, CHIEF TRANSPORTATION OFFICER, H-GAC

Mr. Ron Papsdorf (H-GAC) provided an overview of the September TPC Agenda and informed the Council regarding a delay in the approval of the recognition resolution for Ms. Ana Mijares, P.E., TxDOT-Beamont, Deputy District Engineer, for her service to the TPC due to the postponement of her retirement. Mr. Papsdorf also highlighted two topics below:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Efforts: The staff's work in this area has been recognized by TxDOT's Civil Rights Division as "progressing above and beyond other MPOs across the state". TxDOT staff even noted that it could serve as a case study for ADA at their annual symposium, recognizing it as an "exemplary effort".
- Transportation Safety: This was highlighted as the "number one issue", with a strong emphasis on the gravity of people experiencing fatalities and serious crashes while using the transportation system. The most recent quarterly data for the eight-county Metro Planning Organization region (October to December 2024) revealed a staggering 198 fatalities and 46,000 crashes. These crashes not only result in loss of life but also slow down freight movement, cause secondary crashes, and put

emergency responders at risk. Mr. Papsdorf expressed an intent to keep this critical issue "front and center" in future reports. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording: [HERE](#)

#### ITEM 6. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Request approval of July 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes Summary  
The TPC meeting minutes from July 25, 2025 were presented by TPC Secretary Lesley Briones. There were no corrections or modifications. A motion was made by Council Member Sally Branson and seconded, with no discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously
- B. The 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments and TPC Resolution No. 2025-23 was presented for approval. A motion was made, seconded, no discussion, the amendments and resolution were approved unanimously.

Meeting summary. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

#### ITEM 7. RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION FOR OUTGOING TPC MEMBERS, MR. RON PAPSDORF, CHIEF TRANSPORTATION OFFICER, H-GAC

Mr. Ron Papsdorf (H-GAC) requested approval of a resolution commending Mr. Martin Gonzalez, P.E., TxDOT-Beaumont, District Engineer, for his service to the TPC and to The Texas Department of Transportation. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Grady Prestage requested that Mr. Gonzalez come before the Council to receive his resolution with the TPC leadership present and was greeted with a hearty round of applause. A motion was made and seconded by TPC members. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Prestage called for a vote. TPC Resolution No. 2025-22 was unanimously approved. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

#### ITEM 8. NORTH HOUSTON ASSOCIATION STRATEGIC MOBILITY PRIORITIES, MS. MARLISSA BRIGGS, NORTH HOUSTON ASSOCIATION AND MR. MICHAEL COPELAND, HNTB

Ms. Marliisa Briggs, President, North Houston Association (NHA) gave an update on their 2025 Strategic Mobility Priorities (SMP). Ms. Briggs also introduced her committee co-chair Mr. Michael Copeland who spoke on the scoring system. The SMP is a list of transportation projects being advocated for across North Harris, Montgomery, and part of Waller County. NHA has gathered input from 25+ agencies including cities, counties, chambers, and developers.

- Started with over 90 project ideas ranging from highway expansions to signal upgrades.
- Used a scoring system based on six criteria: mobility, safety, achievability, economic development, multimodal/intermodal, and equity.
- Narrowed it down to 22 priority projects—no rankings, just alphabetical to keep things fair.
- Projects are spread across different sponsors:
  - 3 city-led
  - 7 county-led (Harris & Montgomery)
  - 4 Harris County Toll Road Authority
  - 7 TxDOT-led
  - 1 project with no sponsor yet

Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 9. RAILROAD CROSSING GRADE SEPARATION INITIATIVE, MS. SYDNI LIGONS, H-GAC

Ms. Sydni Ligons (H-GAC) introduced a new pilot program to fund feasibility studies for up to 10 rail crossings or one corridor. Fully funded studies will look at safety, congestion, and project readiness. An open call for projects, with a weighted scoring system to prioritize locations. Criteria includes things like blocked crossings, proximity to schools and emergency services, crash data, and more. The scoring model was reviewed and accepted by the Greater Houston Freight Committee in July. It is a part of the 2025-2028 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and will run for 2 years. A robust discussion occurred after the presentation and several comments were made by the TPC members. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available on the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 10. 2050 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN, MR. BRANDON MOSELY, H-GAC

Mr. Brandon Mosely (H-GAC) gave an update on the development of the 2050 RTP, H-GAC's long-range transportation plan. A federally required plan that guides future transportation investments across the region. The RTP is updated every 4 years, the current RTP was adopted in 2023 and expires in November 2027. It includes a fiscally constrained action plan and aligns with federal, state, and local funding. First round of public meetings kicked off July 10, 2025. Strong turnout: 286 in-person, 85 virtual, and 3,300+ surveys collected. Every county in the MPO region was represented. Citizen concerns were lack of transit options, congestion, flooding, speeding, and poor connectivity. More bike/pedestrian infrastructure, freight-only facilities, regional light rail, and a unified multimodal network. General survey is still open until August 31—toolkits are available to help spread the word. Mr. Mosley encouraged everyone to reach out if they have events or want to help promote the RTP. He closed by thanking everyone for their support and participation. Presentation, comments, and discussion are available on the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 11. DRAFT 2026 UNIFIED TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM (UTP) COMMENTS, MR. VISHU LINGALA, H-GAC

Mr. Vishu Lingala (H-GAC) gave an overview of the newly approved 2026 UTP, which is a 10-year planning document used by TxDOT and MPO's to guide transportation project development across the state. It is not a budget, but a roadmap for what projects could be funded and developed over the next decade. Approved annually by the Texas Transportation Commission and funding is split into 12 categories-some controlled by TxDOT and other by MPOs. The 2026 UTP shows a slight funding drop compared to 2025. 5% decrease in MPO/district funding, 4% decrease overall, 12% decrease in the five MPO-controlled categories. Mr. Lingala comments to TxDOT were to reconsider Category 2 funding being added to projects before TPC approval, reconsider the 50% reduction in Category 5 (congestion mitigation and air quality)

funding by the end of the plan and reprogram key projects that were in the 2025 UTP but missing from 2026 like I-10, US 290, SH322 and FM 2920. Staff will coordinate with TxDOT's Eastern Division to review changes and assess fiscal impacts. Any updates or revisions to the 10-year plan or TIP will be brought back to the TPC once finalized. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available on the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed

ITEM 12. AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) COMPLIANCE, MS. ALLISON WAHL, H-GAC

Ms. Allison Wahl (H-GAC) gave an overview of how H-GAC is working to meet ADA compliance requirements as part of its role as a sub-recipient of federal transportation funds. The Federal Highway Administration requires TxDOT to monitor MPOs for compliance with Title VI and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). TxDOT created a three-part survey tool to assess how well MPOs are doing.

Where H-GAC stands:

- Survey 1 (baseline check) – Completed
- Survey 2 (detailed program review) – Completed
- Survey 3 (final review, including fiscal and ADA compliance) – Coming in October 2025

What H-GAC has done so far:

- Designated an ADA coordinator
- Completed TxDOT's ADA training
- Launched a dedicated ADA webpage
- Posted accessibility policies, grievance procedures, and auxiliary aid info
- Currently working on a self-evaluation and accessibility plan
- Developing ADA training for local governments and a process to monitor their transition plans

As of April 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice requires state and local governments to make their website and mobile apps meet WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards for accessibility. ADA compliance is an ongoing process, not a one-time task. H-GAC is making steady progress and will continue improving accessibility across its programs and services. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available on the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed

ITEM 13. 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS, MR. JIM DICKINSON, H-GAC

In accordance with the H-GAC Public Participation Plan (PPP) administrative amendment requirements, these amendments are being processed within the stipulated limits. A summary of the modifications to the 2025-2028 TIP is included for information below.

- Delay five METRO projects to FY 2026 (MPO IDs 11473, 11795, 19087) and to FY 2027 (MPO IDs 15547, 18371) at the sponsor's request.
- Delay one Fort Bend County project to FY 2028 (MPO ID 17062) at the sponsor's request.

- Assign a Control-Section-Job number to the Fort Bend County Public Transportation's bus purchase project (MPO ID 18238) at TxDOT Houston District's request.
- Delay two City of Houston projects to FY 2027 (MPO ID 17120) and FY 2028 (MPO ID 18018) at the sponsor's request.
- Delay one Harris County Toll Road Authority project to FY 2027 (MPO ID 18030) at the sponsor's request.
- Delay eight TxDOT Houston District projects to FY 2026 (MPO IDs 18892, 18960, 18986, 18988, 18990, 18991), FY 2027 (MPO ID 18896), and FY 2029 (MPO ID 18987) at the sponsor's request.
- Delay two City of Missouri City projects to FY 2026 (MPO IDs 19046, 19064) at the sponsor's request. Remove Engineering as an authorized phase from SH 6 traffic signal installation (MPO ID 19064).
- Delay five City of Friendswood projects to FY 2026 (MPO IDs 19060, 19061, 19062, 19063, 19074) at the sponsor's request. Assign a Control-Section-Job number to an intersection signalization project (MPO ID 19218) at TxDOT Houston District's request.
- Redesignate the Federal Transit Administration apportionment year for a City of Galveston transit vehicle purchase project (MPO ID 19181) at the sponsor's request.
- Advance two Houston Parks Board projects to FY 2025 (MPO IDs 19190, 19195) at the sponsor's request.
- Advance one City of Houston Downtown Management District project to FY 2025 (MPO ID 19205) at the sponsor's request.

Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJORNMENT

Mr. Ron Papsdorf (H-GAC) introduced Ms. Nahla Owens, daughter of Ms. Jamila Owens, Assistant MPO Director. Ms. Nahla Owens was in attendance and a recent graduate of Harvard University and a Fulbright Scholarship recipient. Mr. Papsdorf thanked her for attending and wished her well in her recent move to Mexico City to continue her studies. Ms. Nala Owens received a robust round of applause.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Grady Prestage announced upcoming meetings and adjourned the September TPC Meeting at 10:50 a.m. Presentation, comments, and discussions are available in the official meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

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Hon. Lesley Briones, Secretary  
Transportation Policy Council

**Attachment 1**  
**MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)**  
**FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON**  
**TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA**  
**August 22, 2025**

ROLL

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Baytown, City of	_____ Honorable Jacob Powell Council Member <u>  X  </u> Jason Reynolds – Alternate	City of Baytown
Conroe, City of	_____ Honorable Howard Wood Council Member _____ Norman McGuire – Alternate	City of Conroe
Galveston, City of	_____ Honorable Marie Robb Council Member <u>  X  </u> Hon. David Finklea - Alternate	City of Galveston
Houston, City of	<u>  X  </u> _____ Honorable Sallie Alcorn Council Member _____ Honorable Willie Davis- Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	_____ Honorable Carolyn Evans-Shabazz Council Member _____ Honorable Joaquin Martinez - Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<u>  X  </u> _____ Randy Macchi Director -Houston Public Works _____ Steven David - Alternate	City of Houston
League City, City of	<u>  X  </u> _____ Honorable Tommy Cones Council Member _____ Honorable Andy Mann - Alternate	City of League City
Missouri City, City of	<u>  X  </u> _____ Shashi Kumar, P.E.. Director of Public Works _____ Nicholas L. Cook – Alternate	City of Missouri City
Pasadena, City of	_____ Sarah Benavides, P.E. Sr. Assistant Public Works Director _____ Mark Gardemal – Alternate	City of Pasadena

<u>AGENCY</u>		<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Pearland, City of	<u>  X  </u>	Honorable Kevin Cole- <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair</b> Mayor Trent Epperson-Alternate	City of Pearland
Sugar Land, City of	<u>      </u>	Vacant	City of Sugar Land
	<u>  X  </u>	Honorable Suzanne Whatley – Alternate	
Texas City, City of	<u>      </u>	Honorable Dedrick Johnson Mayor Jon Branson - Alternate	City of Texas City
Smaller Cities – Position 1	<u>      </u>	Hon. Joe Garcia City of Pattison Honorable Chad Nesvadba-Alternate City of Needville	Smaller Cities
Smaller Cities – Position 2	<u>  X  </u>	Hon. Sally Branson City of Friendswood Hon. Ross Gordon-Alternate City of Bellaire	Smaller Cities
Smaller Cities – Position 3	<u>  X  </u>	Hon. John Escoto City of Shenandoah Hon. Matthew Dantzer-Alternate City of Magnolia	Smaller Cities
The Woodlands Township	<u>  X  </u>	Dr. Ann K. Snyder Chair, The Woodlands Township Board Craig Eissler-Alternate	The Woodlands Township
Brazoria County	<u>  X  </u>	Matt Hanks, JD, P.E. County Engineer Honorable David Linder – Alternate	Brazoria County
Chambers County	<u>      </u>	Honorable Ryan Dagley County Commissioner Honorable Tommy Hammond-Alternate	Chambers County
Fort Bend County	<u>  X  </u>	Honorable Grady Prestage County Commissioner, <b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair</b> Stacy Slawinski, P.E. – Alternate	Fort Bend County

<u>AGENCY</u>		<u>VOTING MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Galveston County	<u>          </u>	Honorable Robin Armstrong County Commissioner	Galveston County
	<u>    X    </u>	Honorable Joe Giusti– Alternate	
Harris County	<u>    X    </u>	Honorable Lesley Briones- <b>Secretary</b> County Commissioner, Pct. 4	Harris County
	<u>          </u>	Roberto Treviño, P.E. – Alternate	
Harris County	<u>    X    </u>	Honorable Adrian Garcia County Commissioner, Pct. 2	Harris County
	<u>          </u>	Milton Rahman, P.E. – Alternate	
Liberty County	<u>    X    </u>	Honorable Jay Knight County Judge	Liberty County
	<u>          </u>	Honorable Bruce Karbowski - Alternate	
Montgomery County	<u>    X    </u>	Honorable Mark Keough County Judge	Montgomery County
	<u>    *    </u>	Matt Gray – Alternate	
Waller County	<u>          </u>	Honorable Justin Beckendorff County Commissioner – <b>Chair</b>	Waller County
	<u>          </u>	Kendric Jones- Alternate	
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	<u>          </u>	Elizabeth Gonzalez Brock METRO Chair	METRO
	<u>          </u>	Thomas Jasien-Alternate	
TxDOT-Houston	<u>    X    </u>	Glenn Allbritton, P.E. District Engineer	TxDOT Houston District
	<u>          </u>	Varuna Singh, P.E.– Alternate	
TxDOT-Beaumont	<u>    X    </u>	Martin Gonzalez, P.E. District Engineer	TxDOT Beaumont District
	<u>          </u>	Ana I. Mijares, P.E. – Alternate	
Port Freeport	<u>          </u>	Phyllis Saathoff Executive Director	Port Freeport
	<u>          </u>	Rob Lowe-Alternate	
Port Houston	<u>    X    </u>	Charlie Jenkins Chief Executive Officer	Port Houston
	<u>          </u>	Kerrick Henny-Alternate	



<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBERSHIP</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Gulf Coast Rail District	<u>  X  </u> Veronica Chapa-Gorczynski GCRD Chair <u>      </u> Hon. Jon Keeney-Alternate	Gulf Coast Rail District
	<u>  31  </u> Total Voting Membership	
	<u>  22  </u> Voting Membership Present	
	<u>  16  </u> Required Quorum	

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>NON-VOTING EX-OFFICIOS</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Texas State Senate	<u>      </u> Hon. Carol Alvarado	8-County Region
Freight Rail Interests	<u>  X  </u> Clint Schelbitzki	Union Pacific
Texas State Legislator	<u>      </u> Hon. Dennis Paul	8-County Region
Wharton County	<u>  X  </u> Hon. Phillip Spenrath	Wharton County

	<u>NON-VOTING</u>	
H-GAC	<u>  X  </u> Chuck Wemple	H-GAC
TxDOT-Houston	<u>  X  </u> Catherine McCreight	TxDOT-Houston