

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON REQUESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2045 REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND THE AIR CONFORMITY**

Background

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) establishes vision and goals to improve multimodal transportation networks within the 8-County Transportation Management Area. It has a planning horizon of 2045 and sets regional performance targets and measures to track progress towards achieving those goals. It also includes fiscally constrained specific regionally significant projects list. Regional transportation plans in nonattainment areas are subject to an air quality conformity determination. The RTP is updated once every 4 years with public review and comments and amended anytime.

At the March 2021 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting staff presented the proposed amendments to the 2045 RTP and draft air quality conformity determination. Proposed amendments and the draft conformity determination document can be viewed at <http://www.2045rtp.com/>

Current Situation

Public participation is an essential part of the planning process and must engage all segments of the regional population. H-GAC opened the first public comment period in December 2020 with virtual public meetings held on December 3, 2020. The second public comment period was open between March 26, 2021 and April 28, 2021.

Through both public comment periods, H-GAC received a total of 141 through online comment submission forms, email and direct mail. All submitted comments can be viewed at <https://www.h-gac.com/regional-transportation-plan/submitted-public-comments>.

7A. Summary of public comments

Out of the total 141 comments 34 were duplicates and 107 were individual comments that were analyzed. For the purposes of this analysis, the comments were categorized into different comment types listed below:

- Active Transportation
- Air Quality Conformity
- General
- Multiple Projects
- Other
- Planning Process
- Specific projects

Majority of the comments in all the above categories opposed the proposed amendments. Out of all submitted comments 80 were on the seven corridors of projects (26 MPOIDs) that were part of the requested amendments. Of those 80 comments, 16 were supporting, two were neutral and 62 were opposing comments. A summary of those 80 comments can be seen in table below.

Type	Projects						
	North Houston Highway Improvement Project	Hempstead Highway	IH 610 W	IH 10 W	SH 99	SH 35	Highway 36A
Supporting	2	1	2	0	1	0	10
Neutral	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Opposing	12	9	4	17	1	5	14
Total	14	10	6	17	2	6	25

One and Four comments were submitted on SH 6 (2 MPOIDs) and IH 10 E Bridge replacement and widening projects. No comments were submitted on IH 610 E bridge replacement at Ship Channel, IH 610 S (2 MPOIDs) reconstruction and SH 288 (4 MPOIDs) upgrade to freeway facility and widening projects. A total of 31 comments were submitted that were categorized as general, other, planning process or air quality comments.

As part of the public comments, we received letters from various agencies including the City of Houston, Link Houston, City of Pearland, Air Alliance Houston, Highway 36A Coalition and Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County. Copies of the letters can be viewed on the [public comments page](#).

The letter submitted by METRO included 50 transit projects amendments to some projects that are currently included in the 2045 RTP project listing and also submitted additional exempt projects to be added to the RTP.

Action Requested

Information only

7B. Transportation Advisory Committee Review and Recommendation

The proposed 2045 RTP amendments can be considered in three parts as shown below.

- I. [2045 RTP Modifications as presented in attached Draft ATTACHMENT A](#): Minor adjustments to the project description or revisions to the estimated total project cost or annotations in analysis year columns of the existing 2045 RTP projects. These amendments can also be categorized as RTP Administrative Modifications.

- II. [2045 RTP Major Amendments as presented in attached Draft ATTACHMENT B:](#)
Amendments to the 2045 RTP projects list (Appendix D) to add a regionally significant projects or modify schedule/scope that would impact regional transportation conformity determination. These amendments can also be categorized as RTP Amendments level 2.
- III. [Transit amendments to the 2045 RTP as presented in Attachment C:](#) Amendments to the transit projects that were submitted by the sponsor as public comments. As indicated in ATTACHMENT C majority of the projects were previously submitted by the sponsor but were not captured in the public review documents from the comment period. Most of these amendments can amendments can be categorized as RTP Amendment level 1.

Action Requested

- Recommendation to approve minor amendments that are listed in Attachment A.
- Attachments B and Attachment C are Information only



Resolution

NO. 2021-17

AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS OF THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) AND THE 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA

WHEREAS, the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan was adopted by the Transportation Policy Council on April 5, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program for the Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area was adopted by the Transportation Policy Council on June 26, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions to the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan and the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program are consistent with the finding of conformance with the State Implementation Plan for air quality; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions to the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan and the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program are consistent with the federal fiscal constraint requirements established for the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC) FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA THAT THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND THE 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BE AMENDED TO REFLECT THE REVISIONS IDENTIFIED IN THE TABLE OF **MAY 2021 RTP AMENDMENTS ATTACHMENT A**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT FEDERAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED BY THE TPC FROM THE CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG) PROGRAMS REPRESENT A LIMITING AMOUNT. ANY COST OVERRUNS ON PHASES OF WORK AUTHORIZED BY THE TPC OR COSTS INCURRED ON PHASES OF WORK NOT AUTHORIZED BY THE TPC SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROJECT SPONSOR. IN NO CASE, SHALL FEDERAL PARTICIPATION UNDER THE CMAQ AND STBG PROGRAMS BE INCREASED WITHOUT CONSULTATION AND THE EXPRESS APPROVAL OF THE TPC.

Agenda Item 07B
TAC Meeting Packet - 5/19/21

PASSED AND APPROVED this 21st day of May 2021, at a regularly called meeting of the Transportation Policy Council.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Hon. Kenneth Clark, Chairman
Transportation Policy Council

Hon. Grady Prestage, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council