



MEMORANDUM

TO: Brian Maxwell, Leonce Thierry, Andrew Gallagher
FROM: John Carrara
DATE: December 1, 2014
SUBJECT: **Priority Projects and H-GAC Call for TIP Projects**

In October, City Council assigned the Intermodal Transportation Committee the task of reviewing previously considered transportation projects on Galveston Island and recommending priority projects for future City Council action and for submission to the Houston Galveston Area Council's currently open call for projects to be funded through the Transportation Improvement Program. The Goodman Corporation has assisted the committee through our ongoing city contract.

On November 19, the committee approved the following priority list, not in any particular order:

"A resolution of the Intermodal Transportation Committee (ITC) recommending to Galveston City Council that five (5) specific transportation improvement projects, which were evaluated during a special workshop meeting of the ITC held on November 12, 2014, be forwarded to the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) in response to HGAC's solicitation of projects eligible for cost sharing consideration under the HGAC Transportation Improvement Program."

1. Direct connector ramps between Interstate 45 and 61st Street.
2. Extension of 61st Street northward from Interstate 45 to Harborside Drive.
3. Direct connector ramps between Interstate 45 and Harborside Drive.
4. Purchase 5 new buses to bring service levels on all Island Transit routes to 30 minutes.
5. Phase 3 of Seawall Boulevard repaving between Ferry Road and Boddeker Road.
6. Citywide traffic signalization interconnection and upgrades.

The following pages provide summary information for these projects. Items 1, 2, and 3 will require extensive traffic, right-of-way, environmental, cost, and schematic layout studies before they are deemed feasible and ready for funding.

Item 4 is a high priority for Island Transit; however, H-GAC has indicated that the currently open call for projects is not appropriate for bus fleet expansion since other bus purchase

resources will be available in 2015.

Item 5 would complete the repavement of Seawall Boulevard. H-GAC has already funded the first two phases and Phase 2 (39th to Ferry Road) will be under construction during the first quarter of calendar year 2015. The parameters for this project are well known and costs would be similar to that of Phase 2, making it immediately eligible. Since H-GAC has funded phase 2, completion of the overall project by funding Phase 3 has a high probability of being funded from the current call for projects. A local cash match of \$300,000 plus design costs will be required.

Item 6 has been added to the list since there was a strong desire on the part of the ITC members for a comprehensive traffic signal study. Signalization improvements have recently been pursued by the City in small increments with local funds. The study result would be an overall program that could be used to leverage future H-GAC federal funds to accelerate the implementation of a package of upgrades that optimizes the system and minimizes intersection delay to the maximum extent possible.

TGC recommends submittal of item 5 to H-GAC for funding by the January 12 deadline. In addition City Council should consider dedicating advanced planning funds to one or more of the other items to prepare them for funding in future calls. We will be on the lookout for other 2015 funding opportunities for additions to the Island Transit bus fleet, including the current TxDOT Coordinated Call for transit projects which has a February deadline.



Galveston ITC Priority -- Repave Seawall Boulevard, Ferry Road to Boddeker Road