

**Appendix A**  
**Public Outreach Program**  
**Summary of Public Comments**



## **Appendix A Public Outreach Program**

### **Comprehensive Public Outreach Summary 2025 MTP Public Meetings - Phase I October – December 2001 December 10, 2001- End of Public Comment Period**

#### **Meetings**

One of the objectives of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) development process is to increase public participation in the early stages of the transportation plan development and to provide opportunities for continued participation throughout the plan development process. Nine public meetings were held during Phase I (October – December 2001) of the Public Outreach Program to present the Draft 2025 MTP to the residents of the region. Meeting locations included Pearland, Texas City, Meadows Place, Baytown, Conroe, Waller and Houston (3 meetings).

#### **Attendance**

From the sign in sheets, attendance was approximately 144, including approximately 13 elected officials.

#### **Opportunities for Comment**

Citizens had the opportunity to comment on the 2025 MTP in a variety of ways including email, letter, and public opinion survey. The survey was distributed to a wide spectrum of the general public including a mail-out of 60,000 to Harris County residents by the office of County Judge Robert Eckels. The public comment period ended December 10, 2001.

#### **Summary of Comments**

A summary of comments received from all the aforementioned sources is provided below:

#### **Transportation System Capacity and Efficiency:**

1. Support for the accurate assessment of potential impacts of highway capacity increases on nearby residences, businesses, and air quality.

2. Support for the implementation of policies regarding incentives for the timely completion of construction projects and penalties for construction projects not completed on time.
3. Support for the restriction of truck traffic to only 1 lane during rush hour and other peak periods.
4. Support for discontinuation of the current HOV system and support for the installation of commuter rail lines utilizing the same right of way.
5. Opposition to the financing of additional freeways and roadways as a solution to congestion problems.
6. Support for the synchronization of traffic signals and lights especially during peak hours of traffic.

**Safety:**

1. Support for the routing of trucks carrying hazardous materials away from residential areas.
2. Support for greater bicycle and pedestrian safety on shared roadways.

**Land-Use:**

1. Opposition to residential development in the floodplains.
2. Support for addressing the jobs-housing imbalance by placing jobs and housing within a reasonable proximity of one another.
3. Support for curtailing growth and sprawl.

**Mass Transit:**

1. Support for an expansion of the METRO bus system and service area.
2. Support planning activities to address unmet service needs of residents in rural areas with limited commuter options.
3. Support planning activities to address the inaccessibility of transit in rural areas as a barrier to population growth.
4. Support for the development of a comprehensive rail system including commuter rail along IH 45 (North and South), Hwy. 290 (Northwest

Fwy.), IH 10 (Katy Fwy.), and U.S. 59 (North and South) and light rail to Intercontinental Airport and Hobby Airport from downtown.

**H-GAC:**

1. Support for H-GAC to take the lead role in implementing a regional public transportation system.
2. Support for H-GAC to assume a leadership role in transportation coordination efforts with current special needs service providers.
3. Support for the 2025 MTP to include provisions for special needs groups such as: elderly, disabled, low-income, workforce trainees, welfare-to-work recipients, and students.
4. Support for H-GAC to provide information on the availability of grant funding regarding job access programs, pilot projects, start-up providers, mobility studies, and railroad safety.

**Emergency Management:**

1. Support for the development of additional evacuation routes particularly from Galveston County and Southeast Harris County.

**Travel Demand Management:**

1. Support for development of the telecommunications infrastructure.
2. Support for encouragement of vanpooling, especially among professionals.

**Proposed Projects:**

1. Support for an explanation of funding sources that will be expended on future planning activities for the proposed IH-69 NAFTA corridor.
2. Opposition to any project related to the Grand Parkway SH-99.

**Outreach:**

1. Support for 2025 MTP presentations at civic organization meetings, Parent Teacher Organization meetings, and schools.
2. Support for representation from unions, bicycle advocates, child advocates, the medical community, public health officials, schoolteachers,

environmentalists, university researchers, and industry on the Regional Air Quality Policy Council and other transportation committees.

3. Support for more detailed explanations regarding elements of projects and acceptable levels of congestion.

### Modeling:

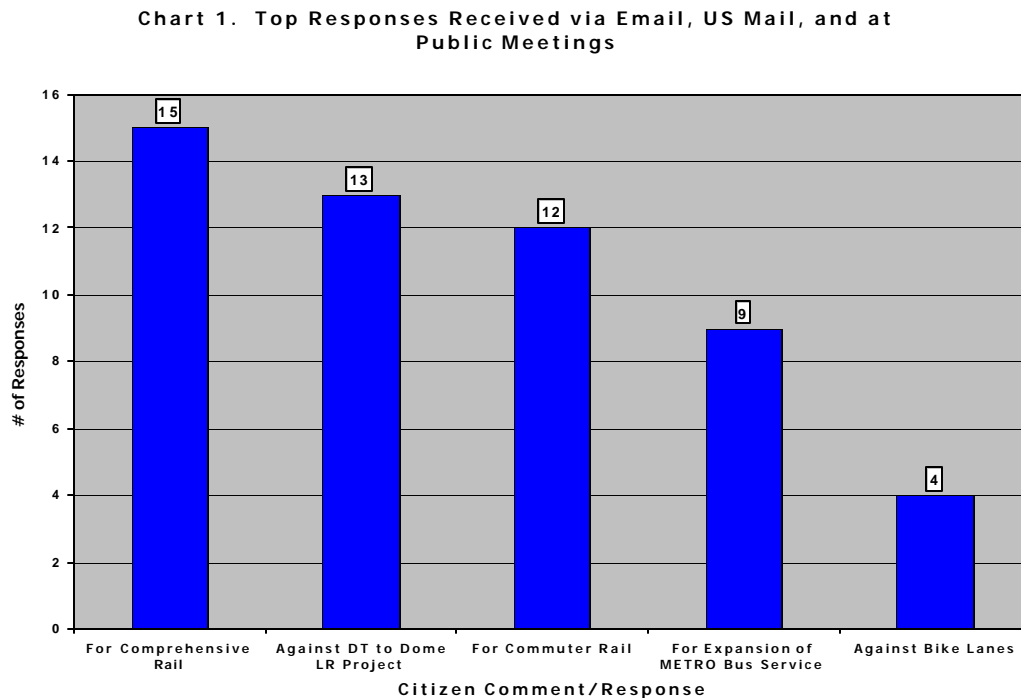
1. Support for greater accuracy in H-GAC's modeling capabilities.

### Environmental:

1. Opposition to any new road construction because of the possible deleterious impacts to the region's air quality.
2. Support for greater public education regarding an overall environmental assessment and the conformity process.

### E-Mail, U.S. Mail, and Meeting Comments

The following chart represents the nature of the top five categories of comments received via email, through U.S. mail, and at the public meetings.



## Public Opinion Survey

The survey generated 1,095 responses. A summary of the top five ranking categories of comments is provided in the chart below:

Chart 2. Top 5 Topics Mentioned by Survey Respondents

