

Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan Update 2040 RTP Vision, Goals and RTCS Purpose

Background:

There is a requirement in the federal guidance for the development of the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP), aka, the locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan to be consistent with other local parallel planning processes. “The coordinated plan serves as the foundation for the program of projects and should be integrated into the metropolitan and statewide transportation planning processes and documents to demonstrate local policy support and federal fund eligibility.”¹

The long range transportation plan for the Houston region, the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) was approved by the Transportation Policy Council in January 2015. The 2040 RTP contains some specific guidelines relative to the regional public transportation system that are consistent with the purpose of the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee (RTCS). Those guidelines are recommended for the RCTP Update to increase the synergy between the two parallel planning processes and to enhance the linkage to financial resources through the 2040 RTP and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Current Situation:

The 2040 RTP contains the current RCTP as Appendix L and also identifies a financial need of approximately \$15 million per year to sustain current regional transit projects for mobility-limited population groups in the Gulf Coast Planning Region. The mobility-limited groups include seniors, persons with disabilities, persons with low incomes, youth and veterans. The 2040 RTP vision statement, transit related goals and performance measures are directly related to improving the regional transit system and consistent with the purpose of the RTCS.

Vision: In the year 2040 our region will have a *multimodal transportation system* through *coordinated investments* that support a *desirable quality of life, enhanced economic vitality and increased safety, access and mobility (italics added for emphasis)*.

Transit Related Goals and Performance Measures:

- Improve Safety-Reduce Crash Rates.
- Manage and Mitigate Congestion-Increase Bus On-Time Performance, Increase Reliability.
- Ensure Strong Asset Management and Operations-Incident Response, System Condition.
- Strengthen Regional Economic Competitiveness-Commute Mode Split.

¹ FTA C 9070.1G, Appendix D Relationship between Coordinated Planning and Metropolitan and Statewide Planning.

- Conserve and Protect Natural and Cultural Resources-Reduce impacts requiring mitigation (such as vehicle emissions).

The RTCS Purpose statements (recommended as RCTP Strategies) are shown below:

RTCS Purpose:

- Provide guidance related to the implementation of regional transit coordination pilot projects that were identified in the regional transit coordination Action Plan.
- Assist with tasks related to the development of regional transit planning initiatives that focus on identifying opportunities for expanding transit services in the region for all, as well as improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the current regional transit system.
- Promote regional coordination among existing and future public and private transportation providers, social service and health and human service agencies.

Action Requested:

Staff requests approval of the 2040 RTP vision, transit- related goals and performance measures combined with the purpose statements from the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee (as strategies) for the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP) 2017 Update for the Gulf Coast Region.