Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
Subcommittee Meeting
Houston-Galveston Area Council Online
Meeting/Conference Call
Wednesday April 7, 2021
1:30 PM

AGENDA

1. Introductions/Roll Call

2. TIP Subcommittee Introduction and Purpose

3. Election of Officers

4. Previous Meeting Summary (Online)

5. 2021 – 2024 TIP-STIP and FY 2022 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) Update (Adam Beckom)
 Staff will provide an update on the status of the 2021-2024 TIP/STIP approval including a projected
 timeline for amendments over the next fiscal year. Staff will also update the Subcommittee on the timeline
 for the development of the Unified Transportation Program (UTP).

6. **Call for Project Development Update** (Vishu Lingala)
 Staff will continue the update on the development of the next call for projects

4. Announcements
 - TAC Meeting – April 14, 2021, 9:30 a.m., Teleconference (Zoom)
 - TPC Meeting – April 23, 2021, 9:30 a.m., Teleconference (Zoom)
 - TIP Subcommittee Meeting – May 5, 2021, 1:30 p.m., Teleconference (Teams)

5. Adjourn

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 7, 2021 – 1:30pm
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Online Meeting (Teams Platform)

<u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>

Matt Hanks – Brazoria County

Stacy Slawinski – Fort Bend County

Christopher Sims – City of League City

Loyd Smith – Harris County

Frank Simoneaux – City of Baytown

Robert Upton PE – City of Pearland

Yancy Scott – Waller County

Cory Taylor – Chambers County

Sherry Weesner – TIRZ 5/Memorial Heights

Andy Mao – TxDOT-HOU

Scott Ayres – TxDOT-BMT

Ruthanne Haut – The Woodlands Township

Ken Fickes – Harris County

Veronica Chapa-Gorczynski – East End District

Bruce Mann – Port Houston

Mike Wilson – Port Freeport

<u>ALTERNATES PRESENT</u>

Krystal Lastrape – City of Sugarland

David Wurdlow – City of Houston-PW

Priya Zachariah – METRO

Trent Epperson – City of Pearland

Catherine McCreight – TxDOT-HOU

Vernon Chambers – Harris County

Jonathan Brooks – LINK Houston

BRIEFING

The meeting started with a roll call to determine the members and/or alternatives present and a welcome from Loyd Smith.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented to the subcommittee.

ACTION ITEMS

Item 3 – Election of Officers

Veronica Chapa-Gorczynski of the East End Management District was elected Chair of the TIP Subcommittee and Cory Taylor from Chambers County was elected the Vice Chair of the group.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Item 5 – 2021-2024 TIP-STIP and FY 2022 Unified Transportation Program (UTP) Update

Adam Beckom began with an overview of the purpose and work of the TIP Subcommittee for the benefit of the new members. Mr. Beckom then gave an update on the status of State approval for the 2021 -2024 TIP and the STIP. With ongoing developments, it is anticipated that the STIP revision cycle could commence in August 2021. Concerning the development of the 2022 UTP, H-GAC is watching to ensure that the UTP is consistent with the H-GAC Ten-Year Plan, the most recently approved TIP, and with the 2045 RTP.

Limited funding opportunities are available in the Federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) funds allocated to the region. The funds must be obligated by September 2024 or they will lapse.

Item 6 – Call for Project Development Update

Vishu Lingala discussed the project evaluation criteria (planning factors) for major roadway and freight investments.

1. **Safety:** Evaluation will be based on the 5-year record of crashes at the project location and an estimate of crash reductions that will be provided by the project.

2. **Multimodal Accommodations and Improvements:** Evaluations for non-freeway projects will consider inclusion of multimodal accommodations and improvements that benefit pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders. These include ADA accessible sidewalks, bicycle lanes/shared use paths and access to transit. Freeway projects will be evaluated on accommodations and improvements that benefit transit such as managed lanes.

3. **Congestion Management:** Evaluations will be based on how a proposed project will alleviate congestion on the roadway, measured by improvement in travel time using the FIXIT 2.0 tool.

4. **Resiliency:** Evaluations will be based on criticality, vulnerability, and network redundancy scores derived from the H-GAC Regional Resiliency Tool. Compared against

investments within the same category, a proposed project that will bring improvements to roadways with higher vulnerability, criticality and network redundancy indices will be scored higher than others

5. **Connectivity to jobs:** Evaluation will be based on a project's urban or rural location and. its resulting accessibility to jobs. In an urban setting, the proposed project will receive 5 points for accessibility to 1,000 jobs and 1 point for every additional 200 jobs, with a maximum of 10 points. In a rural setting, the project will receive 5 points for accessibility to 500 jobs and 1 point for every additional 100 jobs, with a maximum of 10 points.

6. **Transportation Equity:** Evaluation will be based on whether a proposed project improves access or connectivity to multimodal transportation in a disadvantaged community defined by the (average) score of that community on the H-GAC Livable Centers Need Index. At least one quarter of the project length must physically touch the disadvantaged community.

7. **Avoid/Eliminate At-Grade Crossings:** Evaluation will be based on whether a project avoids or eliminates an at-grade railroad crossing. The higher the vehicular traffic and/or daily train movements at the railroad crossing, the higher the project score.

8. **Functional Classification/Freight Network/Evacuation Route:** Scores will be based on the existing functional classification of the asset and whether the proposed project will qualify the roadway for a higher classification. Projects will also be scored on whether they are on a designated freight network or evacuation route, distinguished by the ADT on the roadway.

9. **Technology Improvements (ITS, CV/AV):** Evaluation will be based on whether a proposed project provides new technology or augments the technology on an existing or new roadway. This will be a binary assessment.

10. **Planning Coordination:** Projects recommended in prior regional, sub-regional, or local government approved plans or studies will score higher points. Project sponsors will be required to submit documentation of local planning coordination efforts. Furthermore, if a project intersects or would impact the operations of another asset that is controlled by a different agency, the project sponsor will be required to obtain a letter of support from the affected agency.

11. **Urban-Rural-Transitioning Areas:** Evaluation is based on project location and on potential travel demand on the roadway. Projects located in a rural area or in an area that is transitioning from rural to urban will be assessed based on the volume of traffic on the facility. Projects entirely within an urban area will score no points for this criterion.

12. **Environmental/Ecological:** Utilizing the Red Flag Analysis from the H-GAC Eco-Logical tool, evaluation will be based on how many historical or archeological sites and/or how many acres of wetlands or floodways are within a ¼ mile buffer distance of the proposed project. The fewer the number of protected sites or acres of wetlands and floodways, the higher the project will score.

Comment: *It may be helpful to add a comment to establish why a factor is included.*

Set-Aside Programs: A new set-aside program was created for Safety. Other existing programs will remain in place. Work is on-going to define the contours of the Set-Aside programs.

1. **Safety**
2. Regional ITS (*Transtar*)
3. Regional Incident Management (Tow and Go, MAP)
4. Clean Cities/Clean Vehicles
5. Travel Demand Management Marketing/Outreach (Commute Solutions)
6. Regional Vanpool
7. Transit Pilot Projects
8. Regional Transit Fare Collection
9. Planning

Timeline: It is envisaged that the Project Evaluation Criteria Development will be completed by May 2021 and be taken to the TAC and TPC for information in June 2021, and for action in July 2021. This would facilitate the commencement of the Call for Projects about October, 2021.

Item 7 – Announcements
Upcoming events.
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- TPC Meeting – April 23, 2021, 9:30 a.m., Teleconference (Zoom)
- TIP Subcommittee Meeting – May 5, 2021, 1:30 p.m., Teleconference (Teams)

Adjourn
The meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.