

Transportation Policy Council

June 28, 2024

Public Comments

Hi Transportation Policy Chair Commissioner Beckendorff, Officers, Members and Secretary:

My name is John Nicks, phone: 832-702-0912, email: John@JohnNicks.com.

I have public comments for the Transportation Policy Council for the 6/28 council meeting on 2 vital and critical issues.

First, I want you to see additional funding for the current 2023 TIP for expanding public transit with microtransit or better demand and response services in Montgomery County. What is currently in place is Brazos Transit District, which is VERY limited and doesn't go within the city limits / UZAs, and it fills up very quickly. If you live outside the city limits, like in rural Magnolia in Charlie Riley's Pct 2, that's fine, but you have no transit options for Jury Duty to attend Commissioners Court to address grievances or other county grievances. I am in a wheelchair, and an Uber just from Downtown Conroe is \$30 and is not really Wheelchair accessible. I have given low ratings and denied trips because of my Wheelchair. \$30 is out of reach for the dirt floor poor, like myself. I am asking for the H-GA C to specifically allocate additional funding for expanding public transit services in Montgomery County. I have repeatedly emailed my Commissioner, Charlie Riley, County Judge Mark Keough, and his Chief of Staff, Jason Millsaps, but I have yet to be addressed by all 3.

Second, I would ask the board to vote no on the 2025-2028 TIP plan and send it back to the drawing board. We need more and more focused on transit projects, like bus routes, park & rides even more in the burbs like Tomball, Fairfield, Waller, etc all across the H-GAC region, bike paths, and pedestrian crosswalks for safety, and less on road construction that will only induce congestion that has been proven over and over and tear up the land and ruin the lives of our marginalized.

That concludes my comment for the Transportation Policy Council.

Have a great weekend.

John Nicks



SENATOR MAYES MIDDLETON

DISTRICT 11

June 27,
2024

Dear Houston Galveston Area Council Members:

In my dual role as a State Senator and a concerned citizen, I urge the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Transportation Policy Council to prioritize the collection of data for, and the funding of, shoulder expansion projects across our region. This request is deeply personal to me. Some of you are aware of the tragic accident that claimed the life of Adrian Combs, son of former Chambers County Commissioner Billy Combs, on April 14th. While cycling on FM 1405, Adrian was fatally hit by a passing truck. Adrian was a close friend and I believe this tragic event could have been prevented with adequate road shoulders.

The loss of Adrian Combs is a stark reminder of the perils present on Texas road, and in Adrian's case, an absence of a safe roadside area. A wider shoulder on FM 1405 might have spared his life. Therefore, I implore the Transportation Policy Council to make it a priority to gather the necessary accident data and then prioritize funding for the expansion of road shoulders in areas where individuals have been injured or killed.

This initiative is crucial for the safety of all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, and truckers, providing them the essential space needed to safely navigate our region. I hope we can begin to honor Adrian's memory by taking these actions in order to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mayes Middleton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayes Middleton
Texas State Senator