

6. ADOPTION OF THE 2022-2026 REGIONALLY COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Background

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Houston-Galveston region, H-GAC is required to develop and update its Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP) every five years. This plan, covering a 13-county region, provides an inventory of transportation assets in public and human service transportation. It also assesses needs, gaps and opportunities for increased efficiencies and provides recommendations for improvements. H-GAC's current RCTP was last updated in 2017 for the period 2017-2021. Several recommendations from the 2017 update have already been implemented or are in the process of being implemented, including Mobility Links, which provides a searchable database of all transportation options in the region, as well as the Regional Fare Initiative. The 2022 update builds on this work, finding cost-effective ways to further expand access to transportation in the 13-county region and help existing transportation options better meet the region's needs.

Current Situation

The 2022-2026 RCTP offers many recommendations for improving mobility in the region. These are organized around four key themes, which grew out of the analyses done for the RCTP update and the project's public outreach process. The updates to the plan include additional analyses in the needs assessment, an expansion of recommendations to include implementing agencies and potential funding sources, and a section focusing on the connections between the RCTP update and other H-GAC plans.

A draft document was made available for public comment for a 30-day period starting January 5 to February 4, 2022. Public comments could be submitted on the project engagement website, via phone and email, as well as at three virtual open houses. Public comments received focused on specific locations or origin-destination pairs in need of service, the quality of existing transit service, and questions about H-GAC's Mobility Links tool. The updated draft and public comments received can be viewed at <https://engage.h-gac.com/rctp>.

Staff is plans to seek TPC's adoption of the updated Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan through the attached Resolution 2022-4. This item will also be presented to the H-GAC's Board of Director's in February for the adoption of the plan.

Action Requested

Transportation Advisory Committee recommendation for Transportation Policy Council approval of Resolution 2022-4.



Resolution

NO. 2022-4

AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF THE 2022-2026 REGIONALLY COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR THE GULF COAST REGION.

WHEREAS, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Houston - Galveston Transportation Management Area by the Governor of Texas in accordance with federal law, and;

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) is the regional transportation policy body, and;

WHEREAS, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act and the subsequent Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed into law November 15, 2021, require the implementation of Performance Measures to assist in the transportation planning process; and

WHEREAS, the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan for the 13-county Gulf Coast region is required to be updated every five years and was last updated for the period 2017-2021, and;

WHEREAS, the plan provides an inventory of the transportation assets in the region and assesses needs, gaps and opportunities for increased efficiency in public and human services transportation, and;

WHEREAS, plan development was guided by the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee including representation from the public transportation and human services communities, and was presented to the Transportation Policy Council, and;

WHEREAS, the 2022-2026 Regionally Coordinated Transportation plan furthers recommendations from the prior plan and includes new recommendations to improve efficiency and effectiveness of public and human services transportation in the region, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA HAS AGREED TO ADOPT THE 2022-2026 REGIONALLY COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN TO IMPROVE PUBLIC AND HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Hon. David Robinson, Chairman
Transportation Policy Council

Hon. Nancy Arnold, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council