

Gear up for a fantastic Earth Month this April! Throughout the month, H-GAC is hosting events that focus on water quality, recreational trails, and building resilient communities wherever we live, work, and play.

Watch the video below to learn more!



Help Prioritize the Region's Next Round of Transportation Projects

H-GAC seeks input on transit, bicyclist and pedestrian, highway, and air quality projects and programs that will start in 2025-2028.



The Houston-Galveston Area Council has opened a public comment period for the [Draft 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program](#), which identifies transportation infrastructure improvement projects as well as transit, bicycle/pedestrian, and air quality projects that should be prioritized for construction or implementation over the next four years within the region.

WAYS TO COMMENT:

Residents and stakeholders living and working in the Houston-Galveston region are invited to attend a public meeting, submit a public comment, and help shape the direction of the region's vast, ever-growing transportation system.

The public comment period is now open through April 24, 2024. Public comments can be submitted in four different ways:

1. **Online:**

www.h-gac.com/transportation-improvement-program/2025-2028

PROJECT DRAFT 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN INCLUDE:

- North Houston Highway Improvement Program (NHHIP).
- Advanced Right of Way acquisition for NHHIP segment 1 located in Harris County.
- Reconstruction and widening of the San Jacinto River bridge in Harris County.
- Reconstruct IH-10 W main lanes and High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes in Harris County.
- Construction of Grand Parkway (SH 99) segment B in Brazoria and Galveston counties.
- Construction of direct connectors on SH

2. **By email:**
publiccomments@h-gac.com

3. **By mail:**
Attn: Transportation Public Information
Houston-Galveston Area Council
P.O. Box 22777
Houston, Texas 77227-2777

610 S at SH 35 located in southern Harris County.

- Reconstruction and widening to add four managed lanes on IH 10 W in Fort Bend, Harris, and Waller counties.
- Construction of Direct Connectors on SH 225 at SL 8 in southern Harris County.
- Construction of dedicated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lanes from IH 610 W to Downtown Houston.
- Construction of new BRT along the University Line Corridor from Westchase Park & Ride to Tidwell Transit Center.

To learn more about the projects included in the Draft 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program document, visit: www.h-gac.com/transportation-improvement-program/2025-2028.



April is Fair Housing Awareness Month, and H-GAC reminds everyone that when it comes to housing, the [Federal Fair Housing Act \(Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968\)](#) and the [Texas Fair Housing Act](#) make it against the law to discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or family status. This applies to both selling or renting housing. The H-GAC Board of Directors recognizes April as Fair Housing Awareness Month for the Gulf Coast State Planning Region.

The [Texas Workforce Commission Civil Rights Division](#) offers interactive presentations and trainings and a self-help library of trainings and resources to provide housing providers with a practical understanding of the federal and Texas Fair Housing acts and rules and how to comply.

To learn more about the Federal Fair Housing Act visit the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) website](#). Information on the Texas Fair Housing Act, including how to file a complaint, is available from the [Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs](#).

H-GAC makes several housing tools available on our website. You can find [fair housing resources](#), a [regional housing plan](#), answers to [common housing questions](#), materials from [past housing workshops and events](#), and our [facilitating housing toolbox](#).



H-GAC's [Bringing Back Main Street initiative](#) has been selected to receive a [2024 American Planning Association Small Town and Rural Division John Keller Award for Planning Initiative Merit](#) recognition.

With a focus on rural and small-town downtowns in the Houston-Galveston region, the Bringing Back Main Street initiative serves as a forum for community leaders, economic development professionals, and downtown planners to share ideas and best practices for downtown innovation and revitalization.

H-GAC works with different rural and small towns in the 13-county Houston-Galveston region to host quarterly roundtables to share best practices and engage in a regional dialogue about revitalizing and supporting vibrant downtown spaces.

The John Keller Award for Planning Initiative is given to an outstanding initiative or program in public education, workshops, ordinances, or enforcement that promotes planning in small towns and rural areas.

The next roundtable will be April 23 in Columbus, TX.

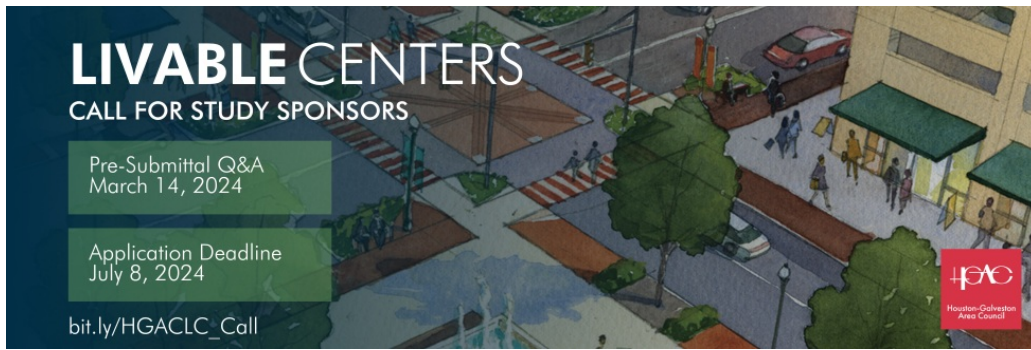


Apply now for the [2024 Water Innovation Strategies of Excellence \(WISE\) Awards](#) ! This program is overseen by the Natural Resources Advisory Committee, an advisory committee to the H-GAC Board of Directors, and seeks to recognize innovative projects, programs, or individuals in the 13-county region that serve as models for improving and protecting water quality.

Applications close at noon on Friday, April 5.

For more information, including an application guide, visit h-gac.com/wise-awards or email [Rachel Windham](mailto:Rachel.Windham@h-gac.com).

**H-GAC Livable Centers:
Notice of Intent to Apply Due by Thursday, May 9**



Don't forget to submit a Notice of Intent to Apply by Thursday, May 9. Final applications are due **Thursday, July 8.**

H-GAC's [call for planning study sponsors for the Livable Centers Program](#) is now open. Sponsors are limited to local governments or other eligible entities.

This is not a request for proposals from consulting firms .

H-GAC seeks to identify and fund Livable Centers studies and Focused Livable Centers studies. Livable Centers studies will be scaled at a community level, and Focused Livable Centers studies will focus on a smaller geographic area and/or specific issue (e.g., transit-oriented development, first/last mile connections).

The proposed study must be in Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, or Waller counties.

More information is available [online](#) or by emailing LivableCenters@h-gac.com



APR 4

Teacher or counselor interested in bringing a school group?
Instead of completing the sign-up form, contact Stephanie Funderburg,
Coordinator of Tours and Events, at stephanie.funderburg@sjcd.edu



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APRIL 4
9 AM TO 3 PM

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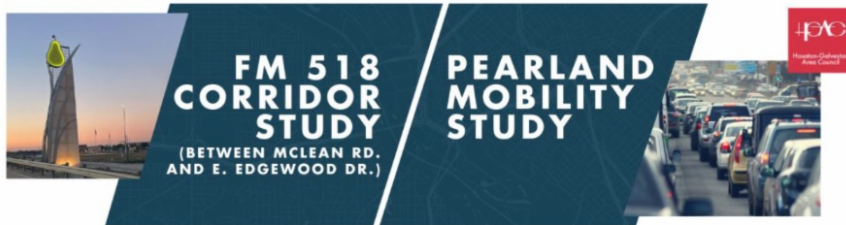
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APR 6



Join us April 6, 2024, at Pearland's Spring Fest to learn more about the FM 518 Corridor and Pearland Mobility studies and provide feedback.

FM 518 Corridor Study (Between McLean Rd. and E. Edgewood Dr.)

The study will include two parts:

- Analyze proposed one-way pair between McLean and Barry Rose Rd
- Analyze FM 518 from Barry Rose Rd. to E. Edgewood Dr. (Friendswood)

The study will conduct a corridor study to improve safety, mitigate congestion, and promote multi-modal mobility by developing short- and long-term recommendations that address the identified needs.



[Visit our website](#)

Pearland Mobility Study

The study will:

- Analyze the transportation network and recommend improvements to mitigate congestion and improve mobility.
- Update the Pearland Thoroughfare Plan

The study will determine existing and future mobility needs based on existing conditions analysis, public input, and future land uses. The study will result in a transportation action plan and an updated thoroughfare plan.



[Visit our website](#)

Join us April 6 at the Pearland Spring Fest!

Both project teams (FM518 Corridor Study and Pearland Mobility) will be hosting a booth together at the Pearland Spring Fest on Saturday, April 6, 2024, to collect feedback on the mobility issues in Pearland.



Pearland Spring Fest

April 6, 2024
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Independence Park, 3449 Pearland Parkway
Free Parking: Pearland High School
3775 S. Main Street

We want your feedback for the FM 518 (McLean Rd. to E. Edgewood Dr.) Corridor Study AND the Pearland Mobility Study! Please fill out our combined projects survey!

[Complete the Survey!](#)

For program inquiries or further information on each project, contact:

FM 518 Corridor Study: Carlene Mullins | carlene.mullins@h-gac.com | 832-681-2585

Pearland Mobility Study: Qun Zhao | qun.zhao@h-gac.com | 832-681-2480

APR 16

TUESDAY,
APR.

16

AT 10 A.M.

H-GAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING



2nd Floor, 3555 Timmons Ln.
Houston 70277



H-GAC.COM/LIVE



APR 17-19

Elder Abuse Training Events

(In Person)

In observance of Crime Victim Awareness Month, H-GAC is launching a series of training events on elder abuse, the nation's fastest-growing crime.

H-GAC's Elder Justice Program is bringing national experts in identifying, treating, and prosecuting elder abuse to train professionals who have regular contact with seniors. All sessions are free, but capacity is limited, and advance registration is required. Sessions are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. unless otherwise indicated on the registration page. Continuing education credits are available in multiple disciplines. For more details and to register, visit [H-GAC's Elder Justice webpage](#).

For All Professionals

April 17 and 19: Candace Heisler on "Elder Abuse 101: Building A Coordinated Community Response to the Nation's Fastest-Growing Crime" on April 17 at The Woodlands Emergency Training Center, Conroe, and on April 19, at H-GAC, second floor conference rooms.

For Adult Protective Services Staff and Agency Investigators

April 18: Candace Heisler on "Partnering to Protect: A Criminal Justice Primer for APS Caseworkers and Investigators" at APS Region 6 Headquarters, Houston.

Additional training events will be offered in May.

APR 18

Livable Centers Roundtable and Workshop Series: April 18, June 20, September 19

(In Person)

H-GAC is hosting a three-part 2024 Livable Centers Roundtable and Workshop Series—Exploring Community Conscious Planning Practices. The series will include two in-person roundtables on **April 18** and **June 20** and will culminate in H-GAC's Annual Livable Centers Workshop on **September 19**.

Roundtable 1 – Discussing the Power of Dynamic Engagement – 1 p.m. **Thursday, April 18**. Space is limited. [Registration is requested](#).

Roundtable 2 – Exploring Human-Centered Metrics for Success and Community Satisfaction within Transportation Projects, 1 p.m. **Thursday, June 20**. Space is

limited. [Registration is requested.](#)

Annual Workshop – Incremental Steps Toward Transportation, Environmental, and Social Equity, 8 a.m., **Thursday, September 19.** [Registration is requested.](#)

All events will be held at H-GAC, second floor conference rooms.

APR 23



Make plans to participate in the next [Bringing Back Main Street Roundtable](#) from 9:30 a.m. to noon **Tuesday, April 23**, at the Hound Song Brewing Company, 535 Walnut Street, Columbus. Networking and check in begin at 9:30 a.m. The program begins at 10 a.m.

Topics and speakers include:

- Overview from Columbus - Hon. Lori An Gobert, Columbus Mayor
- Funding Downtown Revitalization - Shalor Townzen, Columbus Community Industrial Development Corporation Board Member
- More Funding Mechanisms for Cities and Counties - Mindi Snyder, Ardurra Client Services
- Removing Barriers to Business - Donald Warschak, Columbus City Manager
- Business Owners' Perspectives - Raven and Travis Kocurek, Hound and Song Brewing Company Owners
- Working with Community Partners and Business Owners - Becky Nutt, Columbus Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

[Registration](#) is requested, but not required to attend.

The Bringing Back Main Street initiative offers local communities a place to share best practices and engage in a regional dialogue about revitalizing and supporting vibrant downtown spaces. Each quarter, community leaders gather for a roundtable on topics ranging from small business support to sidewalk infrastructure.

For more information, contact [Andrea Tantillo](#).

APR 24

Oyster Creek Stakeholder Meeting (In Person)

H-GAC invites residents, local governments, businesses, and non-profits within the Oyster Creek Watershed in Brazoria and Fort Bend counties to attend a stakeholder meeting from 3 to 5 p.m. **Wednesday, April 24.**

The meeting will be at the Lake Jackson Public Library, 250 Circle Way, Lake Jackson.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss water quality issues affecting communities in the Oyster Creek watershed south of Sugar Land, including Angleton, Arcola, Bailey's Prairie, Bonney, Clute, Holiday Lakes, Iowa Colony, Juliff, Lake Jackson, Missouri City (Sienna Plantation), Richwood, Rosharon, and Sandy Point.

Pollutants, specifically fecal bacteria, in this waterway may impact public health, local economies, and the natural environment. Residents and organizations are invited to participate in this and future meetings to provide input that will be used to review the draft bacteria reduction plan and to consider the next steps needed to put the plan into action.

For more information about the project, visit <https://www.h-gac.com/watershed-based-plans/san-jacinto-brazos-coastal-basin-tmdl-and-implementation-plan> or contact [Steven Johnston](#).

APR 25

Regional Conservation Initiative Workshop (In Person)

Make plans to join H-GAC and trails experts for a discussion on trails planning, connectivity, and more.

The event will be from 9 a.m. to noon on **Thursday, April 25**, at H-GAC, second floor

conference rooms.

Experts will share insights on trails planning and available resources, and representatives from local projects will share their experiences with planning and building trails in the region. Presenters include representatives from National Parks Service, Rails to Trails Conservancy, Harris County Precinct 3, and the FM 1093 Rails to Trails Local Government Corporation.

Participants will also use [H-GAC's new Take A Hike initiative online tool](#) to identify gaps in existing trail networks and opportunities for connectivity. The tool displays data on existing trails, walking paths, and cycleways. Several data layers are also available for reference.

[Registration](#) is requested, but not required, to attend.

For more information, contact [Cheryl Mergo](#).

APR 26



 **TRANSPORTATION POLICY
COUNCIL MEETING**

9:30 A.M. | FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024

**HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL
2nd Floor Conference Room
3555 Timmons Ln., Houston, 77027**

APR 26



SAVE THE DATE!



**FRIDAY
04.26**

**TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
REGION 14**

SPRING MEETING



Sam Houston Race Park | Houston, TX
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MAY 8

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MAY 15

Parks and Natural Areas Roundtable Park Tour

(In Person)

Join us for the Parks and Natural Areas Roundtable park tour on **Wednesday, May 15**, for a tour of Chrysalis Lake and Longwing Landing. We will learn more about the award-winning projects in Bridgeland.

We will meet at 10 a.m. at [Chrysalis Lake](#), off Peek Road near Bridgeland Creek Parkway in Cypress for a tour, then drive to Longwing Landing at 21206 Flower Nectar Court, 2 miles away. The event will conclude at 11:30 a.m.

Transportation will NOT be provided to Chrysalis Lake or to Longwing Landing. Carpooling is encouraged.

[Registration is requested](#), but not required to attend.

For more information, contact [Andrea Tantillo](#).



Let's get social!

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