

14. COMMUTE SOLUTIONS EMERGENCY RIDE HOME PILOT PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

Commute Solutions is preparing to pilot a regionwide Emergency Ride Home (ERH) program in the Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area. Commuters who work, attend college or university, or live in the metropolitan planning area and use transit, carpool, vanpool, or bike or walk to and from work or school would be eligible to register for the program.

Emergency Ride Home is a best practice transportation demand management marketing and outreach strategy that is designed to remove perceived barriers to adopting active and shared modes of transportation. The program provides a free or reduced cost trip back home or to their vehicle for users of shared and active transportation in the event of certain emergencies like illness, sickness of a family member, or unscheduled overtime.

CURRENT SITUATION

H-GAC's Commute Solutions program has been coordinating with TxDOT, the Federal Highway Administration and all area transit providers since 2019 to prepare for a pilot of this initiative, which is included in the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program. They completed evaluation of proposals for potential providers of service in 2024 with the help of reviewers from TXDOT, METRO and Fort Bend Transit.

Emergency Ride Home is already offered in the region by two providers- Fort Bend Transit and METRO for their riders. The pilot would establish a region-wide, baseline program for all riders, expanding coverage to qualifying riders of the City of Conroe, the Woodlands Township, Island Transit, Gulf Coast Transit District, Harris County Transit, Colorado Valley Transit, and Brazos Transit District, and offering coverage to carpoolers, and those who bike or walk.

ACTION REQUESTED

Information Only.