

# TRANSPORTATION AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE

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MEETING SUMMARY Wednesday,  
December 04, 2024 – 10:00 A. M.  
Houston- Galveston Area Council of Government  
Virtual Teams Meeting

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## MEMBER PRESENT

Citizens Transportation Coalition – Dexter Handy  
Texas Southern University – Gwen Goodwin  
H-GAC – Andrew DeCandis  
Baytran – Amy Skicki  
Harris County Transit – Ken Fickes  
Air Alliance Houston – Alex Spike  
Port Houston – Kenneth Gathright  
The Woodlands Township – Ruthanne Haut  
Fort Bend County – Perri D’ Armond  
University of Houston – Donna Kacmar

## ALTERNATE PRESENT

University of Houston – Bruce Race  
Port Houston – Kelli Gallagher  
H-GAC – Pharr Andrews  
The Woodlands Township – Nicole Mathews  
METRO – Vincent Sanders  
Fort Bend County – Thomas Kuczynski  
Harris County Transit – Thien Cao

## H-GAC STAFF PRESENT

Cassandra Marshall  
Vinny Polignano  
Stephen Keen  
Maggie Isied  
Gloria Brown  
Carlos Lugo  
Lucinda Martinez

## OTHERS PRESENT

- a. The TAQ Subcommittee Members and Alternates were presented with action's items; no discussion items were presented; and the meeting concluded with agency reports and member announcements.
- b. Visit <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/transportation-committees/TAC/transportation-air-quality-subcommittee/agendas.aspx> to view the meeting materials for this meeting.

## CALL TO ORDER

### ITEM 1A.

Introductions

ITEM 1B. Approval of Meeting Summaries (09-11-2024) Meeting Summary approved.

## ACTION

### ITEMS

ITEM 2A.

None.

## DISCUSSION

### **A. ZEV Plan Update-Vinny Polignano, H-GAC**

Vinny Polignano provided an update on the Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Plan, focusing on its objectives and progress. He highlighted the importance of level three charging for regional travel and sought feedback on level two charging options. Bruce Race emphasized the need for equitable charging access, particularly for residents in apartments, warning that without addressing this issue, the plan may not achieve its intended outcomes. The group discussed the necessity of baseline information from the climate action plan to support policy evaluations, with Andrew agreeing to connect Bruce with Ping Wang for relevant data.

### **B. RTP Process Update-Stephen Keen, H-GAC**

Steven Keen presented an overview of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), detailing its role in aligning transportation priorities across various governmental levels. He highlighted the fiscal constraints that govern the project list and described the RTP project development process, which involves local sponsors submitting projects for evaluation. Keen also noted that air quality conformity is a critical component of the RTP process.

### **C. Conformity Update Plan, Maggie Isied, H-GAC**

Maggie gave an update to the committee regarding our conformity recommendations for the next few years. She started with some background on what transportation conformity is, if you're not aware it is a requirement of the Clean Air Act to ensure that qualities or regions that are in non-attainment for national ambient air quality standards are not negatively impacted by transportation projects and the related activities, so as of this moment, our region is in non-attainment for the 8 hour ozone standard. We are in severe non-attainment for the 8-hour standard in 2008 and moderate non-attainment for the 2015 standard. She also emphasized on why it's important.

Discussion continued with air quality analysis on projects, programs and policies that are identified in the RTP, the tip or other projects that require federal approval. It was also noted, we must demonstrate that the emission from these projects is not going to continue to exacerbate those exceedances in the national ambient air quality standards and what has been established in the state implementation plan or the SIP activities. So, for example, it could be adoption or amendments to the RTP, it could be initiate initiation of a new nonattainment area

establishment or revision of traffic control measures in the SIP or any updates to the tip that can add to delete significantly, delay, accelerate or change the project scope. It was noted that there will be discussions internally about what conformity is going to look like at H GAC over the next few years. So, we have quite a few activities that were listed on the previous slide that will essentially trigger the conformity process.

So we're currently in the process of adding new projects to the tip in the RTP there was and potentially still is a new PM 2.5 designation which would put two, at least two of our counties in our region out of attainment for PM 2.5.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

##### ITEM 4A. Agency Announcements

None.

##### ITEM 4B. Member Announcements

- Baytran Luncheon  
Friday, January 31  
Baytown, Hyatt Regency
- Harris County Transit announces Uber Contract to provide trips for the rise program to increase their capacity to transport elderly individuals or disabled.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2025

#### ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.