

**MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL
FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION
MANAGEMENT AREA**

DATE: Friday, May 21, 2021

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Webinar

Chair Kenneth Clark called the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) to order at 9:30a.m.

ITEM 1. CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

Secretary Grady Prestage announced that a quorum of TPC membership was present; 14 members comprise a quorum. A quorum was declared present and recorded on the Roll Call, which is included with these Minutes as Attachment 1.

ITEM 2. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Kenneth Clark invited introductions from Council members and staff.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording at: <https://hgac.swagit.com/play/05212021-822/2/>

ITEM 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Patrick Mandapaka, H-GAC, let the Council know that written public comments were submitted by email or correspondence as of the May 20, 2021 deadline. Mr. Mandapaka asked Ms. Neely Kim, H-GAC, to summarize the public comments:

The public comments submitted can be seen here:

<https://h-gac.com/getmedia/fc21a234-f4b2-462a-bbe2-0f76ec744af9/May-2021-TPC-Public-Comments>

Mr. Mandapaka proceeded to give instruction to the Public on how to address the Council with their comments. Mr. Mandapaka also introduced the Spanish and American Sign Language Interpreters and let the Public know they were available.

The public comments made during the meeting can be heard here:

<https://hgac.swagit.com/play/05212021-822/3/>

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ITEM 4. APPROVAL OF FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2021 MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

Secretary Grady Prestage presented the April 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes summary to the Council. Secretary Prestage asked the Council for any modifications or corrections as presented. There were none.

Council Member Robinson made a motion for approval of the April 23, 2021 meeting minutes and was seconded by Mayor Joe Zimmerman. The Council voted and approved the minutes summary.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording at: <https://hgac.swagit.com/play/05212021-822/4/>

ITEM 5. RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION FOR OUTGOING TPC MEMBERS, CHAIR KENNETH CLARK.

Chairman Clark recognized Council Member Natalie Picha, City of Seabrook and Mr. Paul Reitz, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation-Yoakum District.

Chairman Clark personally acknowledged Council Member Natalie Picha and Paul Reitz for their service to the Transportation Policy Council and H-GAC.

Council Member Picha thanked the Transportation Policy Council for the opportunity and said it was a pleasure to work with all the members as well as the staff. Ms. Picha will look forward to being involved in the future.

A motion was made by Mayor Joe Zimmerman and seconded by Council Member David Robinson.

The Council voted and unanimously approved Resolution 2021-14 and Resolution 2021-15

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording at: <https://hgac.swagit.com/play/05212021-822/5/>

ITEM 6. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP AND FILL VACANCIES ON THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE, PATRICK MANDAPAKA, H-GAC

Mr. Patrick Mandapaka, H-GAC, presented the proposed changes to the membership and fill the vacancies on the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Transportation Safety Committee. Mr. Mandapaka let the Council know the original membership for the committees were approved in January 2021. Mr. Mandapaka requested the Council approve the proposed changes summarized below:

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Transportation Advisory Committee:

Primary – Heather Jinkins Cantu, Deputy Director, Policy, Compliance and Stakeholder Engagement, Harris County Toll Road Authority

Alternate – Dr. David Abraham, Green Infrastructure and Sustainability Planner, Harris County Toll Road Authority

Transportation Safety Committee:

Primary- Nora Palmer, Mother Against Drunk Driving-Healthcare/Education/Social Service/Advocacy Groups or Interested Citizens

Alternate-Reece Hardy, Houston Police Department, Law Enforcement

A motion was made by Mayor Joe Zimmerman and seconded by Council Member David Robinson.

The Council voted and the motion was approved.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording at: <https://hgac.swagit.com/play/05212021-822/6/>

ITEM 7. AMENDMENTS TO THE 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP), ADAM BECKOM, H-GAC

Mr. Adam Beckom, H-GAC, presented the Amendments to the 2021-2024 TIP and the 2045 RTP. Mr. Beckom proceeded to describe the modifications to the Council. The modifications are listed below:

- Remove federal Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funding, as well as the state matching funds, and replace them with local funding for the SH 99 (Grand Parkway) overpass construction project at Peek Road (MPO ID 18032/CSJ 0912-72-381) at the request of the project sponsor, Fort Bend County.
- Modify the scope of work of the City of Houston Fondren Road six-lane widening project (MPO ID 17093/CSJ 3510-04-049) to a reconstruction of the existing four lanes with intersection, safety, multimodal, and drainage improvements at the City's request.
- Update to Appendix J (Texas Department of Transportation Statewide Program of Projects) of the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program to comply with the recently released table of eligible projects.

Mr. Beckom requested approval of Resolution 2021-16

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A motion was made by Council Member David Robinson and seconded by Mayor Joe Zimmerman.

The Council voted and Resolution No. 2021-16 was approved.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording at: <https://hgac.swagit.com/play/05212021-822/7/>

ITEM 8. AMENDMENTS TO THE 2020-2021 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM, NEELY KIM, H-GAC

Ms. Neely Kim, H-GAC presented on Amendments to the 2020-2021 Unified Planning Work Program. Ms. Neely proceeded to tell the council the previous 2018-2019 UPWP included the Measuring Multimodal Network Connectivity Pilot under Task IV, subtask 4.3 including \$100,000 of Federal Highway Administration's Highway Research and Development (HRD) funds. This project was funded through an Advanced Funding Agreement with Texas Department of Transportation (CSJ 597). This project continued to the 2020-2021 UPWP, the budget was included in the current UPWP, but the task description was not carried over. Staff is requesting to add the task description into the 2020-2021 UPWP.

1. Add task description "Pilot test new tools assessing the connectivity of bicycle-pedestrian infrastructure within communities under the Measuring Multimodal Network Connectivity Pilot project in coordination with partnering local governments".
2. Change funding source from Highway Research Development Funds (HRD) to Surface Transportation Research Development and Deployment Funds (STRDD).

Ms. Kim requested approval of UPWP Resolution No. 20/21-6

A motion was made by Council Member David Robinson and seconded by Mayor Joe Zimmerman.

The Council voted and UPWP Resolution No. 20/21-6 was approved.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording at: <https://hgac.swagit.com/play/05212021-822/8/>

ITEM 9. REQUESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY, VISHU LINGALA, H-GAC

Mr. Vishu Lingala, H-GAC, introduced Mr. Craig Raborn to brief the Council on the Public Comment Disposition Process that staff and the project sponsors are following. Mr. Raborn explained that staff did not anticipate the number of comments received during the public comment period and the

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MPO will need to analyze the comments and develop a report about their disposition according to the federal planning rule:

Sec.450.316-Interested parties, participation, and consultation

(2) When significant written and oral comments are received on the draft metropolitan transportation plan and TIP...a summary analysis, and report on the disposition of comments shall be made...

Mr. Raborn described a flow chart to the Council that illustrated the process and said they are working with the project sponsors to get responses to the project's specific comments and the MPO team is developing responses to the general comments. Mr. Raborn told the Council there was not enough time for staff to complete the review and to respond to the 100 plus unique comments and meet the agenda deadline.

Mr. Raborn also explained to the Council after presenting a preliminary summary of the comments, staff will request approval from the TPC for 318 Administrative and minor amendments. The 318 administrative and minor amendments received no comments. Next month, the remaining 36 major amendments, many of which received comments, and the comment summary report will be presented to the TPC for approval. Mr. Raborn concluded his presentation by letting the Council know of future updates to this public comment process.

Mr. Vishu Lingala, H-GAC, briefed the Council on requested amendments to the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan and Air Quality Conformity. He described the following items:

- I. [2045 RTP Modifications as presented in attached Draft Attachment A](#): Minor adjustments to the project description or revisions to the estimated total project cost or annotations in analysis year columns of the existing 2045 RTP projects. These amendments can also be categorized as RTP Administrative Modifications.
- II. [2045 RTP Major Amendments as presented in attached Draft Attachment B](#): Amendments to the 2045 RTP projects list (Appendix D) to add a regionally significant projects or modify schedule/scope that would impact regional transportation conformity determination. These amendments can also be categorized as RTP Amendments level 2.
- III. [Transit amendments to the 2045 RTP as presented in Attachment C](#): Amendments to the transit projects that were submitted by the sponsor as public comments. As indicated in Attachment C majority of the projects were previously submitted by the sponsor but were not captured in the public review documents from the comment period. Most of these amendments can be categorized as RTP Amendment level.

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Mr. Lingala proceeded to tell the Council that H-GAC opened the first public comment period in December 2020 with virtual public meetings held on December 3, 2020. The second public comment period was open between March 26, 2021 and April 28, 2021.

Through both public comment periods, H-GAC received a total of 141 through online comment submission forms, email, and direct mail. Mr. Lingala gave a summary of all comments received and all submitted comments can be viewed at <https://www.h-gac.com/regional-transportation-plan/submitted-public-comments> and letters submitted can be viewed at [public comments page](#).

Mr. Lingala concluded his presentation by requesting TPC Approval of Resolution 2021-17,

A motion was made by Dr. Carol Lewis and seconded by Council Member Robinson.

The Council voted and Resolution No. 2021-17 was approved.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording at: <https://hgac.swagit.com/play/05212021-822/9/>

ITEM 10. REGIONALLY COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN, JAMILA OWENS, H-GAC

Ms. Jamila Owens, H-GAC, proceeded to let the Council know the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan is a federal and state required plan. It needs to be updated every 5 years. This plan provides coordination to eliminate gaps, duplication and inefficiencies in Human Service transportation. It also provides recommendations that lead to improvements such as:

- Harris County Rides
- Mobility Links “Once Call-One Click” Database
- General Transit Feed Specification Development
- Regional Transit Connectivity and “Seamless” Fare Project

Ms. Owens continued the update describing what changes are included in the plan and the timeline. The update should be brought to the TPC for approval in 2022.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording at: <https://hgac.swagit.com/play/05212021-822/10/>

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ITEM 11. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGETS, ALAN RODENSTEIN, H-GAC

Mr. Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC, began his presentation by informing the Council that all transit agencies were required to develop safety plans by December 31, 2020. All transit agencies submitted plans, with the exception of Island Transit and Galveston, due to receiving a federal waiver. He further explained that the Transit agencies examined seven categories related to accidents and safety measures. Also, there were two tiers of targets. Metro (Tier 1) and regional agencies (Tier II). In the second tier, weighted averages were developed because of the diversity of the tiers and the MPO is required to submit regional targets by June 30, 2021. Mr. Rodenstein went into detail with definitions for Tier I and Tier II, types of agencies in each tier, and targets and performance measures required for each tier. Mr. Rodenstein concluded his presentation by saying the item would be presented to the Council for approval next month.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording at: <https://hgac.swagit.com/play/05212021-822/11/>

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ITEM 12. QUARTERLY TIP STATUS REPORT, ADAM BECKOM, H-GAC

Mr. Adam Beckom, H-GAC, provided an update on the Quarterly TIP Status over the fiscal year and his presentation described tables and summarized the allocations, programming, and obligations that have occurred as of April 2021. See below:

Category 5 – Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program	As of April 2021
Total Federal Funding Allocated in FY 2021	\$87,359,856
Estimated Carryover Funds (FY 2020 to FY 2021)	\$252,216,891
Total Available Federal Funding in FY 2021	\$339,576,747
Total Federal Funding Programmed	\$69,684,717
Federal Funds Obligated in FY2021	\$10,344,000
Number of Projects in FY 2021	13
Projects Obligated as of April 2021	2
Projects Past the Estimated Start Date as of April 2021	4

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Category 7 – Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program	As of April 2021
Total Federal Funding Allocated in FY 2021	\$137,246,015
Estimated Carryover Funds (FY 2020 to FY 2021)	\$167,552,785
Total Available Federal Funding in FY 2021	\$304,798,800
Total Federal Funding Programmed	\$100,581,839
Federal Funds Obligated in FY2021	\$3,200,000
Number of Projects in FY 2021	14
Projects Obligated as of April 2021	2
Projects Past the Estimated Start Date as of April 2021	12

Category 9 – Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TASA) Program	As of April 2021
Total Federal Funding Allocated in FY 2021	\$9,385,907
Estimated Carryover Funds (FY 2020 to FY 2021)	\$14,165,927
Total Available Federal Funding in FY 2021	\$23,551,834
Total Federal Funding Programmed	\$7,931,288
Federal Funds Obligated in FY2021	\$0
Number of Projects in FY 2021	6
Projects Obligated as of April 2021	0
Projects Past the Estimated Start Date as of April 2021	4

Mr. Beckom concluded by telling the Council that large portions of the allocated funds for FY 2021 have not been obligated and staff will work toward reducing the large carryover balances as shown in a table below:

Funding Categories	Percentage of FY 2021 Completed Obligations
Category 5 - CMAQ	15%
Category 7 - STBG	3%
Category 9 - TASA	0%

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording at: <https://hgac.swagit.com/play/05212021-822/12/>

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ITEM 13. IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON TRANSPORTATION, ALLIE ISBELL, H-GAC

Ms. Allie Isbell, H-GAC briefed the Council on the data gathered by the Houston-Galveston Area Council on the impact of Covid-19 on transportation using Street Light Data. Street Light Data collects travel data information from GPS capable devices to track vehicle miles traveled or VMT. Ms. Isbell, described in detail through her presentation, on VMT in the 8-County region, crashes and fatalities, a comparison of the travel speeds, bicycle/pedestrian activity, transit activity, trade activity, and financial implications. Information can be found at <https://h-gac.com/covid-19>.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording at: <https://hgac.swagit.com/play/05212021-822/13/>

For Information Only. No action needed

ITEM 14. PLANNING ACTIVITIES

A. Draft 2022-2023 Unified Planning Work Program

Ms. Neely Kim, H-GAC provided an updated on the development of 2022-2023 UPWP. The current 2020-2021 UPWP is available at the following [website](#). The 2022-2023 UPWP is under development. In March of 2021, H-GAC requested for UPWP planning project proposals from eligible entities in the region, and this call for project proposals was closed on April 8, 2021. This request for projects resulted in 17 planning proposal submissions by various local governments and other agencies within the region. The planning proposals are under review by H-GAC staff and selected projects will be proposed to be included in the 2022-2023 UPWP. The Draft 2022-2023 will be presented to the TPC next month for approval.

B. Future Amendments to the 2021-2024 TIP and 2045 RTP

Mr. Adam Beckom, H-GAC, updated the Council on the following future amendments that will be brought to the TPC in June 2021 for approval and summarized below:

- Combine two (2) adjoining segments of access management treatments on FM 2920 in Harris County at the Texas Department of Transportation Houston District's request. The overall cost, limits and schedule will be unchanged.
- Program the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) Emergency and Community Services (ECS) Center construction project in fiscal year 2022 of the TIP with a \$5.9M Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Emergency Relief Program (Chapter 53, Section 5324) grant. The federal funding was awarded as a result of losses sustained during Hurricane Harvey in 2017.
- Program the METRO Missouri City Park & Ride construction project in fiscal year 2022 of the TIP with \$37M of local funding. The project, which was approved by voters in the METRONext transit plan in 2019, will construct a new facility at a location close to the intersection of Beltway 8 and US 90A.

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- Program four (4) METRO Bus Operations Optimized Systems Treatment (BOOST) projects in fiscal years 2022 and 2024 of the TIP with \$145M of local funding. The projects, which will improve transit service on seventeen (17) high frequency routes in the system, will include all phases, right-of-way acquisition, environmental planning, design, and construction. The BOOST program was approved by voters in the METRONext plan in 2019.

- C. Summary of Transportation Planning Activities
Mr. Craig Raborn, H-GAC, presented a summary of Transportation Planning Activities.

- D. H-GAC Board of Directors Report
Mr. Craig Raborn presented information on Transportation items included on the agenda of the H-GAC Board of Directors Meeting held on May 18, 2021 and summarized below:
 1. CHILD PASSENGER - BICYCLE SAFETY EDUCATION & OUTREACH
Request authorization to extend the contract and increase the contract amount with Texas Children's Hospital Center for Childhood Injury Prevention by \$50,000 to continue conducting child passenger and bicycle safety outreach; total contract amount not to exceed \$210,000.

 2. TEENS IN THE DRIVER SEAT PROGRAM
Request authorization to extend the contract period and increase the contract amount with Texas A&M Transportation Institute by \$65,000 for the Teens in the Driver Seat program; total contract amount not to exceed \$255,000.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording at: <https://hgac.swagit.com/play/05212021-822/14/>

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ITEM 15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

All meetings below are conducted by Teleconference (TBD)

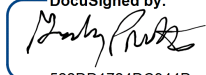
- Greater Houston Freight Committee Meeting
June 10, 2021, 1:00p.m.
- Next TAC Meeting – June 16, 2021, 9:30a.m.
- Next TPC Meeting – June 25, 2021, 9:30a.m.
- Transportation Safety Committee- June 29, 2021, 1:30pm

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Chair Kenneth Clark adjourned the meeting of the TPC at 11:12am

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording at: <https://hgac.swagit.com/play/05212021-822/15/>

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DocuSigned by:

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Hon. Grady Prestage, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council

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Attachment 1
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)
FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA
May 21, 2021

ROLL

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Baytown, City of	_____ Honorable Heather Betancourth Council Member, District 4 _____ Honorable Brandon Capetillo – Alternate	City of Baytown
Conroe, City of	_____ Thomas Woolley Interim Director of Engineering _____ Chris Bogert – Alternate	City of Conroe
Galveston, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable David Collins Council Member _____ Hon. John Paul Listowski - Alternate	City of Galveston
Houston, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable David W. Robinson Council Member – 1 st - Vice Chair _____ Honorable Abbie Kamin- Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Carolyn Evans-Shabazz Council Member _____ Honorable Sallie Alcorn - Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<u> X </u> Carol Haddock, P.E. Director, Houston Public Works _____ Veronica O. Davis, P.E. – Alternate	City of Houston
League City, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Larry Millican Council Member, Position 3 _____ Honorable Andy Mann - Alternate	City of League City
Missouri City, City of	<u> X </u> Shashi Kumar, P.E.. Director of Public Works _____ Clifford Brouhard – Alternate	City of Missouri City
Pasadena, City of	_____ Honorable Cary Bass Council Member _____ James Rodriguez – Alternate	City of Pasadena

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<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Pearland, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Kevin Cole Mayor <u> </u> Mayor Emeritus Tom Reid-Alternate	City of Pearland
Sugar Land, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Joe Zimmerman Mayor <u> </u> Honorable Jennifer Lane – Alternate	City of Sugar Land
Texas City, City of	<u> </u> Honorable Dedrick Johnson Mayor <u> X </u> Doug Kneupper, P.E. - Alternate	City of Texas City
Waller, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Nancy Arnold Council Member, City of Waller	Smaller Cities, Harris County
Vacant	<u> </u> Vacant	
Brazoria County	<u> X </u> Honorable Matt Sebesta County Judge – Past Chair <u> </u> Honorable David Linder – Alternate	Brazoria County
Chambers County	<u> X </u> Honorable Billy Combs County Commissioner, Pct 4 <u> </u> Cory Taylor, P.E. - Alternate	Chambers County
Fort Bend County	<u> X </u> Honorable Grady Prestage County Commissioner, Pct 2 <u> </u> Stacy Slawinski, P.E. – Alternate	Fort Bend County
Galveston County	<u> X </u> Honorable Kenneth Clark County Commissioner - Chairman <u> </u> Honorable Joe Giusti– Alternate	Galveston County
Harris County	<u> </u> Honorable Lina Hidalgo County Judge <u> X </u> John Blount, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Harris County	<u> </u> Honorable Adrian Garcia County Commissioner, Pct. 2 <u> X </u> Milton Rahman, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Liberty County	<u> X </u> David Douglas Engineering Administrator <u> </u> Honorable Jay Knight - Alternate	Liberty County

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Montgomery County	_____ Honorable Mark Keough County Judge _____ Commissioner, James Metts – Alternate	Montgomery County
Waller County	<u> X </u> Honorable Justin Beckendorff County Commissioner – 2nd VC _____ Commissioner, Walter Smith - Alternate	Waller County
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	_____ Carrin Patman METRO Chair <u> X </u> Thomas Lambert	METRO
Houston-Galveston Area Council At Large	_____ Chuck Wemple Executive Director <u> X </u> Jeff Taebel – Alternate	H-GAC
TxDOT	<u> X </u> Eliza Paul, P. E. _____ District Engineer _____ Varuna Singh, P.E.– Alternate	TxDOT Houston District
TxDOT	<u> X </u> Chad Bohne, P.E. _____ District Engineer _____ Adam Jack, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Beaumont District
Port of Houston Authority	_____ Roger Guenther Executive Director, Port of Houston _____ Phyllis Saathoff, Port Freeport - Alternate	Other Transportation Interests
Gulf Coast Rail District	<u> X </u> Dr. Carol Lewis _____ Chairman, GCRD _____ Jeff Ross - Alternate	Gulf Coast Rail District
	<u> 28 </u> Total Voting Membership	
	<u> 23 </u> Voting Membership Present	
	<u> 14 </u> Required Quorum	

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AGENCY

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

REPRESENTING

Texas State Senate	_____ Hon. Carol Alvarado	8-County Region
Freight Rail Interests	_____ Clint Schelbitzki	Union Pacific
Freight Rail Interests	_____ Hugh McCulley	BNSF Railway
Texas State Legislator	_____ Hon. Dennis Paul	8-County Region
Texas State Legislator	_____ Hon. Ed Thompson	8-County Region
Wharton County	_____ Hon. Phillip Spenrath County Judge	Wharton County