

**Regional Transit Coordination (RTC)
Subcommittee Meeting
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Online Meeting/Conference Call
Thursday October 8, 2020
9:30-11:00 AM**

Agenda

1. Introductions and Certification of Quorum (9) – Perri D’Armond, Fort Bend County Transit, Chair
2. Public Comments
3. Action Items:
 - 3.1 Adoption of Agenda
 - 3.2 Approval of RTC Subcommittee Meeting Summary of July 9, 2020
4. Information Items: (15 minutes or less each)
 - 4.1 Transit Asset Management Update/Public Transit Agency Safety Plan – Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC
 - 4.2 Texas Southern University Automated Vehicle Pilot – Thomas Gray, H-GAC
 - 4.3 Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP) Update – Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC
 - 4.4 Congestion Management Process Update – Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC
 - 4.5 Mobility Links Update – Chris Whaley, H-GAC
 - 4.6 METRO Regional Fare System Update – Thomas Gray, H-GAC
 - 4.7 Proposed Revisions to Transportation Development Credits – H-GAC Staff
 - 4.8 TIP Subcommittee Project Prioritization Workgroup Update – H-GAC Staff
 - 4.9 Updated Results of Survey of Coronavirus Effects on Regional Transit Providers – Thomas Gray, H-GAC
 - 4.10 #SitSafe Campaign – Sarah Coulter, The Woodlands Township
5. Agency Reports (5 minutes or less each)

RTC Subcommittee Quarterly Meeting Dates for 2021:
January 14, April 8, July 8, October 14

REGIONAL TRANSIT COORDINATION SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 9, 2020 – 9:30am – 11:00am
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Virtual Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT

Vernon Chambers – Harris County Transit (Chair)
Perri D'Armond – Fort Bend County Transit
Sarah Coulter – The Woodlands Township
De'Andre Guinn – City of Conroe
Wendy Weedon – Brazos Transit District
Ted Ross – Connect Transit
Sharon Moses-Burnside – City of Houston
Paula Johnson – City of Houston Health Dept
Dave Lewis – Harris County Veterans' Services
Cornelius Blackshear – United Way of Greater Houston
Elijah Williams – Energy Corridor District
Ashley Johnson – LINK Houston

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Rachel Die – METRO
Ken Fickes – Harris County Transit
Nathan Nevelow – Island Transit
Krystal Lastrape – City of Sugar Land
Thomas Kirn – City of Houston
Halley Goldstein – United Way of Greater Houston
Rebecca Reyna – Greater Northside District
Paula Johnson – City of Houston Health Department

OTHERS PRESENT

Brenda Bustillos – TxDOT
Travis Madison – TxDOT
Darla Walton – TxDOT
Stephanie Broaddus – TxDOT
Paula Haley-Polk – TxDOT
Bul Mabil – TxDOT
Dr. Lalita Sen – Texas Southern University
Janis Scott – LINK Houston
(Plus other unidentified listeners)

H-GAC STAFF PRESENT

Jamila Owens
Thomas Gray
Alan Rodenstein
Veronica Baxter-Lamb
Christopher Whaley
Adam Beckom
Patrick Mandapaka
Karen Owen

BRIEFING

Overview

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the need to maintain social distance, RTCS Members and Alternates met virtually by teleconference. The Subcommittee elected a new Chair and Vice-Chair to replace the term-limited incumbents. The Coronavirus pandemic was a major topic of the meeting, with updates being presented about the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act as well as the ongoing monthly survey of the pandemic's effect on regional transit providers. Updates on Asset Management Plans, proposed revisions to Transportation Development Credits, Project Prioritization for the next TIP Call for Projects, the 2022-2026 Regional Coordinated Transportation Plan Update, and the Regional Fare System were also provided.

INTRODUCTIONS AND CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM

ITEM 1 – Ms. Vernon Chambers, Chair, Harris County Transit, convened the meeting at 11:00 AM. Roll was called by H-GAC staff and quorum was certified.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ITEM 2 – There were no public comments presented to the Subcommittee.

ACTION ITEMS

ITEM 3.1 – Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Chambers requested a motion to adopt the agenda.

Action Item Motion: moved by Perri D'Armond, seconded by Wendy Weedon. Action Item Approved.

ITEM 3.2 – Approval of Meeting Summary

Ms. Chambers requested a motion to approve the summary of the April 9, 2020 Subcommittee meeting.

Action Item Motion: moved by Wendy Weedon, seconded by Perri D'Armond. Action Item Approved.

ITEM 3.3 – Election of Subcommittee Officers

Ms. Chambers presented her slate of suggested Subcommittee Officers, which included nominations of Perri D'Armond for Chair and Sarah Coulter for Vice-Chair. Ms. Chambers asked for either a motion on her slate or nomination of alternative candidates.

Action Item Motion: moved by Wendy Weedon to elect Perri D'Armond as Chair, seconded by Elijah Williams.

Action Item approved.

Action Item Motion: moved by Wendy Weedon to elect Sarah Coulter as Vice-Chair, seconded by Perri D'Armond.

Action Item Approved.

Ms. Chambers yielded direction of the Subcommittee meeting to Ms. D'Armond. H-GAC staff thanked Ms. Chambers and Ms. Weedon for their service as Subcommittee Officers.

INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEM 4.1 – Review of Subcommittee Purpose and Duties – Jamila Owens, H-GAC

Ms. Jamila Owens welcomed new members and briefly explained the purpose and duties of the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee, which included duties common to all TAC Subcommittees as well as duties specific to the RTCS. There were no questions or comments.

ITEM 4.2 – Performance Measures (Asset Management and Public Transportation Safety Plans) – Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC

Mr. Alan Rodenstein presented performance measures, targets and the approval timeline for Transit Asset Management. He noted that the region's 2020 targets had been achieved, and listed some new investments that regional agencies have recently made. There were no questions or comments.

ITEM 4.3 – Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Update – Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC

Mr. Rodenstein presented information regarding federal grants distributed to regional transit providers through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Mr. Rodenstein's chart indicated that a total of \$290.5 million had been distributed to the region to support transit operations during the pandemic.

Perri D'Armond noted that the rural funding that had been received by Fort Bend County Transit looked to be incorrect. It was determined that the amount contained an extra zero. Mr. Rodenstein said he would fix the error and that it would change the region's distribution total to \$285.7 million.

ITEM 4.4 – Results of Survey of Coronavirus Effects on Regional Transit Providers – Thomas Gray, H-GAC

Mr. Thomas Gray presented the results (through May 2020) of the survey, which most of the region's transportation providers have participated in. The survey has tracked changes in ridership brought on by the pandemic as well as changes in service and other measures providers have implemented in response. The survey will be sent to providers on a monthly basis over the course of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Discussion followed the presentation. Perri D'Armond mentioned that Fort Bend County Transit has resumed service to Greenway Plaza since the most recent survey. Ken Fickes complimented H-GAC on the work done so far. Mr. Gray noted that the survey for June would be sent out to providers next week.

ITEM 4.5 – Proposed Revisions to Transportation Development Credits – Adam Beckom, H-GAC

Mr. Adam Beckom presented information about efforts to revise the TPC's policy regarding the use of Transportation Development Credits (TDCs), including pros and cons of the potential revisions, comments received regarding the revisions, and a timeline for adoption.

Discussion followed the presentation. Ken Fickes provided some additional background to the process, noting that the TIP Subcommittee has been working on this issue over the past year, and expressed his concerns about the proposed policy changes as they relate to transit funding. Mr. Beckom noted that he would try to clarify the policy language to address Mr. Fickes's concerns. Perri D'Armond asked for additional clarification about project costs.

ITEM 4.6 – TIP Subcommittee Project Prioritization Workgroup – Adam Beckom, H-GAC

Mr. Beckom presented information about the development of new project evaluation criteria, including recommendations made by the workgroup to TPC. These recommendations included the establishment of clear and transparent goals and priorities, a process for developing the next Call for Projects, and the definition of roles and responsibilities for H-GAC staff, TAC and the TIP Subcommittee. Mr. Beckom also discussed the timeline for this ongoing process.

A brief discussion followed the presentation, including the consideration of flooding and resiliency issues in the Call for Projects process.

ITEM 4.7 – Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP) Update – Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC

Mr. Rodenstein provided a status update to the Subcommittee regarding the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP) update process. A grant application was submitted to TxDOT in April and a decision is expected at the July 30, 2020 meeting of the Texas Transportation Commission. The update will begin on or about September 1, 2020 and will be largely conducted in-house. Mr. Rodenstein also discussed the formation of a RCTP Steering Group, which would meet regularly while the plan is being updated to provide input and guidance. Mr. Rodenstein noted that staff is looking for volunteers to serve on the Steering Group.

Discussion followed the presentation. De'Andre Guinn, Sharon Moses, Perri D'Armond, Vernon Chambers, Sarah Coulter, Ted Ross, Paula Johnson and Dr. Lalita Sen all volunteered to participate on the Steering Group. Travis Madison offered some additional information regarding the timing of TxDOT grants.

ITEM 4.8 – Regional Fare System Update – Thomas Gray, H-GAC

Mr. Gray provided an update on the Regional Fare project. METRO and H-GAC are still working on coming to agreement on language in the Interlocal Agreement as well as the Memorandum of Understanding.

Discussion followed the presentation. Vernon Chambers asked if the MOU for Regional Fare would be separate than the one that already exists for regional coordination. Mr. Gray explained that it was a standalone agreement. Details regarding fare, accessibility, medical vouchers and the like have yet to be determined. Brenda Bustillos mentioned the potential of the TxDOT ConnectSmart app to participate in the regional fare system. Ashley Johnson mentioned the need for better transit service across the region to accompany regional fare.

AGENCY REPORTS

ITEM 5 – Ms. D'Armond invited subcommittee members to briefly give updates on their agency efforts. Updates were provided by several transit providers and agencies. Many updates had to do with how agencies were continuing to be affected by, and responding to, the Coronavirus pandemic, including changes to service and mitigation efforts to prevent the virus from spreading.

Thomas Gray noted that the regional Origin/Destination survey had been postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic. Jamila Owens mentioned that Ozone Action Day had been pushed to 2021 for the same reason. Travis Scott mentioned that

TxDOT's semi-annual transit meeting would be held on July 15th, Brenda Bustillos provided an update on ConnectSmart, and METRO announced that the Uptown BRT line would begin service in August.

Ken Fickes motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Vernon Chambers seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Next RTCS Quarterly Meeting – October 8, 2020 (Tentative) H-GAC, 2nd Floor, Conference Room B/C



PUBLIC TRANSIT AGENCY SAFETY PLANS (PTASP)



Alan Rodenstein
RTC Subcommittee – Item 4.1
October 8, 2020



Public Transit Agency Safety Program

- Due by December 31, 2020 (COVID-19)
- Request Copy by November 15, 2020
- Conducted by TxDOT Consultant for Small Agencies in Region?
- Metro PTASP Needed



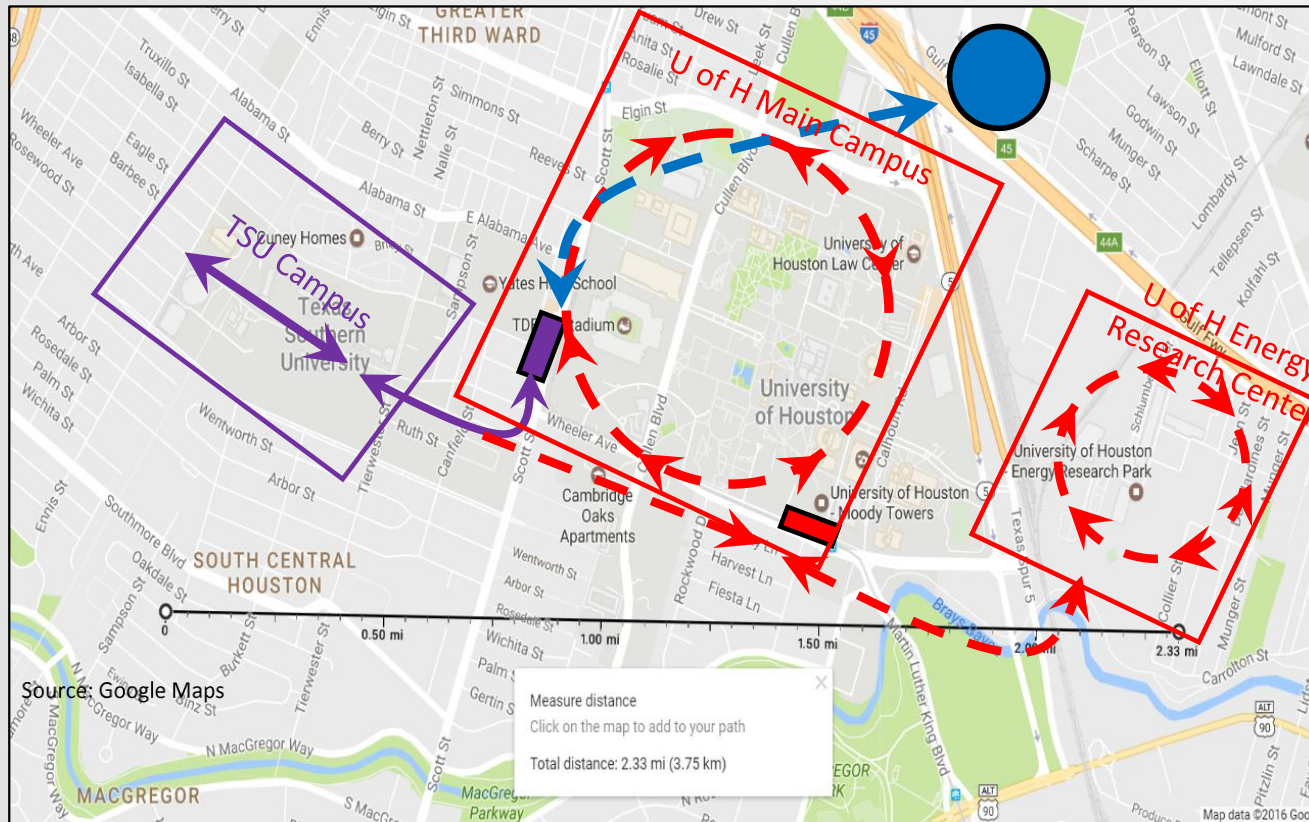
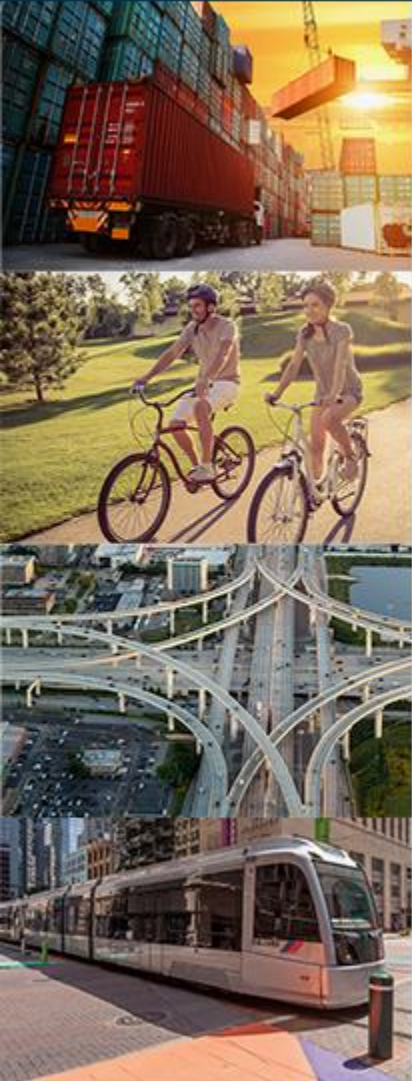
Texas Southern University Automated Vehicle Pilot



Thomas B. Gray
RTC Subcommittee – Item 4.2
October 8, 2020

University District Automated Vehicle

Proposed to connect TSU, Purple Line LRT, UH Main Campus, UH ERP, Eastwood Transit Center



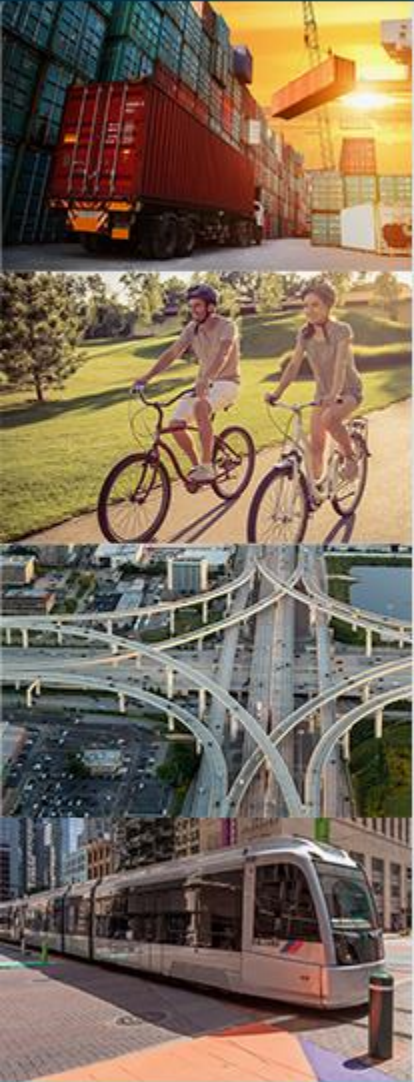
Pilot Project Partners



- TSU: ideal on-campus operating environment, provided administrative and research resources
- METRO: provided funding for vehicle acquisition and operations
- H-GAC: provided funding support to conduct planning efforts, data collection and analysis



Purposes of Pilot Project



- Gain insight into the operational characteristics of the Automated Vehicle during fair and inclement weather
- Acquire knowledge of battery capabilities during temperature variations
- Assess perspectives of students, riders and vehicle attendants

Operated June 5, 2019 - February 25, 2020

Pilot Project Location: TSU Tiger Walk

Texas Southern University

Campus Plan

Parking Lots

A Faculty
B Faculty/Staff
B1 Administrative
C Faculty/Staff
D Faculty/Staff
E Faculty/Staff
F Faculty/Staff
G Staff/Visitors
H Faculty/Staff
S1 Students
S2 Students
S3 Students
S4 Students
S5 Students
S6 Students

V1 Visitors
V2 Visitors
V3 Visitors
V4 Visitors

L1 Greystone Residents
L2 University Courtyard
L3 Tierwester Oaks Residents
L4 Richfield Manor Residents

Accessible Parking
 Ramp Access
 Flat Accessible Entrance

Parking Garages

122 Ennis Garage at Blodgett
123 Cleburne Garage at Sampson

Spearman Technology Building

Fairchild Hall

Sterling Student Life Center

Vehicle Storage – Central Plant

Library Learning Center

- Pedestrian promenade through center of campus
- 1/2 mile shuttle route
- Four stops



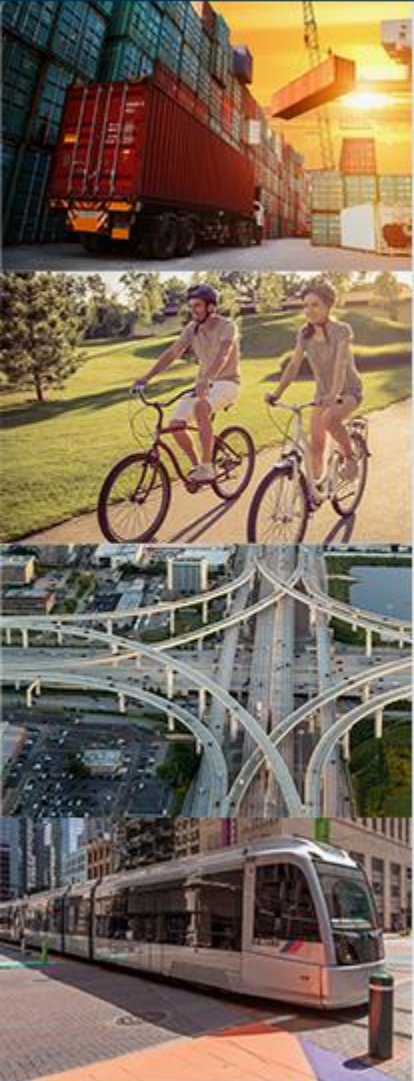
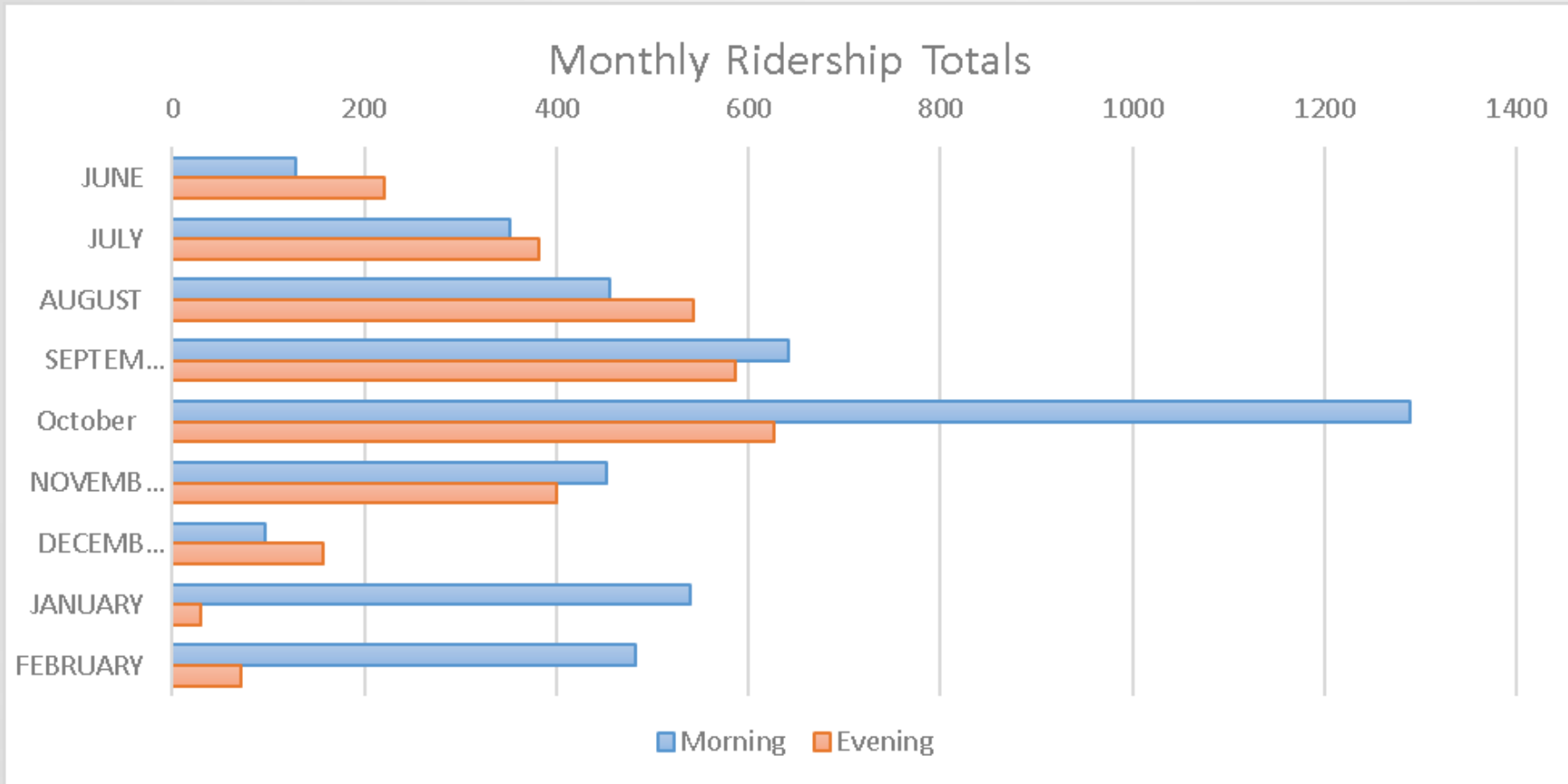
EasyMile EZ10 Gen 2 Automated Vehicle



Regional Collaboration • Transportation Planning • Multimodal Mobility

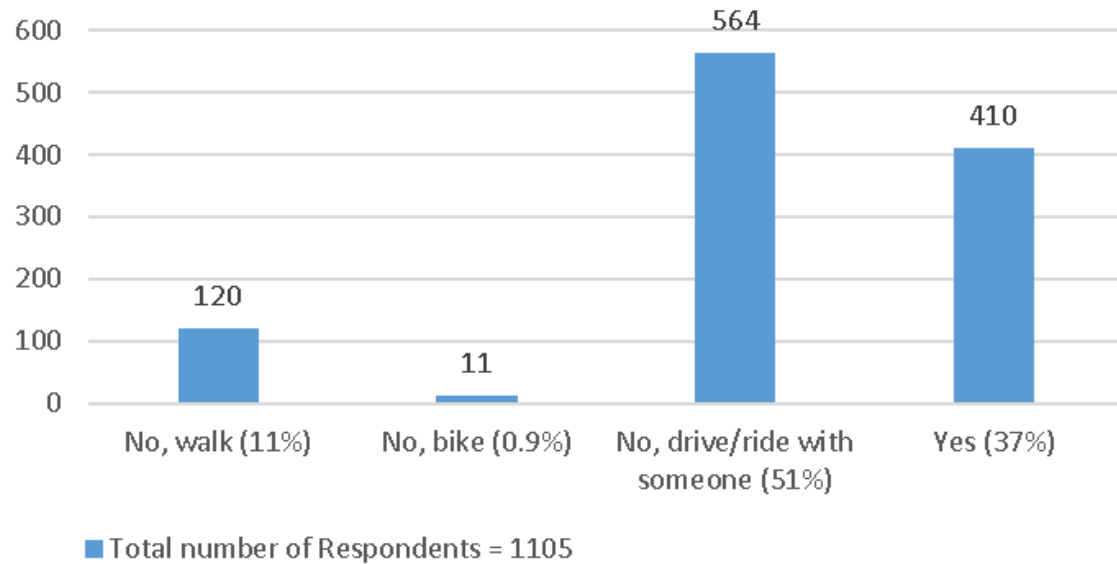
Ridership

- Provided almost 7,500 individual trips during operation

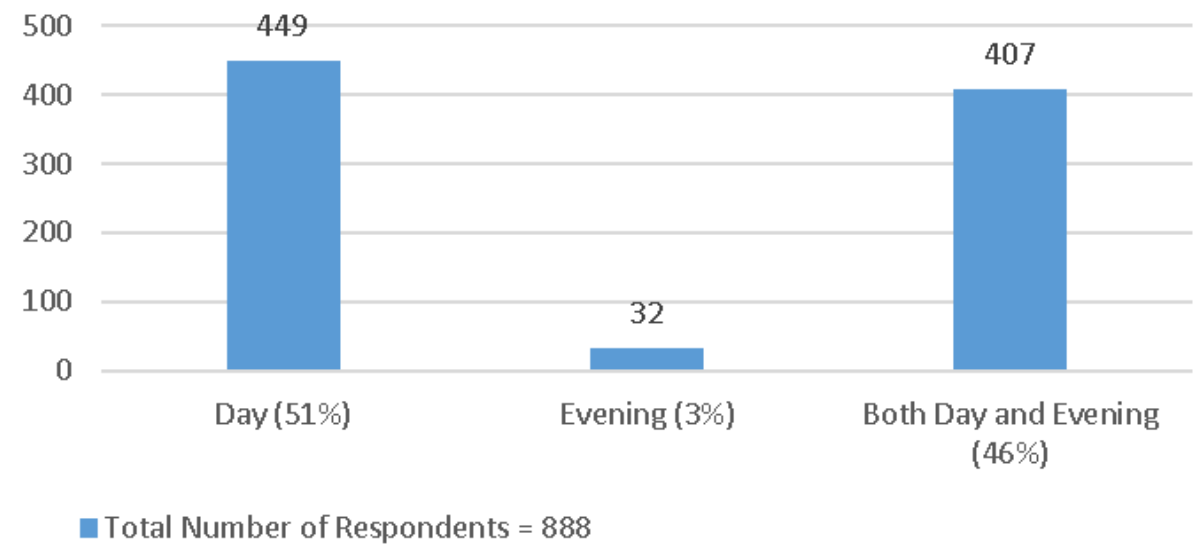


Survey Data: AV Ridership

Do You Currently Live On Campus?

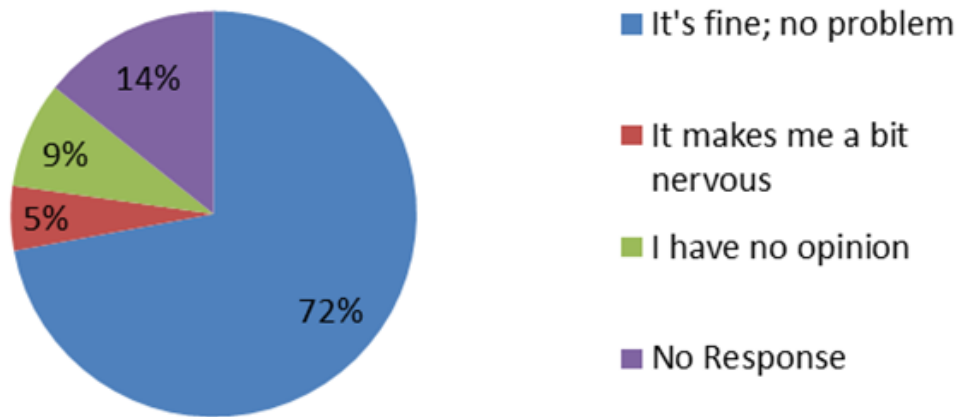


When Are You Mostly On Campus?

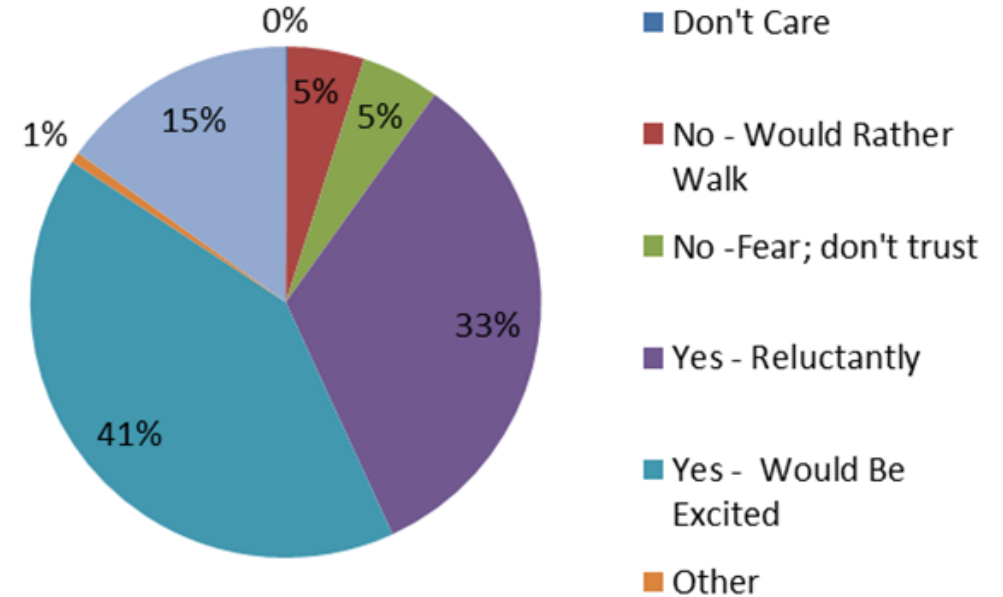


Survey Data: AV Acceptance

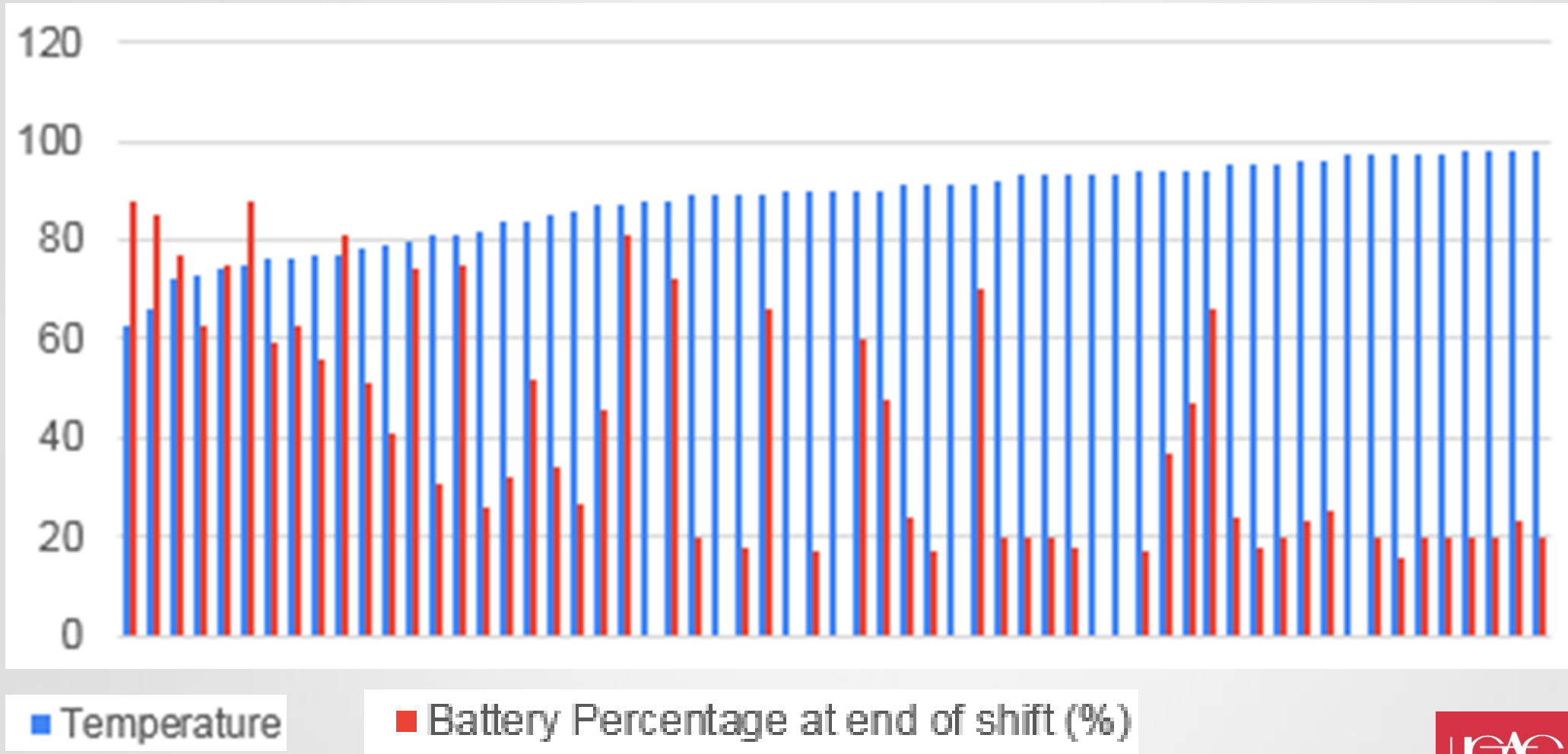
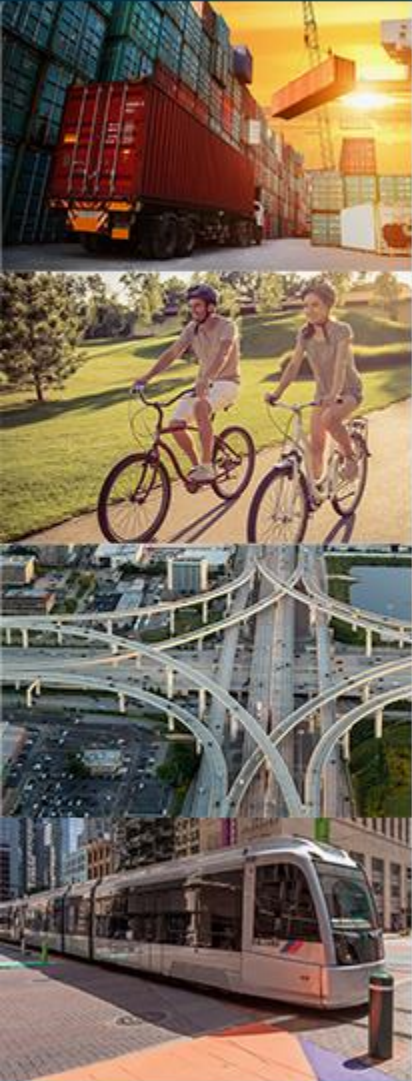
What do you think about sharing the Tiger Walk with a Driver-less Vehicle about the Size of a Large Van?



Are you likely to ride in a vehicle without a driver?



Battery Life and Temperature

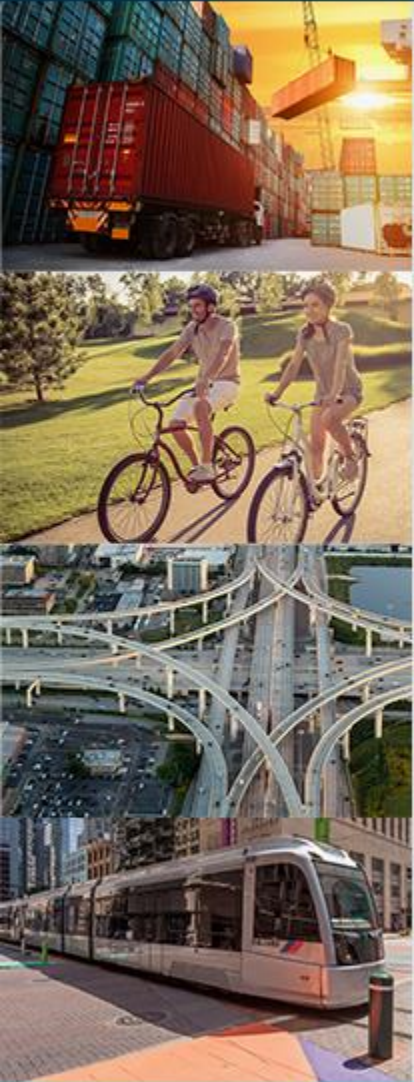


General Findings



- Vehicle performance was fine during fair weather and light rain but was unable to maintain operation during heavy rain.
- Battery life was significantly impacted by hot weather, engaging the air conditioner or heater, and use of USB ports provided within the vehicle.
- Acceptance from the student, faculty and staff and visitor populations was enthusiastic and people were generally not intimidated by the automated nature of the vehicle.

Lessons Learned for Future Phases



- AV crash-worthiness (especially for on-street operation)
- Need for better ADA accommodation: EasyMile vehicle ramp is narrow and steep, with no side rails; step is long even for able-bodied
- Need for spare vehicle/attendants to cover breakdowns/malfunctions
- Need notification mechanism for modifications/interruptions in service

Questions?





GULF COAST REGIONALLY COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2022-2026 UPDATE



Alan Rodenstein
RTC Subcommittee – Item 4.3
October 8, 2020



RCTP UPDATES

- Comprehensive update
- Three deliverables required by TxDOT:
 - Comprehensive Transit – Human Service Provider Inventory
 - Assessment of Needs, Gaps and Overlaps
 - Developments of Five-Year Plan
- Will be Supplemented by Regional Survey and Focus Groups as in 2016

PLAN UPDATE

- RCTP application submitted to TxDOT – April 2020
- Grant approval for \$100,000 from Texas Transportation Commission – July 2020
- Grant funding to be supplemented by Unified Planning of Work Programs (UPWP) funding
- Executed agreement with TxDOT – September 2020
- Plan to be largely prepared in-house Sept 1, 2020 – Feb 28, 2022
- Focus groups and survey will be contracted

NEW DEVELOPMENTS EXPECTED

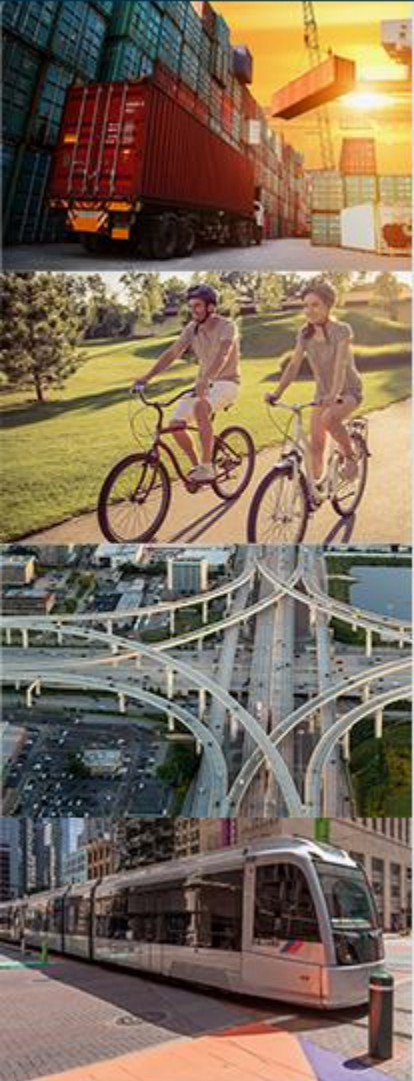
**New Project Manager expected in
approximately 30 days!**

RCTP STEERING GROUP

- Recommended to include a wide range of members of RTC subcommittee – openings available
- Chaired by Perri D'Armond
- Goals and Outcomes:
 - Fulfilling mission of community outreach and involvement
 - Improving plan through collaboration and transparency
 - Providing broader perspective and ideas
 - Ensuring better buy-in with findings and recommendations

EXPECTATIONS OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Meet quarterly in month prior to RTC subcommittee – first meeting in November
- More frequent meeting possible
- Review documents provided by staff and provide feedback
- Work with staff on schedule and other challenges



CONTACT US

Contact:

Alan Rodenstein

or: Perri D'Armond

Alan.rodenstein@h-gac.com

Perri.DArmond@fortbendcountytexas.gov

If you are interested in being on the RCTP steering committee



CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS (CMP) 2020 UPDATE



Alan Rodenstein
RTC Subcommittee – Item 4.4
October 8, 2020

Defining the CMP Process

Three key elements:

- Identify congestion and its causes (in region)
- Apply variety of mitigation strategies to improve system
- Evaluate strategies' effectiveness and adjust

The Importance of the CMP

- Funding strategies emerge from the CMP
- Can be independent, but usually considered with RTP and TIP
- Last CMP Update conducted in 2015; original in 2011
- CMP required under Fix America Surface Transportation (FAST) Act
- In 2020/2021 an approved CMP Update is required for MPO recertification
- MPO recertification expected to occur in spring 2021

Eight Elements (Steps) of CMP

- 1. Develop Regional Objectives
- 2. Define Parameters of Regional Network
- 3. Develop Multimodal Performance Measures
- 4. Collect and Monitor System Performance
- 5. Analyze Congestion Problems and Needs
- 6. Identify and Assess Strategies
- 7. Program and Implement Strategies
- 8. Evaluate Strategy Effectiveness

2020 CMP Update Highlights

- Defined multimodal emphasis
- Added freight to mitigation strategies
- Now using systemwide and segment level congestion measures
- Creating an accessible and transparent CMP
- Considering impacts of COVID-19

Next Steps

2020

- Finish Draft Report - October
- Present to TAC and TPC - November
- Public Comment and Meeting - November 23 – December 23

2021

- Review of Public Comment and Prepare Final Report - January
- Recommendation and Approval by TAC and TPC - February
- CMP 2020 Update Included in MPO Recertification - Spring



Mobility Links Update



Chris Whaley
RTC Subcommittee – Item 4.5
October 8, 2020

Background



- Planned as a one-call/one-click mobility service
- Rolled out in spring 2020
- Links travelers to mobility services, including services that are optimized for veterans, those with disabilities, and others
- Fills gaps not served by existing transit or other mobility services
- [Site link](#)

Mobility Links Outreach Schedule



Mobility Links Launch

PROJECT NAME

Mobility Links Launch

PREPARED BY

Communications Department

Week of:	6-Apr	13-Apr	20-Apr	27-Apr	4-May	11-May	Notes
Development of flyer	3-Apr						Crystal
Development of social media graphics		13-Apr					Crystal
Intranet announcement				30-Apr			Lauren
Regional Focus Newsletter announcement					5-May		Lauren
Insider Newsletter announcement					7-May		Lauren
Region View Newsletter announcement					12-May		Francis
Social media postings (1xweek)				30-Apr		15-May	Lauren
Flyers for internal partners to distribute (Community Orgs, Aging Agency)				30-Apr			Francis

Start Task	
End Task	
One-Time Task	

Mobility Links Outreach Example



mobilitylinks

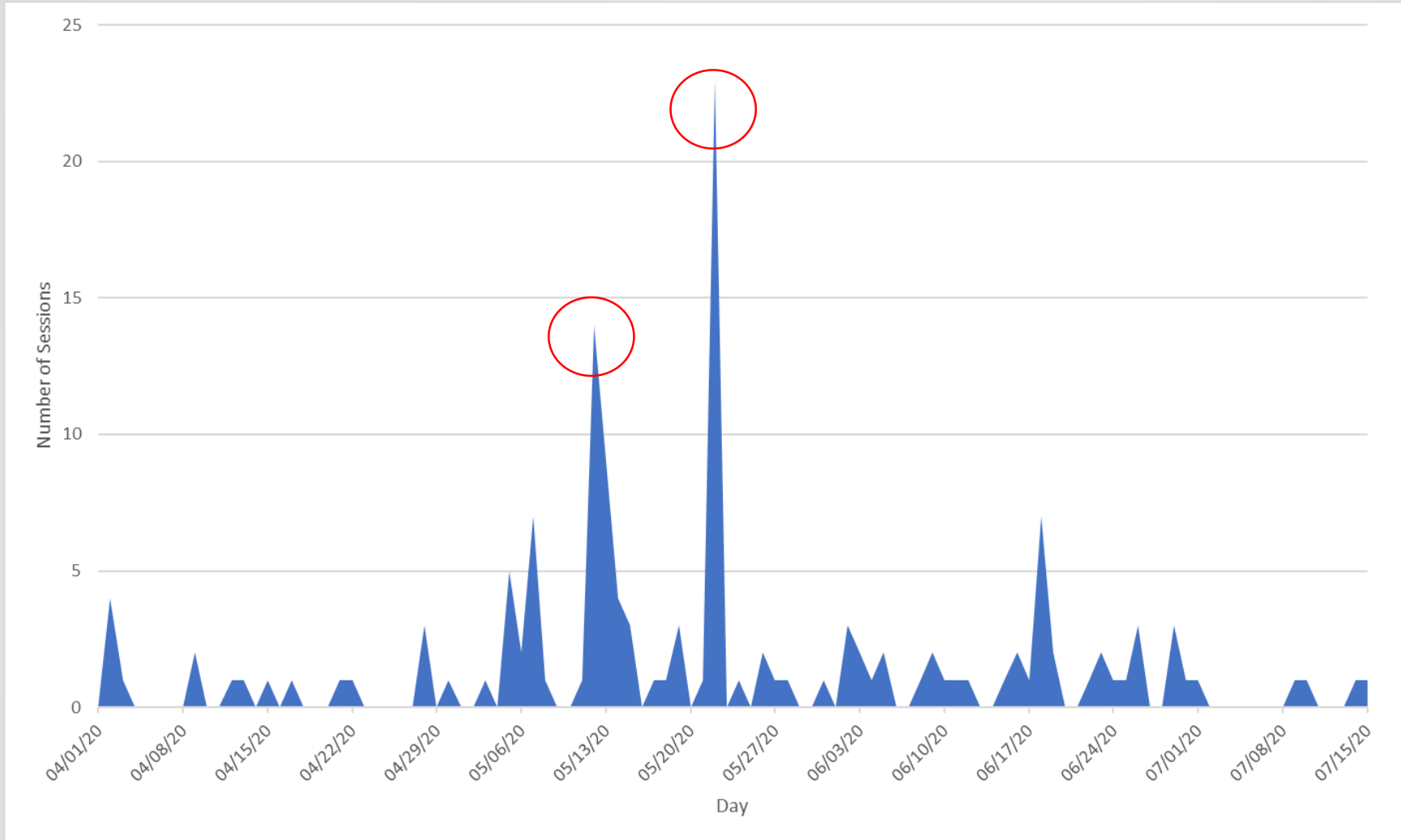


The Houston-Galveston Area Council has a new Mobility Links tool to assist in identifying available transportation services within communities and the region.

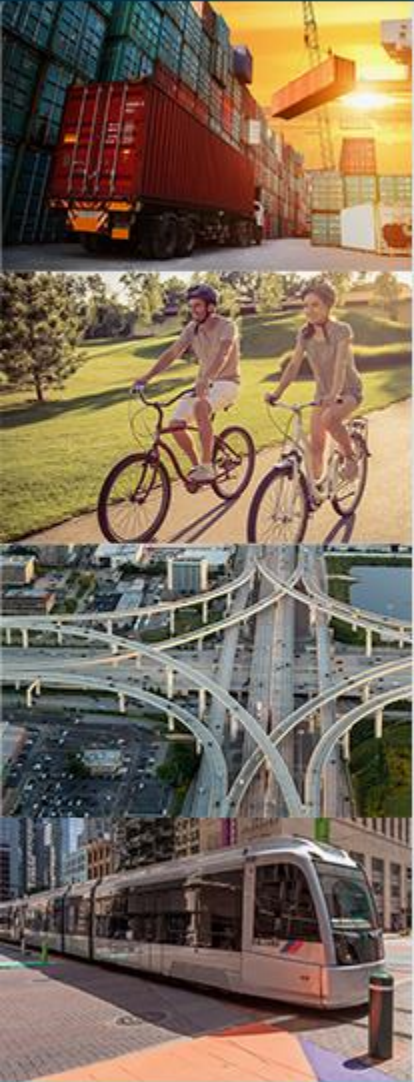
Go to h-gac.com/mobility-links



Website Traffic Report



Future Outreach



- Transportation Providers
- Planning Agencies
- Passengers and Advocates
- Human Service Partners
- Healthcare Providers
- Private Industry
- Educational Institutions
- Continued social media push?
- Other ideas?

Source: [http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/docs/NCHRP20-65\(68\)_FR.pdf](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/docs/NCHRP20-65(68)_FR.pdf)

Workgroup Meeting



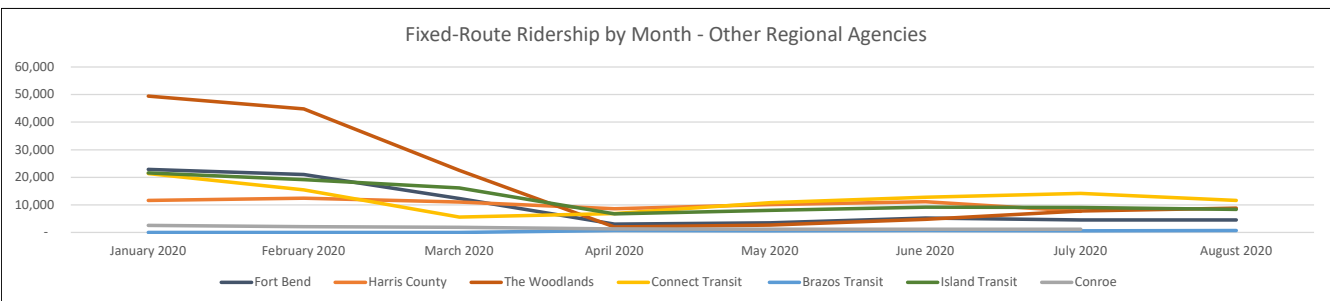
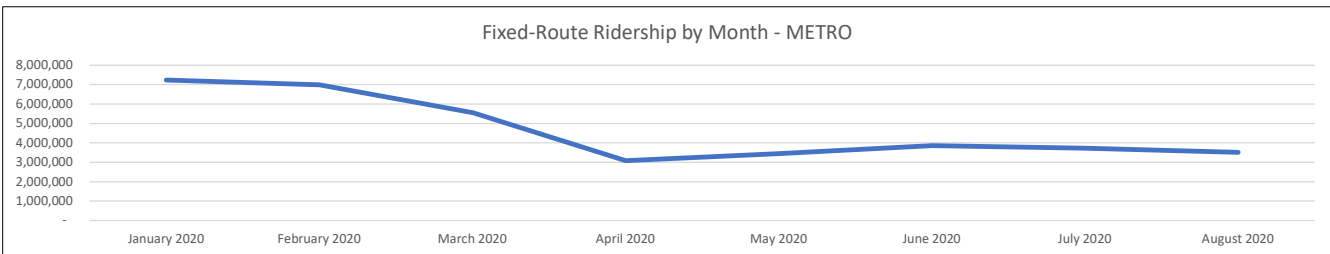
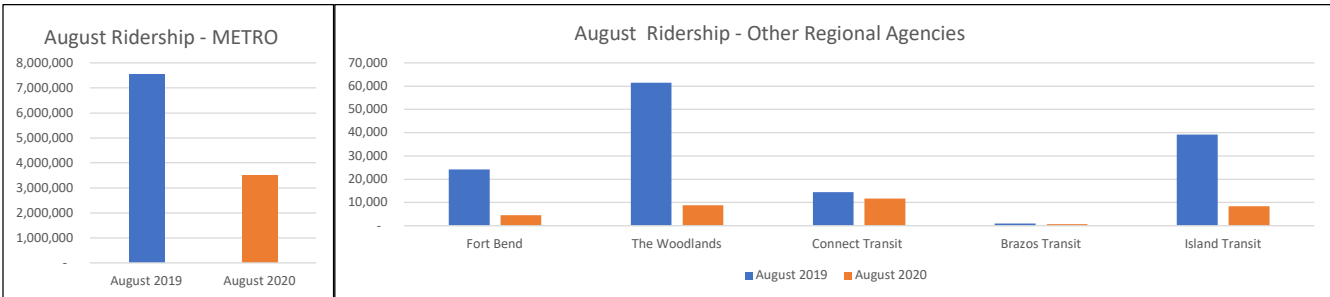
- Workgroup Chair: Vernon Chambers
- Purpose: Continue to refine the online database, plan for outreach, and think about how to integrate a one call service
- 1st meeting on October 15th at 2:00 PM
- To join the workgroup please contact: christopher.whaley@h-gac.com

Monthly Ridership - Fixed Route Service

H-GAC 10/6/2020

Agency	METRO	Fort Bend	Harris County	The Woodlands	Connect Transit	Brazos Transit	Island Transit	Conroe	Regional Total
March 2019	7,422,367	21,777	10,066	45,359	22,002	n/a	32,283	2,833	7,556,687
April 2019	7,277,922	22,747	9,453	48,222	16,145		987	31,842	7,410,119
May 2019	7,236,600	14,122	9,375	47,509	18,400	1,122	33,682	2,911	7,363,721
June 2019	6,773,260	21,290	n/a	44,083	17,849	1,149	36,260	2,620	6,896,511
July 2019	7,230,089	23,824	9,609	64,771	22,612	1,112	41,536	2,961	7,396,514
August 2019	7,560,461	24,209	n/a	61,423	14,389	888	39,214	n/a	7,700,584
January 2020	7,228,884	22,844	11,633	49,486	21,398	n/a	21,648	2,587	7,358,480
February 2020	6,989,217	21,057	12,481	44,780	15,432	n/a	19,210	2,119	7,104,296
March 2020	5,557,130	12,290	11,103	22,462	5,638	n/a	16,107	1,928	5,626,658
April 2020	3,078,548	3,111	8,629	2,029	6,891	718	6,770	1,373	3,108,069
May 2020	3,436,532	3,537	10,132	2,760	10,842	677	8,050	1,174	3,473,704
June 2020	3,858,757	5,238	11,205	4,857	12,803	772	9,253	1,248	3,904,133
July 2020	3,732,214	4,587	7,712	7,872	14,114	689	9,115	1,231	3,777,534
August 2020	3,505,987	4,557	n/a	8,833	11,672	734	8,380	n/a	3,540,163
Change ²	46.4%	18.8%		14.4%	81.1%	82.7%	21.4%		46.0%

- 1. The following providers did not respond to the August 2020 survey: Harris County Transit, Conroe Connection
- 2. August 2020 ridership as percentage of August 2019 ridership



Monthly Ridership - Demand Response & ADA Paratransit Service

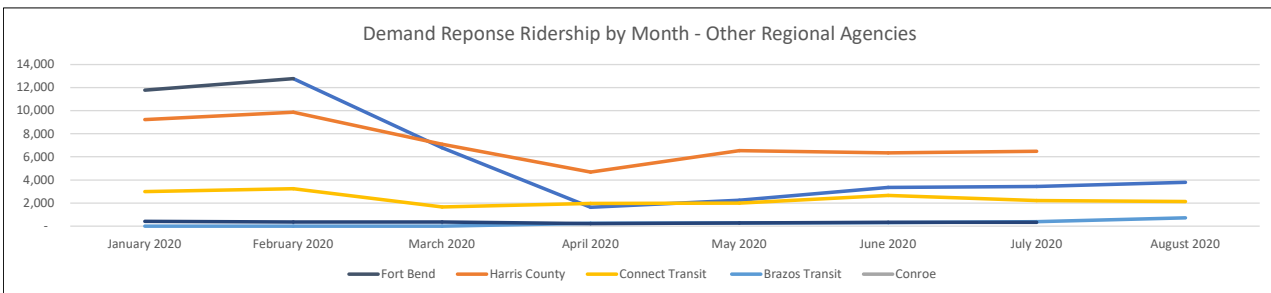
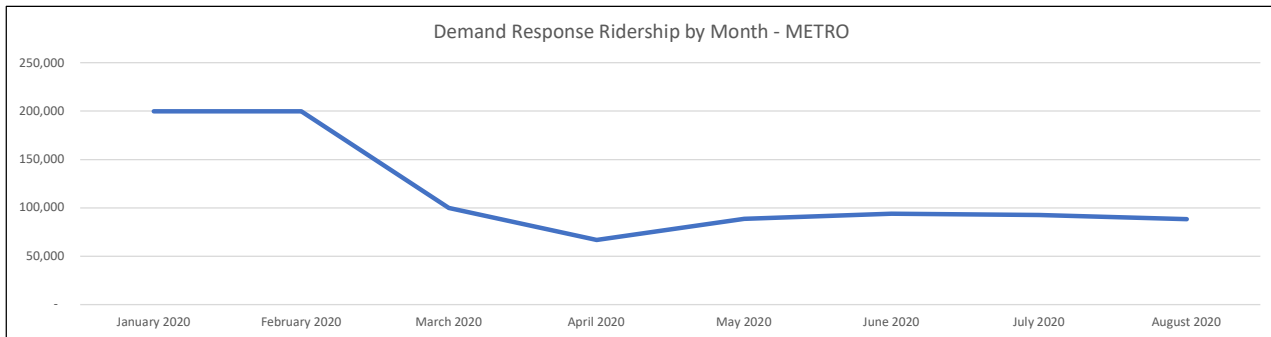
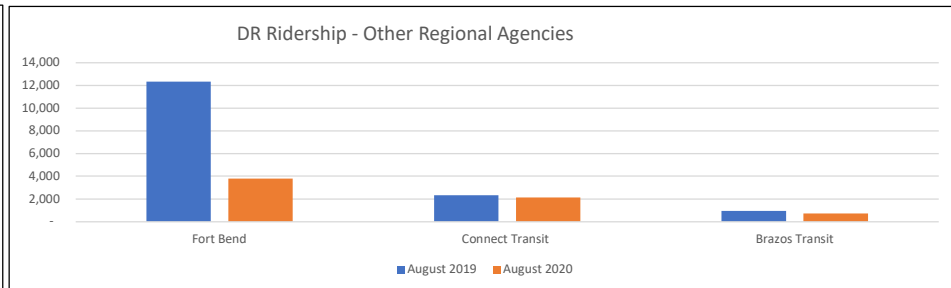
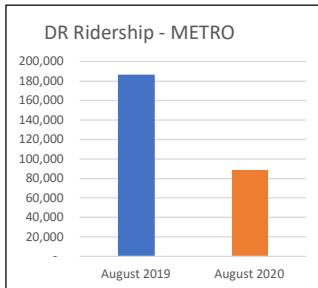
Agency ¹	METRO ²	Fort Bend	Harris County	The Woodlands ³	Connect Transit	Brazos Transit	Island Transit ³	Conroe	Regional Total
March 2019	200,000	11,248	8,284	n/a	3,007	n/a	n/a	360	222,899
April 2019	178,662	11,562	8,324	n/a	2,010	253	n/a	395	201,206
May 2019	179,395	11,535	8,190	n/a	2,454	224	n/a	519	202,317
June 2019	173,516	8,103	8,483	n/a	2,424	240	n/a	366	193,132
July 2019	181,328	11,829	9,811	n/a	2,271	480	n/a	392	206,111
August 2019	185,939	12,324	n/a	n/a	2,322	958	n/a	n/a	201,543
January 2020	200,000	11,765	9,226	n/a	2,998	n/a	n/a	430	224,419
February 2020	200,000	12,767	9,868	n/a	3,254	n/a	n/a	355	226,244
March 2020	100,000	6,795	7,085	n/a	1,675	n/a	n/a	357	115,912
April 2020	66,908	1,640	4,675	n/a	1,975	251	n/a	225	75,674
May 2020	88,650	2,250	6,530	n/a	2,001	267	n/a	270	99,968
June 2020	93,783	3,346	6,352	n/a	2,648	310	n/a	324	106,763
July 2020	92,519	3,438	6,476	n/a	2,214	378	n/a	337	105,362
August 2020	88,305	3,788	n/a	n/a	2,144	711	n/a	n/a	94,948
Change ⁴	47.5%	30.7%	n/a	n/a	92.3%	74.2%	n/a	n/a	47.1%

1. The following providers did not respond to the August 2020 survey: Harris County Transit, Conroe Connection, Colorado Valley Transit

2. March 2019 and January-March 2020 are staff estimates; all other months are from METRO monthly Board Reports

3. Service not provided (The Woodlands and Island Transit contract with other parties for ADA Paratransit service)

4. August 2020 ridership as percentage of August 2019 ridership



Changes in Service in Response to Coronavirus Pandemic

	METRO	Fort Bend	Harris County	The Woodlands	Connect Transit	Brazos Transit	Island Transit	Conroe
When the pandemic began (March 2020), did your agency curtail or limit service (for example, eliminating routes, reducing frequencies, or reducing service hours) in response to changing ridership patterns caused by the epidemic?	YES	YES	YES ¹	YES			YES	YES ¹
What determining factor(s) did your agency use in deciding to reduce or eliminate services? (Check all that apply)								
Actual or anticipated decline in ridership	YES	YES	YES	YES				YES
Request from authorities to reduce services to limit public movement/interaction				YES			YES	
Shortage of operator labor (e.g. due to more employees staying home to take care of family, etc.)	YES							
Shortage of available vehicles (e.g. due to increased cleaning and sanitizing requirements)								
Desire to limit operator interaction with public (to reduce potential of infection)	YES							YES
When the pandemic began (March 2020), did your agency implement or expand any specific services (for example, new routes to, or increased frequencies on services to, medical facilities) in response to changing ridership patterns caused by the epidemic?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES ²			YES
In August 2020, did your agency make any additional service modifications (for example, eliminating or adding back routes, adjusting frequencies, or adjusting service hours) in response to changing ridership patterns or other factors caused by the epidemic?³	YES							
If your agency made any service modifications during August 2020, what determining factor(s) did your agency use in deciding to make those adjustments? (Check all that apply)								
Actual or anticipated changes in ridership	YES							
Request from authorities to reduce services to limit public movement/interaction								
Overcrowding or inability to maintain social distancing on certain routes	YES							
Request from authorities or other stakeholders to increase services to medical or social service facilities								
Desire to limit operator interaction with public (to reduce potential of infection)								
Shortage of available vehicles (e.g. due to increased cleaning and sanitizing requirements)	YES							
Other								
During the month of August 2020, did your agency collaborate with any outside agency, non-profit or other business to provide additional service during the Coronavirus epidemic? If so, please describe the partnership and service.⁴				YES	YES			

1. Park and ride service only; local fixed and DR service continues as normal

2. Connect Transit did not add fixed-route service but did provide on-call vehicles to ensure proper social distancing would be adhered to without leaving riders at a stop to wait for the next scheduled bus.

3. Specific responses to this question:

METRO had a service change on Sunday, August 23, 2020

4. Specific responses to this question:

The Woodlands Township: collaborated with Houston-Galveston Area Council to develop a region-wide campaign geared towards improving transit operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Connect Transit: Partnered with Brazoria County Emergency services for possible hurricane evacuations. Provided more standby buses to ensure proper social distancing.

#SITSAFE

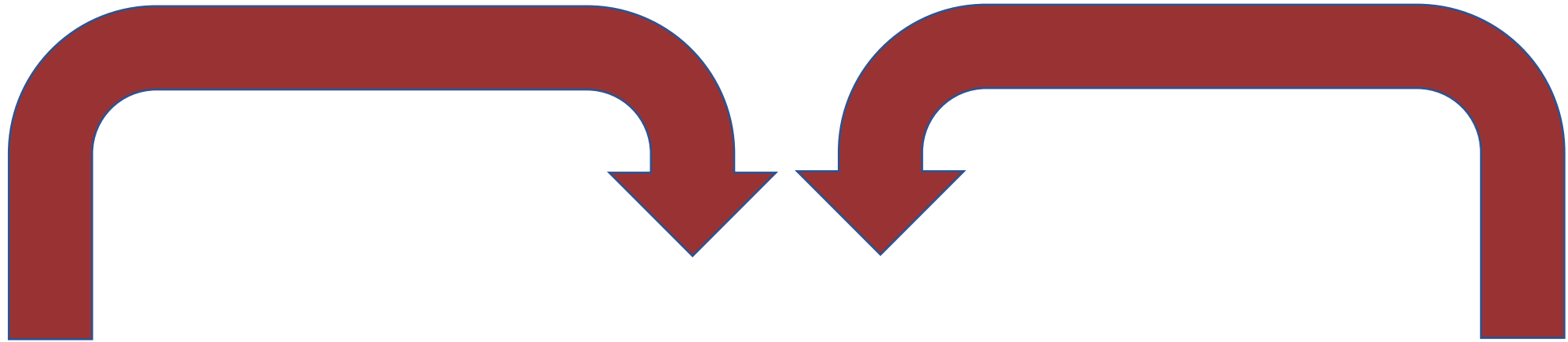
A Region-Wide Transit Initiative



BRAZOS TRANSIT DISTRICT



“Seeds” of Inspiration



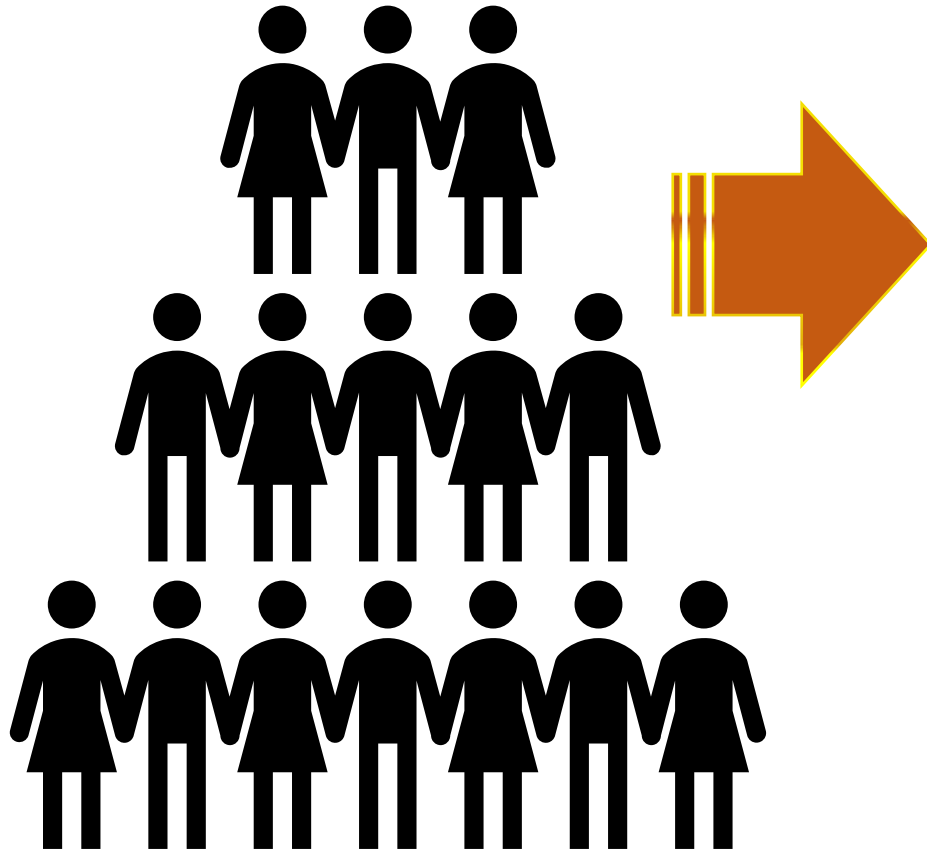
*Care
&*

Commerce

Commitment

Community

The COVID-19 pandemic created an unprecedented barrier between people and public transit.



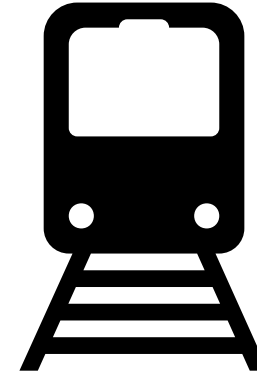
“Uncertainty”

“Fear”

COVID-19



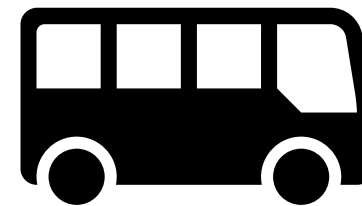
“Self-Preservation”



Light Rail



Demand Response



Fixed Route and Commuter Services

#SITSAFE – Strategize, Plan, & Execute

Promote Collaboration between transit agencies through coordination of resources.

Inform Passengers about agencies' approach to safety measures via educational resources.

Increase Passengers' Trust in public transportation agencies' ability to operate safely and effectively during challenging circumstances.



The Woodlands Township

#SitSafe

Regional Coverage



Brazos Transit District

#SitSafe



Colorado Valley Transit

#SitSafe



Conroe Connection

#SitSafe



Fort Bend County Transit

#SitSafe



Gulf Coast Transit District

#SitSafe



Harris County Transit

#SitSafe



Houston Metro

#SitSafe



Harris County Rides

#SitSafe

Prior to COVID, there were approximately 90 million passenger boardings by transit riders in our region

#SITSAFE - PUBLIC TRANSIT TOOLKIT



BRAZOS TRANSIT
DISTRICT



CONROE
COMMUTER
CONNECTION



HOUSTON AREA
TRANSIT

Rides

HARRIS COUNTY
TRANSIT

METRO



Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) Air Filters



“Skip A Seat” Signage for Social Distancing



Contactless Ticket Validation Equipment



Social Awareness (Videos, Handouts, Online Educational Resources)



Disinfectant Equipment and Chemicals



#SITSAFE Webinars and Events



Face Coverings



EMPATHY and a DESIRE TO MAKE THINGS BETTER

#SITSAFE – Special Thanks to:

John Powers

Nick Wolda

Adriana McGee

Perry Frank

Ruthanne Haut

Mary Connell

Greg Rogers

James Birdwell

***Thank you, H-GAC
& all our Regional Partners!***

