

## 14B. SELECT COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AREA AND COMPOSITION

### **BACKGROUND**

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A core element of a successful cooperative planning process for a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is effective representation from the entire metropolitan region. MPOs are required to regularly evaluate their Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) and consider changes that ensure the MPA includes the contiguous urbanized area expected to become urbanized within a 20-year period. This process occurs in conjunction with the Decennial Census, when the MPO also reviews and potentially adjusts the Urbanized Area.

Our region's Metropolitan Planning Area has not changed since the MPO was established in 1974; during that time, the region's population has grown from 2.5 million to 7.2 million and the Census-defined urbanized area has grown by more than 250 percent. Any expansion of the Metropolitan Planning Area would also necessitate a change in the MPO's composition.

The Transportation Policy Council's Bylaws allow for the establishment of ad hoc committees, as needed. Multiple issues relating to the MPO's planning area boundary, membership, and composition have recently arisen:

- The Woodlands Township recently requested to be added to the TPC's membership. This type of request is not addressed in the TPC's Bylaws and has previously been considered by an ad hoc TPC committee.
- The outcome of the City of Houston's Proposition B ballot measure may lead to review of the TPC's voting structure, representation, and membership.
- Any changes to the planning area, membership, or representation would require amendments to the TPC Bylaws and potential redesignation of the MPO.

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

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A Select Committee on Planning Area and Composition was appointed was approved at the October 2023 TPC meeting.

The Select Committee met on November 17, 2023 and December 14, 2023 regarding the above issues. Future meetings will be announced.

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

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For Discussion and Possible Action [No Action Requested]