

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 19, 2023  
PUBLIC COMMENTS

**PUBLIC COMMENT MADE BY: NEAL EHARDT**

Dear H-GAC staff,

H-GAC should plan for many dense towns across our region, connected by rapid transit. I applaud the goal of reducing vehicle-miles traveled! Thank you for pursuing complete streets, transit-oriented development, scenario planning, and public outreach.

H-GAC should plan for urban infill, not suburban sprawl. The low-density development at the edges of our region causes significant flooding, while benefiting relatively few people. It's good that H-GAC has forecast most of the population growth in places that are already populated, but more sprawl at the edges will be extremely harmful.

Instead of spending 27% of RTP funds on "Road Widening/Freight", H-GAC should strive to spend 0% on widening roads. The legacy of road widening in our region has created an epidemic of traffic violence while driving up cost-of-living, harming small business, and disconnecting communities. H-GAC should not build roads with more than 4 total lanes because wide roads cause deadly crashes and restrict local access. Wide roads are incompatible with H-GAC's goals for Vision Zero and economic development. H-GAC should redirect those funds to projects that prioritize walking, biking, and mass transit. Houstonians deserve safety and prosperity.

Autonomous vehicles are exciting, but they need oversight. H-GAC should issue licenses to autonomous vehicle vendors, in exchange for vehicle operation data. Vendors should give H-GAC quarterly updates on miles traveled and number of operator interventions. When a crash occurs, the vehicle vendor should provide a recording of all sensor data to H-GAC. If a pattern of preventable crashes occurs or a vendor fails to report data, H-GAC should impose steep penalties, including revoking the vendor's license.

Thank you for a strong start in the RTP update process. Please continue to challenge the dominance of car travel by building infrastructure that's accessible to everyone.

Sincerely,  
Neal Ehardt  
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