

9. REQUEST CREATION OF SAFETY TASK FORCE

Background

Between 2017 and 2021, the Houston-Galveston region had 3,487 traffic fatalities, more than 17,000 serious injuries, and 3,337 fatalities or serious injuries for non-motorized users. 2021 had the highest numbers across each of these measures. Similar trends have occurred throughout Texas. The City of Houston, Harris County, the Texas Department of Transportation, and the Transportation Policy Council have established Vision Zero goals for their jurisdictions seeking to eliminate transportation fatalities in the future. Despite ongoing efforts to improve transportation safety, safety outcomes continue to worsen.

Current Situation

To start making an impact towards reducing transportation fatalities and injuries, and to achieve the aspirational goal of no fatalities on Regional Roadways by 2050 the region must consider taking new and comprehensive approaches to roadway safety. After discussion at the February TPC meeting, staff is recommending the creation of a Regional Transportation Safety Task Force to consider new strategies, policies, and programs. Some topics that may be considered are:

1. Safety performance measures,
2. Safety targets,
3. Potential for a dedicated roadway safety funding program, and
4. Future safety outreach, safety training, and assistance programs.

The creation of a Regional Transportation Safety Task Force would consider these items and others to achieve tangible safety outcomes, develop and meet performance measures, and help attain the region's aspirational Vision Zero goals. The Task Force would include members of the Transportation Policy Council, Transportation Advisory Committee, and the Transportation Safety Committee.

Action Requested

Authorization for the Transportation Policy Chair to establish a Regional Transportation Safety Task Force.