

8. UPDATE ON THE 2022-2023 TRAVEL SURVEYS

Background

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and Metropolitan Planning Authority of Harris County (METRO) plan to conduct and engage in travel surveys and data collections in 2022 and 2023. Travel surveys are conducted periodically to update demographic forecasting, regional travel, and air quality models. The Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration require Metropolitan Planning Organizations and regional transit agencies to update their travel demand and forecasting models and planning tools to current travel data collected through travel surveys and other data collection methods. The updated data and modeling tools assist in the development of the Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, travel forecasts and studies at sub-regional and corridor levels, and travel forecasts for the air quality analyses.

These following are various types surveys under planning and development phases:

- a. **Transit Origin-Destination On-board (O-D Survey):** H-GAC and METRO will jointly conduct the Fixed Routes Weekday Regional Transit On-board Origin/Destination Survey in the Spring of 2022. This survey provides information about the characteristics and travel patterns of the transit riders using light rail, fixed-route local bus, and commuter bus, and other motorized commuters of all the fixed routes transit providers in the H-GAC region. The surveys will include the service areas of METRO, Conroe Connect, The Woodlands Township, Brazos Transit District, Harris County Transit, Colorado Valley Transit, Fort Bend County Transit, Connect Transit, and Island Transit.
- b. **Commercial Airport Ground Access Survey:** In partnership with the City of Houston, H-GAC will conduct the ground access counts of the two commercial airports in the H-GAC region in the Summer of 2022. These airports include George Bush Intercontinental and William Hobby airports.
- c. **2022 Household Survey:** TxDOT in partnership with H-GAC is planning a Household travel survey that will provide data to update the Tour-Cast model and the background data for regional planning.
- d. **2022-2023 Traffic Counts:** TxDOT in partnership with H-GAC is planning to conduct traffic counts at various locations on the roadway network in the region.
- e. **Commercial Vehicle Survey:** H-GAC is planning to collect commercial vehicle data covering various industries and geographic distribution within the region. This information will be used for freight planning efforts and a commercial vehicle travel model to be developed by H-GAC.

- f. **Supplemental and Passive Data Purchase:** H-GAC is considering conducting these supplemental surveys during the next household travel survey to gain more detail on the travel related to these specific travel markets: university student survey, toll road user survey, ride-hailing/car-sharing user survey, connected and autonomous vehicle attitudes/stated preference survey, and active transportation surveys (bicycle and pedestrian).

Current Situation

The travel data surveys will be coordinated with the 2020 National Census and the development and validation of H-GAC's demographic forecasting and the regional Activity Based travel model. The Surface Transportation Block Grant, Transportation Planning Funds, and other State and local funds from partnering agencies will be utilized to develop and conduct the surveys. H-GAC or TxDOT will conduct procurement for the surveys to select consultants with extensive experience and expertise in data collection efforts. Various multi-agency Steering Committees will be setup to plan, execute and monitor these surveys.

Action Requested

Information only.