

5A. MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, October 16, 2024, 9:30 A.M. MEETING

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Veronica Chapa-Gorczyński, called the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

A list of Committee representatives and alternates attending the meeting is included with these minutes as Attachment 1. There were 34 members in attendance; 22 are required for a quorum.

The meeting agenda and materials are available on the TAC website at:

<http://www.h-gac.com/transportation-advisory-committee/meeting-agendas-and-minutes.aspx>.

In addition, the livestream recording is available at: <http://www.h-gac.com/transportation-advisory-committee/meeting-livestream-archive.aspx>.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no written public comments received.

No public comments were made from the floor.

ORIENTATION TO AGENDA AND MPO DIRECTOR REPORT

Assistant Director Allie Isbell made a brief announcement to the Committee in reference to the nominations process for the 2025 Transportation Policy Council (TPC) and Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) nominations, as well as the TAC Subcommittee Nominations. An email will be sent by Staff for upcoming nominations as a reminder to Members to coordinate with their respective representatives for nominations. Ms. Isbell also mentioned that Ms. Lucinda Martinez will be sending an email on Highway Safety Improvement Plan – for Call for Projects. To hear this report, please click on the link [here](#).

ITEM 5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Veronica Chapa-Gorczyński entertained a motion for Consent Agenda Item; 5A.) Meeting Minutes Summary for September 18, 2024, and 5B.) TAC Nominating Committee Recommendations.

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Jason Smith. A second motion for approval was made by Mr. Ken Fickes. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC [here](#).

ITEM 6. ADDITIONAL CARRYOVER SPEND DOWN PROJECTS

Ms. Callie Barnes presented on the Additional Carryover Spend Down Projects. H-GAC monitors the progress of all projects scheduled to let within the 4-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) timeframe by conducting quarterly meetings with project sponsors. The meetings are conducted for projects funded with: Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Funds (CMAQ) – Category 5; Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) – Category 7, and Transportation Alternative Set Aside (TASA) – Category 9. Discussions during quarterly meetings include project development status, critical path timelines, realistic let dates and upcoming amendments needed (for cost increase requests, let date changes, etc.). H-GAC identified several critical path items for project development taking longer than expected (some causing 1–2-year delays or more). From May 2022-May 2023, H-GAC worked with local government sponsors to identify realistic schedules and let dates for all projects in the TIP. At the May TAC/TPC, the following was presented: 46% (~\$170M) of projects (with Categories 5, 7 and 9) “shifted” from FY 2023 – 2024 and 41% (~\$180M) of projects (Categories 5, 7 and 9) shifted from 2023-2025. The realistic conversations and project shifts resulted in a clearer understanding of the region’s growing carryover balances, particularly in Categories 5 and 7.

Staff requested TAC recommendation for TPC approval to spend down Categories 5 and 7 carry over balances as follows:

- 1) Approve concurrence letter (Item 06-04) to move \$20M of CMAQ funds already transferred to FTA for METRO's West Belfort Park & Ride Facility (MPO ID 18017) to Missouri City Park and Ride project so to allow additional CMAQ funding to be programmed on the Missouri City Park and Ride project (MPO ID 18167);
- 2) Move project let dates as described in the paragraph above (Item 06-04);
- 3) Program \$218,392,356 of CMAQ (Category 5) funds with a total project cost of \$269,967,630 (Item 06-05); and
- 4) Program and \$363,261,695 in STBG (Category 7) funds with a total project cost of \$378,265,052 (Item-06-06).
- 5) A list of "E" phase projects for engineering and environmental only (Item 06-07) are still under consideration for funding in FY 2026 or FY 2027. TxDOT Houston District and H-GAC are coordinating in reference on how to handle these additional "E" phase projects under consideration. To hear this presentation and discussion, and comments made on this item, please click on the link below.

***A Greensheet was submitted for Item 6. Please refer to the Greensheet Packet to review content provided in an email on 10/15/24 for these added items:**

- Item 06-01-Background Paper for Additional Carryover Spend Down Projects
- Item 06-02-Status of Carryover Spend Down Projects Table – Regional Strategic Transportation Fund (RSTF) Interlocal Agreements (ILAs)
- Item 06-03- List of Let Date shifts for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Projects Per 2023-20240 Quarterly Meetings
- Item 06-04 – METRO Letter to Request Rescoping Previously Awarded Federal Transit Administration (FTZ) Funds to Missouri City Park and Ride Project
- Item 06-05- Recommended Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funded Projects for TIP and RTP Programming
- Item 06-06-Recommended Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program Funds for TIP and RTP Programming

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Bruce Mann. A second motion for approval was made by Ms. Shelley Sekula-Gibbs. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

A motion to oppose was made by Mr. Jason Smith.

After the vote, Ms. Sherry Weesner, wanted to clarify that Item 06-07, "Consider Future Funding of Project, "E" Phase Only, will remain on the list and that the Committee is being asked to approve Item 06-07, to be brought back at a later time for a vote with the completed list of recommendations. Ms. Barnes concurred and mentioned that item 06-07 will be revisited in about 6 months and voted on then.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

ITEM 7. 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS

In this item, two presentations were provided, 7A.) Carryover Spend Down Amendments, presented by Ms. Callie Barnes and 7B.) Additional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments, presented by Mr. Jim Dickinson.

ITEM 7A. CARRYOVER SPEND DOWN AMENDMENTS

The 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a four-year capital improvements program for transportation projects. Under federal rules, all federally assisted projects must be included in the TIP to be eligible for funding. In addition, federal rules require that regionally significant local projects must also be included in the TIP.

The 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a long-range plan that prioritizes spending on regional transportation projects including short and long-range strategies to ensure the transportation network is safe and efficient. Updated every four years, the RTP outlines a fiscally constrained transportation investment program that is based on the unique needs and characteristics of the MPO region.

Amendments to the TIP and RTP are brought to the Transportation Policy Council for consideration monthly and amended in accordance with the H-GAC Public Participation Plan.

Ms. Callie Barnes requested the following TAC recommendations for TPC approval: 1) To fund all projects listed in items 06-05 with CMAQ; 2) Fund all projects listed in items 06-06 with STBG; 3) Consider future funding of project in item 06-07 for “E” phase only; 4) Approve METRO’s FTA project scope change request; and 5) Shift let dates in Item 07A-02.

***Please refer to the Greensheet materials that were emailed on 10/15/24 for these added items.**

- Item 07A-01- Background Paper for TIP Amendments
- Item 07A-02- List of Let Date Shift for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Projects Per 2023-2024 Quarterly Meetings

Chair Chapa-Gorczyński opened the floor for questions on the amendments. To hear the entire discussion on this item, please click on the link below.

Ms. Sherry Weesner made a motion to approve the amendments. A second motion for approval was made by Ms. Perri D’Armond. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC [here](#).

ITEM 7B. ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS

Mr. Jim Dickinson presented a summary of the proposed revisions to the Transportation Improvement Program and the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan included below:

- Revise thirty-two (32) TXDOT Houston District projects to reconcile their funding in Categories 2, 3-Design Build, 4, 12-Texas Clear Lanes, and Statewide Right of Way with the 2025 Unified Transportation Program approved by the Texas Transportation Commission in August 2024. Added after September meeting:
 - IH 69 S Reconstruct & Widen (MPO ID 7428) +\$133M Cat-4
 - IH 10 W Reconstruct & Widen (MPO ID 10334) +\$111M Cat-2 & -\$111M Cat-4
 - IH 10 W Restripe & Widen (MPO ID 13864) +\$773K Cat-4

- Revise the funding of five (5) TXDOT Houston District projects in Categories 2, 3, 4, and Statewide Right-of-Way due to design changes and a new primacy agreement between Brazoria County and TXDOT. Also, clarify the limit of SH 99 Segment B construction (MPO ID 257) due to the design change. Added after September meeting:
 - Program two (2) City of Galveston/Island Transit FTA Section 5339 vehicle purchase projects in FY 2025 & FY 2026 (MPO IDs 19180 & 19181) + \$360K

Mr. Dickinson also provided a table that showed funding categories involved in the Unified Transportation Program (UTP) adjustments and a map of the roadway projects for UTP and SH 99 that illustrated distribution of the TxDOT projects throughout the region.

After the presentation, Chari Chapa-Gorczyński opened the floor for questions. Ms. Sherry Weesner recommended that Staff provide a presentation on rules and guidelines for amendments at the next upcoming TAC Meeting. Staff will accommodate the request to present the rules and guidelines (Public Participation Plan) in an upcoming TAC meeting.

Mr. Jason Smith made a motion to approve the amendments. A second motion for approval was made by Ms. Catherine McCreight. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC [here](#).

ITEM 8. CYCLE 7 FY2025-2028 LIVABLE CENTERS PROGRAM STUDIES

Ms. Sarai Osorio presented on the Cycle 7 FY2025-2028 Livable Centers Program Studies. The Livable Centers Program, administered by H-GAC since 2008, encourages a complementary mix of land uses that are designed to be walkable, connected, and accessible by multiple modes of transportation, including bus, bike, or walking. Livable Centers are defined as places where people can live, work, and play with less reliance on their cars. H-GAC and our local partners work with communities to identify a vision for the study area and make specific recommendations, such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Similarly, proposed policies and programs aim to promote economic development while cultivating a sense of identity within study areas.

H-GAC issued a competitive call for study partners in February 2024. Staff received 19 notices of intent to apply and a final 17 application submissions from 15 entities. Staff convened a five-person evaluation committee comprised of H-GAC staff, Texas Department of Transportation staff, and past study partners to evaluate and rank applications based on H-GAC criteria. Based on the committee's evaluations, thirteen studies are recommended to receive \$3,170,000 in Transportation Planning Funds for studies. Ten are recommended to be funded as Livable Centers studies and three as Focused Livable Center studies. To hear further details on this presentation, please click on the link below.

Mr. Jason Smith made a motion to approve. A second motion for approval was made by Mr. Joe Garcia. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

ITEM 9. PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Mr. Vishu Lingala provided an update on the Project Selection Process At the March 2020 Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting, the Council approved goals, priorities, and policies for selection and prioritization of projects to be programmed in Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), 10-Year Plan, and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). These goals, priorities and policies guide the H-GAC staff, Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), and the TIP Subcommittee in development of project selection criteria and evaluation

methodologies for project planning and programming. At the January 2023 meeting, TPC authorized the MPO staff to initiate the Project Selection Process.

Staff completed the review of benefit cost analysis (BCA) submitted by the sponsors and are currently in the process of validating the benefit cost ratios. After the benefit cost ratios are validated by the sponsors, staff will assign BCA scores to the projects and publish the total scores and ranking of the projects in the following five investment categories.

- Major Projects
- High Growth Area Needs
- Operational Improvements and Congestion Management
- Resiliency and State of Good Repair
- Transit

Draft ranked lists projects were published at <https://www.h-gac.com/transportation-project-selection-process>.

This item was for information only.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

ITEM 10. 2025 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Allie Isbell gave an update on the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program. The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a required document describing all anticipated planning activities for the Metropolitan Planning Organization; It includes a description of tasks and budgets for the Federal Fiscal Year (October 1 to September 30). The UPWP describes the regional transportation plans and programs carried out in the eight-county Metropolitan Planning Area:

- Development of all required planning products or activities (primarily the Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Congestion Management Process, etc.);
- Continuous and one-time planning activities related to safety, freight, transit, subregional areas, corridors, active transportation, air quality, data and modeling, and livable centers; and Special planning activities (e.g. Safe Streets and Roads for All and PROTECT resiliency planning).

Ms. Isbell provided a high-level overview of ongoing key activities for the FY2025 UPWP Mobility/Thoroughfare Plans and Studies, Active Transportation, and Transit with the anticipated completion dates. Ms. Isbell further described that the studies were being mapped out by Staff, according to the recommendations from 2012 to 2024 and that Staff created a database with the list of recommendations, with GIS information for all studies. Next Steps were provided to the Committee which included the following: Incorporate TAC and TPC involvement into plan finalization; Publish recommendations database map; and develop guidance for accepting new study requests. To hear further details on this presentation, please click on the link below.

Additional information about project timelines can be found at the Engage website at [Engage HGAC](#).

The complete and updated Draft 2025 UPWP is available for review online (<https://www.h-gac.com/unified-planning-work-program>).

This item was for information only.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

ITEM 11. MPO STRATEGIC HIGHWAY NETWORK ADDITIONS CONCURRENCE

Ms. Allie Isbell gave an update on the MPO Strategic Highway Network Additions Concurrence. The Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) is a network of highways which are important to the United States' strategic defense policy, and which provide defense access, continuity, and emergency capabilities for defense purposes.

To ensure that defense important roadways were being considered as part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) strategic plan, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 provided for the inclusion of STRAHNET and STRAHNET Connectors into the National Highway System (NHS). Federal oversight will help ensure optimum maintenance levels for the NHS, thus assuring that the roads can support a military deployment. Source: FHWA website and the STRAHNET Atlas.

TxDOT and the Department of Defense (DoD) have been coordinating the addition of 17 existing roadway locations to the Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) as part of the DoDs efforts to improve connectivity between Fort Bliss and Fort Cavazos and their designated seaports of embarkation in Port Beaumont and Port Arthur. An updated list was provided of existing facilities that were being proposed as part of these STRAHNET additions along with the updated location maps. TxDOT is in the process of recreating these location maps using the Texas Projects and Programming Division (TPP) map template to standardize the map details and roadway locations. To hear this update, please click on the link below.

A comment was made from the floor to acknowledge that the 105 corridor was removed by the DoD and SH 99 was still valid on the list.

This item was for information only.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

ITEM 12. GLYDWAYS AUTOMATED VEHICLES TRANSIT SYSTEM IN HOUSTON

This item was tabled and will be brought back to the Committee at a future meeting.

PLANNING ACTIVITIES

A. Future Amendments

Mr. Jim Dickinson provided an update on Future Amendments. To hear the details on this update, please click on the link below.

For Information Only. No action needed.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

B. Commute Solutions Emergency Ride Home Pilot Update

Ms. Jamila Owens provided an update on Commute Solutions Emergency Ride Home Pilot. To hear the details on this update, please click on the link below.

For Information Only. No action needed.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were shown on the slide for the upcoming meetings:

| | | | |
|--|-------------|------------|--------------|
| Pedestrian Bicyclist Subcommittee Meeting | October 17 | 9:30 a.m. | Virtual |
| Greater Houston Freight Committee (GHFC) Meeting | October 17 | 1:30 p.m. | Virtual |
| Transportation Policy Council (TPC) Meeting | October 25 | 9:30 a.m. | H-GAC Office |
| Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee (RAQPAC) Meeting | October 31 | 10:00 a.m. | Virtual |
| Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting | November 6 | 9:30 a.m. | H-GAC Office |
| Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee Meeting | November 6 | 1:30 p.m. | Virtual |
| Area Emission Reduction Credit Organization (AERCO) Meeting | November 6 | 2:00 p.m. | Virtual |
| Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) Subcommittee Meeting | November 7 | 2:00 p.m. | Virtual |
| Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Subcommittee Meeting | November 13 | 1:30 p.m. | Virtual |

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Veronica Chapa-Gorczyński adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 11:36 a.m.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

First Vice Chair
Transportation Advisory Committee

ATTACHMENT 1

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING ATTENDANCE (Roll Call)
October 16, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.**

NOTES:

1. Attendance is marked with “X” in the corresponding column for the Member and/or Alternate.
2. Where both the Member and Alternate are present, the Alternate is marked with an asterisk (*) after the “X” to indicate that this person does not count toward quorum or votes for this meeting.

| <u>Member</u> | <u>Present</u> | <u>Representing</u> | <u>Alternate</u> | <u>Present</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Chair</i> | | | | |
| Veronica Chapa Gorczynski | <u>X</u> | Business Interests | David Kim | _____ |
| 1 st Vice Chair | | | | |
| Morad Kabiri, P.E. | <u>X</u> | Smaller Cities | Jildardo Arias | _____ |
| 2nd Vice Chair | | | | |
| Perri D’Armond | <u>X</u> | Transit | Shawn Davis | _____ |
| Dan Johnson, P.E., CFM | _____ | Smaller Cities | Andy Rodgers | <u>X</u> |
| Hon. Joe Garcia | <u>X</u> | Smaller Cities | Brian Winningham | _____ |
| Ken Fickes | <u>X</u> | Transit | Vernon Chambers | _____ |
| Ruthanne Haut | <u>X</u> | Transit | Todd Stephens | _____ |
| Shelley Sekula-Gibbs, M.D. | <u>X</u> | Environmental | Sue Theiss | _____ |
| Katherine Parker | <u>X</u> | Environmental | Carl Woodward, P.E., CFM | _____ |
| Marlene Gafrick | <u>X</u> | Planning | Brandon Mosley | _____ |
| David Wurdlow | <u>X</u> | Planning | Katherine Summerlin | _____ |
| Catherine McCreight | <u>X</u> | Planning | Brenda Bustillos, PhD | _____ |
| Marlisa Briggs | <u>X</u> | Business Interests | Amy Skicki | _____ |
| Nikki Knight | _____ | Citizens Interests | Dexter Handy | _____ |
| Sherry Weesner, P.E., CPM | <u>X</u> | Citizens Interests | Irma Sanchez | _____ |
| Bruce Mann | <u>X</u> | Port of Houston | Rohit Saxena | _____ |
| (Vacant) | _____ | Ports | Dean Corgey | _____ |
| Brian Alcott | <u>X</u> | Toll Road | Amar Mohite | _____ |
| Robert Castaneda | _____ | Toll Road | David Gornet | _____ |
| Stephen Gage | <u>X</u> | Active Transportation | Patricia Kievlan | _____ |
| Aubin Phillips | <u>X</u> | Active Transportation | Joe Cutrufo | _____ |
| James Brown | _____ | Airport | Marcel Allen | _____ |
| Hon. Joe Compian | _____ | Regional Planning | (Vacant) | _____ |
| Clint Harbert | _____ | METRO | Alan Clark | <u>X</u> |
| Nancy Peron, P.E. | _____ | TxDOT-Beaumont District | Carolina Lopez-Herrera | <u>X</u> |

| <u>Member</u> | <u>Present</u> | <u>Representing</u> | <u>Alternate</u> | <u>Present</u> |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Varuna Singh, P.E. | | TxDOT-Houston District | Jeffrey English, AICP | X |
| Wael Tabara, P.E. | X | Brazoria County | Karen McKinnon, P.E. | |
| Natalie G. Lopez | | Chambers County | Cory Taylor, P.E. | |
| Stacy Slawinski, P.E. | X | Fort Bend County | Rick J. Staigle, P.E. | |
| Michael Shannon, P.E. | X | Galveston County | Nancy Baher, P.E. | |
| Patrick Mandapaka, Ph.D, AICP | X | Harris County | Susan Fraser, P.E. | |
| Comm. Greg Arthur | | Liberty County | Hon. Jay Knight | |
| Jason Smith | X | Montgomery County | Jean Mann | |
| Ross McCall | | Waller County | Luke Fortkamp | |
| Brant Gary | X | City of Baytown | Martin Scribner | |
| Greg Hall, Jr. | X | City of Conroe | Chuck Purvis | |
| Robert Winiecke, P.E., CFM | | City of Galveston | Brandon Cook | X |
| Fabio Capillo | X | City of Houston | (Vacant) | |
| Christopher Sims | X | City of League City | Cara Davis | |
| Marcus Snell | | City of Missouri City | Joi Johnson | X |
| Sarah Benavides | | City of Pasadena | Mark Gardemal | |
| Lorenzo Wingate | | City of Pearland | Rajendra Shrestha, P.E., CFM | X |
| Melanie Beaman | X | City of Sugar Land | Sagnik “Nik” Raha, P.E. | |
| Kim Golden, P.E. | | City of Texas City | Jack Haralson, P.E. | |
| | 44 | Total Voting Membership | | |
| | 34 | Total Voting Membership Present | | |
| | 22 | Required for Quorum | | |