

5A. MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, May 8, 2024, 9:30 A.M. MEETING

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Veronica Chapa-Gorczyński, called the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

A list of Committee representatives and alternates attending the meeting is included with these minutes as Attachment 1. There were 36 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**

To listen to written public comments, please click [here](#). There were no public comments from the floor.

**ORIENTATION TO AGENDA AND MPO DIRECTOR REPORT**

Mr. Craig Raborn gave a brief presentation on the Orientation to Agenda and MPO Director Report. Staff also presented on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Project Development Process – Sponsor Workshop, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Administrative Amendments Quarterly Update, and Project Selection Process Update. For further details, please click on the link [here](#).

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Veronica Chapa-Gorczyński opened the floor to the Committee for any comments or questions for Consent Agenda Items; 5A.) Meeting Minutes Summary for April 17, 2024, and 5B.) Approval of 2024 TAC Nominating Committee Recommendations (Vacancies). No comments on the Consent Agenda Items were given, and the Chair entertained a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda Items.

A motion to approve was made by Ms. Sherry Weesner. A second motion for approval was made by Mr. Bruce Mann. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

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

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**HOUSTON AREA RAIL TRANSFORMATION (HART) GRANT WORKSHOP**

Ms. Katherine Parker presented on the HART Grant Workshop. Ms. Parker gave a brief background on rail transportation and the purpose of HART. The Houston Area Rail Transformation (THE HART) is the Greater Houston region's collaborative and programmatic approach to leverage private and public funding opportunities for railroad projects in the region. The basis for this approach stems from the 2021 Houston-Beaumont Region Freight Study issued by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), which provided the initial working lists of projects for consideration.

Gulf Coast Rail District (GCRD)/HART advisory committee began discussions in September of 2022 and formed the committee on January 17th via GCRD board action. Ms. Parker provided a timeline of events to show details of when discussions started and where HART is currently in the process. A flyer was also provided by Ms. Parker to inform the Committee of an upcoming workshop on June 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. The location of the event

changed from H-GAC to Houston TranStar, Room 120A 6922 Katy Road, Houston TX 77024. To hear more details on this discussion, please click on the link below.

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

### **PROMOTING RESILIENT OPERATIONS FOR TRANSFORMATION, EFFICIENT, AND COST-SAVING TRANSPORTATION (PROTECT) GRANT UPDATE**

Ms. Caroline Bailey presented on the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) discretionary grant program, funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act (BIL), funds projects that improve the resiliency of the surface transportation system, including highways, public transportation, ports, and intercity passenger rail. The funds received by this grant would be used to create a Regional Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan, expanding on the Resiliency and Durability to Extreme Weather Pilot Program completed in 2021. H-GAC was awarded \$1.1 million in federal grant funding through the PROTECT discretionary grant program on April 11, 2024.

H-GAC Staff submitted a Planning Grant application for a Regional Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan through the PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program submitted on August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Staff completed work on the Resilience and Durability Pilot project as part of the FHWA program to develop transportation-specific resiliency best practices and strategies. The draft report has been finalized and accepted by FHWA. Staff has completed an update of the Foresight Panel on Environmental Effects report with outcomes from the Pilot project. For more information visit: [Resiliency Planning | Houston-Galveston Area Council \(H-GAC\)](#).

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

### **TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

Mr. Adam Beckom gave an update on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Process.

The 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.

H-GAC's TIP is included, along with all other MPO TIPs and rural TIPs developed by TxDOT, in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP, reviewed and approved by Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, forms the basis for federal project actions including environmental approvals, permits and fund obligations. A new STIP is compiled every two years resulting in at least two years of projects carried over from the previous STIP each cycle.

H-GAC staff held two public meetings on April 3, 2024, for projects in the draft 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program. Additionally, the public comment period for the draft 2025-2028 TIP began on March 25, 2024. Over the last two weeks, H-GAC staff received request to extend the public comment period to allow the public additional time to weigh in on the projects set for implementation in the 2025-2028 timeframe. As such, H-GAC staff extended the public comment period an additional 30 days, which would close the comment period on May 24, 2024.

Through the TIP development process, the Texas Department of Transportation Houston District has requested over \$1 billion in Metropolitan Corridor (Cat. 2) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Funds (Cat. 5) funds to be added to projects.

Mr. Beckom provided a table in the TAC 5/8/24 Meeting Packet to show the funding request by category and fiscal year. The draft 2025-2028 TIP project listing can be viewed at the link here: <https://www.h-gac.com/transportation-improvement-program/2025-2028>.

Chair Chapa-Gorczyński opened the floor for comments. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Morad Kabiri inquired if it would be fair to roll over 2015 projects that were not completed, into the new TIP. Mr. Beckom informed the Committee that a milestone policy has not been implemented by Staff to re-evaluate such projects, however Staff is upholding the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) commitment to keep the project moving forward, unless the Project Sponsor requests that the project needs to be removed. Mr. Beckom further mentioned that Staff worked with Project Sponsors to ensure those older projects were going into the correct fiscal year but will look at proposing a milestone policy.

Mr. Kabiri further mentioned that it may be reasonable to have Project Sponsors re-evaluate older projects that have not progressed in two to three years, Sponsors should re-compete when the project is ready.

Ms. Sherry Weesner, concurred that a milestone policy should be considered and while some projects have delays, project that are not being worked on should re-compete. Ms. Weesner further commented that when changing TIP from year to year, making amendments to the TIP, this could be an indicator or time frame for Project Sponsors to look at project readiness to ensure it aligns with the proposed amendments.

Mr. Joe Garcia, inquired about how the milestone policy can be addressed and be clarified. Mr. Craig Raborn informed the Committee that the policy will need to be addressed to the Transportation Policy Council and the topic may be considered as an item on the agenda for review and discussion.

Mr. Garcia recommended that the discussion of a milestone policy be brought back to TAC Members and a recommendation be made to the TPC for approval.

Mr. Bruce Mann further commented on an automatic trigger approach that if after two call for projects cycles have occurred, and no progress has been made on a project, this could serve as an automatic trigger to review those projects.

To hear further discussion on this item, please click on the link below.

This item was for discussion only.

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

## **PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

### **A. Federal Functional Classification System (FFCS) Update**

Ms. Callie Barnes provided an update on the FFCS. 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. Future TIP and RTP Amendments**

Mr. Jim Dickinson provided an update on the 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](#).

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Subcommittee Meeting	May 8	1:30 p.m.	Virtual
Area Emissions Reduction Credit Organization (AERCO) Meeting	May 8	2:00 p.m.	H-GAC Office
Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Project Development Process: Sponsor Workshop	May 15	9:00 a.m.	Hybrid
Transportation Policy Council (TPC) Meeting	May 17	9:30 a.m.	H-GAC Office
Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee (RAQPAC) Subcommittee Meeting	May 30	10:00 a.m.	Virtual
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee Meeting	June 5	1:30 p.m.	Virtual
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting	June 12	9:30 a.m.	H-GAC Office

#### ADJOURNMENT

Chair Veronica Chapa-Gorczyński adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 10:58 a.m.

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

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First Vice Chair  
Transportation Advisory Committee

ATTACHMENT 1

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING ATTENDANCE (ROLL CALL)  
May 8, 2024, at 9:30 A.M.**

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	<u>  X*  </u>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chair				
Morad Kabiri, P.E.	<u>  X  </u>	Smaller Cities	Jildardo Arias	<u>          </u>
2nd Vice Chair				
Perri D’Armond	<u>  X  </u>	Transit	Shawn Davis	<u>          </u>
Dan Johnson, P.E., CFM	<u>          </u>	Smaller Cities	(Vacant)	<u>          </u>
Joe Garcia	<u>  X  </u>	Smaller Cities	Janet Corte	<u>          </u>
Ken Fickes	<u>  X  </u>	Transit	Vernon Chambers	<u>          </u>
Ruthanne Haut	<u>          </u>	Transit	Todd Stephens	<u>  X  </u>
Shelly Sekula-Gibbs, M.D.	<u>          </u>	Environmental	Sue Theiss	<u>          </u>
Katherine Parker	<u>  X  </u>	Environmental	Carl Woodward, P.E., CFM	<u>          </u>
Monique Johnson, AICP	<u>          </u>	Planning	Jennifer Ostlind, AICP	<u>  X  </u>
David Wurdlow	<u>  X  </u>	Planning	Katherine Summerlin	<u>  X*  </u>
Catherine McCreight	<u>  X  </u>	Planning	Brenda Bustillos, PhD	<u>          </u>
Marlisa Briggs	<u>  X  </u>	Business Interests	Amy Skicki	<u>  X*  </u>
Nikki Knight	<u>          </u>	Citizens Interests	Dexter Handy	<u>  X  </u>
Sherry Weesner, P.E., CPM	<u>  X  </u>	Citizens Interests	Irma Sanchez	<u>          </u>
Bruce Mann	<u>  X  </u>	Port of Houston	Rohit Saxena	<u>          </u>
(Vacant)	<u>          </u>	Ports	Dean Corgoy	<u>          </u>
Brian Alcott	<u>  X  </u>	Toll Road	Amar Mohite	<u>          </u>
Robert Castaneda	<u>          </u>	Toll Road	(Vacant)	<u>          </u>
Stephen Gage	<u>  X  </u>	Active Transportation	Patricia Kievlan	<u>          </u>
Aubin Phillips	<u>  X  </u>	Active Transportation	Joe Cutrufo	<u>  X*  </u>
James Brown	<u>          </u>	Airport	Marcel Allen	<u>          </u>
Joe Compian	<u>  X  </u>	Regional Planning	(Vacant)	<u>          </u>
Clint Harbert	<u>          </u>	METRO	Alan Clark	<u>  X  </u>
Nancy Peron, P.E.	<u>  X  </u>	TxDOT-Beaumont District	Carolina Lopez-Herrera, P.E.	<u>          </u>

<b><u>Member</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>	<b><u>Alternate</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>
Varuna Singh, P.E.	<u>X</u>	TxDOT-Houston District	Jeffrey English, AICP	<u>X*</u>
Wael Tabara, P.E.	<u>X</u>	Brazoria County	Karen McKinnon, P.E.	<u>          </u>
Natalie G. Lopez	<u>X</u>	Chambers County	Cory Taylor, P.E.	<u>          </u>
Stacy Slawinski, P.E.	<u>X</u>	Fort Bend County	Rick J. Staigle, P.E.	<u>          </u>
Michael Shannon, P.E.	<u>X</u>	Galveston County	Nancy Baher, P.E.	<u>          </u>
Patrick Mandapaka, Ph.D, AICP	<u>X</u>	Harris County	Susan Fraser, P.E.	<u>          </u>
David Douglas	<u>X</u>	Liberty County	Hon. Jay Knight	<u>          </u>
Jean Mann	<u>X</u>	Montgomery County	John McKinney, Jr., Esq.	<u>          </u>
Ross McCall	<u>          </u>	Waller County	Luke Fortkamp	<u>          </u>
Brant Gary	<u>X</u>	City of Baytown	Martin Scribner	<u>          </u>
(Vacant)	<u>          </u>	City of Conroe	Chris Bogert, P.E.	<u>          </u>
Robert Winiecke, P.E., CFM	<u>X</u>	City of Galveston	Brandon Cook	<u>          </u>
Fabio Capillo	<u>          </u>	City of Houston	Khang Nguyen, P.E.	<u>X</u>
Christopher Sims	<u>X</u>	City of League City	Cara Davis	<u>          </u>
Marcus Snell	<u>X</u>	City of Missouri City	Joi Johnson	<u>          </u>
Sarah Benavides	<u>          </u>	City of Pasadena	Mark Gardemal	<u>          </u>
Lorenzo Wingate	<u>X</u>	City of Pearland	Rajendra Shrestha, P.E., CFM	<u>X</u>
Melanie Beaman	<u>X</u>	City of Sugar Land	Sagnik “Nik” Raha, P.E.	<u>          </u>
Kim Golden, P.E.	<u>X</u>	City of Texas City	Jack Haralson, P.E.	<u>          </u>
	<u>44</u>	<b>Total Voting Membership</b>		
	<u>36</u>	<b>Total Voting Membership Present</b>		
	<u>22</u>	<b>Required for Quorum</b>		