

07. CYCLE 7 FY2025-2028 LIVABLE CENTERS STUDIES PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

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.

The Livable Centers program is one of the implementation strategies to reduce reliance on single vehicle occupancy in H-GAC's 2045 Regional Transportation Plan. Forty-four Livable Centers studies have been completed in our region, with two active studies. The Livable Centers Program features Livable Centers and Focused Livable Centers. Livable Centers Studies (LC) serve as small area plans and fulfill all four Livable Centers Program goals which include creating multi-modal travel choices, resilient quality places, and equitable infrastructure investments while promoting economic generators and housing choice with complementary transportation planning. Focused Livable Centers Studies (FLC) serve as targeted, community-node studies that must meet two Livable Centers Program goals to create multi-modal travel choices, resilient quality places, and one additional Livable Centers goal that best fits the needs of the study sponsor.

CURRENT SITUATION

In February 2024, H-GAC issued a competitive call for study partners. H-GAC 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 evaluation and Transportation Advisory Committee's approval of recommendation, 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.

<i>Recommended Sponsor</i>	<i>Study Cost</i>	<i>Local Contribution to the Regional Strategic Transportation Fund</i>
<i>St. George Place Redevelopment Authority</i>	\$250,000	\$25,000
<i>City of Magnolia</i>	\$250,000	\$50,000
<i>City of La Marque*</i>	\$230,000	\$23,000
<i>Downtown Houston</i>	\$300,000	\$60,000
<i>Harris County, Precinct 4</i>	\$260,000	\$52,000
<i>Harris County, Precinct 2 – South Belt</i>	\$250,000	\$50,000
<i>Kemah Community Development Corporation*</i>	\$200,000	\$40,000
<i>Harris County, Precinct 2 – Webster</i>	\$250,000	\$50,000
<i>City of Humble</i>	\$250,000	\$25,000
<i>Fort Bend County, Precinct 4*</i>	\$230,000	\$23,000
<i>Missouri City</i>	\$250,000	\$50,000
<i>City of La Porte</i>	\$200,000	\$40,000
<i>Fort Bend County, Precinct 2</i>	\$250,000	\$50,000
	\$3,170,000	\$538,000

*Focused Livable Centers targets small areas, such as a community node or destination, or focus on three specific livable center goals.

ACTION REQUESTED

Transportation Policy Council recommendation for approval by Board of Directors.