

6A. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA

DATE: Friday, October 25, 2024  
TIME: 9:37 a.m.  
PLACE: 3555 Timmons Lane, Conference Room B, Houston, Texas 77027

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The presiding officer, Chair Justin Beckendorff called the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting of October 25, 2024 at 9:37 a.m. to order.

CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM, INTRODUCTIONS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chairman Justin Beckendorff recognized Ms. Allie Isbell, H-GAC, for the Certification of the Quorum and she conducted the Roll Call of the TPC membership. Fifteen (15) members comprise a quorum. A quorum was declared present and recorded on the Roll Call, which is included with these Minutes as Attachment 1. Chairman Justin Beckendorff asked members of the Council to Declare Conflicts of Interest on any item on the agenda. No TPC member declared a conflict of interest. The presentation, comments, questions and discussion are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Allie Isbell, H-GAC, provided instructions on how to provide public comment on the Zoom link posted on the H-GAC livestream. Ms. Isbell proceeded to let the public know that Spanish translation services were available and introduced Ms. Lourdes Araiza who provided instructions on how to make public comments in Spanish. American Sign Language Interpretation services were posted on a slide in Zoom and provided by Robert Helms and Sherri Swan. No written comments were received by 5:00 p.m. October 24, 2024. One comment was made in person. The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under Item 4 are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 5. MPO DIRECTOR REPORT AND ORIENTATION OF AGENDA, MS. JAMILA OWENS, H-GAC

A. 2025 Nominations Process

Ms. Jamila Owens, H-GAC, informed the Council that H-GAC Staff will request nominations from the TPC. The Chair of the TPC shall appoint the TPC Nominations Committee in November. Currently, the TPC Bylaws indicate 3 members, who make up this committee and are appointed by the TPC Chair. TPC Bylaws Committee may convene to update this guideline. The TPC Nominating Committee will review and offer recommendations for TPC approval. Ms. Owens described an online submittal process for TAC Nominations and described the positions requested.

B. Planning Activities Report

Ms. Jamila Owens, H-GAC, gave a brief recap of highlights on the planning activities report and summarized various activities to the Council. Comments and questions occurred after this presentation. Chair Beckendorff commended the MPO Staff on their work to improve the STIP approval process. The Council proceeded to give the MPO staff a robust round of applause.

C. H-GAC Board Update

Ms. Jamila Owens, H-GAC, briefed the Council on the Transportation related items on the H-GAC Board Agenda at its meeting on October 15, 2024. All were approved.

D. Project Selection Update

Mr. Vishu Lingala, H-GAC, provided an update on Project Selection and gave the Council a brief update on the Project Selection Process. Mr. Lingala informed the Council on the five investment categories; staff completed validating all evaluation scores, validated all Benefits-cost ratios and assigned Benefit-Cost Analysis scores. The first draft total scores and ranking posted online at <https://www.h-gac.com/transportation-project-selection-process>. Mr. Lingala described the benefit-cost scoring process, a draft Summary of BCA Scores Method 3, the draft total score, and next steps. Comments were provided after the presentation by members of the Council.

E. RTP Project Development Update

Ms. Susan Jaworski, H-GAC, informed the Council that H-GAC staff has been working diligently on the 2045 RTP Project amendment. The applications date closed on Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. 99 projects were submitted. Approximately \$11.6B and 12 projects sponsors. Staff is working on meeting the expected timeline. A new fiscally constrained RTP project list is expected for preview in December. Ms. Jaworski concluded her presentation by describing next steps and tentative timeline. Comments were provided by the TPC members after the presentation.

The presentation comments, questions answers and discussion in Item 5 are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

## ITEM 6. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Justin Beckendorff called for a motion to approve the September 27, 2024 meeting summary. A motion was made by Mayor Joe Zimmerman and seconded by Mayor Kevin Cole. The Council voted and approved the September 27, 2024 meeting summary. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

## ITEM 7. CYCLE 7 LIVABLE CENTERS PROGRAM STUDIES, SARAI OSORIO, H-GAC

Ms. Sarai Osorio, H-GAC, gave a presentation on the Cycle 7 FY 2025-2028 Livable Centers Program Study to the Council. In February of 2024, H-GAC staff issued a competitive call for a study sponsor spanning 5 months and staff received 19 notices of intent to apply, 17 application submissions from 15 different separate entities across 6 counties of the 8 counties in the transportation management area. Ms. Osorio proceeded to give details on project evaluation and Criteria, committee evaluation. Ms. Osorio requested approval from the TPC on this study. A motion was made by Mayor Joe Zimmerman and seconded by Mayor Kevin Cole. The Council voted and approved the Cycle 7 FY 2025-2028 Livable Centers Program Study. The presentation comments, questions answers and discussion in Item 7 are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

## ITEM 8. ADDITIONAL CARRYOVER SPEND DOWN APPROACH, CALLIE BARNES, H-GAC

Ms. Callie Barnes, H-GAC, gave a presentation to the Council on the additional carry over spend down approach. Ms. Barnes described a timeline of Carryover spend down events, informed the Council that staff had four meetings with TxDOT-Houston and TxDOT Beaumont in a short time frame to discuss this process, staff also met with TxDOT TPP on September 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss this timeline and discovered that projects need to be programmed by November 2024 and described the carryover balance. Ms. Barnes continued her

presentation by describing a timeline for grouped roadway carryover spend down, described the third round of carryover spend down with specifics, and summarized the spend down approach and highlighted several projects. A brief comment period occurred among the TPC members after the presentation. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed

#### ITEM 9. METRO SCOPE CHANGE CONCURRENCE, CALLIE BARNES, H-GAC

Ms. Callie Barnes, H-GAC, provided a presentation to the TPC on a request for approval on a METRO scope change concurrence. Ms. Barnes informed the Council that several years ago a transfer of \$20M to the FTA occurred for the West Belfort Park & Ride and she informed the TPC that pre-covid, ridership at W. Belfort Park and Ride warranted a new facility. The ridership demand reduced after the Covid pandemic. METRO is requesting the \$20M for West Belfort be transferred to the City of Missouri City Park and Ride. Ridership demand warranted a new facility and is CMAQ eligible and presented some specifics on the project. Ms. Barnes requested approval of the METRO scope change concurrence. A robust period of question and discussion occurred after the presentation. Chair Beckendorff asked Alan Clark, METRO to answer some questions regarding this request. A discussion occurred questions and explanations were given by Mr. Clark. A motion was made by Mr. Shashi Kumar and seconded by Commissioner Tommy Cones. A discussion period occurred after the motion and second. The Council voted and approved the METRO scope change concurrence. Mr. Varuna Singh, TxDOT-Houston and Mr. Martin Gonzalez-TxDOT Beaumont abstained from the vote. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

#### ITEM 10. 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS, JIM DICKINSON , H-GAC AND CALLIE BARNES, H-GAC

##### A. Recommended Carryover Spend Down Projects

Ms. Callie Barnes, H-GAC gave a presentation on the recommended Carryover Spend Down Projects and described three resolutions in the October TPC Meeting packet. Ms. Barnes requested approval of TPC Resolutions No. 2024-37, TPC Resolution No. 2024-38 and TPC Resolution No.39. Ms. Barnes let the Council know staff was asked to pause on the CMAQ projects. Chair Beckendorff asked the request letter from TxDOT be included in the minutes. A discussion occurred among the Council. Chair Beckendorff asked for a motion on ITEM-10A-02 TPC Resolution No. 2024-37. A motion was made by Mayor Joe Zimmerman and seconded. A discussion period occurred after the motion. Mayor Joe Zimmerman made a point of order and requested a motion vote on 10A-02. Chair Beckendorff clarified the motion. A discussion period occurred after this point of order.

- Chair Beckendorff asked the TPC for a vote on ITEM 10A-02 -TPC Resolution No. 2024-37. The Council voted and approved ITEM 10A-02- TPC Resolution No. 2024-37.
- Chair Beckendorff asked the Council to make a motion for ITEM 10A-05 to approve the STBG and not the CMAQ. A motion was made by Mayor Zimmerman and seconded by Judge Mark Keough. The Council voted and approved ITEM-10A-05-TPC Resolution No. 2024-38.

- Chair Beckendorff requested a motion for from to approve ITEM 10A-08 TPC Resolution No. 2024-39. A discussion period occurred after this request for motion. A motion was made by Judge Mark Keough and second by Mayor Kevin Cole to approve the Carryover Spend down projects and allow the TDC credits and allow the funds to be used on the Carryover Spend Down projects and exempt CMAQ. The Council voted and approved ITEM 10A-08-TPC Resolutions No. 2024-39. A discussion period occurred after the approval.

B. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Mr. Jim Dickinson, H-GAC provided a proposed revisions Transportation Improvement Program and the 2045 Regional Transportation is 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.
- 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.
- Program two (2) City of Galveston Island Transit Federal Transit Administration Section 5339, Bus and Bus Facility funded support vehicle replacements in FY 2025 and FY 2026. (MPO IDs 19180 and 19181).

Mr. Dickinson requested approval of TPC Resolution No. 2024-35. A motion was made by Mayor Joe Zimmerman and seconded by Mayor Kevin Cole. The Council voted and approved TPC Resolution No. 2024-35

The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 11. PROPOSED STRATEGIC HIGHWAY NETWORK (STRAHNET) DESIGNATION LOCATIONS, ALLIE ISBELL, H-GAC

Ms. Allie Isbell, H-GAC, provided a presentation on the Proposed Strategic Highway Network Designation locations. The STRAHNET is a 62,792- mile system of roads deemed necessary for emergency mobilization and peacetime movement of heavy armor, fuel, ammunition, repair parts, food, and other commodities to support U.S. military operations. 14 routes were added in Texas, 1 within the H-GAC region. Ms. Isbell requested TPC concurrence to enable submission to the Federal Highway Administration. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 12. UPDATE ON MPO DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT, CHUCK WEMPLE, H-GAC

Mr. Chuck Wemple, H-GAC, provided an update on the MPO Director position recruitment. As Mr. Wemple promised in the past, Mr. Wemple, gave an update on the MPO director recruitment. Mr. Wemple has met with Transportation staff to receive feedback in what they are looking for in a Director in order for them to be successful. The meetings should be wrapped up next week. The position has been posted and Human Resources has received 51 applications. Mr. Wemple is encouraged by the finalists of the recruiting procurement and encouraged by the caliber of firms. Mr. Wemple looked forward to meeting with the TPC Executive Committee before the November TPC meeting with an orientation and feedback regarding skills that are necessary for the Director position. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed

ITEM 13. 2025 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM UPDATE, ALLIE ISBELL, H-GAC

Ms. Allie Isbell, H-GAC, made a presentation on the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program. The Federal Fiscal Year October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. The UPWP describes all anticipated activities for the MPO, the activity including consulting use, funding amount and source, and status, and ongoing studies and plans for active transportation, safety, mobility, transit, thoroughfare and corridor focuses. Ms. Isbell highlighted several mobility studies, transit studies, a recommendations database that is being developed by staff to be used by local jurisdictions in the future, and next steps. A comment period occurred after the presentation. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 14. COMMUTE SOLUTIONS EMERGENCY RIDE HOME PILOT UPDATE, JAMILA OWEN, H-GAC

Ms. Jamila Owens, H-GAC, gave an update to the TPC on the Commute Solutions Emergency Ride Home Pilot Overview, the service area and the anticipated services areas, an update on the coordination partners, the anticipated cost and impact, and next steps. Ms. Owens introduced Mr. Emanuel Andrews, Senior Program Coordinator who would manage the Pilot. A comment period occurred after the presentation. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 15. FUTURE AMENDMENTS TO THE 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN, JIM DICKINSON, H-GAC

Mr. Jim Dickinson, H-GAC, gave the TPC a summary of the proposed revision to the Texas Department of Transportation Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is included below.

- Program 3.7M Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) in lieu of matching funds for the Uptown Management District's Transportation Alternative Set-Aside (TASA) funded West Loop Shared-Use Path construction project.

A summary of the proposed revision to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program is included below.

- Program an additional \$993K of federal Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, matched with local funds by the City of Bellaire, to cover the increased cost estimates that are due to inflation. The project scope will also be modified to use the most appropriate technology.

The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJORNMENT

Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory committee (RAQPAQ) , October 31, 10:00 a.m. – Virtual  
Area Emission Reduction Credit Organization (AERCO) November 6, 2:00 p.m. - Virtual  
Transportation Advisory Committee will occur on November 6, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.. – In person  
The Transportation Policy Council Meeting will occur on November 15, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.- In person

Chairman Justin Beckendorff adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

  
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Hon. Nancy Arnold, Secretary  
Transportation Policy Council

**Attachment 1**  
 MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)  
 FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON  
 TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA  
 October 25, 2024

ROLL

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Baytown, City of	_____ Honorable Brandon Capetillo Mayor _____ Jason Reynolds – Alternate	City of Baytown
Conroe, City of	_____ <u>X</u> Honorable Howard Wood Council Member _____ Norman McGuire – Alternate	City of Conroe
Galveston, City of	_____ <u>X</u> Honorable Marie Robb Council Member _____ Hon. David Finklea - Alternate	City of Galveston
Houston, City of	_____ <u>X</u> Honorable Sallie Alcorn Council Member _____ Honorable Abbie Kamin- Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	_____ Honorable Carolyn Evans-Shabazz Council Member _____ <u>X</u> Honorable Joaquin Martinez - Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	_____ <u>X</u> Randy Macchi Chief Operating Officer -Public Works _____ Steven David - Alternate	City of Houston
League City, City of	_____ <u>X</u> Honorable Tommy Cones Council Member _____ Honorable Andy Mann - Alternate	City of League City
Missouri City, City of	_____ <u>X</u> Shashi Kumar, P.E.. Director of Public Works _____ Marcus Snell – Alternate	City of Missouri City
Pasadena, City of	_____ Sarah Benavides, P.E. Sr. Assistant Public Works Director _____ Mark Gardemal – Alternate	City of Pasadena

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Pearland, City of	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Kevin Cole- <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair</b> Mayor <u>      </u> Trent Epperson-Alternate	City of Pearland
Sugar Land, City of	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Joe Zimmerman Mayor <u>      </u> Honorable Suzanne Whatley – Alternate	City of Sugar Land
Texas City, City of	<u>      </u> Honorable Dedrick Johnson Mayor <u>      </u> Jon Branson - Alternate	City of Texas City
Waller, City of	<u>      </u> Hon. Nancy Arnold Council Member, <b>Secretary</b> <u>      </u> Honorable Sally Branson-Alternate	Smaller Cities Harris County
Friendswood, City of		
The Woodlands Township	<u>      </u> Dr. Ann K. Snyder Chair, The Woodlands Township Board <u>  X  </u> Kyle Watson-Alternate	The Woodlands Township
Brazoria County	<u>      </u> Matt Hanks, JD, P.E. County Engineer <u>      </u> Honorable David Linder – Alternate	Brazoria County
Chambers County	<u>      </u> Honorable Ryan Dagley County Commissioner <u>      </u> Honorable Tommy Hammond. - Alternate	Chambers County
Fort Bend County	<u>      </u> Honorable Grady Prestage County Commissioner, <b>1st Vice Chair</b> <u>  X  </u> Stacy Slawinski, P.E. – Alternate	Fort Bend County
Galveston County	<u>      </u> Honorable Robin Armstrong County Commissioner <u>      </u> Honorable Joe Giusti– Alternate	Galveston County
Harris County	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Lesley Briones County Commissioner, Pct. 4 <u>      </u> Roberto Treviño, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Harris County	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Adrian Garcia County Commissioner, Pct. 2 <u>      </u> Milton Rahman, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Liberty County	<u>      </u> Honorable Bruce Karbowski County Commissioner, Pct. 1 <u>      </u> Honorable Jay Knight - Alternate	Liberty County



<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Montgomery County	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Mark Keough County Judge <u>      </u> Commissioner, Matt Gray – Alternate	Montgomery County
Waller County	<u>  X  </u> Honorable Justin Beckendorff County Commissioner – <b>Chair</b> <u>      </u> Commissioner, Kendric Jones- Alternate	Waller County
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	<u>      </u> Elizabeth Gonzalez Brock METRO Chair <u>  X  </u> Thomas Jasien-Alternate	METRO
TxDOT-Houston	<u>      </u> Vacant District Engineer <u>  X  </u> Varuna Singh, P.E.– Alternate	TxDOT Houston District
TxDOT-Beaumont	<u>  X  </u> Martin Gonzalez, P.E. District Engineer <u>      </u> Ana I. Mijares, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Beaumont District
Port Interests	<u>  X  </u> Phyllis Saathoff Executive Director, Port Freeport <u>      </u> Vacant-Alternate	Port Interests
Gulf Coast Rail District	<u>  X  </u> Dr. Carol Lewis Chair, GCRD <u>      </u> Jeff Ross - Alternate	Gulf Coast Rail District
	<u>  28  </u> Total Voting Membership	
	<u>  19  </u> Voting Membership Present	
	<u>  15  </u> Required Quorum	

AGENCY

EX-OFFICIOS

REPRESENTING

Texas State Senate  
Texas State Legislator  
Texas State Legislator  
Wharton County  
Freight Rail Interests

\_\_\_\_\_ Hon. Carol Alvarado  
\_\_\_\_\_ Hon. Dennis Paul  
\_\_\_\_\_ Hon. Ed Thompson  
\_\_\_\_\_ Hon. Phillip Spenrath  
\_\_\_\_\_ Clint Schelbitzki

8-County Region  
8-County Region  
8-County Region  
Wharton County  
Freight Rail Interests

NON-VOTING

FHWA  
H-GAC  
TxDOT-Houston

\_\_\_\_\_ Jose Campos  
  X   Chuck Wemple  
  X   Catherine McCreight

FHWA  
H-GAC  
TxDOT-Houston



**Mission Statement**

*“Provide safe, clean, reliable, accessible and friendly public transportation services to our region.”*

**Board of Directors**

Elizabeth Gonzalez Brock  
*Chair*

Bob Fry  
*First Vice-Chair*

Holly Maria Flynn Vilaseca  
*Second Vice-Chair*

Chad McMillian  
*Secretary*

Judge Kathy Khahn Han

Alexandra del Moral Mealer

Terry Morales

Rev. T. Leon Preston

Roberto Trevino, P.E.

**Interim President & CEO**

Thomas Jasien

September 13, 2024

Craig Raborn  
Director of Transportation Services  
Houston-Galveston Area Council  
3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120  
Houston, TX 77227-2777

**RE: Request for Concurrence with Rescoping Grant Funds for TX-2021-125 West Belfort Park and Ride Construction (MPO ID 18017)**

Dear Mr. Raborn:

METRO requests concurrence of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to rescope approximately \$20M in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant funds received for the expansion of the West Belfort Park & Ride to a new park and ride garage located in Missouri City near the intersection of the Fort Bend Parkway and State Highway 6.

Due to post COVID changes in ridership, the West Belfort Park and Ride does not warrant expanded parking capacity. While METRO still plans to reconstruct the West Belfort Park and Ride, METRO believes that rescoping the CMAQ funds received for West Belfort to the new 1,750 space Missouri City Park and Ride garage reflects current transit needs and the Transportation Policy Council’s (TPC) original intent for the use of these funds.

The Missouri City Park and Ride garage will be an integral part of a mixed-use residential and retail development serving residents of the rapidly growing areas of eastern Fort Bend and northern Brazoria Counties. This facility will offer frequent, convenient transit service to the Texas Medical Center, Rice University and, through convenient connections to the METRO Red Line, jobs and educational opportunities across the METRO Service area. I have attached a separate file showing the estimated on-road emissions reductions expected from this new transit service.

Letter to Mr. Craig Raborn

I am requesting your concurrence with METRO's desire to rescope these previously awarded funds in support of the Missouri City Park and Ride. This action requires no commitment of new or additional funds from the MPO. Should you concur, I will also seek the same from the Texas Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration. And the Federal Transit Administration under whose purview these funds have been awarded.

I believe a reply by email or other means of your choice will be sufficient.

Sincerely,

*Alan Clark*

Alan Clark  
Chief Strategy Officer

cc: Thomas Jasien, METRO  
Vishu Lingala, H-GAC  
Ronisha Hodge, FTA  
Catherine McCreight, TxDOT  
Jose Campos, FHWA  
Alberto Lyne, METRO  
Bryan Carroll, METRO  
George Fotinos, METRO  
Philip Brenner, METRO  
Jimmie Young, METRO  
Clint Harbert, METRO