

5D. QUARTERLY TIP STATUS REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) directs the planning activities that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) partakes in over a 2-year period. As such, H-GAC conducts quarterly tracking and reporting of the development status on projects using information from available databases and sponsor data requests. H-GAC also provides planning assistance to local governments in the development of candidate and selected Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects with the objective of accelerating project delivery and reducing unanticipated changes in project scope and cost.

The TPC's Project Selection Process approval in January 2023 included a commitment for the MPO staff to review projects submitted to H-GAC by sponsors (as part of the larger TPC selection process for competitive consideration of federal funding) to assess whether projects could let within a two-year period. This process (to identify carry over spend down projects) screened projects for readiness and then assessed how well "ready" projects aligned with the TPC's priorities and goals expressed through the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). As a result of the carry over spend down project identification effort, H-GAC programmed 60 projects represented by 25 sponsors with \$335,225,653 of federal funds. These projects are on schedule to let prior to August 2025.

CURRENT SITUATION

In the 1st quarter of FY 2024 (September – December 2023) H-GAC met with 25 local government sponsors regarding 120 projects (not including Federal Transit Administration formula-funded projects or carry over spend down projects) with \$1B* of federal funds, \$33M of state funds, \$3.5B of local funds, totaling \$4.6B. H-GAC also coordinated with Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Houston District regarding 46 additional TxDOT-sponsored projects with \$2.8B of federal funds, \$2.2B of state funds, \$3.9M of local funds, totaling \$5B. Of the 166 projects, 41 projects required amendments (due to changes in let dates, additional funding request, sponsor change, etc.) that were reviewed and approved by TAC and TPC in the 1st quarter of FY 2024. An additional 19 projects were added to the TIP, some with local or state funds and others with Federal Railway Set-Aside (SAFE) funds.

Of the 120 local government sponsored projects, 14 (with \$122M of CMAQ, \$11M of STBG and \$7M of TASA funds) moved from FY 2023. Of the 14 projects, 10 were awaiting Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) exceptions to be approved by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and when the fiscal year ended in August 2023, the projects were moved to FY 2024. H-GAC will continue to coordinate with FHWA to "lift" the STIP exceptions for the 10 projects. Two projects moved from FY 2024 (with \$694K of CMAQ and \$590K of TASA funds). One project moved from FY 2025 (with \$78M of STBG funds). Two projects moved from FY 2026 (with \$23M of Urban Area [Non-TMA] Corridor and \$35M of STBG Funds).

Regarding the carry over spend down projects programmed in the TIP December 15, 2023, the projects are moving through various "next step tasks" and the projects are on schedule to let prior to August 2025. H-GAC held a Workshop for the sponsors of the carry over spend down projects on February 7, 2024 where TxDOT presented the Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) process; Federal Transit

* Costs from this point forward are estimated

Administration (FTA) presented the FTA “Transfer” process as well as the process to become an FTA Recipient; and H-GAC presented the Regional Strategic Transportation Fund (RSTF) program. H-GAC developed a “Next Steps” tracking spreadsheet for each of the 60 projects with due dates for each task and emailed the sponsors the spreadsheet on February 21, 2024. H-GAC is in the process of scheduling quarterly meetings with those sponsors of carry over spend down projects (if quarterly meetings are not already conducted/scheduled with those sponsors). H-GAC will continue to monitor the carry over spend down projects closely and assist project sponsors with “schedule risk items” and any other needs that might arise.

ACTION REQUESTED

For information and discussion only.