

5A. MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, September 18, 2024, 9:30 A.M. MEETING

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Vice Chair Morad Kabiri, 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 30 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.

To listen to public comments made from the floor, please click [here](#).

**ORIENTATION TO AGENDA AND MPO DIRECTOR REPORT**

Assistant Director Allie Isbell made a brief announcement to the Committee that members should have received a memorandum in reference to leadership transition. Ms. Isbell stated that in the interim she and Ms. Jamila Owens, also Assistant Director, will serve as the point of contact for the MPO, TAC, and TPC Members. Ms. Isbell briefly described what items were being presented on the agenda, as well as the greensheet items that was distributed via email to the Committee. For further details, please click on the link [here](#).

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Kabiri entertained a motion for Consent Agenda Items; 5A.) Meeting Minutes Summary for August 14, 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 Ms. Shelley Sekula-Gibbs. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

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

**ITEM 6. SAFETY MINUTE FROM THE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Robert Benz provided an update on Safety Minute from the Transportation Safety Committee. The Transportation Safety Committee (TSC) is one of three Committees within the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The purpose of the TSC is to advise the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) on the development of its safety programs, as well as promote traffic safety coordination with other planning activities. Chairman Robert Benz and the TSC requested to give periodic activity reports to TAC and TPC. The purpose of these reports are to promote safety initiatives, request safety tasks and directives, review work of the TSC, and fill roster membership.

This item was for information only.

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

**ITEM 7. AMENDMENTS TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATEWIDE SAFETY PROGRAM, AND 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP)**

Mr. Jim Dickinson presented the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) 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.

A summary of the proposed revisions to the Texas Department of Transportation Statewide Safety Program were included below for the Committee's review.

- Add \$1.8M of federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding to the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Regional Freeway Incident Management project (MPO ID 11917) to fund continuing towing operations. An additional 352K Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) will be programmed in lieu of matching funds.
- Add \$3.1M of federal STBG funding to the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Regional Freeway Incident Management project (MPO ID 17020) to fund continuing towing operations. An additional 616K TDCs will be programmed in lieu of matching funds.

A summary of the proposed revisions to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program were included below for the Committee's review.

- Program three (3) METRO FTA Urban Area Formula (Section 5307) funded State of Good Repair, ADA Support and Safety & Security projects in FY 2025 with FY 2023 apportionments using 19.7M TDCs in lieu of matching funds.
- Program one (1) METRO FTA State of Good Repair (Section 5337) funded Fixed Guideway project in FY 2025 with a FY 2023 apportionment using 4.1M TDCs.
- Program four (4) The Woodlands Township FTA Bus & Bus Facility (Section 5339) funded vehicle acquisitions in FY 2025 with FY 2019, 2020, 2024 & 2025 apportionments using 2.2M TDCs.
- Program fourteen (14) Gulf Coast Transit District Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Urban Area Formula (Section 5307) funded preventative maintenance and operations projects in FY 2025 with FY 2021-2024 apportionments with 324K Transportation Development Credits in lieu of matching funds.
- Program ten (10) Gulf Coast Transit District FTA Bus and Bus Facility Program (Section 5339) funded bus replacement and maintenance, and bus and facility camera purchases in FY 2025 with

FY 2021-2024 apportionments with 324K Transportation Development Credits in lieu of matching funds.

- Modify the FTA Section 5307 funding of six (6) The Woodlands Township capital, planning and operating projects in FY 2025 in anticipation of 1.2M TDC award.
- Modify the FTA Section 5339 funding and TDCs of The Woodlands Township bus acquisition and bus facilities project per the actual allocation.
- Modify the FTA Section 5307 funding and TDCs of two (2) Harris County Transit planning and operating projects in FY 2025 per the actual allocation.
- Advance METRO's Section 5339 funded bus replacement and fueling facility project from FY 2026 to FY 2025.

**\*A Greensheet was submitted for Item 7. Please refer to the Greensheet Packet that was emailed on 9/17/24 for these added items.**

- MPO ID 19171: Delete Local funding.
- MPO ID 18155: Add detail page inadvertently left out.
- MPO ID 19172: Delete detail page inadvertently included.
- MPO IDs 18370, 18634, 18638, 18864, 19158, 19159, 19160, 19161, 19162, 19163, 19165, 19166, 19168, 19169, 19170, 19171: Update Funding Category list to 'FTA 5339'.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Kabari opened the floor for questions on the amendments. To hear the entire discussion on this item, please click on the link below.

Mr. Jason Smith made a motion to approve the amendments. 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 8. CARRYOVER SPEND DOWN ADDITIONAL PROJECTS**

Ms. Callie Barnes presented on the Carryover Spend Down Additional Projects. On December 15, 2023, the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) programmed (in the Transportation Improvement Program [TIP]) 60 projects represented by 25 sponsors with \$335,225,653 of federal funds. These projects were programmed to help spend down the region's Carryover balances. One of the 60 projects (with a total project cost of \$500,000) was cancelled. All remaining Carryover spend down projects will let or be transferred to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) by the end of August 2025. Local government sponsors agreed to participate in the Regional Strategic Transportation Fund (RSTF) program for 39 of the 60 Carryover spend down projects. Draft Interlocal Agreements (ILAs) for the RSTF program were sent to local government sponsors for 21 of the 39 projects.

If all 39 projects are successful, the RSTF program will accrue approximately \$23M for which local government sponsors can compete in the future for certain projects.

Staff identified several additional projects that could let or be transferred to FTA by the end of August 2025 for TAC and TPC consideration to fund with the Carryover spend down effort. There are 8 projects represented by 8 sponsors requesting an additional \$65,100,000 of Carryover spend down funds. All 8 projects meet at least 2 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Visions and Goals (the same analysis and determination as conducted for the currently programmed Carryover spend down projects). Sponsors for seven projects would participate in the RSTF program, thus would need 11,100,000 Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) to satisfy the local match requirement. The eighth project would provide a 20% local match in lieu of participating in the TDC/RSTF program.

One project would require an Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) with TxDOT Houston District for the engineering/environmental (“E” phase) only. Five projects would be transferred to Federal Transit Administration (FTA). One project would be funded for construction (“C” phase) only. To hear this presentation, please click on the link below.

**\*A Greensheet was submitted for Item 8. Please refer to the Greensheet Packet to review content provided in an email on 9/17/24 for these added items.**

- Item 08-03 – Additional Carryover Spend Down Projects Table
  - Fort Bend County Public Transportation; TIP Description Updated.
  - Fort Bend County Public Transportation; 19074 to 19073, MPO ID updated.
  - METRO; TIP Description Updated.
- Item 08-04 – Draft Resolution 2024-31 for 2045 RTP and 2025-2028 TIP, Added.
- Item 08-05 – Table for Draft Resolution 2024-31, Added.
- Item 08-06 – Draft Resolution 2024-32 for Approving TDC’s & Related Amendments to 2045 RTP and 2025-2028, Added.
- Item 08-07 – Table for Draft Resolution 2024-32, Added.

A motion to approve was made by Ms. Sherry Weesner. 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 website [here](#).

#### **ITEM 9. REALIABILITY, CONGESTION, AND AIR QUALITY PERFORMANCE MEASURES UPDATE**

Ms. Karen Owen gave an update on Reliability, Congestion, and Air Quality Performance Measures. A performance-based transportation planning process is a federal requirement in the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Federal legislation created Transportation Performance Management to focus federal funds on addressing the challenges facing the National Highway System. Performance Management is a useful tool for tracking regional performance over time and can illustrate how we are meeting the regional goals for improved performance of the transportation system. The process for measuring performance consists of gathering data, formulating a quantitative forecast,

setting targets, monitoring conditions, and reporting target progress. The second federal performance period spans four years, from 2022 to 2025. H-GAC has responsibility for these federal measures in the areas of person and freight travel reliability, congestion, and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality tailpipe emission reductions. In 2022, the Transportation Policy Council approved the 2024 and 2026 targets for these measures.

H-GAC reached the midpoint of the four-year performance period; therefore, performance reporting was required by the federal deadline of October 1, 2024. To hear further details on this update, please click on the link below.

This item was for information only.

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

### **ITEM 10. TITLE VI PROGRAM**

Mr. Ayo Jibowu gave an overview on the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in any program or activity conducted by recipients of Federal financial assistance. Discrimination includes the denial of meaningful access for persons with limited English language communication skills. To continue to be eligible for federal transit or highway funds, H-GAC must update its Title VI Program every three years and show that the agency complies with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Title VI regulations. The last Title VI Program update was made in 2021. Mr. Jibowu presented a list of the topics that are covered in the Title VI Program, Demographic Map with Regional Population Distribution, and Public Participation (Virtual Public Meeting), held on 9/10/24.

The Title VI Program can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.h-gac.com/title-vi-program>. Staff was seeking recommendation of the Triennial Title VI Program update for Transportation Policy Council (TPC) Approval. To hear this presentation, please click on the link below.

A motion to approve was made by Ms. Perri D'Armond. 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 website [here](#).

### **ITEM 11. 2024 LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN UPDATE**

Mr. Ayo Jibowu gave an overview of the 2024 Language Access Plan Update. Over a million residents of the Houston-Galveston Metropolitan Planning Region are identified as limited in English proficiency (LEP). A person with limited English proficiency is one whose primary language is not English and who has trouble reading, writing, speaking, or understanding communication in English. The inability to communicate effectively in English is a significant deterrent to participation in the transportation planning process and can prevent access to valuable benefits and services and to understanding vital information meant for the public. Language assistance services ensure that individuals who do not communicate proficiently in English can have meaningful access to H-GAC's transportation programs and activities. The Language Access Plan assesses the need for language assistance services in H-GAC's metropolitan planning area and describes how these services will be provided. The last update to the Language Access Plan was made in 2017.

Mr. Jibowu briefly described the topics covered in the 2024 Language Access Plan and proposed two additional recommendations; 1) Oral Language Services (Interpretation) - Bilingual staff, professional language services, community volunteers, and Spanish, American Sign Language (ASL); and 2) Written Language Services - Translation of Vital Documents for Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese (Mandarin). Mr. Jibowu also discussed the results of the virtual public meeting that was held on August 15, 2024. Staff was seeking recommendation of the 2024 Language Access Plan update for Transportation Policy Council's (TPC) Approval. A draft of the updated 2024 Language Access Plan can be found on the H-GAC website at: <https://www.h-gac.com/go/lap>. To hear this presentation, please click on the link below.

\*A Greensheet was submitted for Item 11. Please refer to the Greensheet Packet to review content provided in an email on 9/17/24 for this added item.

- Resolution 2024–33 for the 2024 Language Access Plan, Added.

A motion to approve was made by Ms. Perri D’Armond. A second motion for approval was made by Mr. Stephen Gage. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

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

## **ITEM 12. HOUSTON TRANSTAR UPDATE**

Mr. Josh Shideler, with Houston TranStar Consortium gave an update on Transportation and Emergency Management. Managing southeast Texas’ transportation system and functioning as the primary coordination site for state, county, and local agencies when responding to disasters, the Houston TranStar Consortium provides coordinated, innovative transportation and emergency management services to the region. TranStar serves as the area’s Traffic Management Center (TMC), maximizing safety and mobility by building, operating, and advancing an innovative regional transportation network, and is home to Harris County, METRO, and TxDOT Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), working to save lives and protect property by coordinating large-scale emergency management planning, response, and recovery efforts. To hear this update from Houston TranStar, please click on the link below.

This item was for information only.

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

## **PLANNING ACTIVITIES**

### **A. Project Selection Process Update**

Mr. Vishu Lingala provided a brief update on the Project Selection Process. 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. RTP Project Development Process Update**

Mr. Stephen Keen gave an update on the RTP Project Development Process. 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](#).

### **C. 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](#).

\*A Greensheet was submitted for Item 13C. Please refer to the Greensheet Packet to review content provided in an email on 9/17/24 for these added items.

- MPO ID 282: Add delay to FY 2027.
- MPO ID 18027: Correct Total Project Cost.

D. Solicitation for Future Carryover Spend Down Projects

Ms. Callie Barnes gave the Committee an update on Solicitation for Future Carryover Spend Down Projects. To hear the details of 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 Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee (RAQPAC) Meeting	September 26	10:00 a.m.	Virtual
Transportation Policy Council (TPC) Meeting	September 27	9:30 a.m.	H-GAC Office
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee Meeting	October 2	1:30 p.m.	Virtual
Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Subcommittee Meeting	October 9	1:30 p.m.	Virtual
Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee Meeting	October 10	9:30 a.m.	Virtual
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting	October 16	9:30 a.m.	H-GAC Office
Pedestrian Bicyclist Subcommittee Meeting	October 17	9:30 a.m.	Virtual
Greater Houston Freight Committee (GHFC) Meeting	October 17	1:30 p.m.	Virtual

ADJOURNMENT

1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Morad Kabiri adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 11:41 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)  
September 18, 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	_____	Business Interests	David Kim	_____
1 <sup>st</sup> 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	<u>  X  </u>
Ruthanne Haut	<u>  X  </u>	Transit	Todd Stephens	_____
Shelley Sekula-Gibbs, M.D.	<u>  X  </u>	Environmental	Sue Theiss	<u>  X*  </u>
Katherine Parker	<u>  X  </u>	Environmental	Carl Woodward, P.E., CFM	_____
Marlene Gafrick	_____	Planning	(Vacant)	_____
David Wurdlow	<u>  X  </u>	Planning	Katherine Summerlin, AICP	<u>  X*  </u>
Catherine McCreight	<u>  X  </u>	Planning	Brenda Bustillos, PhD	_____
Marlisa Briggs	<u>  X  </u>	Business Interests	Amy Skicki	<u>  X*  </u>
Nikki Knight	_____	Citizens Interests	Dexter Handy	<u>  X  </u>
Sherry Weesner, P.E., CPM	<u>  X  </u>	Citizens Interests	Irma Sanchez	<u>  X*  </u>
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.	<u>  X  </u>	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	X	Chambers County	Cory Taylor, P.E.	
Stacy Slawinski, P.E.	X	Fort Bend County	Rick J. Staigle, P.E.	
Michael Shannon, P.E.		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	X*
Ross McCall		Waller County	Luke Fortkamp	
Brant Gary		City of Baytown	Martin Scribner	
Greg Hall, Jr.		City of Conroe	Chuck Purvis	
Robert Winiecke, P.E., CFM	X	City of Galveston	Brandon Cook	
Fabio Capillo	X	City of Houston	(Vacant)	
Christopher Sims		City of League City	Cara Davis	
Marcus Snell	X	City of Missouri City	Joi Johnson	
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	<b>Total Voting Membership</b>		
	<b>30</b>	<b>Total Voting Membership Present</b>		
	22	<b>Required for Quorum</b>		