

**7. REQUESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
PLAN AND THE AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION**

Background

At the March 2021 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting staff presented the proposed amendments to the 2045 RTP and draft air quality conformity determination. Proposed amendments and the draft conformity determination document can be viewed at <http://www.2045rtp.com/>

The public involvement process for the requested amendments was conducted in two phases. First public comment period was opened in December 2020 with virtual public meetings held on December 3, 2020. The second public comment period was open between March 26, 2021 and April 28, 2021. Out of a total 141 comments submitted in both public comment periods 34 were duplicates and 107 were individual comments.

All significant comments referring specific projects were submitted on the 8 corridors of projects listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Corridors that received significant public comments

Projects	# Comments
Highway 36 A	25
IH 10 W Managed lanes	17
NHHIP segment -3 Interchange reconstruction and widening	14
Hempstead Highway Managed lanes	10
IH 610 W Express lanes	6
SH 35 Freeway	6
IH 10 E Bridge replacement and widening	4
SH 99 Segments E & F2 Widening	2

One comment was submitted on SH 6 (2 MPOIDs) and no comments were submitted on IH 610 E bridge replacement at Ship Channel, reconstruction of IH 610 S (2 MPOIDs), and SH 288 (4 MPOIDs) upgrade to freeway facility and widening projects. A total of 31 comments were submitted that were categorized as general, other, planning process or air quality comments.

As part of the public comments, H-GAC received letters from various agencies and organizations including the City of Houston, Link Houston, City of Pearland, Air Alliance Houston, Highway 36A Coalition and Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County. Copies of the letters can be viewed on the [public comments page](#).

Along with the additions of regionally significant projects to the 2045 RTP amendment requests included minor changes on projects already listed in the 2045 RTP. At the May 2021 meeting

Transportation Policy Council passed Resolution 2021-17 to approve minor changes to the 2045 RTP projects list.

Current Situation

7A. Responses to and disposition of public comments

All the public comments on specific project were forwarded to the project sponsors to prepare responses. Please see the responses to the public comments at <https://www.h-gac.com/regional-transportation-plan/submitted-public-comments>.

Public comments also included requested amendments on various to regionally significant transit projects sponsored by METRO. These amendments are previewed in Item 10B Future Amendments to the 2021-2024 TIP and 2045 RTP. Most of these amendments can be categorized as RTP Amendment level 1.

Action Requested

Information only.

7B. Approval of Resolution 2021-20 for the requested amendments to 19 projects (MPOIDs listed in Attachment A)

Staff reviewed the requested amendments with following goals.

- Ensure that the requested amendment is consistent with and approving the amendment will not substantially alter the vision established in 2045 RTP.
- Approval of major new projects to the 2045 RTP is not automatic.

To achieve these goals all requested amendments were evaluated with following criteria:

- MPO Urgency: If there is any urgency to approve the amendment to keep the project implementation on schedule.
- Recent MPO Study or Plan: If the requested amendment was recommended in any recent local, subregional, or regional study or plan.
- Jurisdiction Support/Request: If the requested amendment has the support from local jurisdictions where the project is located or is crossing a jurisdictional boundary.
- Previous Reviews and Evaluations: If the requested amendment was reviewed and evaluated to program in 10-Year plan or TIP or to include it in the RTP.
 - If it was previously considered and included in the RTP or was not programmed in the TIP or 10-Year Plan, investigate why it was not included if the issues that were raised previously were resolved.
- RTP Consistency: If the requested amendment is consistent with the current RTP.

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- Environmental Justice or Environmental Impact Risks: If the requested amendment will have an adverse impact on Environment or Environmental Justice population groups.

After evaluating requested amendments with above criteria and reviewing the public comments responses staff recommends following actions:

- Approval of requested amendments on 19 MPOIDs presented in Table 2 below and Attachment A.

Table 2. List of requested amendments for TPC approval

Facility	MPOIDs	Description	Request	Staff Recommendation	Estimated Total Project Cost (in Millions)
SH288	18713; 18714; 18715; 18716	Widen Freeway; Widen Bridge	ADD	Approve	\$497.5
SH35	18728	Widening (Brazoria)	ADD	Approve	\$129
I-10E	18707	Bridge Replacement	ADD	Approve	\$492
I-610E	18710	Bridge Replacement	ADD	Approve	\$2,400
I-610S	18711, 18712	Reconstruct Freeway, incl TSM	ADD	Approve	\$532.7
SL 8	18727	Reconstruction and widening	ADD	Approve	\$10.5
SH 6	18721; 18722	Intersection Improvements and corridor study	ADD	Approve	\$9.8
SH99; Seg E	18724; 18725	Seg E; Widen	ADD	Approve	\$195
SH99; Seg F-2	18723; 18726	Seg F-2; Widen	ADD	Approve	\$125
Highway 36A S	18719	Construct 4-lane Divided Highway	ADD	Approve	\$1,000
Highway 36A N*	18720	Construct 4-lane Divided Highway	ADD	Approve Amendment with a note	\$1,400
I-45/I-10W**	16328	Reconstruct Interchange (move 2030 to 2024)	AMEND	Approve Amendment with a note	\$1,060
Total					\$7,851

Notes:

*Approve amendment with a condition that TxDOT will study all possible alternative routes for Highway 36A project within the boundaries shown in the Highway 36 A Study area map and select an alternative route that avoids adverse impacts to the land owned or controlled by Katy Prairie Conservancy consistent with the Transportation Policy Council Resolution 2014-01.

**TxDOT cannot proceed with construction-related contracting until current FHWA Title VI complaint review is complete and resolved.

Action Requested

Approval of Resolution 2021-20.

7C. Update on TAC recommendations on requested major amendments to the 2045 RTP

At its June 16, 2021 meeting the Transportation Advisory Committee considered the remaining requested amendments on the four facilities shown in Table 3 (below) and voted to table making any potential recommendations to TPC until next month. H-GAC staff will convene key stakeholders to continue discussions.

Table 2. Requested major amendments to the 2045 RTP

Facility	MPOIDs	Description	Request	Estimated Total Project Cost	Staff/TAC recommendation
SH35	18718; 309; 310; 18717	Construct New Freeway and Interchange	ADD	\$600M	TAC recommendation tabled until July
Hempstead Rd	18701; 18702; 18703; 18704; 18705; 18706	Reconstruct; add transit lane & 4 elevated managed lanes	ADD	\$1,250M	TAC recommendation tabled until July
Hempstead Rd	11372; 11373; 11547; 11565; 13829	Construct 4 managed lanes (Toll)	Remove***	(\$2,331M)	(see note ***)
IH 610W	18730	Construct 4 (elevated?) Express Lanes	ADD	\$558M	TAC recommendation tabled until July
IH 10W	18707; 18708	(Inner Katy); Reconstruct & add managed lanes	ADD	\$1,923.2 M	TAC recommendation tabled until July
Total				\$4,331M	

Notes:

***Existing Hempstead Road projects requested to be removed if request to add new projects is approved.

Action Requested

Information only.

ATTACHMENT A - REQUESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

New projects added to draft 2045 RTP amendment					Project information being amended in 2045 RTP									
MPOID	CSJ#	COUNTY	SPONSOR	FACILITY	FROM	TO	DESCRIPTION	LENGTH (mi)	MAIN LANES	FRONTAGE LANES	FISCAL YEAR	ANALYSIS YEAR	TOTAL PROJECT COST (M, YOY)	HGAC RECOMMENDATION
18713	0598-02-127	BRAZORIA	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	SH 288	SH 99 (CR 60)	FM 1462	UPGRADE ROADWAY TO FREEWAY FACILITY BY ADDING OVERPASSES AND UNDERPASSES	2.00	(4,4)	(0,0)	2032	2040	\$40.00	Approve requested Addition to 2045 RTP
18714	0598-04-061	BRAZORIA	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	SH 288	FM 1462	SH 35	WIDEN FROM 4 TO 6 LANES	13.40	(4,6)	(0,0)	2032	2040	\$270.00	Approve requested Addition to 2045 RTP
18715	0598-04-029	BRAZORIA	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	SH 288	SH 35	SH 332	WIDEN FROM 4 TO 6 LANES	8.10	(4,6)	(0,0)	2032	2040	\$175.00	Approve requested Addition to 2045 RTP
18716	0598-02-125	BRAZORIA	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	SH 288	AT CR 56		WIDEN CR 56 BRIDGE FROM 2 TO 4 LANES	0.50	(2,4)	(0,0)	2026	NRS	\$12.50	Approve requested Addition to 2045 RTP
18728	0178-02-081	BRAZORIA	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	SH 35	FM 518	S OF SH 6	WIDEN FROM 4 TO 6 LANE DIVIDED	10.80	(4,6)	(0,0)	2032	2040	\$129.00	Approve requested Addition to 2045 RTP
18707	0508-01-379	HARRIS	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	IH 10 E	AT SAN JACINTO RIVER		RECONSTRUCT AND WIDEN FROM 6 TO 10 MAIN LANES AND CONSTRUCT 4 NEW NON-TOLLED MANAGED LANES	1.00	(6,14)	(0,0)	2026	2030	\$492.00	Approve requested Addition to 2045 RTP
18710	0271-15-096	HARRIS	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	IH 610 E	AT SHIP CHANNEL (BUFFALO BAYOU)		RECONSTRUCT AND RAISE SHIP CHANNEL BRIDGE	1.00	(8,8)	(0,0)	2026	EXEMPT	\$2,400.00	Approve requested Addition to 2045 RTP
18711	0271-16-158	HARRIS	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	IH 610 S	SH 35 (SS 5/MYKAWA RD)	IH 45	RECONSTRUCT FREEWAY INCLUDING TSM IMPROVEMENTS	2.30	(8,8)	(0,0)	2027	EREA	\$223.34	Approve requested Addition to 2045 RTP
18712		HARRIS	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	IH 610 S	SH 35 (SS 5/MYKAWA RD)	SH 288	RECONSTRUCT FREEWAY INCLUDING TSM IMPROVEMENTS	3.50	(8,8)	(2,2)	2026	EREA	\$309.40	Approve requested Addition to 2045 RTP
18721	1685-05-105	HARRIS	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	SH 6	AT FM 529		INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS	0.25	(6,6)	(0,0)	2025	EXEMPT	\$9.00	Approve requested Addition to 2045 RTP
18722	1685-05-111	HARRIS	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	SH 6	CLAY RD	IH 10 W	CORRIDOR FEASIBILITY STUDY	3.50	(6,6)	n/a	2032	EXEMPT	\$0.80	Approve requested Addition to 2045 RTP
18723	3510-06-019	HARRIS	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	SH 99	HOLZWARTH RD	KUYKENDAHL RD	SEG F2: WIDEN EXISTING 4 LANE TOLL FACILITY TO 6 LANE TOLL FACILITY TO MITIGATE CONGESTION AND SUPPORT OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY	4.50	(4,6)	(0,0)	2026	2030	\$50.00	Approve requested Addition to 2045 RTP
18724	3510-05-047	HARRIS	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	SH 99 SEG E	WEST RD	IH 10 W	SEG E: WIDEN EXISTING 4 LANE TOLL FACILITY TO 6 LANE TOLL FACILITY TO MITIGATE CONGESTION AND SUPPORT OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY	8.00	(4,6)	(0,0)	2026	2030	\$115.00	Approve requested Addition to 2045 RTP
18725	3510-05-048	HARRIS	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	SH 99 SEG E	US 290	WEST RD	SEG E: WIDEN EXISTING 4 LANE TOLL FACILITY TO 6 LANE TOLL FACILITY TO MITIGATE CONGESTION AND SUPPORT OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY	6.00	(4,6)	(0,0)	2026	2030	\$80.00	Approve requested Addition to 2045 RTP
18726	3510-06-027	HARRIS	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	SH 99 SEG F-2	KUYKENDAHL RD	SH 249	SEG F2: WIDEN EXISTING 4 LANE TOLL FACILITY TO 6 LANE TOLL FACILITY TO MITIGATE CONGESTION AND SUPPORT OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY	6.00	(4,6)	(0,0)	2026	2030	\$75.00	Approve requested Addition to 2045 RTP
18727	3256-02-093	HARRIS	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	SL 8	E OF HARDY TOLL ROAD	E OF ALDINE-WESTFIELD RD	RECONSTRUCT AND WIDEN FROM 4 TO 6 LANES	1.60	(8,8)	(4,6)	2022	2030	\$10.50	Approve requested Addition to 2045 RTP

ATTACHMENT A - REQUESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

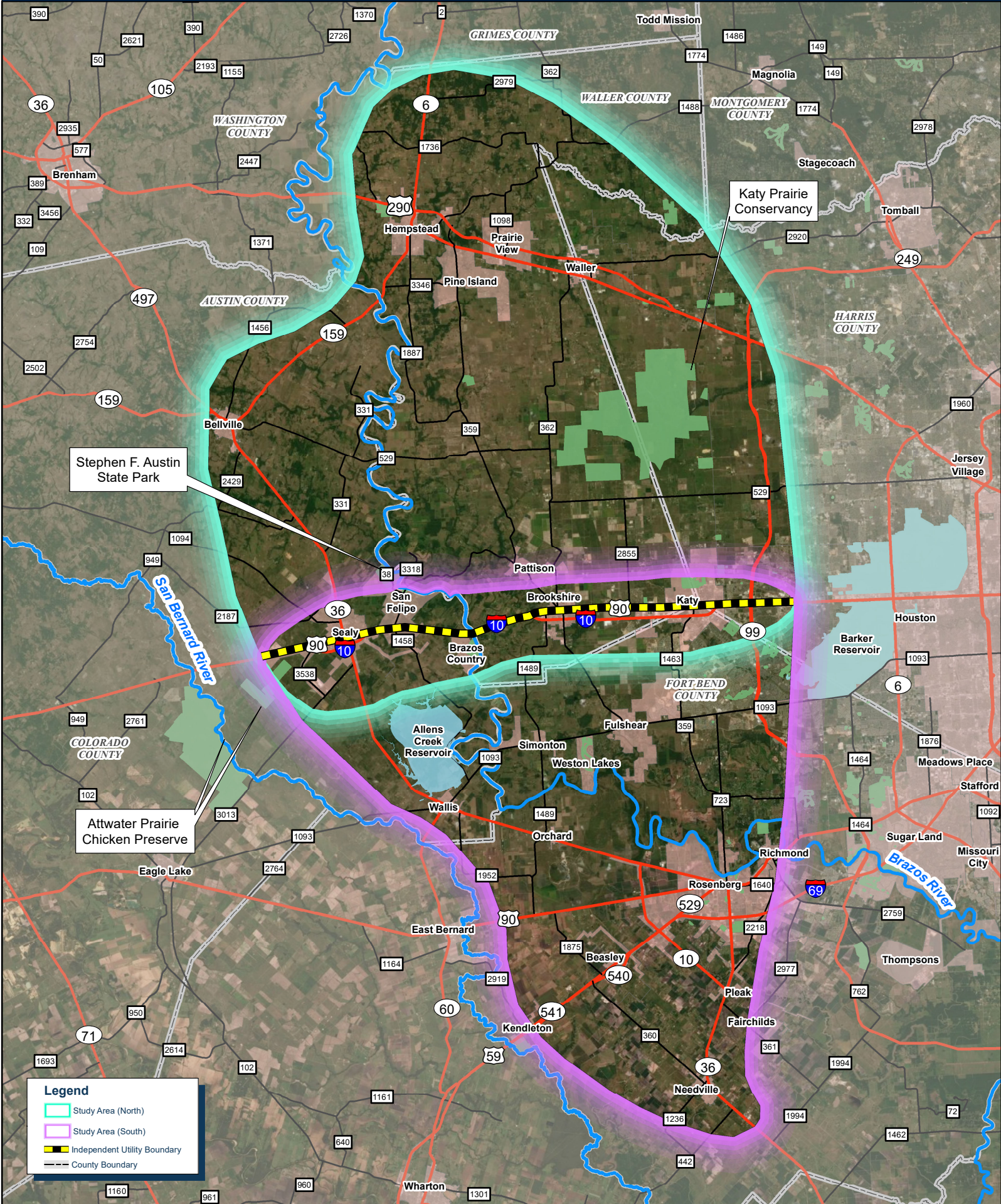
New projects added to draft 2045 RTP amendment					Project information being amended in 2045 RTP										
MPOID	CSJ#	COUNTY	SPONSOR	FACILITY	FROM	TO	DESCRIPTION	LENGTH (mi)	MAIN LANES	FRONTAGE LANES	FISCAL YEAR	ANALYSIS YEAR	TOTAL PROJECT COST (M, YOY)	HGAC RECOMMENDATION	
16328*	0500-03-599	HARRIS	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	IH 45 N	AT IH 10		RECONSTRUCT IH45/IH10 INTERCHANGE. IH10 REALIGN/WIDEN FROM 6 TO 8 MAINLANES (ML) FROM WEST OF HOUSTON STREET TO WEST OF MAIN STREET; CONSTRUCT 4 IH10 EXPRESS LANES FROM WEST OF HOUSTON STREET TO WEST OF MAIN STREET; IH45 REALIGN FROM 6 TO 6 ML INCLUDING 3 LANES NB AND 3 LANES SB (3 ML AND 1 AUX LANE) FROM QUITMAN STREET TO WEST OF MAIN STREET; IH-45 WIDENING FROM 1 TO 4 MANAGED LANES FROM QUITMAN STREET TO MILAM/TRAVIS STREETS	0.80	(13,23)	(0,0)	2030-2024	2040 2030	\$1,060.08	Approve requested amendment with condition to proceed with the project after FHWA review.	
18719**	0912-72-544	MULTIPLE	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	36A S	SH 36	IH 10 W	CONSTRUCT FOUR-LANE DIVIDED ON NEW LOCATION	36.00	(0,4)	(0,0)	2027	2040	\$1,000.00	Approve requested addition to 2045 RTP with an expedited planning study	
18720**		WALLER	TXDOT HOUSTON DISTRICT	36A N	IH 10 W	US 290	CONSTRUCT FOUR-LANE DIVIDED ON NEW LOCATION	30.00	(0,4)	(0,0)	2040	2045	\$1,400.00	Approve requested addition to 2045 RTP with an expedited planning study	

Table 2

*Approve amendment acknowledging that TxDOT cannot proceed with construction until existing FHWA Title VI complaint review is complete and resolved.

**Approve amendment with a condition that TxDOT will study all possible alternative routes for Highway 36A project within the boundaries shown in the Highway 36 A Study area map and select an alternative route that avoids adverse impacts to the land owned or controlled by Katy Prairie Conservancy consistent with the Transportation Policy Council Resolution 2014-01.

36A NORTH AND SOUTH STUDY AREA



Stephen F. Austin State Park

Katy Prairie Conservancy

Attwater Prairie Chicken Preserve

Legend

- Study Area (North)
- Study Area (South)
- Independent Utility Boundary
- County Boundary



Prepared by Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. for Texas Department of Transportation October 2020



Sources: TNRIS 2016, TPWD 2017, HGAC 2017



Resolution

NO. 2021-20

AUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS OF THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) AND THE 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA

WHEREAS, the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan was adopted by the Transportation Policy Council on April 5, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program for the Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area was adopted by the Transportation Policy Council on June 26, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions to the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan and the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program are consistent with the finding of conformance with the State Implementation Plan for air quality; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions to the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan and the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program are consistent with the federal fiscal constraint requirements established for the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC) FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA THAT THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND THE 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BE AMENDED TO REFLECT THE REVISIONS IDENTIFIED IN THE **ATTACHMENT A**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT FEDERAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED BY THE TPC FROM THE CONGESTION MITIGATION AND AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG) PROGRAMS REPRESENT A LIMITING AMOUNT. ANY COST OVERRUNS ON PHASES OF WORK AUTHORIZED BY THE TPC OR COSTS INCURRED ON PHASES OF WORK NOT AUTHORIZED BY THE TPC SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROJECT SPONSOR. IN NO CASE, SHALL FEDERAL PARTICIPATION UNDER THE CMAQ AND STBG PROGRAMS BE INCREASED WITHOUT CONSULTATION AND THE EXPRESS APPROVAL OF THE TPC.

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PASSED AND APPROVED this 25th day of June 2021, at a regularly called meeting of the Transportation Policy Council.

APPROVED:

DocuSigned by:
Kenneth Clark
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Hon. Kenneth Clark, Chairman
Transportation Policy Council

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Grady Prestage
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Hon. Grady Prestage, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council