

5B. SUMMARY OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

LONG RANGE PLANNING

1. Sub-regional Planning Initiatives (SPI)

- Old Sixth Ward/TIRZ 13 Mobility Plan: Staff received the final report, and the project was completed and closed out on January 8.
- Pearland FM 518 Corridor Study: Staff received summary reports for the Old Townsite area meeting and the public meeting held on November 20, 2024, and December 3, 2024, respectively. A draft of the corridor study report is in progress. Substantial completion of the project is anticipated in February 2025.
- Pearland Mobility Plan: Staff met with the City of Pearland on December 12 to review the Plan's recommendations and discuss the project prioritization criteria. The next public outreach event to present recommendations for public input is planned for January 18 at the Pearland Farmer's Market. Substantial completion of this project is anticipated in March 2025.
- Chambers County Thoroughfare Plan: A draft report of the plan is in progress. Substantial completion of this project is anticipated in February 2025.
- Washington Ave Corridor Study: The project team met with Councilmember Castillo and Councilmember Kamin to provide an update on the project. The project team is developing draft cross sections based on input from the Focus Group meeting held on November 14, 2024.
- Cemetery Road Corridor Study: The second Steering Committee meeting is planned for January 15 at the Mae S. Bruce Library in Santa Fe to present the alternatives and gather feedback from the committee.
- Friendswood Parkway (Friendswood Lake) Corridor Study: The first Steering Committee meeting was held on December 18, 2024, to discuss and gather feedback about existing conditions in the study area.
- Buffalo Bayou East Design Concept: The project team is preparing for the first Steering Committee meeting to be held on January 29 to discuss and gather feedback about existing conditions in the study area.

2. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

- Staff have been performing the financial analysis of the 2045 RTP Project amendment and continue to make progress.
- Staff are revising the initial scope of work for the 2050 RTP consultant.
- Staff have been preparing for the initial public engagement for the 2050 RTP, including the completion of a messaging poll to TPC members.
- Staff are preparing draft versions of initial 2050 RTP advertising, flyers, and general messaging.
- Staff are starting to prepare copy (narratives) and graphics for the 2050 RTP website.
- Staff are revising the Project Management Plan (PMP) and Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for the 2050 RTP.
- Staff are creating a Steering Committee for the 2050 RTP, which will be comprised of RTP Subcommittee members.

1. Safety Planning

- The Transportation Safety Committee (TSC) met Tuesday, January 14.

- Safety Action Plans (formerly the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Action Plans) anticipate a February 2025 start. Consultant has been selected, and documents currently undergoing internal audit.
 - The State of Safety Report is being examined by the TSC for a revamp, which will include further analysis on crashes, contributing factors, and what H-GAC is doing to address safety in the region, among other topics.
 - The TSC plans to give periodic safety updates to TAC and TPC.
 - Staff is presenting the 2025 Safety Performance Measures for information in January, and request for approval via resolution in February.
2. Freight Planning
 - Staff continue to develop action plans for implementation of the Regional Goods Movement Plan.
 - The Greater Houston Freight Committee is scheduled to meet on January 16 at 1:30pm. Meeting invites and materials can be found on the H-GAC Webpage. The next GHFC Meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 16, 2025, at 1:30 pm.
 - The next HART meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2025. Staff continue to work on regional blocked crossing list to prepare for possible funding from TxDOT LAR.
 3. Intelligent Transportation Systems and TSMO Planning
 - The ITS Architecture and Website Update will be complete by April 2025.
 - Staff and the consultant are coordinating to develop website that integrates with H-GAC website.
 4. Resiliency Planning
 - The PROTECT grant agreement is undergoing final review and being processed internally for execution.
 5. Other Planning Activities
 - The Public Participation Plan (PPP) is being revised and the initial draft is nearing completion.

SHORT RANGE PLANNING

1. Project Programming
 - The draft list of recommended projects in five categories was prepared and presented to TIP Subcommittee and Transportation Advisory Committee.
 - Processed amendments to the FY 2025-2028 TIP.
2. Pedestrian and Bicyclist Planning
 - The Pedestrian/Bicycle Subcommittee held its regular quarterly meeting as a hybrid event on Thursday January 16, 2025.
 - H-GAC staff are proceeding with entering an agreement for the installation of four permanent counters to replace aging equipment along the Bayou Greenway trails within the City of Houston.
 - Staff retrieved counting equipment deployed to track recent Livable Centers surveys within the City of Houston. This equipment was recently purchased and offers new features including automatic data transmission that improve both the experience of the staff installing the equipment and the borrower who receives the data.

- Staff have been preparing a scope of work and supporting documentation for the Adult Bicycle Safety program AFA.

3. Transit Planning

- The Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee held its regular quarterly meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2025.
- The completed Pearland Transit Study Final report will be presented to Pearland City Council on January 27, 2025. Presentations of the report will be made to TAC and TPC in February 2025.
- Evaluation of alignment alternatives for the US 90A Transit Corridor Study continues. Steering and Stakeholder Committee meetings are anticipated in late January and early February 2025, with a public meeting shortly thereafter.
- The Dayton Transit Study is underway. The Steering Committee will have an initial meeting in early February 2025.
- The Transit Information Study started this month. Members of the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee (RTCS) will serve on the Stakeholder Group to assist the consultant in developing study tasks.
- A Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Regional Bus Study is being prepared, with anticipated release in early 2025.
- The Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Commuter and Transit Pilot projects are ongoing.
 - The Woodlands Township to Energy Corridor District pilot service completed the three-year pilot project on December 31, 2024, and the township is operating the service with its own funding sources.
 - Fort Bend Transit to Downtown Houston is performing well with daily ridership (over 400 trips a day) exceeding initial projections by 40%. Staff are preparing the 2nd year of pilot service to begin this spring.
 - Microtransit pilot service using zero emission vehicles within City of Sugar Land is scheduled to start in the Spring of 2025.

4. Tracking and Monitoring

- Staff conducts quarterly meetings for all projects included in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) including approximately \$900M (of carryover spend down projects) required to let prior to August 2026. The quarterly meetings result in the following:
 - Determination of required amendments and action items.
 - Meeting Minutes drafted and delivered to each sponsor.
 - List of needed amendments provided to the H-GAC Programming Team.
 - Track each amendment is completed prior to the next quarterly meeting.

TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC OUTREACH

- No Report

MPO PROGRAMS

1. Incident Management/Tow and Go

- Staff continued preparations for the next Traffic Incident Management (TIMs) Train-the-Trainer course for leaders in the incident management sector.

- Staff extended added funds and extended deadlines to the current contracts with the City of Houston and Harris County to continue Tow and Go operations.

2. Safety Outreach

- Youth Traffic Safety Education and Outreach and Teen Driver Education is in the procurement solicitation process. It will be open for 6 weeks to the public. Closing date will be 2/20/2025
- Staff are planning a Drunk Driving Campaign with ConnectSmart team at TXDOT Houston District. Developing Scope for the Regional Safety Campaign and budget to enter interlocal agreement.

3. Hurricane Evacuation

No report.

4. Title VI/Language Access

- The 2024 triennial update to the Title VI Program was completed and submitted to the FTA during the first quarter of FY 2025. Staff efforts are now directed towards implementing the obligations and recommendations of the program, which includes organizing February as Title VI and Environmental Justice Awareness month. Proposed events for the month are in their planning stages.
- The Language Access Plan (LAP) update was completed in the fourth quarter of FY 2024. Implementation of the plan is underway. This includes the translation of the LAP document to the agency's "Safe Harbor" languages (Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese), and broadcasting notice that H-GAC will provide language assistance to individuals who need this service to enable their participation in the agency's programs and activities.

5. Travel Demand Management

- Staff scheduled social media content to promote Commute Solutions programs across H-GAC's social media channels for Q1.
- Staff are also developing print ads to promote Commute Solutions programs in several notable publications across the MPO-region (i.e. Houston Business Journal)
- The Commute Solutions' program evaluation and recommendations project with AECOM continued moving forward as the contractor presented the outlines for the TDM Onboarding handbook. This handbook will be the program's guidance to all facets of TDM and serve as a reference to current and future team members.
- Commute Solutions began working with the Procurement Department on the draft of the next RFP for the Regional Telework Program with an anticipated launch date of June 2025.
- Commute Solutions and Love to Ride met with campaign partners and bike riders in high access areas to build off of the momentum of the Biketober campaign. Biketober 2024 experienced a 17.5% increase in miles traveled and 36% increase in transportation miles. This resulted in nearly 11,000 vehicle miles being reduced!
- Connect Smart continued coordinating with Commute Solutions for an upcoming partner recognition event which will be held at H-GAC in March 2025.
- Commute Solutions is finalizing a scope of work for an RFP to continue the region's bike encouragement campaign. It is expected to launch in June 2025.

CLEAN VEHICLES PROGRAMS PLANNING ACTIVITIES

- Staff continue to monitor post-delivery projects that have not yet met the contractually required emission reductions based upon subrecipient performance. This monitoring effort ensures that grant recipients' usage of project vehicles remains within grant requirements and that vehicle use mileage commitments are met. Staff are currently monitoring 104 project vehicles.
- Participant usage is monitored by staff using a contracted GPS service provider. The current provider's five-year contract will soon expire. Staff are currently developing a request for proposals to procure a contractor to support ongoing monitoring activities.
- Staff are working to prepare standard operating procedures for every phase of the Clean Vehicle Program Contract. This effort is currently underway.
- Staff began the process to release grant funds for the replacement of five heavy-duty diesel vehicles with five heavy duty Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) vehicles. The grant amount is \$540,866.21, funded through the Heavy-Duty Diesel Replacement Program (HDDRP), which is not limited by Buy America stipulations.

GENERAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ACTIVITIES

- Staff continued working to prepare for three upcoming regional conformity activities over the next three years. This has included outreach to internal staff and external stakeholders to begin scheduling recurring meetings on conformity-related topics and data needs. Staff presented at TPC and at the Regional Transportation Plan Subcommittee providing a brief overview of conformity, its triggers, the anticipated regional schedule over the next three years, and the associated benefits and risks of this schedule.
- TCEQ's Rider 7 project is funding that is available to near nonattainment areas to support projects that may assist with the development of the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Our region has been awarded approximately \$450m in project funding. Staff have been working since late last year to develop a regional project to support this effort. This month, staff have been working with the H-GAC Procurement Team to finalize the scope of work and all the information necessary for the RFP Process.
- H-GAC Air Quality Policy Staff continue advancing the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program. This month, efforts focused on finalizing a comprehensive regional greenhouse gas inventory to support the development of the Regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). Staff have also collaborated with regional partners to establish goals and targets that will guide CCAP strategy development. Staff have plans underway to create a climate internship opportunity to support the grants implementation and related outreach activities. Additionally, staff closed a request for proposals to recruit a partner for the development of the CPRG regional engagement plan and will be seeking H-GAC Board of Directors approval for this contract in January.
- Staff are working to close an Environmental Protection Agency-funded Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant to deploy all-electric yard tractors at a local freight warehouse. Staff submitted the final project report and anticipate final closeout approval soon.
- Staff continued work on zero-emission vehicle planning efforts, refining the scope and schedule of the deliverable. Staff are actively seeking opportunities to present at subcommittees to broaden input on elements of the planning process. Staff also gave an update to the TAQ Subcommittee meeting, as

well as bespoke introductory presentations to the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee and the Transportation Safety subcommittee.

TRAVEL DEMAND MODELING & FORECASTING

- Staff have completed the development of the new Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ) structure and the integration of a new trip distribution model component.
- A consultant has been engaged to provide technical support for the travel demand model's update, validation, and calibration, which includes:
 - A new calibration platform.
 - An upgraded software version.
 - The addition of a new transportation mode.
- Staff continue to refine and maintain the travel demand model to ensure readiness for the upcoming air quality conformity requirements in 2025.
- Staff continue to provide ongoing travel demand modeling and data analysis support for regional, subregional, and corridor transportation planning studies.
- Staff continue to work with the consultant to utilize data from the airport travel survey to develop a specialized airport travel demand submodel.
- Staff are developing the scope of work, managing procurement, and providing technical support for regional surveys planned for 2025, including:
 - University Travel Survey.
 - Transit Onboard Travel Survey.
 - Commercial Vehicle Survey.
- Staff are finalizing the scope of work for scenario planning tools.