

8. GULF COAST RAIL DISTRICT UPDATE

BACKGROUND

MPO Staff have been participating in initial discussions to form a conceptual group of stakeholders to coordinate and prioritize regional freight infrastructure to seek grant funding opportunities. The group consists of interested parties from the region including the Gulf Coast Rail District, TxDOT, the City of Houston, Harris County, Port of Houston, METRO, interested parties from the private sector, and the Class I railroad companies. This group is not finite and seeks additional freight-focused participation in recognition of the region's growing urgency in capacity needs, including rail.

CURRENT SITUATION

The Gulf Coast Rail District (GCRD) is considering the development of a new committee to facilitate the formation of the rail collaborative effort. The GCRD Board of Directors convened on December 6, 2022 to initiate discussion concerning the committee structure for possible action in January 2023. Katherine Parker, GCRD Executive Director, is here to provide a brief overview of GCRD, the board meeting and next steps.

ACTION REQUESTED

For information and discussion only