

## 11E. SUMMARY OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

### LONG RANGE PLANNING

#### 1. Sub-regional Planning Initiatives (SPI)

- Southeast Harris County Subregional Study has been completed. The study will be presented to TAC/TPC in July. For more information visit: [www.engage.h-gac.com](http://www.engage.h-gac.com)
- The second round of public meetings for the Liberty County Mobility Study occurred on May 12 (in Liberty) and May 18 (in Dayton), 2022. The consultant is preparing final deliverables.
- Draft study recommendations were developed for the Montgomery County Precinct 2 Mobility Study and were presented to the Stakeholder members in May. The second public meeting is being planned for July.
- H-GAC staff are developing a scope of work for a regional Connected and Automated Vehicle Strategy.
- Staff developed Advanced Funding Agreements (AFA) for regional planning studies included in the 2021-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The AFA's have been submitted to TxDOT for approval.
- Staff developed draft project scopes of work for the regional planning studies included in the 2021-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and are coordinating with local partners.

#### 2. Freight Planning

- The next Greater Houston Freight Committee meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2022.
- The next Steering Committee meeting for the Regional Goods Movement Plan will be held on June 21, 2022. For more information visit: [www.engage.h-gac.com](http://www.engage.h-gac.com)

#### 3. Regional Incident Management, Safety, and Operations

- Staff continued coordination with the Houston Police Department and Harris County Sheriff Office on operations with the Tow and Go Program.
- A Texas Vision Zero Summit was held in the Houston.
- H-GAC sponsored a Complete Streets Workshop at H-GAC meeting rooms on May 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff attended the City of Houston Vision Zero Implementation Group Meeting.
- Staff and the consultant made site visits to 2 intersections in Brazoria County to do Intersection Safety Assessments (ISA).
- A Transportation Systems Maintenance and Operations (TSMO) Meeting was held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Communication Staff did an interview for Hurricane Preparedness on Great Day Houston with Debra Duncan.

- Staff attended Texas Vision Zero Summit Steering Committee Planning Meetings.
- Kimberly Horn made a presentation to Waller County Commissioners Court on Intersection Safety Assessments conducted in Waller County.

4. Environmental Planning

- Staff is developing a process and worksheet to assess and document the environmental justice issues associated with proposed transportation projects and planning decisions.
- Staff is updating the Eco-Logical tool to include links to existing environmental assessment and final environmental impact statements for roadway projects within the planning area. Staff will coordinate with TxDOT and consultants working on local Planning and Environmental Linkages studies to examine the application of Ecological tool on those studies.
- Staff is continuing work on an update to the regional Environmental Justice report.

5. Resiliency Planning

- Staff continues the development of a Low Impact Development tool to examine how to cost-effectively integrate low impact development into transportation projects in the Metropolitan Planning Area.
- Staff completed work on the Resilience & Durability Pilot project as part of the FHWA program to develop transportation-specific resiliency best practices and strategies. The draft report has been finalized and accepted by FHWA. Staff has completed an update of the Foresight Panel on Environmental Effects report with outcomes from the Pilot project.

6. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

- Staff worked on the scope of work, outreach activities, and schedule for the development of the update of the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan.
- The RTP Subcommittee Meeting was conducted on June 8, 2022.
- The RTP Visioning Outreach occurred in May with meetings in all 8 Counties (Harris, Liberty, Chambers, Galveston, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Waller and Montgomery County). The RTP Visioning survey is open until the end of July. For more information on the public meetings visit: [www.engage.h-gac.com](http://www.engage.h-gac.com)

7. Other Planning Activities

- Staff continued to monitor regional travel impacts of COVID-19. Regional travel volumes were monitored through StreetLight data. Transit ridership numbers are now being reported on a quarterly basis from transit agencies within the region. Permanent

- pedestrian/bicyclist counters provide updates on counts along regional pedestrian/bicyclist facilities. Staff have developed an online [COVID-19 Regional Traffic Impacts App](#) which displays vehicular, active, and transit transportation patterns during the Pandemic.
- Staff has developed a draft timeline and task list for the update of the Congestion Management Process and invited volunteers from the TIP and RTP subcommittees to participate in a workgroup. Staff is reach out to also incorporate volunteers from outside of Harris County before the workgroup can begin.

## SHORT RANGE PLANNING

### 1. Project Programming

- Staff coordinated on the amendments to the 2021-2024 TIP document. Staff coordinated with TxDOT and local governments on the proposed amendments to the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan.
- Staff worked on the development of project selection criteria for the next Call for Projects and coordinated with various subcommittees.
- Staff finalized the Annual Project Listing of Obligated Projects that provides project-level details on the use of federal funds for highways, pedestrian and bicycle and public transportation projects. H-GAC staff developed the annual report in cooperation with TxDOT and local public transportation providers and is available on the [H-GAC website](#).

### 2. Pedestrian and Bicyclist Planning

- Staff continues to maintain and monitor permanent pedestrian and bicycle counting equipment and data, and is working to develop a new GIS based way of reporting this data.
- Staff continues to manage the Adult Bicycle Safety program and think of ways to build awareness and interest in Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties.
- Staff continues participation in meetings with the Houston Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- Staff are continuing work to revise the scope, budget, and timeline in anticipation of procuring a consultant to revise the 2045 Active Transportation Plan.
- Staff continue to advance Ped/Bike Subcommittee workgroups. One workgroup will revise the regional bike network GIS data and the other workgroup will develop an active transportation focused travel demand modeling solution.
- Staff is working to reschedule the June 2022 Special Subcommittee meeting covering the Bicycle Friendly America program due to a conflict.

- Staff continued to hold monthly meetings with local sponsors for the Local Active Transportation Studies to refine scopes of work and project budgets.
- Staff is working to submit paperwork for the Advanced Funding Agreements for the Local Active Transportation Studies.

### 3. Transit Planning

- Staff began to prepare for the next Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee meeting scheduled on July 14, 2022.
- Staff continues to refine the scope of work for High-Capacity Transit feasibility studies and prepare paperwork for Advanced Funding Agreements for the bulk of these studies. The first study is funded through the Unified Planning Work Program and will focus on the US 90A corridor, conducted in partnership with the Gulf Coast Rail District (GCRD).
- A Technical Memorandum for the City of Pearland Transit Study with existing conditions and peer analysis is being refined internally. Due to additional revisions the Steering Committee and Public Meetings have been pushed back, but are still anticipated to take place this summer.
- Staff continues to refine the City of Dayton transit study Request for Proposals.
- The Woodlands – Energy Corridor commuter service is underway. Staff is coordinating with The Woodlands Township on invoicing, ridership and, through the Commute Solutions program, marketing.
- Development of an Action Plan for implementing Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan recommendations continues.
- Coordination continues between H-GAC, METRO and other regional transit agencies regarding the Regional Transit Connectivity Project, including the Seamless Fare System, regional trip planner, data management system, and related efforts. Initial assessments to determine agencies' needs and capacity are underway and are scheduled to be completed this summer.

### TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Staff completed the first round of outreach and promotion of public meetings for RTP 2045 Update. Planning will continue through October for the second round of outreach.
- The RTP 2045 Update digital survey is live until July 31. Additional media buys were purchased to help increase response total.
- The May edition of the transportation focused newsletter, Region View, was released.
- Planning efforts began for the Pearland Transit Study public meetings and Montgomery County Pct. 2 Study public meetings. Both will occur in either July or August 2022.
- The launch of media buys and advertising with local vendors for Hurricane Preparedness started June 1.

### COMMUTE SOLUTIONS

- Staff attended promoted Bike to Work Week and Day through website, enewsletter and social media.
- Staff also closed out Commuter Surveys with one company and one university.
- Staff continues development of an online survey for a company in Waller County. The survey will be held in three languages – English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- Staff finalized analysis of the Future of Work Survey. Results are to be shared with the public and TAC and TPC in June.
- Staff continued to make progress on telework policy development and implementation with employer partners.
- Staff continues coordination with TXDOT's ConnectSmart project to develop TDM components of the application and discuss marketing and outreach. The project is scheduled for full launch in September 2022.
- Staff is working to extend their current Advanced Funding Agreement with TXDOT, and is working on the scope for the upcoming Advanced Funding Agreement related to ridesharing software.

### CLEAN VEHICLES PROGRAMS PLANNING ACTIVITIES

- During last month, staff continued to work with several ISD's in the Houston-Galveston region to replace older school buses. An application was received from Rice University for a new electric bus. Staff continued to coordinate with Cy Fair ISD for grant funding of electric buses.
- Staff continued to examine and develop the needed parameters to establish an electric charging infrastructure component to the Clean Vehicles Program. Staff worked on creating a new application specifically for electric vehicle chargers.
- Staff continued to monitor grant recipient's usage of vehicles to assure grant requirements for vehicle use and mileage are met.
- Staff participated in a variety of internal and external meetings and met with other local government agencies to discuss projects utilizing Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. Staff met with TxDOT and discussed electric vehicles and charging stations as projects for CMAQ funding.
- Staff met with representatives from Lion Electric to discuss potential projects.

### GENERAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ACTIVITIES

- Staff hosted a meeting of the Regional Air Quality Planning and Advisory Committee (RAQPAC) on May 26<sup>th</sup>. This meeting featured a presentation from Charlie Gagen from the American Lung Association to talk about several recent air quality reports that were recently released by his organization. Additionally, Michael Chamberlin from TxDOT

presented information about the recently released Texas Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan.

- Staff continued to work with air quality team from the North Central Texas Council of Governments to meet with stakeholders to develop Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) corridor plan for Interstate 45 between and within the two MPO's service areas. The final plan is currently being developed and it is anticipated that this report will be completed by the end of July.
- H-GAC continued to work on regional efforts to support the Department of Energy sponsored Houston-Galveston Clean Cities Coalition. Under this program, staff worked with regional fleets to foster economic, environmental, and energy security by working to advance affordable, domestic transportation fuels, energy efficient mobility systems, and other fuel-saving technologies and practices. During the last month, Clean Cities staff sent a letter supporting the report.
- Staff is continuing to administer two separate Environmental Protection Agency-funded Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grants from the 2018 and 2019 Calls for Projects to deploy all-electric yard tractors at local freight warehouses. Staff has been working with IKEA to replace two existing diesel yard tractors at their Baytown facility with all-electric models. IKEA is currently installing EV charging equipment to facilitate the vehicle purchases and it is anticipated that the entire project will be completed by the end of 2022. For the 2019 DERA project, staff is preparing a call for projects to find a new partner to complete the project.

#### TRAVEL DEMAND FORECASTING

- Staff continued to provide travel demand modeling to support various sub-regional and corridor studies such as evaluating eight alternatives for the METRO Bus Rapid Transit and Managed Laned within the Inner Katy study areas (on-going), and other sub-area and corridors studies within the region to support H-GAC's planning processes (on-going).
- Staff continues to respond to queries and public comments to the 2045 Regional Air Quality conformity, and Staff continued to provide GIS technical support for the RTP, TIP, the Regional Air Quality conformity process, in creating the New-Regional Bikeway Networks updates, and a web app for Active Transportation Viewers.
- Staff continued to enhance the capabilities of the website and dashboard to assist H-GAC's member agencies to view their various corridor and sub-area transportation planning and studies, and work with TxDOT to utilize Streetlight data, and serve in the steering committee in the TxDOT TP&P Household Survey planning and data design.
- Staff continued to run and enhance H-GAC's Activity-Based Model (ABM). Staff continued to work with a Steering Committee and the Prime Contractor (ETC Consulting) for the Transit On-board Origin-Destination (O-D) Survey. The data collection of the O-D survey (about 16,000 samples) is completed but the Tour Cast part of the data collection (about

1000 samples) is scheduled for the fall of 2022. Staff continued to support the bike/pedestrian project for the forthcoming active transportation modeling efforts and continued to work on procurement for the Airport Ground Access Survey.

- Staff continued to process INRIX speed data in relation to the H-GAC traffic count project. Procurement process for the traffic data collection is completed. Data collection will commence in September 2022.
- Staff continues to coordinate with Conformity Partners on the Air Quality Conformity process and documentation for milestone years 2020, 2030, 2040, 2045, in the process of initiating a Sole Source Procurement
- Staff continued to run the H-GAC VisionEval scenarios model to support transportation planning activities.