

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 – 1:30 P.M
Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX 77027
Virtual WebEx Teleconference Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joshua Zuber – AAA-Texas
St. Bennie Boles – City of LaPorte
Cedric Collier– Harris County Sheriff's office
Robert Benz, P.E.– Texas A&M Trans. Institute
Ken Fickes –Harris County Transit
Juan Miura– Port Freeport
Ugonna Ughanze. – TXDOT Houston
Juan Miura – Port Freeport

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Qing Li – TXDOT
Kevin Duggan– City of Houston

STAFF PRESENT

David Fink – H-GAC
Rosy Chawla – H-GAC
Cassandra Marshall – H-GAC
Adam Beckom– H-GAC
Vishu Lingala– H-GAC
Craig Raborn– H-GAC

OTHERS PRESENT

ITEM 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m.

ITEM 2. Introductions

Members and H-GAC staff introduced themselves.

ITEM 3. Public Comments

No public comments.

ITEM 4. Approval of Minutes for August 24, 2021

Quorum not met.

ITEM 5. Transportation Safety Improvement Program-Funding Set Aside (David Fink)

H-GAC Staff updated members on the following items from the previous meeting:

1. *Members were updated on the workgroup suggestions, which haven't been accepted. These are just some of the brainstorming ideas and thoughts.*
 - *Proposed \$10,000.00 annually*
 - *No minimum project amount*

- *Max single project amount \$500,000.00*
 - *Utilize all available and eligible funding sources*
 - *Local match on projects to be met with Transportation Development credits*
2. *Project Selection and Prioritization: Other Suggestions-Staff notified members of suggestions made to utilize secondary safety performance measures. Discussion continued with how the program shouldn't award extra points for projects regarding Vision Zero high injury networks. It was also mentioned that projects that were not funded in other programs shouldn't automatically be included. The discussion concluded with the program fund allocation suggestions being 70% identified problems and 30% systemic problems.*
 3. *Equity-Staff discussed suggestions made to utilize H-GAC vulnerability Index Sufficient which will focus on at-risk and disadvantaged populations in the region. The discussion concluded with the maximum equity should be five percent of the total score.*
 4. *Application Process-The members were informed that suggestions were made for the application process to coincide with major calls for projects. Discussion continued that the application should be paper-based and electric.*
 5. *Selection Process-The committee was notified that suggestions were made to have the selection committee consist of nine subsets from the TSC committee. It was also mentioned that the committee should consist of seven members. Discussion continued that the members should refrain from voting on projects submitted by an organization they represent.*

ITEM 6. Updated of TIP Process Safety Scoring Sheets (Adam Beckom)

Staff gave an overview to the members that they are developing the project selection process, which will include selecting projects over the next ten years. Discussion continued with the safety program that will be proposed this year. It was mentioned that a lot of the focus has been on the larger efforts, but we would like to keep this effort moving with the other larger efforts. In further discussion, a tentative timeframe of January and February was mentioned to brainstorm more ideas. As well March and April proposed for information and action, but a definitive schedule will be confirmed later.

ITEM 7. Future Transportation Safety Project (Vishu Lingala)

Staff gave an overview to the committee members on the safety benefits calculation template. The template will be utilized to monitor any project that is submitted by the sponsor. It was further discussed; the template will calculate the monetary benefits that are accrued over the whole lifespan of the project. Discussion continued with the template different excel tabs, how to fill up the template, where to find the results, and where the calculations take place.

ITEM 8. TXDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program Call

The members were updated on the new pedestrian law about stopping for pedestrians. Discussion continued that if you hurt somebody with a vehicle it becomes a criminal offense. The law is called SB-1055. It was further discussed that the deadline to submit all documents for the safety program by December 10, 2021. As the discussion concluded, members were made aware that TXDOT will be adding reflective backplates for the intersections and stop signs for pedestrians on 610 and Beltway 8.

Information Items

ITEM 9. Other Matters/Member Updates

- The intersection safety assessment is going well. Fort Bend and the majority of Waller County have been done. Due to a plane crash last week, we were unable to get to one intersection. The roadway was blocked

off. Also, the State of Safety report has been published. It can be found on the transportation safety programs webpage.

- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)-November 17, 2021, 9:30am -12:00noon
- Transportation Policy Council (TPC)-November 19, 2021, 9:30am-11:00am

Next Meeting: No December Meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 3:07 p.m.