

5A. MINUTES OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023, 9:30 A.M. MEETING

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Veronica Chapa-Gorczyński, called the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Committee members and staff introduced themselves. A list of Committee representatives and alternates attending the meeting is included with these minutes as Attachment 1. There were 33 members in attendance; 22 are required for a quorum.

The meeting agenda and materials are available on the TAC website at:

<http://www.h-gac.com/transportation-advisory-committee/meeting-agendas-and-minutes.aspx>.

In addition, the livestream recording is available at: <http://www.h-gac.com/transportation-advisory-committee/meeting-livestream-archive.aspx>.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No written public comment was received.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Veronica Chapa-Gorczyński entertained a motion for approval of the Consent Agenda Items:

- 4A. Meeting Minutes for the September 13, 2023, meeting
- 4B. Amendments to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).
- 4C. Crash Responder Safety Week Resolution

Mr. Alan Clark requested that the Consent Agenda Item 4B be removed and amended. Chair Chapa-Gorczyński entertained the motion and the Committee voted to remove Consent Agenda Item 4b.

Chair Chapa-Gorczyński further entertained a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 4A and 4C. A motion to approve was made by Stephan Gage. The second motion for approval was made by David Wurdlow.

Mr. Clark requested that the METRO's locally funded replacement buses in FY2020, project (MPO ID 15246) in FY 2024, a placeholder project, to be amended and now reflect a procurement that METRO is ready to act on. Mr. Clark described that the materials shown in Item 4B were an initial cost of \$115.1M for 160 clean diesel buses. METRO has now decided to exercise a procurement and purchase 210 clean diesel buses, for \$150.1M. for this project. Mr. Clark asked the Committee to reflect the higher purchase of clean diesel buses and higher dollar amount for this project. For further details on this Consent Agenda Item, please click on the link below.

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the revision to consent agenda item 4B. A motion was made by Catherine McCreight. The second motion for approval was made by Mr. Stephen Gage. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

AGENDA ITEMS

RECOMMEND TAC OFFICERS TO THE TPC TIP REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Craig Raborn presented on the recommendation to Recommend TAC Officers to the TPC TIP Review Committee. Mr. Raborn described the purpose and intent of the workgroup and the new workgroup tasks. Additionally, Mr. Raborn gave an overview of how this workgroup would be composed, mirroring the composition of members of the original Project Prioritization Workgroup. The recommended TAC members to participate on the TPC TIP Process Review Committee include the TAC Officers: Chair Veronica Chapa-Gorczyński, 1st Vice-Chair Morad Kabiri and 2nd Vice Chair Perri D'Armond. Appointments would be presented to the TPC for approval and workgroup meetings start in November. To review further details on this presentation, please click on the link below.

A motion was made by Mr. Mike Wilson. The second motion for approval was made by Ms. Sherry Weesner. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

PROPOSED ADJUSTED URBANIZED AREA BOUNDARY

Mr. Craig Raborn presented on the Proposed Adjusted Urbanized Area Boundary. The US Census Bureau defines and delineates the geographic boundaries for urbanized areas based on population determined by the Census. Urbanized Areas (UZAs) have a population of at least 50,000. Every ten years when Census data is released, TxDOT leads the process of reviewing and/or adjusting Urbanized Area boundaries with feedback from the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). For transportation planning purposes, states have the option of using Census-defined urban boundaries, or they may adjust the census-defined boundaries to be more consistent with transportation needs. Any adjustments to urban area boundaries must be approved by the Federal Highway (FHWA) Division Office. The approval process for adjusting Urbanized Area Boundaries should be completed by December 29, 2023.

Greensheet Item: A Greensheet Item was sent to the Committee on 10/17/23 to include maps of the 2020 Adjusted Urbanized Area.

Mr. Pramod Sambidi continued the presentation on this item. Mr. Sambidi reviewed and discussed the overall regional view showing historical and 2023 alternatives maps, for potential Adjusted Urbanized Area Boundary for the Houston-Galveston Metropolitan Area. After Mr. Sambidi presented the potential recommendations to the 2020 Adjusted Urbanized area, the Chair opened the floor for discussion.

After a discussion of these recommendations, the Committee recommended that the proposed recommendations be delayed for further review.

2nd Vice Chair Perri D'Armond proposed that Staff render a list of pros and cons to bring to the Committee for further discussion.

Ms. Sherry Weesner also proposed that Staff provide an overlay map of the 2010 Census Map and 2023 Adjusted Urbanized Area to reflect updated changes.

A recommendation was also made that Staff provide additional context explaining the situations and issues discussed.

The Chair referred to Mr. Raborn for comment on the recommendations from the Committee to delay action on this item and other recommendations as mentioned above by the Committee.

Mr. Raborn responded to the recommendations made by the Committee and Staff will bring this item back for recommendation at the November TAC Meeting.

A motion to table this item was made by Mr. Ken Fickes. The second motion for approval was made by 1st Vice Chair Morad Kabiri. The Committee voted and the motion carried.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS UPDATE

Mr. Vishu Lingala presented on the Project Selection Process Update. At the March 2020 Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting, the Council approved goals, priorities, and policies for selection and prioritization of projects to be programmed in Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), 10-Year Plan, and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). These goals, priorities and policies guide the H-GAC staff, Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), and the TIP Subcommittee in development of project selection criteria and evaluation methodologies for project planning and programming. At the January 2023 meeting, TPC authorized the MPO staff to initiate the Project Selection Process. Staff provided a table summary of Regional Goods Movement (RGM) projects that scored at least 50/100 points in draft evaluation scoring and RGM Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA). To review further details on the draft project ranking, please see the TAC Packet for October 18, 2023. Additionally, to hear more about this discussion on comments received and modifications made to the draft evaluation criteria, please click on the link below.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

CARRY OVER BALANCE POLICY DISCUSSION

Mr. Adam Beckom presented on Carry Over Balance Policy. Over the last several years the Houston-Galveston region has experienced various issues that have hindered the on-time delivery of surface transportation projects selected with federal funding by the Transportation Policy Council. Federal transportation funds that are not obligated within established time limits are at risk of lapsing. Delays in implementation of transportation projects have resulted in a growing carryover balance of federal transportation funds that will be at risk of lapsing at some point in the 2025 federal fiscal year. After multiple discussions with stakeholders and conversations at the Transportation Advisory Committee and Transportation Policy Council, MPO staff have incorporated strategies into a draft policy that includes a target for reducing the carryover balances and lists a various policy elements and project selection strategies intended to reduce the carryover balances and manage future increases. To review the Draft Policy, please see the TAC October 18, 2023, Packet.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

CARRY OVER/SPEND DOWN PROJECTS

Ms. Callie Barnes presented on Carry Over/Spend Down Projects. H-GAC has been working to identify projects that could help spenddown carryover balances accrued from the past several years. At the August 2022 TPC meeting, H-GAC presented the following cumulative carryover balances*: 1) \$218,946,663 of Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) – Category 5, 2) \$136,827,127 of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) - Category 7 and 3) \$14,493,037 of Transportation Alternative Set Aside (TASA) – Category 9. A plan was devised to spend down these carryover balances on projects that could be ready to let within a 0-3 year timeframe (from Mid-2022). A project readiness assessment questionnaire was developed (with input from a technical committee) to assist in determining which “new” projects (not currently included in the TIP with federal funds) submitted by local sponsors in Early 2022 through Mid-2023 could be ready to let within a 0-3 year timeframe. The readiness assessment process was presented to TIP Subcommittee, Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and TPC in subsequent months (between August 2022 – May 2023). The formal Policy for the spenddown of the carryover balances was presented to TIP Subcommittee, TAC and TPC several times in Mid-2023. Ms. Barnes discussed information received from the region, in reference to transportation projects

requesting federal funds (or the addition of federal funds) for which the project sponsor believed the projects could let within a 0-3 year timeframe. To hear more details about this discussion, please click on the link below.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

TRANSPORTATION AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Andrew DeCandis presented on the Transportation Air Quality Conformity Status Update. H-GAC is required to ensure that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and amendments thereto are consistent with the region's air quality goals. This determination is referred to as Air Quality Conformity and involves the modeling of emissions produced by vehicles within the 8-county Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) Nonattainment Area.

The current transportation conformity determination for the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria region received federal approval on November 4, 2022. However, every four years the Houston-Galveston Metropolitan Planning Organization is required to adopt a new Regional Transportation Plan, and each new RTP requires a new conformity determination. The Transportation Policy Council adopted the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan in April 2019, and the federally approved conformity determination for that RTP expired on August 2, 2023. This conformity determination was submitted to FHWA and the H-GAC conformity consultation partners on May 1, 2023, and has been undergoing their review since that date.

H-GAC staff responded to corrections and clarifications that have been requested by FHWA and is working to receive final concurrence from FHWA.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

PREVIEW FOR ADOPTION OF THE REGIONAL GOODS MOVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Ms. Sydni Lignons provided a Preview for Adoption of the Regional Goods Movement Plan Update. The Regional Goods Movement Plan (RGMP) Update serves as a framework that supports the region's economic activity through efficient, safe, and connected freight movement, at the same time addressing the externalities associated with freight transportation. The RGMP Update builds upon and complements previous freight studies and plans, including the 2013 Regional Goods Movement Plan and the Ports Area Mobility Study (2020). This plan identifies actionable, operational, logistical, and technological policies, programs and projects that improve goods movement, leverage private and public investment, and further the goals outlined in the Regional Transportation Plan. The Houston-Galveston Area eight county region has one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the United States. Moving forward, freight tonnage is expected to grow at 2.1 percent annually until 2050 to a total of 1.7 billion tons annually. For the region to maintain its economic competitiveness, it must support a growing demand for goods moving from, to and through the region.

The Regional Goods Movement Plan Update was completed in August 2023. This plan has identified key recommendations associated with a wide range of policies and programs that various stakeholders from both the private and public sectors could adopt to address safety and reduce congestion, emissions, and residential and community impacts from freight activity. The Draft 2023 RGMP Update document is available at the following link: <https://www.h-gac.com/getmedia/6bc1f128-ede0-4219-b323-d69078e0ee4d/DRAFT-2023-Regional-Goods-Movement-Plan>. To hear additional information on this update, please click on the link below.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

PLANNING ACTIVITIES

A. Administrative Amendments to the 2023-2026 TIP and the 2045 RTP

Mr. Jim Dickinson provided a brief overview of Administrative Amendments to the 2023-2026 TIP and 2045 RTP. For a summary of the Administrative Amendments, please view October 18, 2023, TAC Packet or click on the link below.

For Information Only. No action needed.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

B. Future Amendments to the 2023-2026 TIP and 2045 RTP

Mr. Jim Dickinson provided a brief overview of Future Amendments to the 2023-2026 TIP and 2045 RTP. For a summary of the Future Amendments, please view October 18, 2023, TAC Packet or click on the link below.

For Information Only. No action needed.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were shown on the slide for the upcoming meetings:

Transportation Safety Committee Meeting	October 24	1:30 p.m.	Virtual
Transportation Policy Council (TPC) Meeting	October 27	9:30 a.m.	Hybrid
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee Meeting	November 1	1:30 p.m.	Virtual
Regional Transit Coordination (RTC) Subcommittee Special Meeting	November 2	9:30 a.m.	Virtual
Transportation Systems and Management Operations (TSMO) Subcommittee Meeting	November 2	2:00 p.m.	Virtual
Clean Cities Stakeholder Meetings	November 7	9:30 a.m.	Virtual
AERCO (Area Emission Reduction Credit Organization) Meeting	November 8	2:00 p.m.	Hybrid
Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Subcommittee Meeting	November 8	1:30 p.m.	Virtual
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting	November 8	9:30 a.m.	Hybrid
Transportation Policy Council (TPC) Meeting	November 17	9:30 a.m.	Hybrid
Transportation Safety Committee Meeting	October 24	1:30 p.m.	Virtual

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Chapa-Gorczyński adjourned the meeting of the TAC at 11:35 a.m.

A slide presentation and audio recording for this item is available on the TAC website [here](#).

1st Vice Chair
Transportation Advisory Committee

ATTACHMENT 1

**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING ATTENDANCE (Roll Call)
October 18, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.**

NOTES:

- Attendance is marked with “X” in the corresponding column for the Member and/or Alternate.
- Where both the Member and Alternate are present, the Alternate is marked with an asterisk (*) after the “X” to indicate that this person does not count toward quorum or votes for this meeting.

<u>Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Present</u>
<i>Chair</i>				
Veronica Chapa Gorczynski	<u>X</u>	Business Interests	David Kim	<u>X*</u>
1 st Vice Chair				
Morad Kabiri, P.E.	<u>X</u>	Smaller Cities	Jildardo Arias	
2nd Vice Chair				
Perri D’Armond	<u>X</u>	Transit	Pamela LeBrane	<u>X*</u>
(Vacant)		Smaller Cities	Brian Winningham	
Jeremiah Hill		Smaller Cities	Janet Corte	
Ken Fickes	<u>X</u>	Transit	Vernon Chambers	<u>X*</u>
Ruthanne Haut	<u>X</u>	Transit	Todd Stephens	
Carl Woodward		Environmental	Sue Theiss	
Katherine Parker	<u>X</u>	Environmental	Amy Skicki	<u>X*</u>
David Fields		Planning	Jennifer Ostlind, AICP	<u>X</u>
			Faustino Benavidez, P.E.	
David Wurdlow	<u>X</u>	Planning		
Catherine McCreight	<u>X</u>	Planning	Brenda Bustillos	<u>X*</u>
Marlisa Briggs	<u>X</u>	Business Interests	Elijah Williams	<u>X*</u>
Dexter Handy	<u>X</u>	Citizens Interests	Amy Skicki	<u>X*</u>
Sherry Weesner, P.E., CPM	<u>X</u>	Citizens Interests	Gabe Cazares	
Bruce Mann		Port of Houston	Rohit Saxena	
Michael Wilson	<u>X</u>	Port Freeport	(Vacant)	
Brian Alcott	<u>X</u>	Toll Road	(Vacant)	
(Vacant)		Toll Road	(Vacant)	
Stephen Gage	<u>X</u>	Active Transportation	Patricia Kievlan	<u>X*</u>
Bill Zrioka	<u>X</u>	Airport	Marcel Allen	
Joe Compian	<u>X</u>	Regional Planning	Wil Kennedy	
Clint Harbert		METRO	Alan Clark	<u>X</u>
James W. Koch, P.E.		TxDOT-Houston District	Jeffrey English, AICP	

<u>Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Present</u>
Lisa Collins, P.E.	<u>X</u>	TxDOT-Beaumont District	Nany Peron, P.E.	<u>X*</u>
Wael Tabara, P.E.	<u>X</u>	Brazoria County	Karen McKinnon, P.E.	<u> </u>
Cory Taylor	<u>X</u>	Chambers County	Natalie G. Lopez	<u> </u>
Stacy Slawinski, P.E.	<u>X</u>	Fort Bend County	Rick J. Staigle, P.E.	<u> </u>
Michael Shannon, P.E.	<u> </u>	Galveston County	Nancy Baher, P.E.	<u> </u>
Patrick Mandapaka, Ph.D, AICP	<u>X</u>	Harris County	Susan Fraser, P.E.	<u> </u>
David Douglas	<u>X</u>	Liberty County	Hon. Jay Knight	<u> </u>
Jean Mann	<u>X</u>	Montgomery County	John McKinney	<u> </u>
Ross McCall	<u> </u>	Waller County	(Vacant)	<u> </u>
Brant Gary	<u> </u>	City of Baytown	Martin Scribner	<u>X</u>
Jordan Cruz	<u>X</u>	City of Conroe	Chris Bogert, P.E.	<u> </u>
Robert Winiecke, P.E., CFM	<u>X</u>	City of Galveston	Brandon Cook	<u> </u>
Veronica O. Davis, P.E.	<u> </u>	City of Houston	Fabio Capillo	<u>X</u>
Christopher Sims	<u> </u>	City of League City	Cara Davis	<u>X</u>
Marcus Snell	<u>X</u>	City of Missouri City	Shashi Kumar	<u> </u>
Sarah Benavides	<u>X</u>	City of Pasadena	Mark Gardemal	<u> </u>
Trent Epperson	<u> </u>	City of Pearland	Rajendra Shrestha, P.E., CFM	<u> </u>
(Vacant)	<u> </u>	City of Sugar Land	Melanie Beaman	<u>X</u>
Kim Golden, P.E.	<u> </u>	City of Texas City	Jack Haralson, P.E.	<u> </u>
	<u>44</u>	Total Voting Membership		
	<u>33</u>	Total Voting Membership Present		
	<u>22</u>	Required for Quorum		