

**PEDESTRIAN-BICYCLIST SUBCOMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING  
AGENDA  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**

HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL  
3555 TIMMONS LANE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR VIRTUAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021, 9:30 AM

1. Introductions and Certification of Quorum
2. Public Comments

**ACTION**

3. Approval of meeting summaries  
*Ana Ramirez will lead the subcommittee through the approval process.*

**INFORMATION**

4. TIP Project Evaluation Criteria  
*Ana Ramirez will provide status of recommendations sent to the TIP subcommittee.*
5. Funding Process  
*H-GAC staff will provide an overview of the funding process.*
6. Bike Network Update Workgroup Status  
*Ana Ramirez will provide a brief status of the new bike network update workgroup, including an overview of how the BEQI (Bicycle Environment Quality Index) criteria may be integrated.*
7. Active Transportation Travel Demand Forecasting Model  
*H-GAC staff will provide a brief update regarding the model.*
8. Commute Solutions Update  
*Deborah Mayfield (H-GAC) will provide an update on Commute Solutions activities and programs.*
9. Planned Ped/Bike Activities in the Region  
*Ana Ramirez will lead a discussion of to identify upcoming activities by-service area partners.*

**INFORMATION**

10. Upcoming Ped/Bike Subcommittee Meeting Dates:
  - October 21, 2021 9:30-11:00 AM
11. Adjourn

# **PEDESTRIAN-BICYCLIST SUBCOMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**

HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL  
3555 TIMMONS LANE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR VIRTUAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021, 9:00 AM

## 1. Introductions and Certification of Quorum

More than 12 subcommittee members were in attendance and quorum had been reached.

## 2. Public Comments

One set of two comments were received by email and read into the record. Answers to questions were provided. No further public comments were received.

### **INFORMATION**

## 3. Timeline for Submitting Recommendations

*Susan Jaworski presents brief timeline of where we have been and next steps.*

Ms. Jaworski (H-GAC) provided a brief overview to emphasize work done to date and importance of the votes scheduled for today.

### **ACTION**

## 4. Planning Factors Recommendation

*Ana Ramirez seeks workgroup recommendation submit planning factors recommendations to TIP subcommittee with minor clarifications. Includes a project scoring discussion and recommendations.*

Chair Ramirez (TxDOT) described the proposed planning factor language clarifications and project scoring. The initial motion to approve the revised language and project scoring was made and seconded. The subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the recommendation as proposed.

## 5. Funding Allocations Recommendation

*Ana Ramirez seeks workgroup recommendations regarding various funding allocations to the TIP subcommittee in the following categories:*

- *Recommend change in TASA fund allotment for ped/bike infrastructure projects.*
- *Recommend funding percentage for CMAQ active transportation projects set aside*

Chair Ramirez (TxDOT) discussed general funding sources and proposed TASA funding cap for active transportation infrastructure projects. The subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the recommendations as proposed.

Chair Ramirez discussed the CMAQ set aside recommendations. The subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the recommendations as proposed.

## 6. Benefits/Costs Analysis Recommendation

Ana Ramirez seeks workgroup recommendations regarding benefits costs analysis to the TIP subcommittee in the following categories:

- Discuss and recommend measurement methodology for Safety
- Discuss and recommend measurement methodology for Emissions
- Discuss and recommended other categories to include in the analysis

Mr. DeCandis (H-GAC) provided an overview of the proposed emissions template for the Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) and answered questions from the subcommittee. The subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the recommendations as proposed.

Mr. Sambidi (H-GAC) provided an overview of the ACE tool and methodology for the Ped-Bike Commuter Analysis. He answered questions from the subcommittee. Chair Ramirez (TxDOT) provided a summary of the recommendations and she elaborated how the workgroup would continue to analyze and study details associated with “other benefits” after the anticipated 2018 TIP Call for Projects. The subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the recommendations as proposed.

## **DISCUSSION**

### 7. MMNCP Status

*Monique Johnson (Sugar Land) to present information on the MMNCP project, next steps, and seek feedback from the Ped/Bike Subcommittee.*

Ms. Kat Vo (H-GAC) and Ms. Krystal LaStrape (Sugar Land) presented MMNCP project information to the group. They responded to questions during the discussion.

### 8. Connect Smart Update

*Susan Jaworski will provide information regarding how to volunteer to be part of the Connect Smart test group.*

Ms. Jaworski (H-GAC) provided information how to volunteer for the ConnectSmart test group. Send an email with contact information to Susan.Jaworski@h-gac.com. Ms. Bustillos (TxDOT) was on hand to address questions from the subcommittee.

## **INFORMATION**

### 9. Upcoming Ped/Bike Subcommittee Meeting Dates:

- July 15, 2021 9:30 – 11:00 AM
- October 21, 2021 9:30-11:00 AM

### 10. Adjourn

# **PEDESTRIAN-BICYCLIST SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**

HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL  
3555 TIMMONS LANE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM B  
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021, 9:30AM

## 1. Introductions and Certification of Quorum

Quorum was met with a total of 16 subcommittee members present.

## 2. Public Comments

No public comments were received or provided during the meeting.

## 3. Ped/Bike Subcommittee Orientation – 5 minutes

*Jamila Owens will discuss roles and responsibilities.*

Ms. Owens (H-GAC) provided a quick snapshot of role of the Ped/Bike Subcommittee. She briefly explained the purpose of Ped/Bike Subcommittee and how it is connected to TAC and TPC. Bylaws and supporting role of H-GAC staff were highlighted. Questions were addressed during the orientation.

### **ACTION**

## 4. Approval of Minutes for January 21, 2021 Meeting

A motion to approve was raised by a subcommittee member. The motion was seconded and the subcommittee voted unanimously to approve the meeting summary.

## 5. Elections – 10 minutes

*Nominations and elections for Chair and Vice Chair positions.*

Monique Johnson (Sugar Land) proposed the initial motion to nominate Ana Ramirez Huerta (TxDOT) as chair and Brian Smith (City of Houston) as vice chair. Jeff Taebel (H-GAC) seconded the nominations. The subcommittee unanimously voted to approve the chair and vice chair nominations.

### **DISCUSSION**

## 6. ConnectSmart – 10 minutes

*Background and status of the ConnectSmart program.*

Brenda Bustillos (TxDOT) provided a brief background of the ConnectSmart platform, which is an advanced multimodal mobility platform. Ms. Bustillos answered questions during the presentation.

## 7. Bicycle Safety Education Program – 10 minutes

*H-GAC staff will provide details about two new bicycle safety education program options.*

Susan Jaworski (H-GAC) provided a brief announcement regarding two new bike safety courses, including CyclingSavvy and Bicycle Friendly Driver. Register for CyclingSavvy at [houston.cyclingsavvy.org](http://houston.cyclingsavvy.org) or <https://h-gac.com/pedestrian-bicyclist-planning/bike-safety>

#### 8. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Status – 10 minutes

*H-GAC staff will provide update.*

Chair Ramirez and Ms. Jaworski provided an update regarding the Active Transportation Planning Factors. The subcommittee questions were addressed throughout the presentation. Review comments are due from subcommittee members by April 22, 2021.

#### 9. Bike Network Update Workgroup (Active Transportation Plan reference) – 5 minutes

*Chair will provide update.*

Chair Ramirez provided a brief update that the workgroup would be getting started in the future after the TIP project evaluation criteria has been finalized and submitted to the TIP Subcommittee.

#### 10. Bike Month Update – 10 minutes

*Status and plans for bike month will be discussed.*

Ms. Jaworski provided a brief reminder about bike month and associated activities. Multiple subcommittee members discussed their planned bike month activities.

### **INFORMATION**

#### 11. Report on Status of Pedestrian-Bicyclist Activities from Members – 2 minutes each

Brian Smith (City of Houston) – Bicycle Advisory Committee is meeting on April 28, 2021. They are working on implementing the Vision Zero action plan, including a high injury network map.

Jeff Taebel (H-GAC)– Call for Livable Centers Study Partners is open. The NOI to apply deadline is May 27, 2021 and applications are due by July 29, 2021. Contact Jeff Taebel or Anita Hollman for details.

Anibeth Turcios (Bike Houston) – A clean up activity is scheduled for April 22, 2021.

Ana Ramirez (TxDOT) reported that the TxDOT rural call for projects has closed. A total of 10 project applications were received. Projects are anticipated to be awarded in the Fall of 2021.

#### 12. Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- July 15, 2021, 9:30-11:00 AM

#### 13. Adjourn



# ***Pedestrian and Bicycle Subcommittee July 15, 2021***



Regional Collaboration • Transportation Planning • Multimodal Mobility

# Agenda

HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL  
VIRTUAL (REMOTE) MEETING  
THURSDAY, JULY 15, 2021, 9:30 a.m.

1. Introductions and Roll Call
2. Public Comments
3. Action - Approval of Meeting Summaries
4. Information-
  - a. TIP Project Evaluation Criteria Update
  - b. Funding Process
  - c. Bike Network Update Workgroup Status
  - d. Active Transportation Travel Demand Forecasting Model
  - e. Commute Solutions Update
  - f. Planned Ped/Bike Activities in the Region
5. Upcoming Meetings: October 21, 2021 @ 9:30 am
6. Adjourn

# 1. Introductions and Certification of Quorum

Representing	Primary-Name	Organization	Alternate-Name	Organization
Active Transportation	Joe Cutrufo	Bike Houston	Nicholas Hellyar	City of Houston
Citizens Interest	Abby Fernandez	Houston Bike Share	Bryan Reed	Houston Bike Share
Citizens Interest	Stephen Polnaszek	Neighborhoods to Trails Southwest	Kay Swint	Neighborhoods to Trails Southwest
Citizens Interest	Ashley Johnson	LINK Houston	Kathryn Nowlin	Independent
Local Government	John McGowan	The Woodlands Township	John Powers	The Woodlands Township
Local Government	Brian Smith	City of Houston-P&D	Lauren Grove	City of Houston-PW
Local Government	Carry Capers	City of Pearland	Kevin Carter	City of Pearland
Local Government	Francesca Linder	City of Baytown	Nathan Dietrich	City of Baytown
Local Government	Jessica Cohen	Harris County	Doug Shannon	Harris County
Local Government	John Orsag	City of League City	Chien Wei	City of League City
Local Government	Monique Johnson	City of Sugar Land	Krystal LaStrape	City of Sugar Land
Local Government	Thien Cao	Harris County	Robert Anders	Harris County
Transit Agency	Yuhayna Mahmud	METRO	Aubin Pickens	METRO
Management District	Elizabeth Whitton	Energy Corridor	Vacant	
Management District	Louis Jullien	Westchase District	Natali Hurtado	International District
Management District	Nikki Knight	Southeast Management Dist.	Dawn Malone	Southeast Management Dist.
Management District	Anibeth Turcios	Greater Northside Management Dist.	Vacant	
Management District	Bart Baker	North Houston District	Vacant	
Non-Profit	Lisa Graiff	Houston Parks Board	Lisa Kasianowitz	Houston Parks Board
Planning	Brian Smith	City of Houston-P&D	Lauren Grove	City of Houston-PW
Non-Profit/H-GAC	Jeff Taebel	H-GAC	Anita Hollmann	H-GAC
State	Ana Ramirez-Huerta	TxDOT	Heng Weng	TxDOT



## ***2. Public Comments***

- List of Written or Verbal Comments Received Prior to Meeting
- Open to public comment

## ***3.0 Approval of Meeting Summaries***

- June 17, 2021 Special Subcommittee Meeting Summary
- April 15, 2021 Ped/Bike Subcommittee Meeting Summary



# Active Transportation TIP Project Evaluation Criteria



Item # 4  
Ana Ramirez Huerta  
For H-GAC Ped/Bike Subcommittee  
July 2021

# ***Background***

- Ped/Bike Subcommittee created TIP Project Prioritization Work Group to develop recommendations to revise the Planning Factors and Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA)
- Ped/Bike Subcommittee submitted recommendations to TIP Subcommittee



# ***TIP Subcommittee Comments***

- Recommendations were presented to the TIP Subcommittee in July 2021
- Overall, the TIP Subcommittee was supportive
- Feedback received:
  - Be cautious of the all or nothing planning factor questions to aid ensuring the appropriate active transportation projects rise to the top. For example, consider creating a gradient for those questions that have the feasible option such as barrier elimination, innovation, etc.
  - Create a definition of “safe and convenient” for the barrier elimination question
  - Create a definition of the funds received associated with the equity question if vulnerable populations/communities have benefited from active transportation projects in the past decade.

# Next Steps

- TIP group will present to TAC and TPC
- TIP Subcommittee and the TIP Subcommittee Project Evaluation Workgroup will modify or revise recommendations to address comments and feedback received
- Ped/Bike Subcommittee TIP Project Prioritization Work Group reconvene to revise and modify the active transportation project evaluation criteria after the anticipated 2021 TIP Call for Projects

# Questions?



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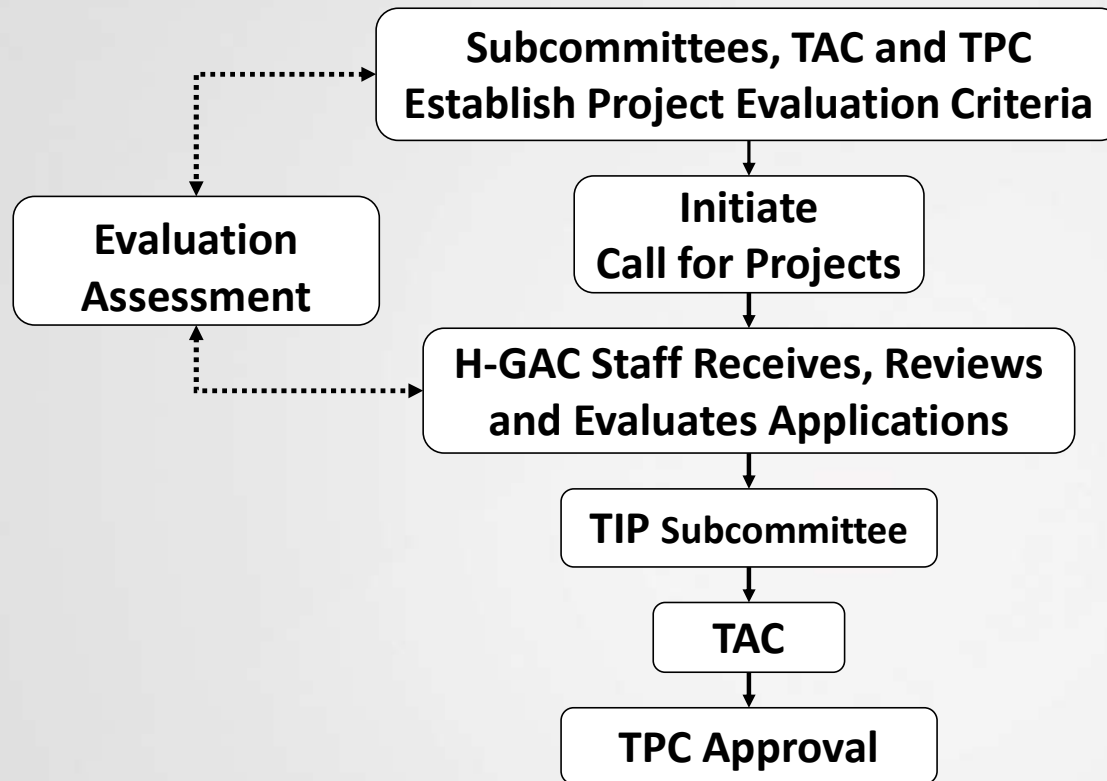
# H-GAC Project Selection and Funding Sources



Item #5  
Adam Beckom, AICP  
H-GAC for Ped/Bike Subcommittee  
July 15, 2021

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# Call For Projects Process



# Federal Funding Sources



- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAAQ)
  - Sometimes referred to as “Category 5” funds
  - Used on projects with emissions benefits
  - Transportation Policy Council (TPC) selection authority
- Transportation Alternative Set Aside Program (TASA)
  - Used on alternative transportation projects, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities, access to public transportation, enhanced mobility, and safe routes to school
  - Project selection
    - TPC selected projects (Urbanized area >200,000 population)
    - Texas Department of Transportation selected projects (Urbanized area < 200,000 population)

# Federal Funding Sources

- Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)
  - Sometimes referred to as “Category 7” or “Mobility” funds
  - Used on projects that increase capacity
  - TPC selection authority



# Funding Sources – Cat 2

## Metropolitan Corridor Funds

- Also known as “Category 2” funds
- Combination of federal and State funds
- Selected and scored by the MPO and approved by the Texas Transportation Commission (generally through the Unified Transportation Program or UTP approval process)
- Used on capacity increasing projects along major urban highway corridors that also help to decrease travel time and congestion
- Only available to projects on the state highway system
- Approximately \$3B over 10 years



# Funding Sources-Cat 5

## Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)

- Known as “Air Quality Funds”
- Federal funds
- Selected by the TPC
- Funding is allocated by population weight by air quality severity in non-attainment areas
- Used on projects with emissions benefits (Traffic flow improvements, bus/rail transit expansion, other air quality projects)
- Receive \$100M/year on average
- Funds must be obligated in within 3 years



# Funding Sources-Cat 7



## Surface Transportation Block Grant (**STBG**)

- Formerly known as “STP-MM Funds”
- Federal funds
- Selected by the TPC
- Can be used on a variety of projects but primarily used on capacity increasing projects (Freeway/HOV improvements, arterial street widenings/extensions, traffic flow improvements, air quality projects)
- Receive \$140M/year on average

# Funding Sources-Cat 9

## Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Asides

- Also known as “TASA” funds
- Eligible projects include trails, pedestrian/bike facilities,
- 50% available for statewide use
- 50% available to MPOs with populations over 200,000
- Includes the Safe Routes to School program
- Selected through a competitive process (State & MPO)
- Funds must be obligated within 3 years
- Receive \$9.38 M annually





# Annual Allocations

Funding Categories	Approx. Annual Allocation (Federal + Match in Millions)
CMAQ	\$87.4
STBG	\$137.3
TASA	\$9.4

# 2018 Call For Projects

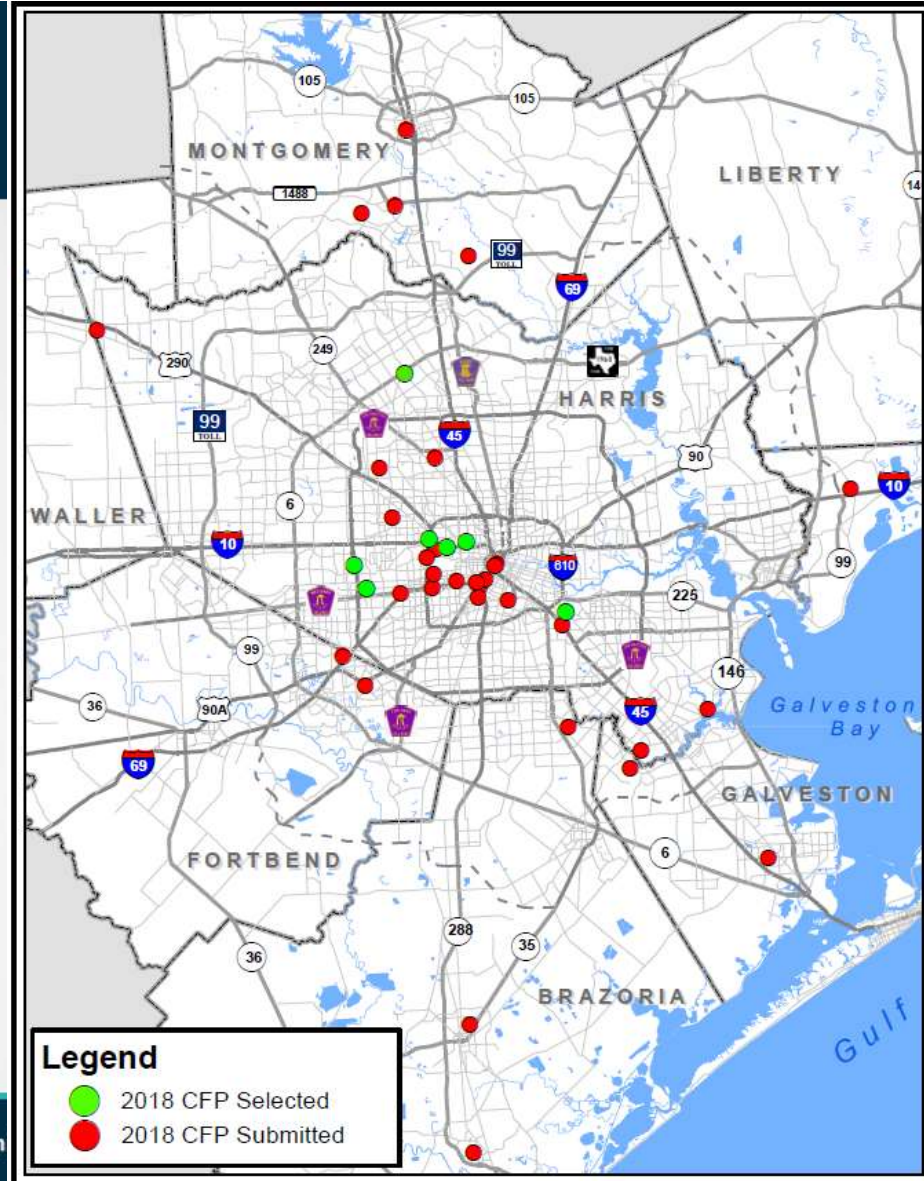


- Aligned project evaluation with 2045 RTP goals
- Evaluation Considered:
  - Benefit/Cost Analysis
    - Safety, Delay, and Emissions
  - Planning Factors
    - (e.g., Planning Coordination, Environmental Justice, Expands connectivity to employment/schools/medical facilities)

# 2018 Call For Projects

## Active Transportation Projects

- Submitted: 42
- Selected: 8



# Transportation Development Credits (TDC)



- TDCs are credits, not dollars.
- Use of TDCs allows 100% federal reimbursement of eligible project costs
- Earned when State, Toll Authority, or private entity expends non-federal funds on capital improvements to public highways (as documented by States)
- H-GAC balance = 1.02 Billion TDCs
- TDC Policy was adopted November 2020
- Regional Strategic Transportation Fund (TBD)

# Project Implementation



- Inclusion in the TIP and RTP
  - “Grouped” Projects
- Agreement with TxDOT
- Project monitoring
- Invoicing
- Project completion and close out

# Questions



Adam Beckom, AICP  
Program Manager

[Adam.Beckom@h-gac.com](mailto:Adam.Beckom@h-gac.com)

713.993.4567

H-GAC TIP Webpage:

<https://www.h-gac.com/transportation-improvement-program>

# 6.0 Bike Network Update Workgroup

- H-GAC Ped/Bike Subcommittee Workgroups Overview
  - Two active workgroups:
    - Bike Network Update
    - TIP Project Prioritization
  - Meet as needed based on objectives and outcomes
- TIP Project Prioritization Workgroup
  - Will start meeting again to further refine and develop project evaluation criteria after the anticipated 2021 TIP Call for Projects

# 6.0 Bike Network Update Workgroup

## TIP Project Prioritization Workgroup Members

Nominated Position	Primary-Name	Organization	Alternate-Name	Organization
Citizens Interest	Abby Fernandez	Houston Bike Share	Bryan Reed	Houston Bike Share
Citizens Interest	Ashley Johnson	LINK Houston		
Local Government	John McGowan	The Woodlands Township	John Powers	The Woodlands Township
Local Government	Brian Smith	City of Houston-P&D	Lauren Grove	City of Houston-PW
Local Government	Carry Capers	City of Pearland	Kevin Carter	City of Pearland
Local Government	Francesca Linder	City of Baytown	Nathan Dietrich	City of Baytown
Local Government	John Orsag	City of League City	Chien Wei	City of League City
Local Government	Monique Johnson	City of Sugar Land	Krystal LaSrape	City of Sugar Land
Transit Agency	Yuhayna Mahmud	METRO	Aubin Pickens	METRO
Management District	Anibeth Turcios	Greater Northside Management Dist.		
Non-Profit	Lisa Graiff	Houston Parks Board	Lisa Kasianowitz	Houston Parks Board
State	Ana Ramirez-Huerta	TxDOT	Heng Weng	TxDOT
	Anita Hollman	H-GAC	Jeff Taebel	H-GAC



# 6.0 Bike Network Update Workgroup

## ■ Bike Network Update Workgroup Members

Nominated Position	Primary-Name	Organization
Citizens Interest	Bryan Reed	Houston Bike Share
Citizens Interest	Ashley Johnson	LINK Houston
Local Government	Brian Smith	City of Houston-P&D
Local Government	Jessica Cohen	Harris County
Local Government	Krystal LaStrape	City of Sugar Land
Transit Agency	Aubin Pickens	METRO
Non-Profit	Lisa Kasianowitz	Houston Parks Board
Non-Profit/H-GAC	Anita Hollmann	H-GAC
State	Ana Ramirez-Huerta	TxDOT
	Gregg Nady	Private Citizen/Willow Fork Drainage District
	Peter Wang	GIS student at Lone Star College
	Jonathan Brooks	LINK Houston
	Amanda Nunley	Houston Parks Board

# 6.0 Bike Network Update Workgroup

## ■ Purpose

- Update and make it easier to keep the regional GIS bike network layer current
- Make the regional GIS bike network layer user friendly while providing valuable information
- Established as an objective in the 2045 Active Transportation Plan

## ■ Objectives

- Phase 1
  - Establish and adopt regional standards for nomenclature describing bicycle facilities
  - Establish and adopt a standardized regional GIS attribute table
  - Physically update the GIS layer and publish to regional website
  - Publish information to mapping services (e.g. Google, Bing, Apple Maps, etc.)
- Phase 2
  - Establish and adopt regional quality/comfort standards for bike infrastructure
  - Collect data to physically update GIS layer
  - Publish data to regional website

# 6.0 Bike Network Update Workgroup

## ■ Schedule

### • Phase 1

#### ○ Initially anticipated to be 3 meetings

- Distribute welcome email, including:
  - new workgroup SharePoint site and welcome materials
  - proposed standardized nomenclature for bicycle facilities to initiate review comments
  - proposed standardized GIS attribute table to initiate review comments
- Meeting # 1 (Late August to Mid September 2021)
  - Discuss and finalize comments for the standardized nomenclature and GIS attribute table
- Revise both nomenclature and GIS attribute table
- Meeting # 2 (November to December 2021)
  - Final review and recommendation for Ped/Bike Subcommittee to adopt standardized nomenclature and GIS attribute table
- Meeting # 3
  - Place holder in case two meetings are required to finalize comments from Meeting # 1
- Physical data entry to update GIS bike network layer (January 2022 to February 2022)
- Publish GIS bike network layer (March 2022 to April 2022)

### • Phase 2

#### ○ TBD

# 7.0 Active Transportation Travel Demand Forecasting Model and Surveys

- What is it?
  - The older travel demand model did not have many active transportation options
  - The new Activity Based Model has ped/bike mobility built into the model but does not include TNCs or micro-mobility
  - Surveys will be conducted as inputs for the model
- What is the purpose?
  - Workgroup to develop a solution that will be able to perform accurate scenario planning based on ped/bike projects and how they interact with the rest of the transportation system
  - Workgroup will develop solution with the ability to focus on just the active transportation system as well
  - Workgroup will need to decide if an adjustment to the ABM is better than wholesale new model/approach
- When?
  - Anticipated October/November 2021 to September 2022



# Program Update- Commute Solutions



**Item # 8**  
**Deborah Mayfield, Project Manager**  
**H-GAC Ped/Bike Subcommittee**  
**July 15, 2021**



## How We Support the Region

1. Promote Shared and Active Transportation
2. Lessen Peak Period Congestion
3. Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled
4. Improve Air Quality





# Regional Employer Survey

- December 7, 2020- January 6, 2021
- Impact of COVID-19 on worksites
- Distributed by H-GAC partners
- 237 worksites participate
- Robust Survey in 2021
- REACH MORE BUSINESSES!
- NEED YOUR HELP!
- [deborah.mayfield@h-gac.com](mailto:deborah.mayfield@h-gac.com)





# THANK YOU!

## 2021 Gulf Coast Regional Bike Month

### May 2021





# Telework Week June 21-25

- **New Resources Section on the Commute Solutions Website**  
<https://www.yourcommutesolution.org/resources/telework>
- **Telework Webinar Series that continues July and August**
  - June 24 - [Leveraging Telework in Your Return to the Office](#)
  - July 20- [Cloud Security and the Virtual Office](#)
  - August 2- [Managing the Hybrid Environment: Best Practices for Managers & Employees](#)
- **Announced 2021 Telework Champion Award Winners on Social Media**



# Commuter Solutions Month - September

## Three Parts:

- **Awareness** campaign along congested corridors.
- **Appreciation** events for existing users at Park & Rides, bike lots?
- **Commuter Consultations** - Downtown, Texas Medical Center

## Seeking Partners!



## ***Additional Activities***

- Connect Smart Launch – September 2021
- Emergency Ride Home Expansion Pilot - Fall/ Late 2021
  - Proposing expansion to include all transit, carpool, vanpool, bicyclists, and pedestrian commuters
  - Increase from three trips to six trips per year

# ↔ Commute Solutions

**Questions?**

**Deborah Mayfield**  
**[Deborah.Mayfield@h-gac.com](mailto:Deborah.Mayfield@h-gac.com)**  
**[www.yourcommutesolution.org](http://www.yourcommutesolution.org)**





# Thank You



# 9.0 *Planned Ped/Bike Activities*

- Round table update from members
- H-GAC Activities
  - Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan
  - Pearland Transit Study

# 10.0 Upcoming Meetings

- Next Ped/Bike Subcommittee Meeting
  - Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.
- Other Meetings
  - H-GAC Board of Directors Meeting
    - July 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
  - Transportation Policy Council (TPC)
    - July 23, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.
  - Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee
    - August 4, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

# 11.0 Adjourn





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## HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

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Susan Jaworski  
c/o Chair Ana Ramirez  
Pedestrian/Bicycle Subcommittee  
TxDOT HOU District  
7600 Washington Avenue  
Houston, TX 77007

June 29, 2021

Mr. Adam Beckom  
TIP Subcommittee  
H-GAC  
3555 Timmons Lane, Ste 120  
Houston, TX 77027

Re: Active Transportation Planning Factors and Benefit Cost Analysis recommendations by the Ped/Bike Subcommittee

Dear Mr. Beckom:

Active transportation projects are vital contributions to the vibrancy of a community. They ensure that neighbors are connected, provide vital links to transportation, amplifies freedom of travel for the mobility impaired, augments education via reliable and safe connections to public institutions and academic facilities, and enhances imperative access to employment opportunities.

A little over a year ago, the Ped/Bike Subcommittee designated a workgroup to review and submit recommendations regarding evaluating TIP applications for active transportation projects. The TIP Subcommittee formed a workgroup to undertake the same task. As such, the Ped/Bike Subcommittee workgroup was repurposed to provide feedback in the form of recommendations to the TIP Subcommittee Project Prioritization Workgroup for the 2021 TIP Call for Projects as they relate to active transportation projects.

The Ped/Bike Subcommittee workgroup is appreciative to have the opportunity to recommend changes to the Active Transportation Planning Factors and Benefit Cost Analysis. The Planning Factors recommendations and proposed Emissions Benefit template are enclosed within the attached spreadsheet. All other recommendations are listed below.

### **Ped/Bike Subcommittee Recommendations**

The Ped/Bike Subcommittee project evaluation criteria recommendations are listed below for everything except the planning factors. All of these recommendations were unanimously approved to be forwarded to the TIP subcommittee during the Ped/Bike Special Subcommittee meeting held on Thursday, June 17, 2021.



**HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL**

- Active transportation project scoring criteria are recommended to have an 80% planning factors and 20% benefit cost analysis split. It is recommended to have the planning factors total 160 points and the benefit cost analysis to account for 40 points for a total of 200 points.
- It is recommended to place a caveat that at least 65% of available TASA (Category 9) funds are designated solely for active transportation (pedestrian/bicycle) infrastructure projects.
- The following are recommendations for CMAQ set aside funding amounts covering active transportation projects:
  - If CMAQ funds are less than \$45 million, then the active transportation set aside amount is at least 15%.
  - If CMAQ funds are greater than \$45 million, then the active transportation set aside amount is at least 20%.
- The Ped/Bike subcommittee recommends removing the delay benefits template entirely from the benefits cost analysis.
- The Ped/Bike subcommittee recommends adjusting the 2018 safety benefits template for active transportation projects to better accommodate pedestrian/bicycle projects. Specifically, we recommend the following changes:
  - Revise the “safety” benefits to include:
    - using inputs from the H-GAC ACE tool for daily travel demand, such as new bicyclist users, new pedestrian users, VMT reduction, etc.
    - using the H-GAC Regional Crash Data tool for 5 years worth of active transportation (ped/bike) crash data instead of historically 3 years of overall (e.g. all crash types) county average crash data
    - using the H-GAC Regional Crash Data tool for location specific crash data instead of county averages
- The Ped/Bike subcommittee recommends revising the 2018 emissions benefits template to incorporate the following changes as depicted within the attached revised Emissions spreadsheet.
  - Change in service life to match what is depicted in the 2018 Safety Benefits template

Type of Improvement	Safety Analysis (H-GAC) Service Life
Install new Sidewalks	10
Sidewalk improvements	10
ADA Ramps	10
Paved Shoulder/Shared Use path	20
On Street bicycle lane	20
Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge/Underpass	30



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## HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL

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Off street hike & bike trails	20
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- Incorporates inputs from the H-GAC ACE tool under the pedestrian-bicycle commuter analysis, such as new Walking Commuters, new Bicycling Commuters, VMT reduction, etc.
- Implement a standard general average roadway speed of 25 mph

The benefits of active transportation projects are undeniable. They are also economical since the infrastructure itself has a relatively small footprint and are generally less expensive to construct and maintain. The downside to their smaller scale is that they rarely are competitive to much larger traditional infrastructure improvements. This translates into smaller quantity of funds available for active transportation. In some ways, these recommendations are asking for equitable treatment to their larger roadway projects. Simultaneously, these comments are requesting set-asides so that ped/bike projects could compete amongst themselves.

The Ped/Bike Subcommittee and the Ped/Bike Subcommittee TIP Project Prioritization Workgroup welcomed the opportunity to work with the TIP Subcommittee Project Prioritization workgroup by submitting these comments. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Chair, Ana Ramirez at [Ana.RamirezHuerta@txdot.gov](mailto:Ana.RamirezHuerta@txdot.gov), or Vice Chair Brian Smith at [BrianD.Smith@houstontx.gov](mailto:BrianD.Smith@houstontx.gov).

Regards,

*Susan Jaworski*

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Active Transportation Planner

Attachment(s)\*

cc: B. Smith (City of Houston), J. Owens (H-GAC), V. Lingala (H-GAC), S. Jaworski (H-GAC)