

**MEETING OF THE RTP SUBCOMMITTEE
HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL**

MEMBERS PLEASE USE THE TEAMS INVITATION

TELECONFERENCE PARTICIPATION VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

[+1 346-262-0140](tel:+13462620140) United States, Houston (Toll)

Conference ID: 641 945 004#

January 19, 2022

1:30PM

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
Roll Call Attendance
2. Acceptance of Minutes
From meeting of December 8, 2021
3. Discussion of the 2045 RTP Updating Strategy
 - a. Outreach Strategy – Visioning Phase Update
 - b. Transportation Assets – High-Capacity Transit (Thomas Gray)
4. Future Meeting Topics
 - a. Regional Safety Plan
 - b. Airport/Ferries
 - c. Parking Management
 - d. Continued Freight and Congestion Management Process
 - e. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
 - f. Population projections
5. Announcements
 - a. Next TPC Meeting – January 28, 2021 at 9:30AM (Teleconference)
 - b. Next RTP Subcommittee Meeting – February 9, 2021 at 1:30PM (Teleconference)
 - c. Next TAC Meeting – February 16, 2021 at 9:30AM (Teleconference)
6. Adjourn

RTP Subcommittee Roster

Primary – Name	Organization	Alternate – Name	Organization
Morad Kabiri, P.E.	City of Friendswood	Robert Upton, P.E.	City of Pearland
Perri D'Armond	Fort Bend County	Stacy Slawinski	Fort Bend County
Monique Johnson	City of Sugar Land	Krystal LaStrape	City of Sugar Land
Bill Zrioka	Houston Airport System	Marcel Allen	Houston Airport System
Andrea French	TAG-Houston Region	Nikki Knight	Southeast Management Dist.
Elijah Williams	Energy Corridor	Elizabeth Whitton, AICP	Energy Corridor
Iris Gonzalez	Coalition for Env., Equity & Res.	Jonathan Brooks	LINK Houston
Adam France, AICP	City of Conroe	Chris Bogert, P.E.	City of Conroe
Christopher Sims	City of League City	Hon. Chad Tressler	City of League City
Matt Hanks	Brazoria County	Karen McKinnon	Brazoria County
David Fields	City of Houston-P&D	Peter Eccles	City of Houston-P&D
Hon. Jay Knight	Liberty County	David Douglas	Liberty County
Loyd Smith, P.E.	Harris County	Bryan Brown	Harris County
Nick Woolery	City of Baytown	Frank Simoneaux	City of Baytown
Yancy Scott	Waller County	Jared Chen	Waller County
Katherine Parker	GCRD	Carol Lewis, PhD	TSU
Bruce Mann	Port of Houston	Rohit Saxena	Port of Houston
Rodger Rees	Port of Galveston	Brett Milutin	Port of Galveston
Charles Airiohuodion	TxDOT-HOU	Jeffrey English	TxDOT-HOU
Lisa Collins	TxDOT-BMT	Scott Ayres	TxDOT-BMT
Ken Fickes	Harris County	Vernon Chambers	Harris County
Kenneth Brown	METRO	Philip Brenner	METRO
John Tyler	HCTRA	Dale Hilliard	HCTRA

**MEETING OF THE RTP SUBCOMMITTEE
HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL
TELECONFERENCE PARTICIPATION VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS
December 8, 2021
1:30PM
Minutes**

Member Attendance:

Primary-Name	Present	Alternate-Name	Present
Morad Kabiri, Chair	Yes	Robert Upton	Yes
Perri D'Armond, Vice Chair	Yes	Stacy Slawinski	No
Monique Johnson	Yes	Krystal LaStrape	No
Bill Zrioka	Yes	Marcel Allen	No
Andrea French	No	Nikki Knight	No
Elijah Williams	No	Elizabeth Whitton	Yes
Iris Gonzalez	No	Jonathan Brooks	Yes
Adam France	No	Chris Bogert	No
Christopher Sims	Yes	Hon. Chad Tressler	No
Matt Hanks	Yes	Karen McKinnon	Yes
David Fields	Yes	Peter Eccles	Yes
Hon. Jay Knight	No	David Douglas	No
Loyd Smith	No	Bryan Brown	Yes
Nick Woolery	No	Frank Simoneaux	No
Yancy Scott	Yes	Jared Chen	No
Katherine Parker	Yes	Carol Lewis	No
Bruce Mann	Yes	Rohit Saxena	No
Rodger Rees	No	Brett Milutin	No
Charles Airiohuodion	Yes	Jeffrey English	Yes
Lisa Collins	Yes	Scott Ayres	No
Ken Fickes	No	Vernon Chambers	Yes
Kenneth Brown	Yes	Philip Brenner	Yes
John Tyler	No	Dale Hilliard	Yes

Others Present: Alan Clark, Marcel Allen, Adam Beckom, Chelsea Young, Jim Dickinson, Carrie Evans, David Fink, Ben Finley, James Garland, Thomas Gray, Donte Green, Veronica Green, Harrison Humphreys, Allie Isbell, Sharon Ju, Catherine Kato, Shirley Li, Vishu Lingala, Graciela Lubertino, Carlos Lugo, Patrick Mandapaka, Carlene Mullins, Karen Owen, Craig Raborn, Alan Rodenstein, Francis Rodriquez, Cameron Stawicki, Chris Van Slyke, Veronica Waller, Gilbert Washington,

Staff Participating:

Mike Burns, Jamila Owens

1. Call to Order
Chair Morad K called the meeting to order at 1:31PM and conducted roll call to ensure a quorum. Morad K confirmed that a quorum was present.
2. Acceptance of Minutes
Peri D made a motion to approve, Vernon C seconded.
The motion was approved unanimously.
3. Discussion of the 2045 RTP Updating Strategy

a. Outreach Strategy – Visioning Outreach Update

Mike B briefly mentioned that the visioning survey is anticipated to be launched in February 2022 and will end following county-specific meeting in April 2022. Desired survey response totals in the region would be between 10,000 to 20,000. The members were polled for demographic characteristics that should be asked in the survey. The responses are as follows:

“Along with Home and Work Zip Codes, please select other demographic characteristics that would help us understand who we are reaching:

Income Level 30%

Age 30%

Gender 11%

Race 25%

Other 5%

16 responses”

David F noted that households without a vehicle would also be important to ask.

Mike B provided a second poll question regarding public meeting formats. The responses are as follows:

“What public meeting format should be used for county-specific RTP Visioning Outreach in March/April 2022 (assuming low-risk COVID status)?

Virtual (Teams or Zoom) 0%

In-person (accessible location, such as library or community center) 0%

Combination (both county-specific presentation on-line with additional in-person meetings) 54%

Flexible Format (virtual or in-person based on population density, etc.) 21%

Flexible Focus (precinct-specific or multi-county specific based on population density, etc.) 25%

16 responses”

Morad K mentioned that it was apparent that a flexible mix of in-person and virtual was preferred.

b. Transportation Assets – Congestion Management Process (Jamila Owens)

Jamila O provided an overview of the purpose of the Congestion Management Process (CMP).

David F asked about the analysis and if level of service or vehicle/capacity ratios and if there was a measure for the occupancy of a vehicle.

Jamila O acknowledged that the measures fall short of considering the number of people being moved rather than the number of vehicles and would be an area to improve.

David F mentioned that the time of day may need to be adjusted to consider a different travel peak since travel is more spread out during the day since the start of COVID.

Jamila O agreed and noted the CMP mentions that the impact of COVID will require the measures to be reevaluated and this will be done as part of the updating next year.

Charles A asked if the CMP network incorporates the changes made to the NHS system in June 2021.

Jamila O would confirm with Chris Van Slyke that the updates have been made.

Charles A asked if the letter of waiver is needed for a minor arterial that is not on the network.

Jamila O would confirm with Adam Beckom and Vishu Lingala if a letter would be needed.

Jamila O presented the input received on the CMP and comments that could and could not be addressed. This included recognizing that the strategies to address congestion, such as land use, TDM, and ITS before adding capacity. And it included needed improvements such as identifying problem segments using a threshold rather than ranking and developing a plan for problem corridors.

Elizabeth W asked if the corridors are analyzed by intersection or segments, such as the segment along Katy Freeway between SH6 and BW8.

Jamila O clarified that the segment were developed by TTI and staff is working to refine those segment as needed.

Jamila O presented the next steps for the CMP, which included soliciting participation for a work group to help guide the process and summarized the schedule for the next calendar year that included data collection and updating in the first half of the year and developing recommendations in the second half of the year.

4. Future Meeting Topics:

- a. Public Transportation - High-Capacity Transit
- b. Regional Safety Plan
- c. Airport/Ferries
- d. Continued Freight and Congestion Management Process
- e. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- f. Population projections

Mike B discussed the list of topics for discussion at future meetings.

Perri D mentioned that parking garages and parking needs to be discussed in the RTP to use federal funding for implementation. And mentioned the population updates impacting political boundaries.

5. Announcements

- a. Next TPC Meeting – December 17, 2021 at 9:30AM (Teleconference)
- b. Next RTP Subcommittee Meeting – January 19, 2021 at 1:30PM (Teleconference)
- c. Next TAC Meeting – January 19, 2021 at 9:30AM (Teleconference)

Morad K mentioned upcoming meetings over the next month.

6. Adjourn

Morad K asked for any other comments. Hearing none, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 2:21PM.

Minutes submitted by: Mike Burns



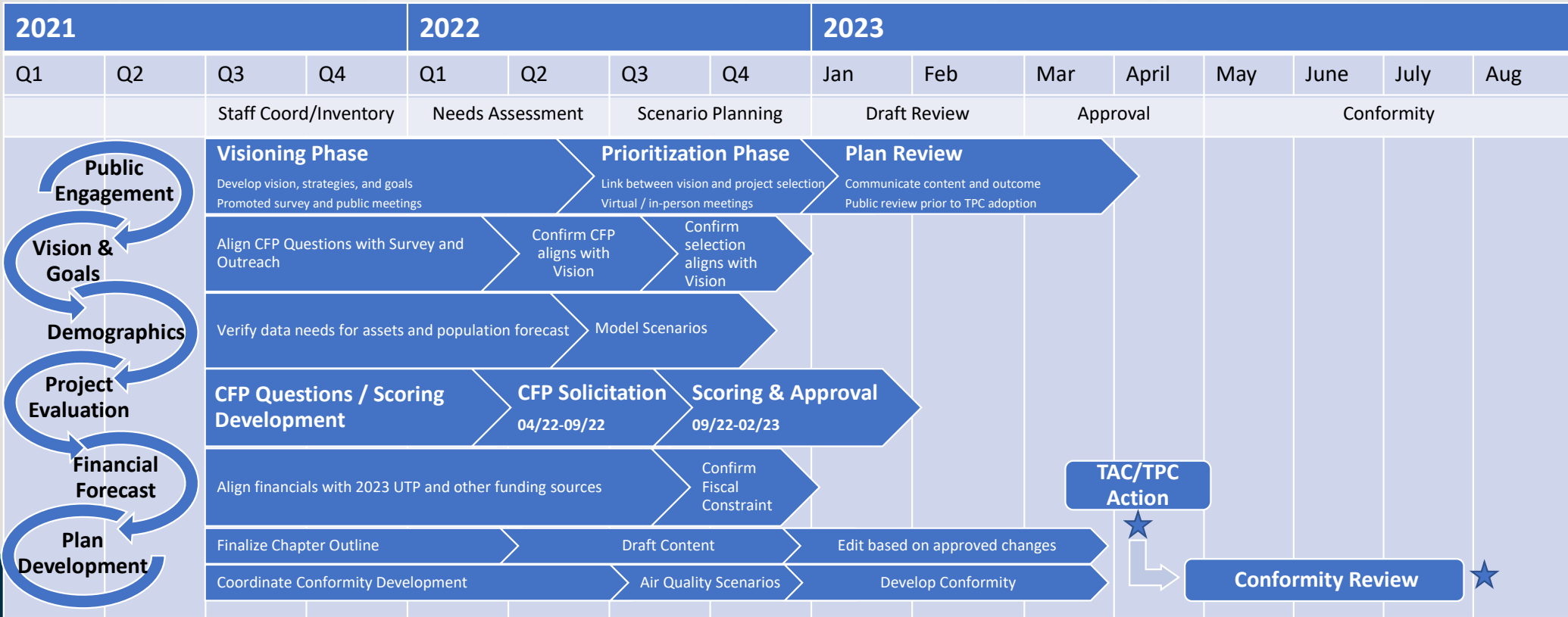
Regional Transportation Plan Update



Mike Burns, AICP
RTP Subcommittee – 01/19/2021

RTP Update Schedule

- Current Plan approved by TPC: May 24, 2019
 - Conformity Concurrence: August 2, 2019
- RTP / Conformity Expires: August 2, 2023



Public Outreach – Visioning Phase



- Visioning Survey
 - Launch in April and to end after County-specific meetings in early June (2nd Quarter 2022)
 - Desired survey response rate – 10-20K from throughout the regional (each county)
- Visioning Meetings
 - MPO County-specific meetings anticipated in April - May 2022



HCT TASK FORCE PRIORITY NETWORK: UPDATES AND PROPOSED STUDIES



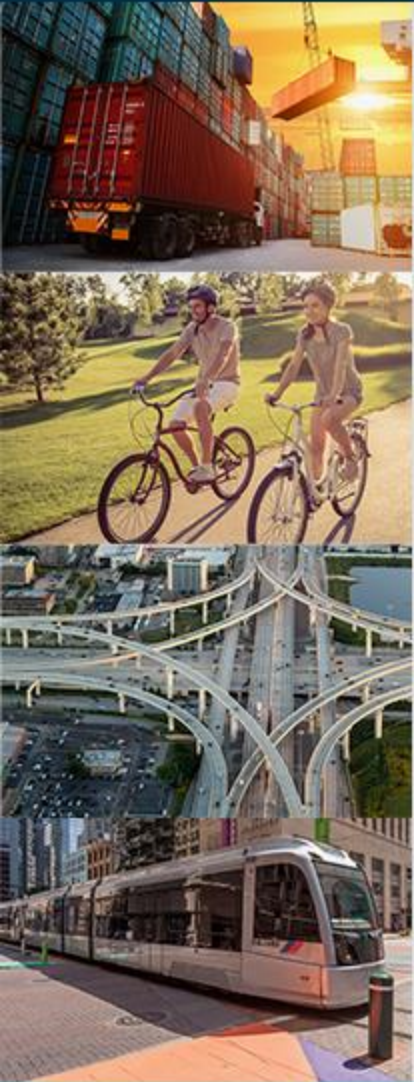
Thomas B. Gray, AICP
January 13, 2022

High Capacity Transit Task Force

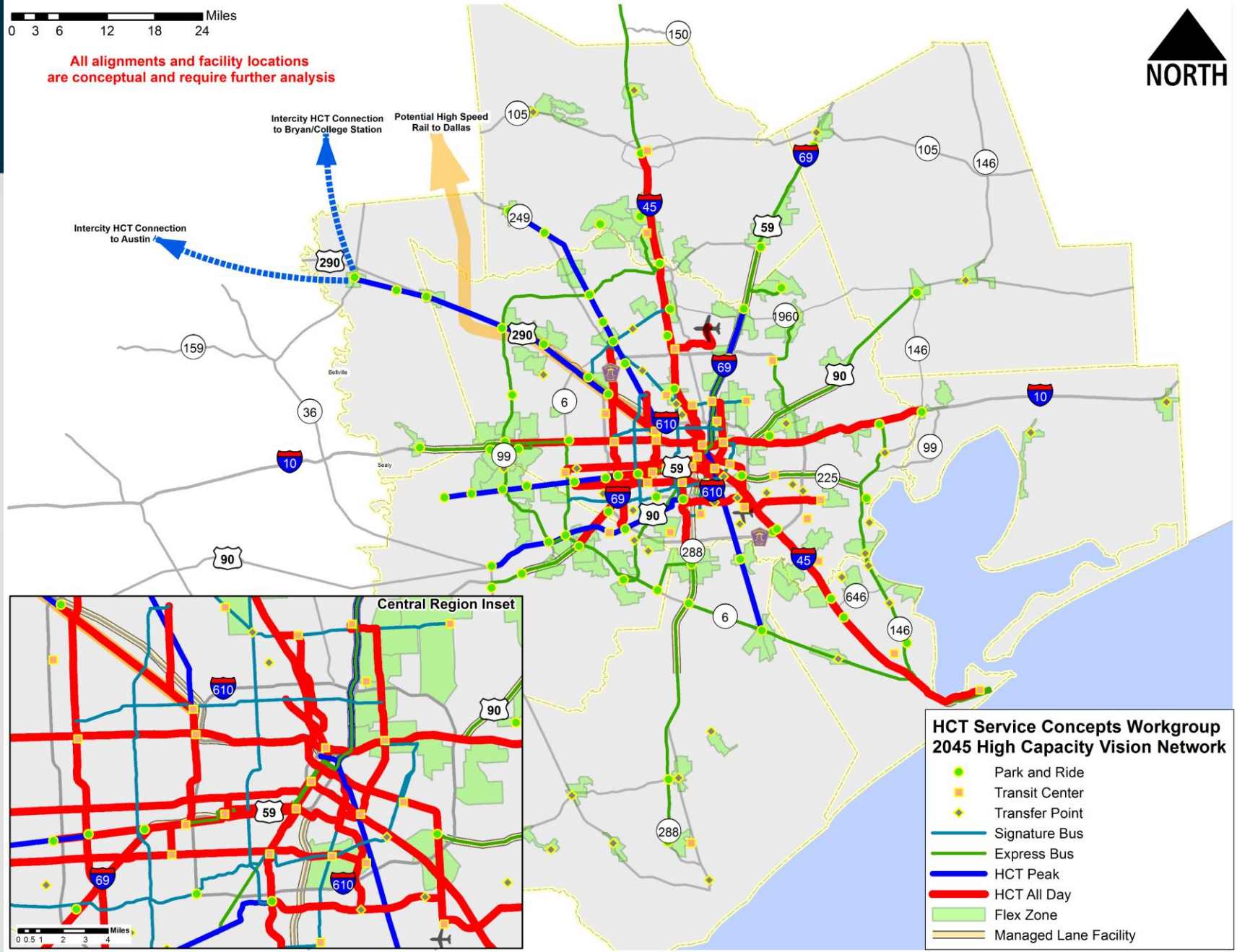
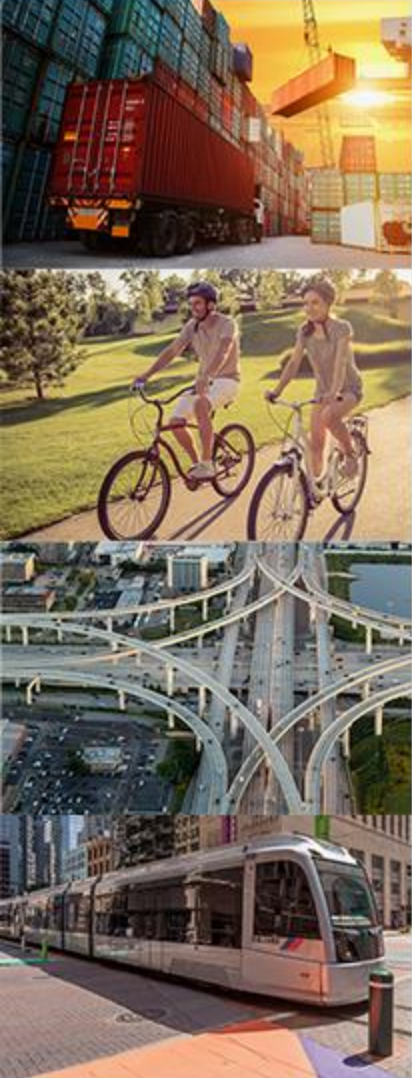
- Created by TPC in summer 2017
- Purpose was to “identify extent to which High Capacity Transit is needed to support economic growth, mobility and quality of life” and estimate amount of investment needed
- Developed unconstrained Vision Network and financially-constrained Priority Network for inclusion in 2045 RTP (spring 2019)



What is High Capacity Transit?

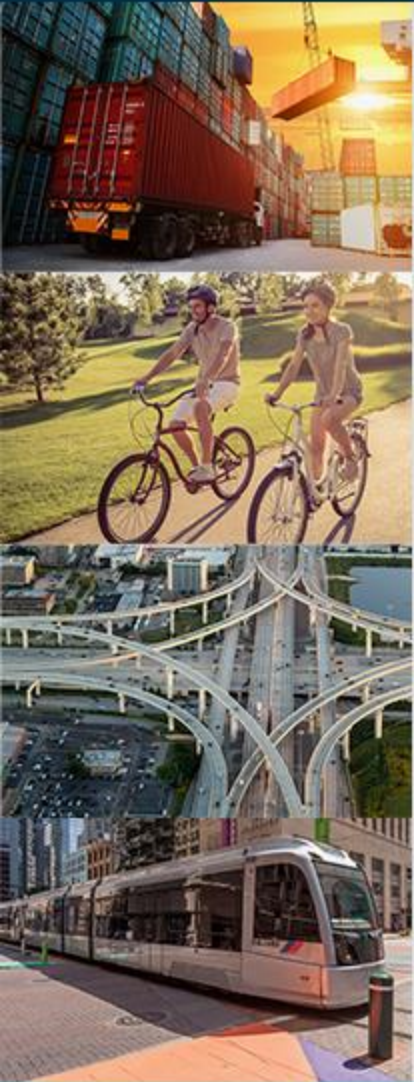


Vision



Priority Network Objectives

- Expansions of commuter and local transit services in all eight counties of region
- Better service for employment centers and commute patterns not well-served by current transit network
- Alignment with METRONext
- Leverage existing infrastructure/ROW



Priority Network Elements

- HCT services on high-demand corridors
- Expansions of Commuter Services
 - Conversion of existing HOV facilities to two-way, all-day service
- Bus priority treatments along multiple major thoroughfares (Signature service)
- New Local and Regional services
 - Connect outlying communities to each other and core
 - New local routes where need exists
 - Flex zones for areas hard to serve with traditional transit



Supporting Concepts

- Regional Fare & Marketing
- Universal Accessibility
 - “People can’t use transit if they can’t get to it”
 - No new service without access
- First Mile/Last Mile
- Transit-friendly design/parking
- Automated Vehicles
 - Opportunities and Challenges



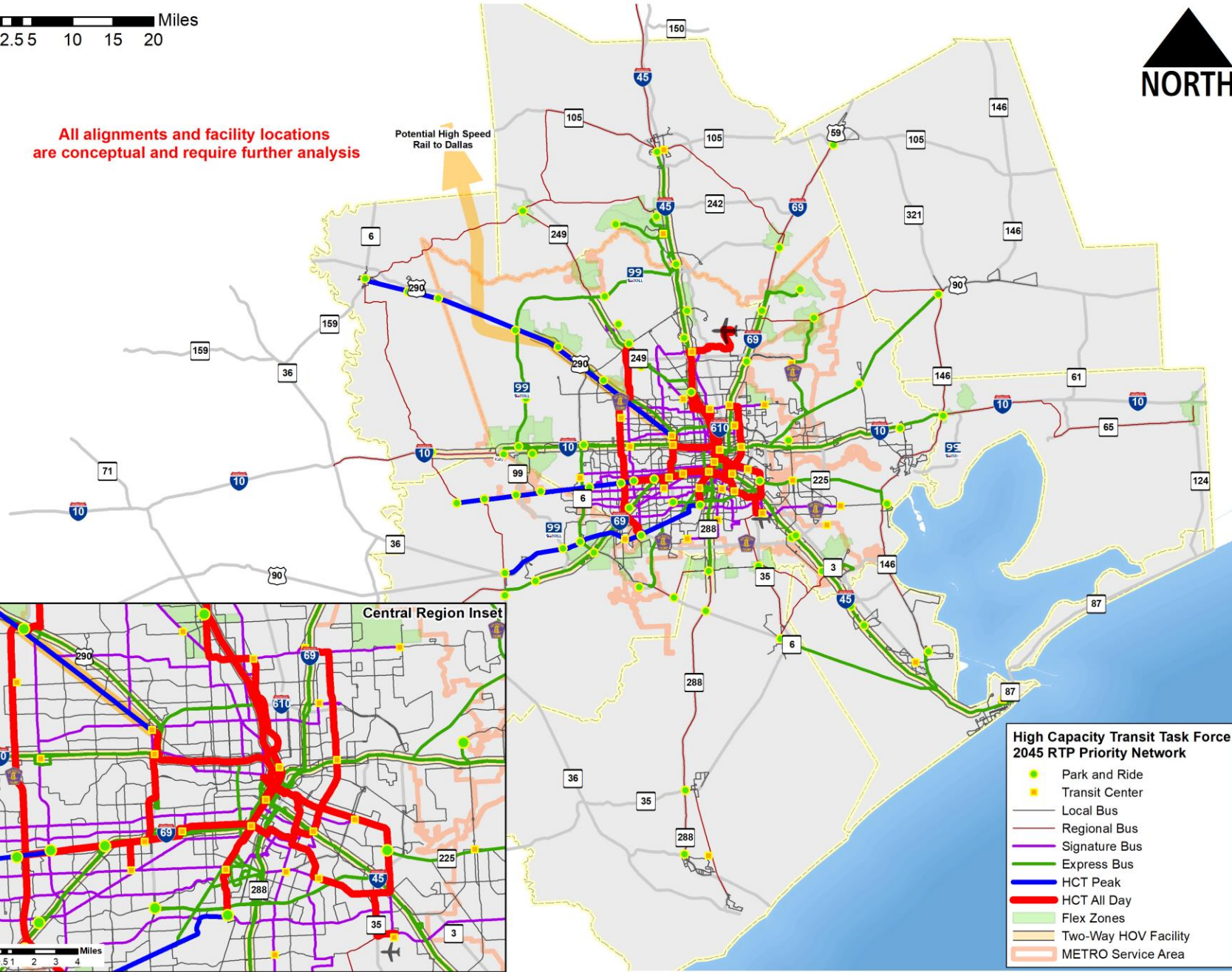
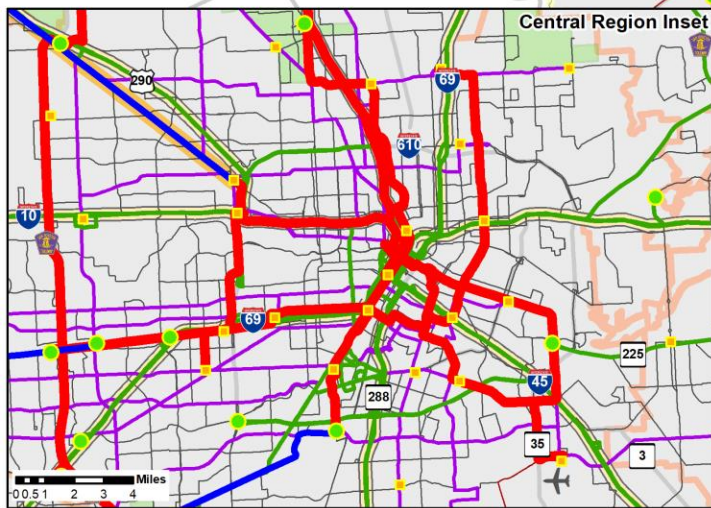
Priority Network



0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Miles

All alignments and facility locations are conceptual and require further analysis

Potential High Speed Rail to Dallas

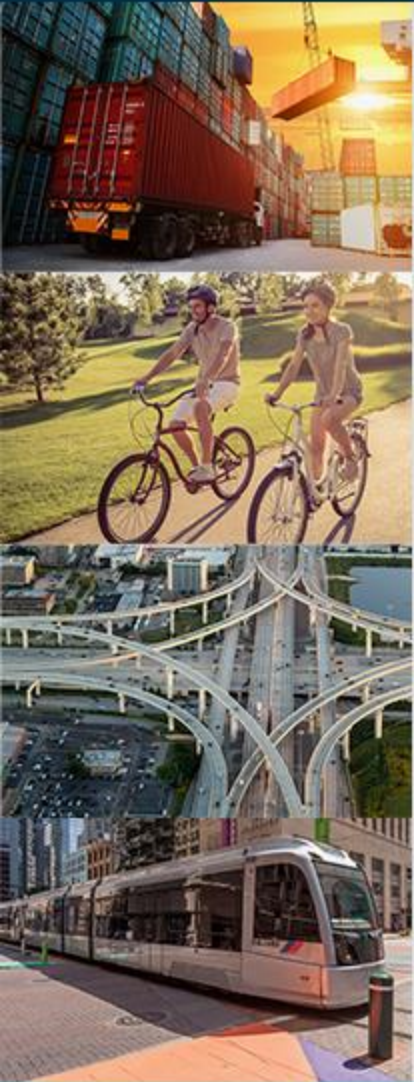


High Capacity Transit Task Force 2045 RTP Priority Network

- Park and Ride
- Transit Center
- Local Bus
- Regional Bus
- Signature Bus
- Express Bus
- HCT Peak
- HCT All Day
- Flex Zones
- Two-Way HOV Facility
- METRO Service Area

Priority Network Updates for RTP

- Network updates will be relatively minor
- Add new services
 - Galveston Trolley, Beltway/Generation Park Microtransit, etc.
- Incorporate recommendations of current subregional studies
- Consider services along additional corridors
 - Will follow overall RTP update schedule



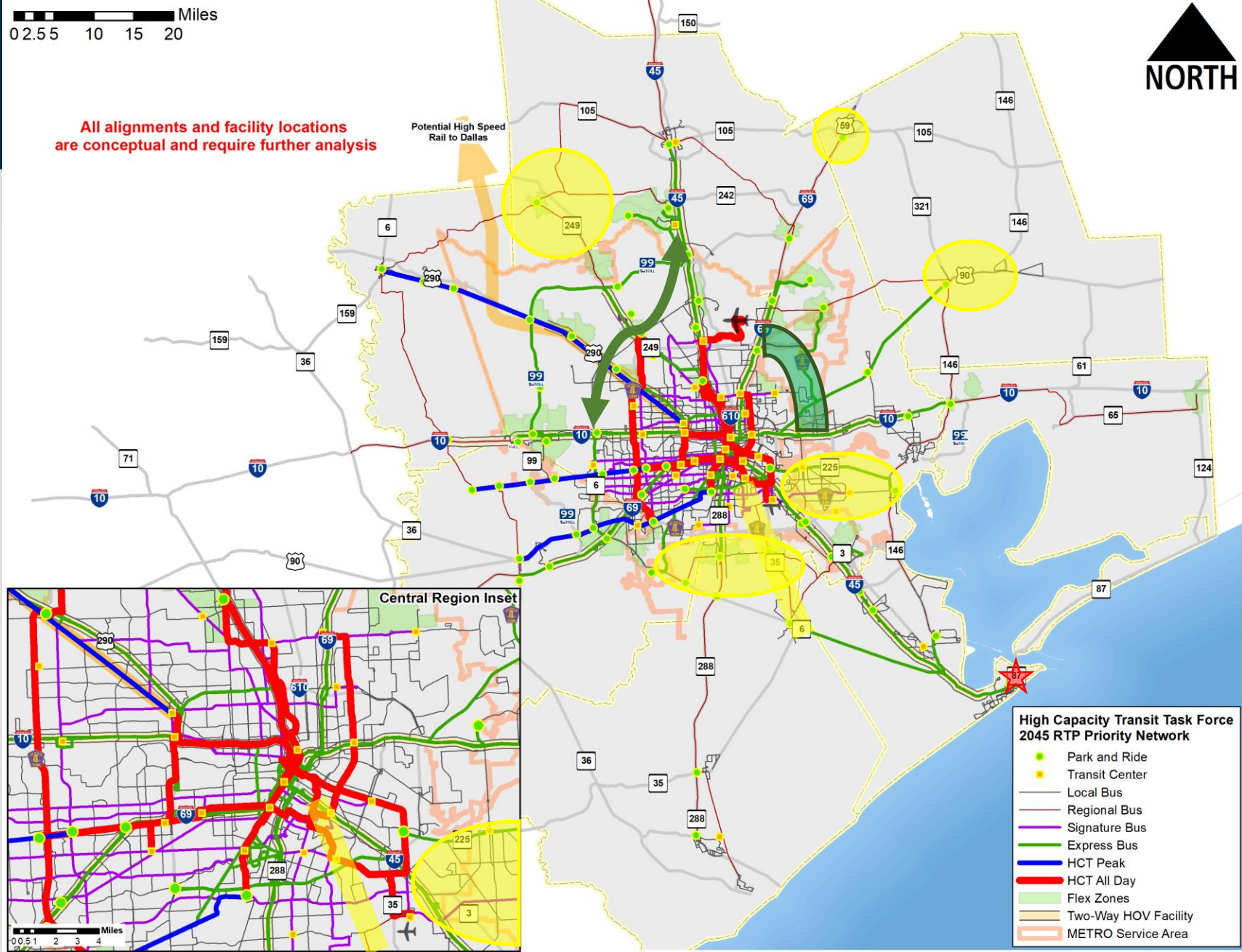
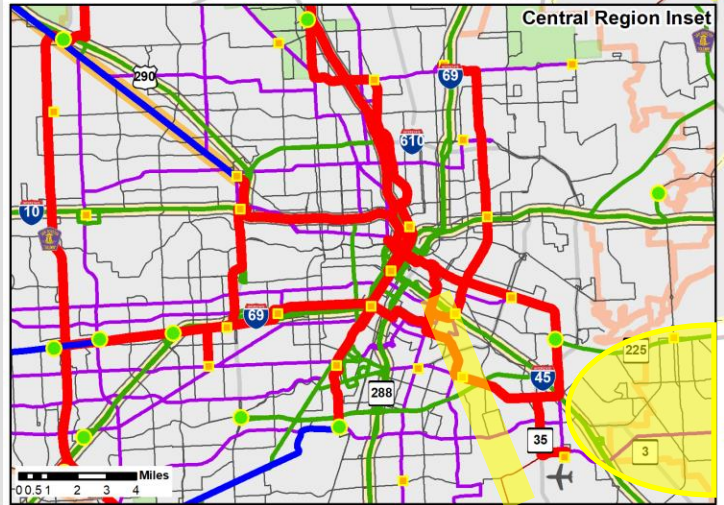
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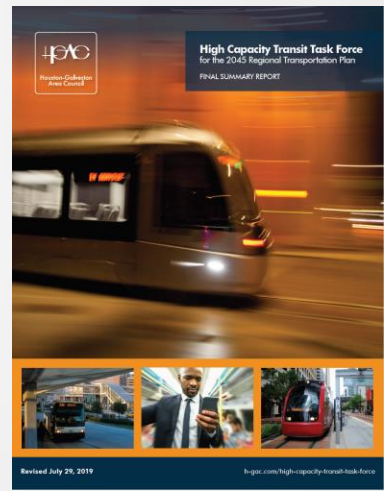
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- High Capacity Transit Task Force
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RTP Update Transit Component

- Updated Priority Network
- Revised cost and revenue estimates
- Travel demand modeling/ridership
- New Long Range Transit Document?

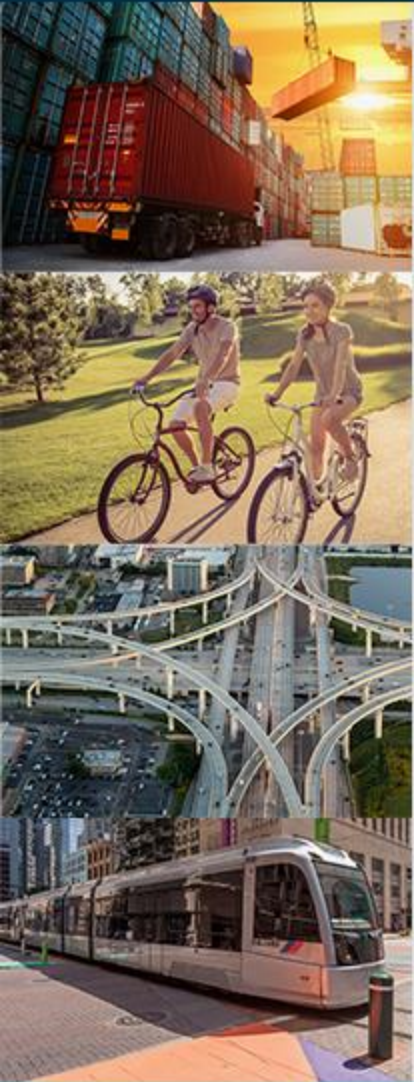


Phase II Recommendation



“A Phase II of the High Capacity Transit Task Force effort is recommended, to continue examining in further detail issues related to regional transit priorities, implementation and funding.”

HCTTF Phase II



- Ridership changes resulting from COVID Pandemic create a challenge for a Comprehensive Phase II effort
- For now, focus on feasibility studies on selected corridors and services
 - Emphasis on projects that promote connectivity of METRO service area to outlying region
- Continue promoting “Supporting Concepts”
- Re-evaluate once post-COVID commuting habits and transit usage can be better understood

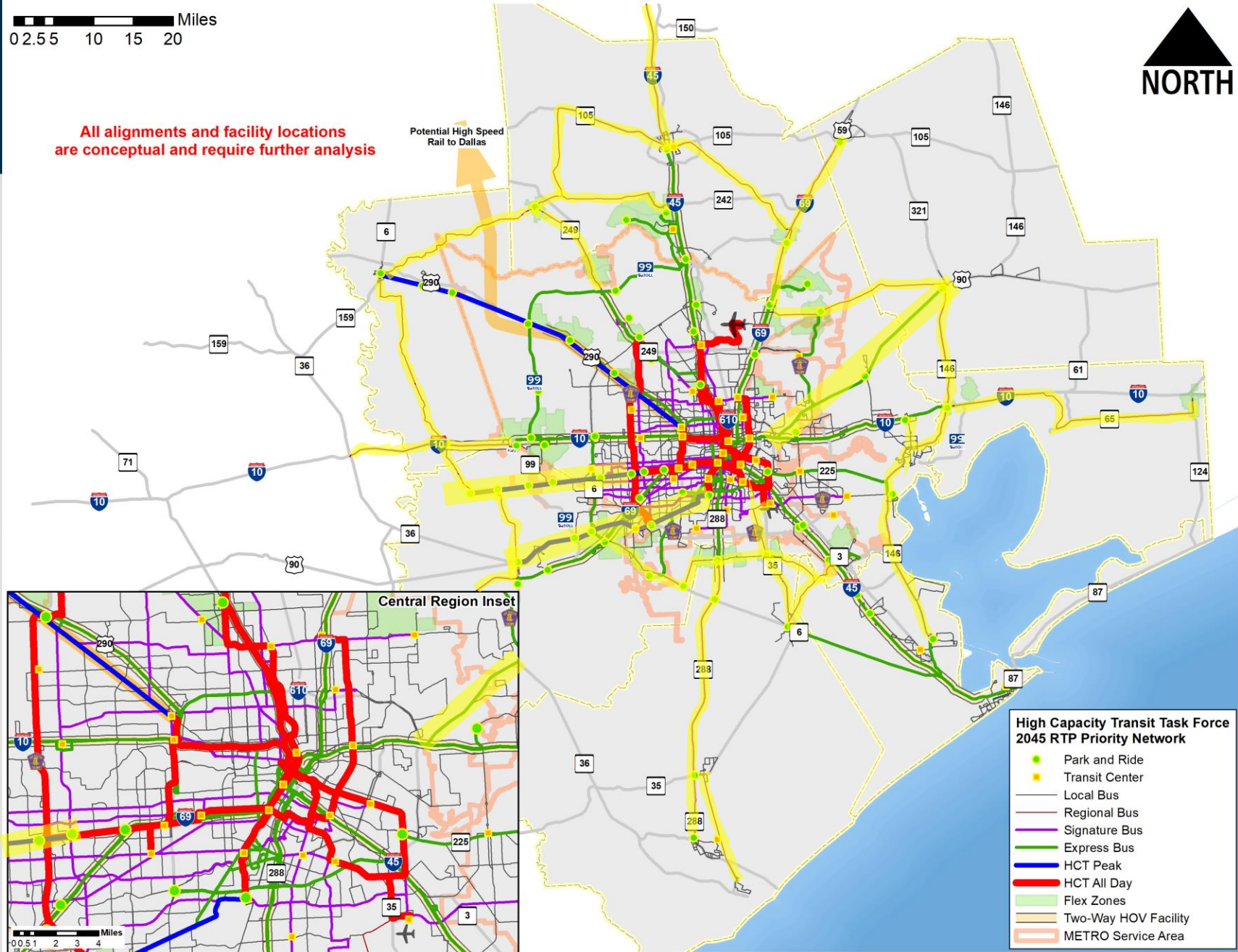
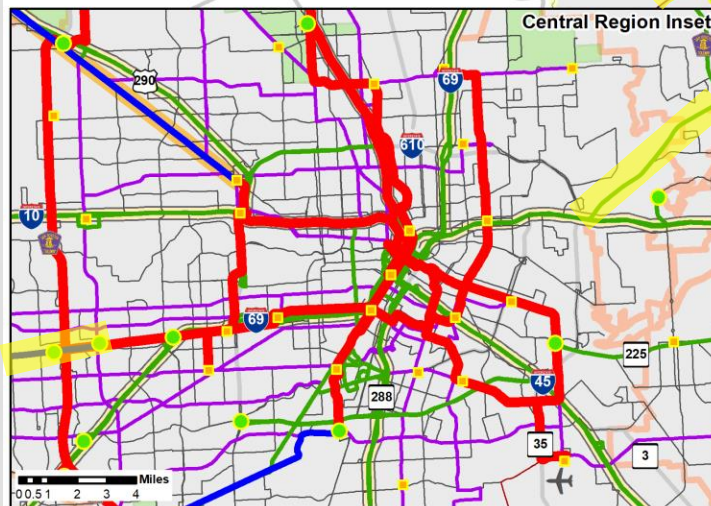
Proposed Studies



0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Miles

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Potential High Speed Rail to Dallas



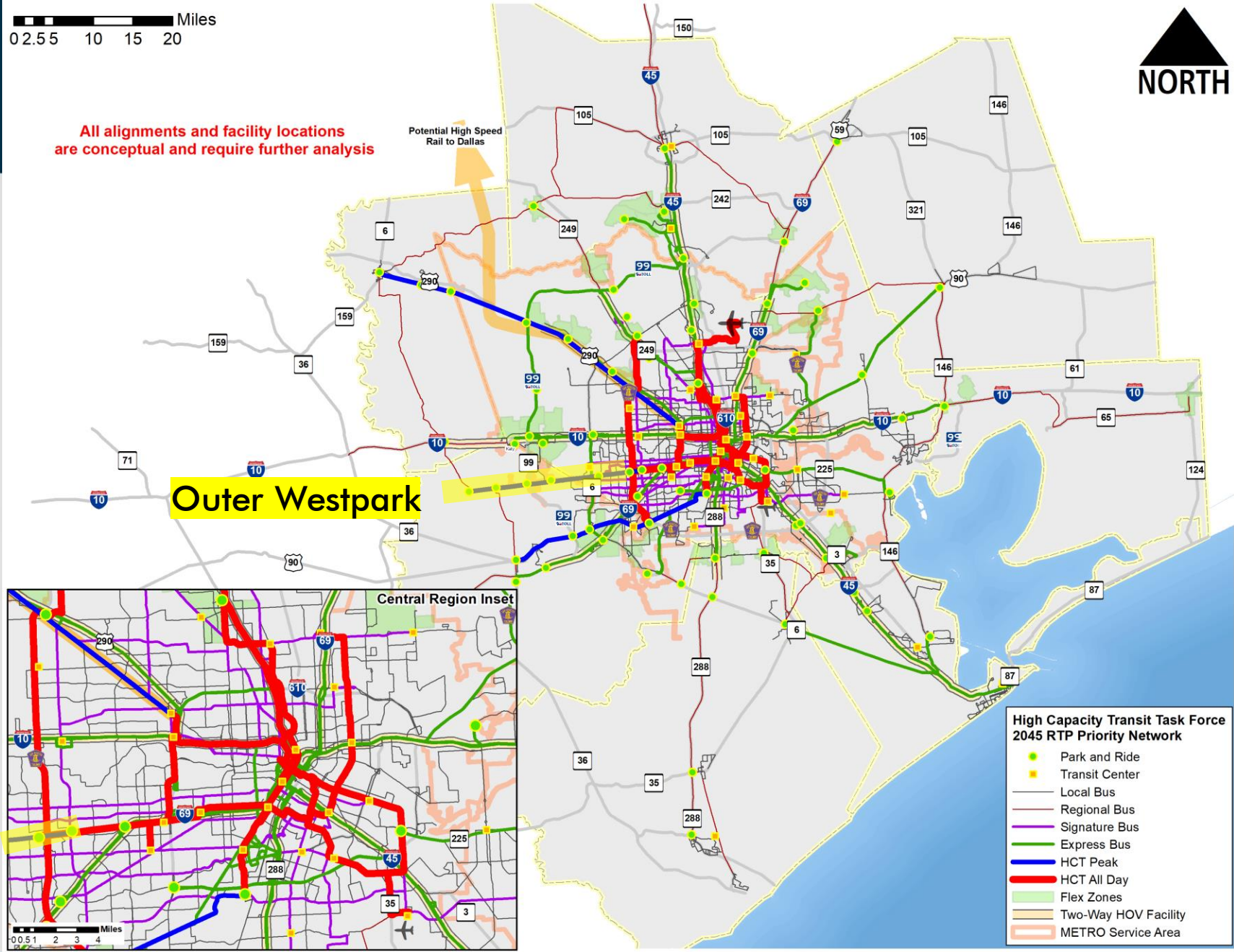
Proposed Studies



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Potential High Speed Rail to Dallas



Outer Westpark

Central Region Inset

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0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

Outer Westpark



- **Corridor has been extensively studied** by H-GAC, METRO, GCRD and FBCT for a variety of modes (CRT, LRT, BRT)
- **METRONext BRT Corridor extends to Westchase P&R** but significant development continues further west
- **Transit Facilities west of Westchase P&R:** Mission Bend P&R (METRO), planned Westpark P&R (FBCT)
- **Westpark Tollway does not offer any transit priority** and experiences peak period congestion
- **Right of Way** extends to Grand Parkway

Outer Westpark – Potential Scope



- **Assume Bus Rapid Transit** as mode
- **Facility Planning:** length, grade separations, station locations
- **Operations Planning:** Frequencies, span of service, fleet size/type, maintenance
- **Station Planning:** Access, parking, wayfinding, TOD
- **Ridership** and potential for VMT reduction
- **Capital and Operating Costs**
- **Benefits Analysis** (job access, time savings, etc.)
- **Funding and Financing:** Sources, mechanisms
- **Responsibilities** between METRO and FBCT

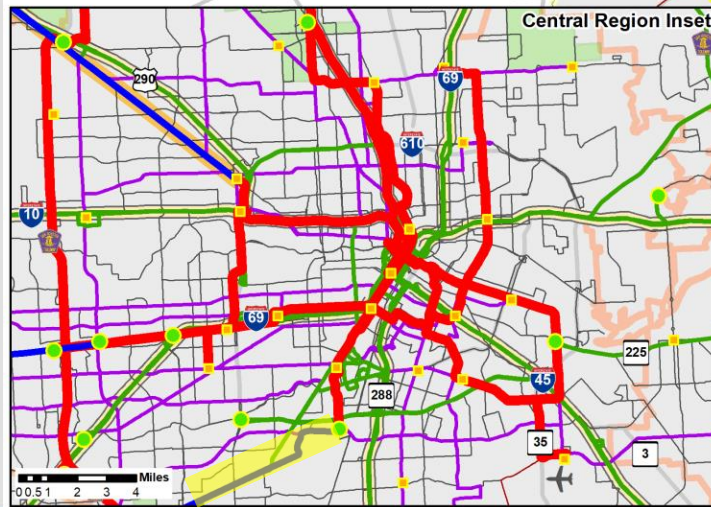
Proposed Studies



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Potential High Speed Rail to Dallas



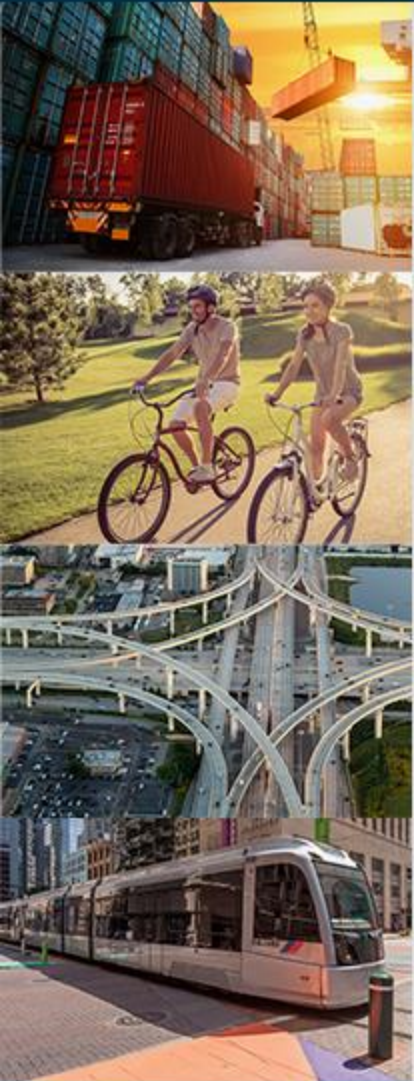
US 90 A

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US 90A



- **Corridor has been extensively studied** for commuter rail by H-GAC and other entities, dating back to 2004
- **GCRD has requested** updated study of this corridor as an item in the next UPWP, and wants to look at alternate alignments (due to constraints within 90A corridor itself)
- **New legislation allows GCRD** to consider technologies other than commuter rail (such as LRT and BRT)
- **US 90A does not offer any transit priority** even though it carries park and ride buses from Missouri City
- **METRONext includes this corridor** as “METRORail Potential Partnership” and suggests an alignment that includes I-69

US 90A – Potential Scope



- **Alternatives Analysis:** technologies, alignments, stop locations
- **Operations Planning:** Frequencies, span of service, fleet size/type, maintenance (high-level)
- **Ridership** and potential for VMT reduction
- **Capital and Operating Cost** estimates
- **Benefits Analysis** (job access, time savings, etc.)
- **Funding and Financing:** Sources, mechanisms
- **Responsibilities:** Who operates what?

Proposed Studies

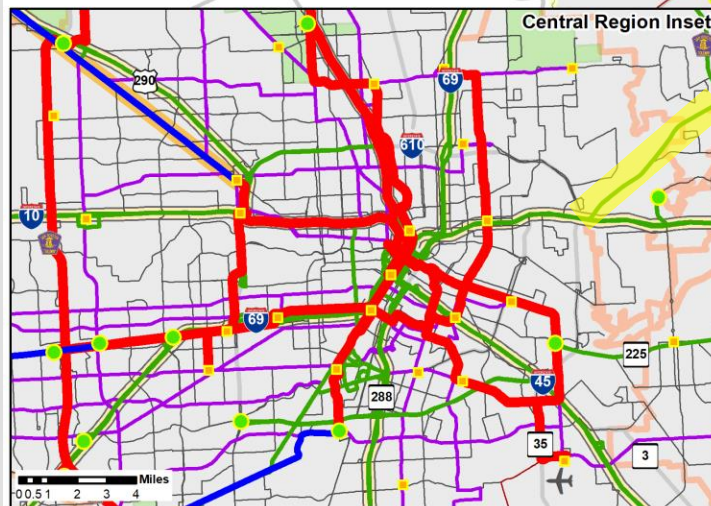


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Potential High Speed Rail to Dallas

Dayton/US 90



**High Capacity Transit Task Force
2045 RTP Priority Network**

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Dayton/US 90



- **There is currently no commuter service** from communities in Liberty County (such as Cleveland and Dayton/Liberty)
- **Liberty County Mobility Study currently underway;** will contain transit recommendations
- **City of Dayton has requested** local transit study of this as an item in the next UPWP, with a consideration for commuter service
- **Opportunity to serve additional communities in Northeast Harris County** (e.g. Crosby) via commuter service along US 90

Dayton/US 90 – Potential Scope

- **Capital Planning:** HOV facilities, park and ride locations
- **Operations Planning:** Routes, frequencies, span of service, fleet size/type, maintenance
- **Ridership** and potential for VMT reduction
- **Capital and Operating Cost** estimates
- **Benefits Analysis** (job access, time savings, etc.)
- **Funding and Financing:** Sources, mechanisms
- **Responsibilities:** Who operates what?



Proposed Studies

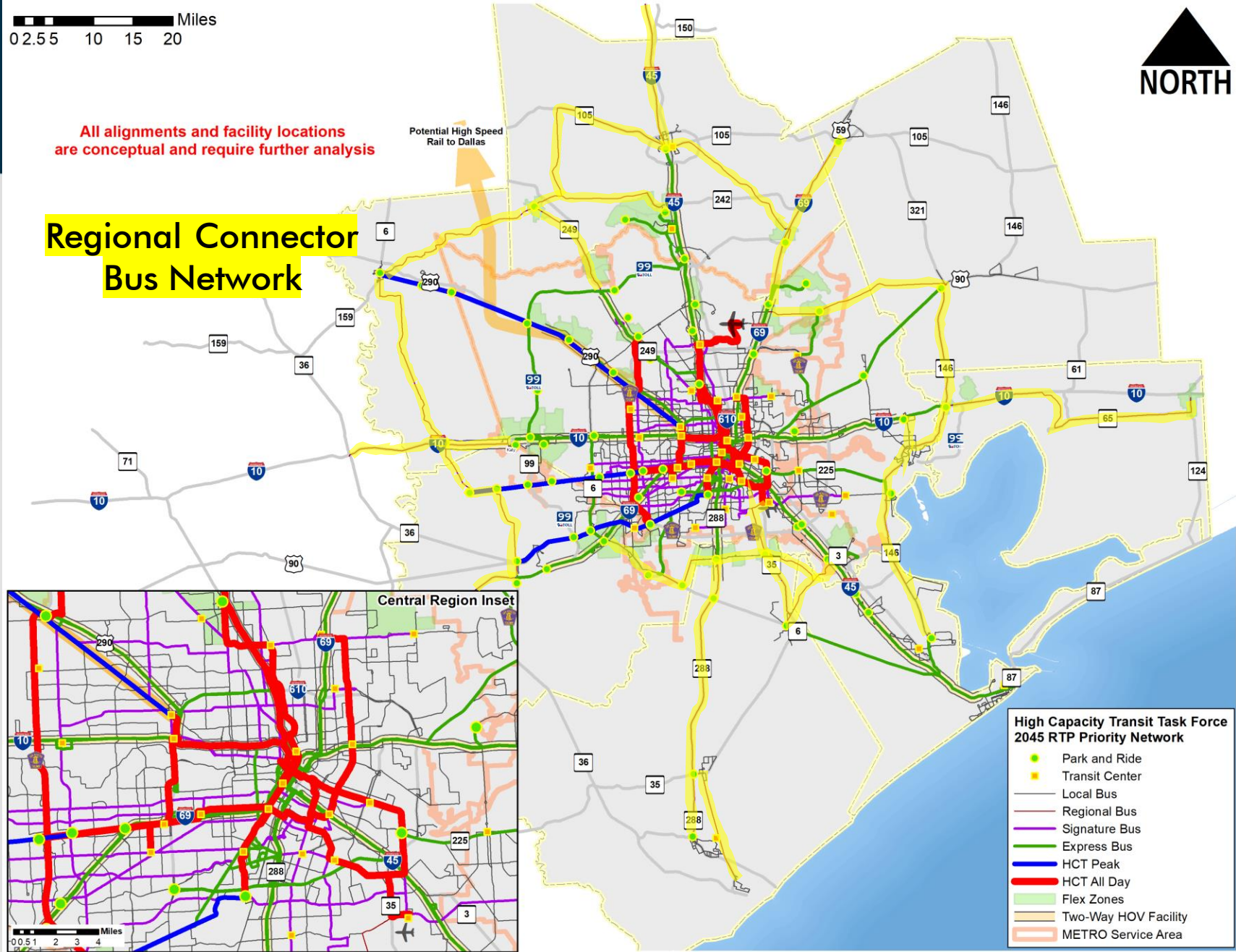
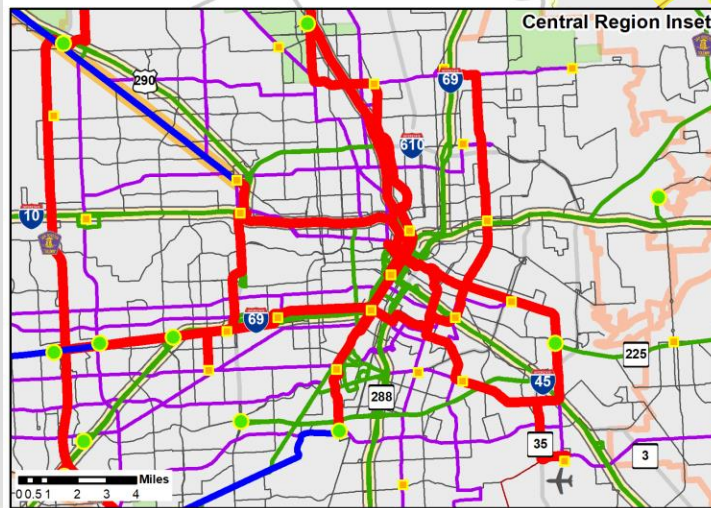


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Potential High Speed Rail to Dallas

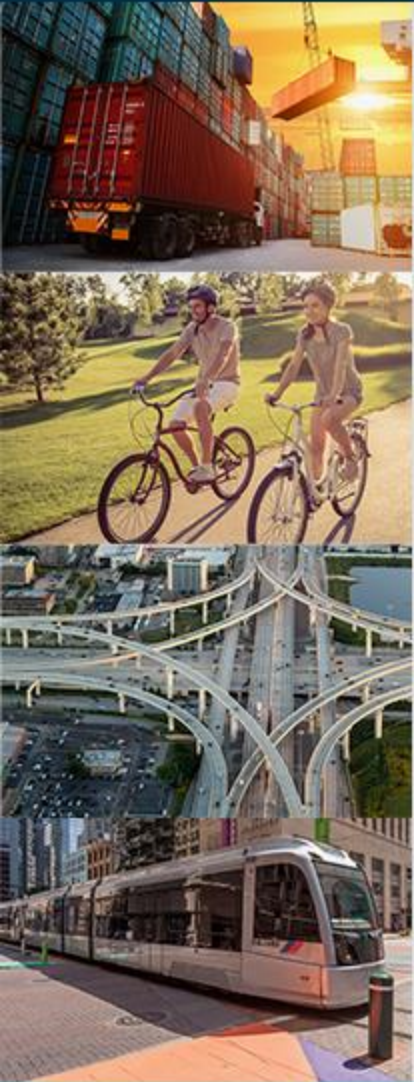
Regional Connector Bus Network



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Regional Connector Bus



- **Recommended by the HCTTF** because it will feed into high-capacity services and provide a type of service that doesn't really exist right now
- **Will connect outlying communities to each other** as well as the METRO service area and serve a variety of trip types (e.g. not just work commutes)
- **May be relatively easy to implement** (does not require major investment in facilities or ROW)
- **Examples of this service type** exist in other parts of Texas (e.g. CARTS Interurban Coach)

Regional Bus – Potential Scope

- **Examples and Best Practices** from other parts of the state and nation
- **Route Planning:** alignments, stop locations
- **Operations Planning:** Frequencies, span of service, fleet size/type, maintenance
- **Ridership** (little potential for VMT reduction)
- **Capital and Operating Costs**
- **Benefits analysis** (access to jobs, education, services)
- **Funding and Financing:** Sources, mechanisms
- **Responsibilities:** Who operates what?
- **Prioritization:** Which routes do we implement first?



Tentative Schedule

Study Component	2021		2022				2023				2024				2025		
	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring		
GCRD/US 90 A				[Activity]													
Regional Bus				[Activity]													
Dayton/Liberty County				[Activity]													
Outer Westpark										[Activity]							
RTP Update Schedule				needs assessment	scenario planning	review/approval											

Next Steps

- Continue coordination with regional partners (METRO, TxDOT, GCRD, Fort Bend County, etc.)
- Create scopes for studies
- AFA and Procurement Process
- Continue to monitor other agency efforts (e.g. TxDOT REAL Plan, METRONext roll-out) and post-COVID ridership patterns



Future Meeting Topics – RTP Update

- Regional Safety Plan
- Airport/Ferries
- Parking Management
- Continued Freight and Congestion Management Process
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- Population projections

- POLLING: Prioritize future meeting topics
- POLLING: Frequency of meetings