

6A. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA

DATE: Friday, September 27, 2024
TIME: 9:31 a.m.
PLACE: 3555 Timmons Lane, Conference Room B, Houston, Texas 77027

The presiding officer, Chair Justin Beckendorff called the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting of September 27, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. to order.

CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM, INTRODUCTIONS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chairman Justin Beckendorff recognized Ms. Allie Isbell, H-GAC, for the Certification of the Quorum and she conducted the Roll Call of the TPC membership. Fifteen (15) members comprise a quorum. A quorum was declared present and recorded on the Roll Call, which is included with these Minutes as Attachment 1. Chairman Justin Beckendorff asked members of the Council to Declare Conflicts of Interest on any item on the agenda. No TPC member declared a conflict of interest. The presentation, comments, questions and discussion are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Jamila Owens provided instructions on how to provide public comment on the Zoom link posted on the H-GAC livestream. Ms. Owens proceeded to let the public know that Spanish translation services were available and introduced Ms. Susana Dahdah who provided instructions on how to make public comments in Spanish. American Sign Language Interpretation services were posted on a slide in Zoom and provided by Robert Helms and Mark Riddle. No written comments were received by 5:00 p.m. September 26, 2024. One comment was made in person. The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under Item 4 are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 5. MPO DIRECTOR REPORT AND ORIENTATION OF AGENDA, MS. ALLIE ISBELL, H-GAC

- A. Planning Activities Report
Ms. Allie Isbell, H-GAC, informed the Council that both MPO Assistant Directors (Allie Isbell and Jamila Owens) would share duties until a new MPO Director was in place. Ms. Isbell gave a brief recap of highlights on the planning activities report
- B. H-GAC Board Update
No Transportation items on the H-GAC Board in September
- C. Project Selection Update
Mr. Vishu Lingala, H-GAC, provided an update on Project Selection and gave the Council a brief update on the Project Selection Process. Mr. Lingala informed the Council in the five investment categories; completed validating all evaluation scores. Benefit Cost Analysis and Project Readiness were submitted online by August 30, 2024. Will provide draft total scores of projects by October 16th TAC meeting. Mr. Lingala concluded his update with a summary of draft scores for investment categories, available funding by investment categories and a timeline for the Project Selection Process which is anticipated for approval in November 2024.

D. RTP Project Development Update

Mr. Stephen Keen, H-GAC, informed the Council the application date closed on Wednesday, August 7, 2024. 99 projects submitted. Approximately \$11.6 billion with 12 sponsors. Staff is working on meeting timeline. New fiscally constrained RTP project list expected for preview in November. Mr. Keen provided next steps and a tentative timeline for a December approval.

E. Solicitation for future Carryover Spend down Projects

Ms. Callie Barnes, H-GAC, informed the Council that in December 2023 staff programmed 60 projects with 25 sponsors for a total of \$335M. Projects will either let or transfer to FTA by August 2025. If all projects are successful, they will generate \$23M for the Regional Strategic Transportation Fund program. One project has let from TxDOT Houston for \$21M and two projects has transferred to FTA for Fort Bend County Transit for \$3.7M. Ms. Barnes presented a chart of remaining roadway and transit projects and gave specifics regarding those projects. Ms. Jamila Owens, H-GAC concluded the presentation with a recap of a meeting held with staff and TxDOT Houston district and TxDOT Projects and Programming Division on September 18, 2024. Discussion included Carryover Balances and Allocations, Progress with spending, and FY 2025 is first year of 16.154 State Law changes, a summary of their discussion, an anticipated timeline and next steps.

The presentation comments, questions answers and discussion in Item 5 are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 6. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Justin Beckendorff called for a motion to approve the meeting summary and TPC Nominating Committee recommendations. A motion was made by Judge Mark Keough and seconded by Mayor Kevin Cole. The Council voted and approved the September Consent Agenda. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 7. RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION FOR OUTGOING TPC MEMBERS, DAVID DOUGLAS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, LIBERTY COUNTY AND ELIZA PAUL, TXDOT DISTRICT ENGINEER

Chair Justin Beckendorff read the resolution recognizing the service of outgoing TPC Member Mr. David Douglas, Economic Development Director, Liberty County. A motion by Commissioner Adrian Garcia and seconded. The Council voted and approved TPC Resolution No. 2024-27. Chair Beckendorff thanked Mr. Douglas for his service to the TPC and to the Houston-Galveston region.

Chair Justin Beckendorff read the resolution recognizing the service of outgoing TPC member Ms. Eliza Paul, P.E, TxDOT District Engineer to the Transportation Policy Council. Kind words of appreciation by TPC members were provided commending Eliza's for her service to TxDOT and the Houston-Galveston region. A motion was made by Judge Mark Keough and seconded by Commissioner Lesley Briones. The Council voted and approved TPC Resolution No. 2024-28.

The presentation comments, questions answers and discussion in Item 7 are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 8. RESCIND PREVIOUS ACTION ON UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT TAKEN 8-23-24 DUE TO LACK OF CLARITY, ALLIE ISBELL, H-GAC

Ms. Allie Isbell, H-GAC, informed the Council that Chair Justin Beckendorff requested the TPC rescind a previous action on the Unified Planning Work Program Amendment (UPWP 2024-01) due to the confusion surrounding action taken at the August TPC Meeting. A motion was made by Mayor Kevin Cole and seconded by Judge Mark Keough. The Council voted and approved rescinding UPWP Resolution No, 2024-01. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 9. UPDATE ON MPO DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT, CHUCK WEMPLE, H-GAC

Mr. Chuck Wemple, H-GAC, informed the Council that this will become a standing item on the agenda until the open MPO Director position is filled. The position has been posted by our Human Resource department. The procurement has started for a specialized recruiter and will close on October 10th. H-GAC Human Resource department is working with a network of professionals throughout the country and has posted the position using sources such as AMPO and LinkedIn. H-GAC Human Resource department will screen applicants and work with the Executive Committee to understand the role, responsibilities and steps moving forward regarding finalists. Mr. Wemple also informed the Council that he will meet with Transportation staff in series of small meetings in the next two or three weeks to learn what they think is important in the next Director. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 10. APPOINTMENT OF TPC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, CHAIRMAN JUSTIN BECKENDORFF

Chair Justin Beckendorff appointed the TPC Executive Committee and thanked everyone who was willing to serve on the Committee: The Committee is as follows:

TPC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	
VOTING MEMBERSHIP	ADVISORY MEMBERSHIP
TPC Chairman Justin Beckendorff, Waller County Commissioner, Pct. 4	H-GAC, Executive Director Chuck Wemple
TPC First Vice Chair Grady Prestage, Fort Bend County Commissioner, Pct. 2	TxDOT Houston, Planning Director Catherine McCreight
TPC Second Vice Chair Kevin Cole, Mayor, City of Pearland	FHWA, Planning Jose Campos
TPC Secretary Nancy Arnold, Council Member, City of Waller	
City of Houston Member Steven David, Deputy Chief of Staff, City of Houston Mayor's Office	
Harris County Member Lesley Briones, Harris County Commissioner, Pct. 4	
TxDOT District Engineer – Houston Varuna Singh, Deputy District Engineer	

A motion was made by Mayor Kevin Cole and seconded by Council Member Sallie Alcorn. The Council voted and approved the TPC Executive Committee. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 11. AMENDMENTS TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATEWIDE SAFETY PROGRAM, THE 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN, JIM DICKINSON, H-GAC

Mr. Jim Dickinson, H-GAC gave a presentation of the proposed revisions to the Texas Department of Transportation Statewide Safety Program is included below for the Council's review.

- Add \$1.8M of federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding to the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Regional Freeway Incident Management project (MPO ID 11917) to fund continuing towing operations. An additional 352K Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) will be programmed in lieu of matching funds.
- Add \$3.1M of federal STBG funding to the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Regional Freeway Incident Management project (MPO ID 17020) to fund continuing towing operations. An additional 616K TDCs will be programmed in lieu of matching funds.

A summary of the proposed revisions to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program is included below.

- Program fourteen (14) Gulf Coast Transit District Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Urban Area Formula (Section 5307) funded preventative maintenance and operations projects in FY 2025 with FY 2021-2024 apportionments with 5.7M TDCs in lieu of matching funds.
- Program ten (10) Gulf Coast Transit District FTA Bus and Bus Facility Program (Section 5339) funded bus replacement and maintenance, and bus and facility camera purchases in FY 2025 with FY 2021-2024 apportionments with 325K TDCs in lieu of matching funds.
- Program four (4) Woodlands Township FTA Bus and Bus Facility Program (Section 5339) funded bus and trolley acquisition purchases in FY 2025 with FY 2019-2025 apportionments with 280K TDCs in lieu of matching funds.
- Program three (3) METRO FTA Section 5307 State-of-Good-Repair, Metrolift ADA support and safety & security projects in FY 2025 with FY 2023 apportionments.
- Program one (1) METRO FTA Section 5337 State of Good Repair Fixed Guideway project in FY 2025 with a FY 2023 apportionment.
- Revise the funding of six (6) Woodlands Township FTA Section 5307 funded capital, planning and operating projects in FY 2025 with FY 2020 and 2021 apportionments in anticipation of the approval of 1.5M TDCs to be used in lieu of matching funds.
- Revise the funding and matching TDCs of one (1) Woodlands Township FTA Section 5339 funded bus acquisition and facilities project in FY 2025 with a FY 2023 apportionment based on the actual allocation.
- Revise the funding and matching TDCs of two (2) Harris County Transit FTA Section 5307 funded planning and operating projects in FY 2025 with a FY 2022 apportionments based on the actual allocations.
- Advance METRO's FTA Section 5339 bus replacement and fueling facility project from FY 2026 to FY 2025 at METRO's request.

Mr. Dickinson requested approval of TPC Resolution No. 2024-29 and TPC Resolutions No. 2024-30. A motion was made by Commissioner Lesley Briones and seconded by Commissioner Adrian Garcia. The Council voted and approved TPC Resolution 2024-29 and TPC Resolution No. 2024-30. The presentation, comments, questions and discussion are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 12. CARRYOVER SPEND DOWN ADDITIONAL PROJECTS, CALLIE BARNES, H-GAC

Ms. Callie Barnes, H-GAC, gave a presentation on 8 projects with 8 sponsors (2 new sponsors) 6 of the projects were brought before the Council in July for action. Two projects have new sponsors and the additional requested amount from Carry Over Spend down is \$65,100,000. If these projects are successful, they will generate \$5,500,000 in the Regional Strategic Transportation Fund. Five projects are programmed as FTA Transfers, one project is programmed for "E" Phase (Eng/Env) and one project is programmed for "C" phase (Construction.) Ms. Barnes described a table listing all projects with August 2025 let date and described the next steps in the process. Ms. Barnes conclude her presentation by requesting TPC approval of Resolution No. 2024-31 and 2024-32. A comment period by TPC members occurred after the presentation. A motion was made by Council Member Sallie Alcorn and seconded by Mayor Kevin Cole. The Council voted and approved TPC Resolution No. 2024-31 and TPC Resolution No. 2024-32. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 13. RELIABILITY, CONGESTION, AND AIR QUALITY PERFORMANCE MEASURE UPDATE, KAREN OWEN, H-GAC

Ms. Karen Owen, H-GAC, presented on the Reliability, Congestion, and Air Quality Performance Measures. Ms. Owen informed the Council on the Federal measures that are focused on the National Highway System and described a map that illustrated the interstate and the non-interstate national highway system. These measures are for Reliability, which is personal and truck travel, Congestion measures of peak hour excessive delay, and non-Single occupant vehicles, and Air Quality which is tailpipe emission reductions from Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) projects. Ms. Owen described the data gathered by staff. the results and future measures. There are no penalties for missing the targets. Ms. Owen requested approval of TPC Resolution No. 2024-33. A motion was made by Jon Branson and seconded by Commissioner Adrian Garcia. The Council voted and approved TPC Resolution No. 2024-33. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 14. 2024 LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN UPDATE, AYO JIBOWU, H-GAC

Mr. Ayo Jibowu, H-GAC, gave a presentation on the 2024 Language Access Plan Update. Mr. Jibowu informed the Council the Houston-Galveston Metropolitan Planning Area is one the most diverse in United States. Of 7.1 million residents, over 1.2 million are identified as Limited in English Proficiency (LEP) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1961, E.O . 13166 facilitates meaningful access to H-GAC's programs and activities for stakeholders with limited English proficiency. Mr. Jibowu described a slide with the LAP contents and highlighted Oral Language Services (Interpretation) and Written Language Services (Translation of Vital Documents) and described H-GAC's Public Participation activities. The draft document can be viewed the following <https://www.h-gac.com/go/lap> Mr. Jibowu requested TPC Approval of Resolution No. 2024-34. A motion was made by Commissioner Lesley Briones and seconded. The Council voted and approved TPC Resolution 2024-34. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 15. TITLE VI PROGRAM, AYO JIBOWU, H-GAC

Mr. Ayo Jibowu, H-GAC, provided a presentation on the Title VI Program which is a report documenting H-GAC's compliance with the USDOT's Title VI/Nondiscrimination regulations. This update is required every three years. H-GAC receives federal transportation funds through the FTA and FHWA. Title VI Program was last updated in 2021. Mr. Jibowu highlighted some of the topics that are required to be in compliance and a demographics map. Mr. Jibowu let the Council know of the Public Comment period which is August 13, 2024-September 12, 2024. A virtual Public meeting was held on September 10, 2024. A draft of the updated Title VI Program can be found on the H-GAC website at: <http://www.h-gac.com/title-vi-program> Mr. Jibowu requested TPC approval of the Title VI Program. A motion was made by Mayor Kevin Cole and seconded by Commissioner Adrian Garcia. The Council voted and approved the Title VI Program. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 16. FUTURE AMENDMENTS TO THE 2025-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN, JIM DICKINSON, H-GAC

Mr. Jim Dickinson, H-GAC, gave a presentation on the Future TIP Amendments to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan and The Regional Transportation Plan. A summary of the proposed revisions is included below for the Council's review.

- Revise twenty-nine (29) TXDOT Houston District projects to reconcile their funding in Categories 2, 3- Design Build, 4, 12-Texas Clear Lanes, and Statewide Right of Way with the 2025 Unified Transportation Program approved by the Texas Transportation Commission in August 2024.
- Revise the funding of five (5) TXDOT Houston District projects in Categories 2, 3, 4, and Statewide Right-of-Way due to design changes and a new primacy agreement between Brazoria County and TXDOT. Also, clarify the limit of SH 99 Segment B construction (MPO ID 257) due to the design change.

The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 17. HOUSTON TRANSTAR ANNUAL UPDATE, BRIAN MASON, TRANSTAR

Mr. Brian Mason, TranStar, gave an annual update to TPC members, offering insight into ongoing facility projects and future objectives. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJORNMENT

Transportation Advisory Committee will occur on October 16, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.. – In person
Greater Houston Freight Committee will occur on October 17, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. - Virtual
The Transportation Policy Council Meeting will occur on October 25, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.- In person

Chairman Justin Beckendorff adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.
The presentation, comments, questions and discussion are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

Hon. Nancy Arnold, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council

Attachment 1
 MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)
 FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON
 TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA
September 27, 2024

ROLL

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Baytown, City of	_____ Honorable Brandon Capetillo Mayor <u> X </u> Jason Reynolds – Alternate	City of Baytown
Conroe, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Howard Wood Council Member _____ Norman McGuire – Alternate	City of Conroe
Galveston, City of	_____ Honorable Marie Robb Council Member _____ Hon. David Finklea - Alternate	City of Galveston
Houston, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Sallie Alcorn Council Member _____ Honorable Abbie Kamin- Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Carolyn Evans-Shabazz Council Member _____ Honorable Joaquin Martinez - Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<u> X </u> Randy Macchi Chief Operating Officer -Public Works _____ Steven David - Alternate	City of Houston
League City, City of	_____ Honorable Tommy Cones Council Member _____ Honorable Andy Mann - Alternate	City of League City
Missouri City, City of	_____ Shashi Kumar, P.E.. Director of Public Works <u> X </u> Marcus Snell – Alternate	City of Missouri City
Pasadena, City of	_____ Sarah Benavides, P.E. Sr. Assistant Public Works Director _____ Mark Gardemal – Alternate	City of Pasadena

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Pearland, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Kevin Cole- 2nd Vice Chair Mayor Trent Epperson-Alternate	City of Pearland
Sugar Land, City of	<u> </u> Honorable Joe Zimmerman Mayor <u> X </u> Honorable Suzanne Whatley – Alternate	City of Sugar Land
Texas City, City of	<u> </u> Honorable Dedrick Johnson Mayor <u> X </u> Jon Branson - Alternate	City of Texas City
Waller, City of	<u> </u> Hon. Nancy Arnold Council Member, Secretary <u> </u> Honorable Sally Branson-Alternate	Smaller Cities Harris County
The Woodlands Township	<u> X </u> Dr. Ann K. Snyder Chair, The Woodlands Township Board <u> </u> Kyle Watson-Alternate	The Woodlands Township
Brazoria County	<u> X </u> Matt Hanks, JD, P.E. County Engineer <u> </u> Honorable David Linder – Alternate	Brazoria County
Chambers County	<u> X </u> Honorable Ryan Dagley County Commissioner <u> </u> Honorable Tommy Hammond. - Alternate	Chambers County
Fort Bend County	<u> X </u> Honorable Grady Prestage County Commissioner, 1st Vice Chair <u> </u> Stacy Slawinski, P.E. – Alternate	Fort Bend County
Galveston County	<u> </u> Honorable Robin Armstrong County Commissioner <u> </u> Honorable Joe Giusti– Alternate	Galveston County
Harris County	<u> X </u> Honorable Lesley Briones County Commissioner, Pct. 4 <u> </u> Roberto Treviño, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Harris County	<u> X </u> Honorable Adrian Garcia County Commissioner, Pct. 2 <u> </u> Milton Rahman, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Liberty County	<u> </u> Honorable Bruce Karbowski County Commissioner, Pct. 1 <u> </u> Honorable Jay Knight - Alternate	Liberty County

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Montgomery County	<u> X </u> Honorable Mark Keough County Judge <u> </u> Commissioner, Matt Gray – Alternate	Montgomery County
Waller County	<u> X </u> Honorable Justin Beckendorff County Commissioner – Chair <u> </u> Commissioner, Kendric Jones- Alternate	Waller County
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	<u> </u> Elizabeth Gonzalez Brock METRO Chair <u> X </u> Thomas Jasien-Alternate	METRO
TxDOT-Houston	<u> </u> Vacant District Engineer <u> X </u> Varuna Singh, P.E.– Alternate	TxDOT Houston District
TxDOT-Beaumont	<u> X </u> Martin Gonzalez, P.E. District Engineer <u> </u> Ana I. Mijares, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Beaumont District
Port Interests	<u> X </u> Phyllis Saathoff Executive Director, Port Freeport <u> </u> Vacant-Alternate	Port Interests
Gulf Coast Rail District	<u> X </u> Dr. Carol Lewis Chair, GCRD <u> </u> Jeff Ross - Alternate	Gulf Coast Rail District
	<u> 28 </u> Total Voting Membership	
	<u> 22 </u> Voting Membership Present	
	<u> 15 </u> Required Quorum	

AGENCY

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

REPRESENTING

Texas State Senate

_____ Hon. Carol Alvarado

8-County Region

Freight Rail Interests

_____ Clint Schelbitzki

Union Pacific

Texas State Legislator

_____ Hon. Dennis Paul

8-County Region

Texas State Legislator

_____ Hon. Ed Thompson

8-County Region

Wharton County

_____ Hon. Phillip Spenrath

Wharton County