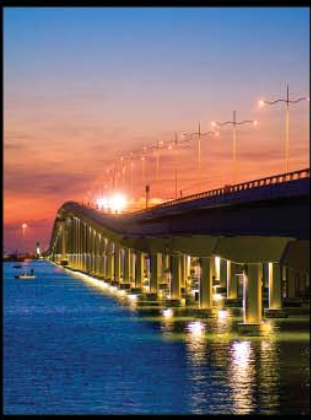


2013



MOBILITY REPORT





In keeping with the performance based report developed last year, the 2013 Mobility Report reflects the most recent information about the state of our transportation system. Specifically, the report summarizes key transportation system performance measures for each of the stated goals in our 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.

There are many areas of progress, including almost \$4 billion invested in the region's transportation infrastructure. Notable improvements in the condition of state roadways are occurring as the fruits of previous rehabilitation investments are being realized. Major investments in light rail are also providing new services in growing inner city neighborhoods.

Unfortunately, we continue to see a significant increase in the number of vehicular crashes. At more than \$5 billion annually, the cost of these crashes to residents and businesses represents the kind of impact normally associated with the most extreme natural disasters. Motor vehicle crashes not only affect those whose lives and property are involved, crashes are a critical contributor to traffic congestion and delay.

On a positive note, a recent review by the Texas Transportation Institute of three corridors that utilize access management revealed a reduction in vehicle crashes or the rate of crashes. In addition, vehicle delay decreased with no adverse impact on businesses along the corridors. H-GAC has also seen successful multi-government coordination on Driving Under the Influence enforcement through its joint selective traffic enforcement grant. The Transportation Policy Council has set aside funding to expand activities like the "SAFEClear" program, which was established to quickly remove stalls to restore mobility. A full incident management plan is expected to be completed by 2014.

As the Houston-Galveston Area Council celebrates four decades of transportation planning, we reflect on how far the region has come in terms of mobility and the long journey ahead. To meet the challenges of the next 25 years and beyond, investment is critical to sustain the region's economic competitiveness, prosperity and quality of life for its residents.

Please visit www.h-gac.com/taq/performance for a more detailed list of performance measures.

Alan C. Clark
Transportation Director
Houston-Galveston Area Council

\$5.3B

Cost of Crashes
to the Region

↔ Up 1%

592

Traffic Fatalities

↑ Up 3%

113K

Traffic Crashes

↑ Up 10%

9640

Distracted Driving

Crashes

↑ Up 13%



The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials in the 13-county Gulf Coast Planning Region. The Gulf Coast Planning Region consists of Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties. Organized in 1966, H-GAC provides a forum for the discussion of area-wide concerns, promoting regional cooperation through comprehensive planning and services to local governments.

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As H-GAC celebrates four decades of transportation history, the region must look ahead to the mobility challenges of the next 25 years and beyond. This report highlights the most recent performance of the region's transportation system and describes some key investments made last year to improve it.

Introduction

The end of 2013 saw the opening of two major projects: the METRO Rail North Line and Segment E of the SH 99 Grand Parkway. The H-GAC region continues to add both people and jobs in the urban core, its suburban communities and previously undeveloped areas of Harris and adjacent counties. The region continues to experience challenges reducing vehicular crashes, mitigating congestion and promoting alternative modes of transportation.

Goal 1 – Improve Mobility and Reduce Congestion

With the region's economy improving, travel on the roadway system has grown to 143 million miles per day. Since 2012, the region's population and employment have increased 2% to 3%, while daily Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) decreased 1%. The estimates of VMT show no real increase which may reflect a lag in data. Annual VMT estimates rely heavily on permanent counters located on already congested freeways. New congestion cost figures were not available at the time of this report, but with fuel costs up only slightly, \$1,090 annually per commuter is still a realistic estimate. Overall transit ridership in the region experienced a 1% decline in Passenger Miles of Travel (PMT) in 2012, despite an increase in suburban transit use.

Goal 2 – Improve Access to Jobs, Homes and Services

As shown on the attached map and table, almost \$4 billion in multimodal transportation improvements let to contract in 2013. These improvements add highway and transit capacity in several major travel corridors, including IH 45, US 290 and SH 99 segments F1, F2 and G, from US 290 to US 59. Local governments are expanding the regional bikeway network, obligating funds for nearly 21 miles of bicycle lanes in 2013.

Goal 3 – Preserve the Transportation System

TxDOT continues to improve the condition of the region's roadways and bridges. The percentage of roadways rated in "good or better" condition increased 4% to 85%. TxDOT expenditures for maintenance increased 2% to \$282 million in 2013, despite flat motor vehicle tax revenues. While "one-time" investment opportunities such as the federal American Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and state bond programs have enabled TxDOT to make much needed improvements, the State's ability to maintain the condition of its system remains uncertain.

Goal 4 – Support Economic Growth

The amount of freight and passengers moving through the region's ports and commercial airports remained at

historically high levels. Total tonnage at ports decreased 1% to 329 million "short" tons (2,000 lbs) at the region's four ports: Houston, Galveston, Freeport, and Texas City. The number of passengers traveling from Bush Intercontinental and Hobby airports increased 1% to 25.4 million in 2013.

Goal 5 – Create a Healthier Environment

The Houston-Galveston region continues to reduce vehicle emissions through its air quality programs. The Commute Solutions program reduces emissions by funding and promoting alternatives to driving alone such as carpool, vanpool or telework. The Clean Cities/Clean Vehicles program aids fleet operators in replacing older diesel engines with new, cleaner engines and supports the use of clean alternative fuels (such as compressed and liquefied natural gas). It includes a new program to retrofit marine engines that reduced 80 tons of NOx (a key component of smog). In 2013, these air quality programs reduced a combined 444 tons of NOx, a 29% increase from the previous year.

Goal 6 – Safety—Minimize Crashes and Deaths

Safety remains a top regional priority. In 2013, the region experienced a significant increase in the number of vehicle crashes for a second straight year. Vehicle crashes increased 10% to 113,112. Additionally, traffic fatalities increased 5% to 592. H-GAC is working with local governments and law enforcement to reduce the frequency and severity of crashes in the region. In 2013, H-GAC launched a DWI enforcement initiative that led to the arrests of 216 impaired drivers.

Goal 7 – Increase Transit Options

METRO expanded its light rail system with the opening of the North Line in December 2013. The North Line adds 5 miles to the original 7.5 mile system. Work continues on the Southeast and East End lines, scheduled to open later in 2014. When complete, these lines will add another 10 miles to the light rail system for a total of 22.7 miles. Additionally, local transit agencies continue efforts to increase ridership through local bus service improvements. Suburban transit ridership has grown over the past several years with a 10% increase in 2013.

Summary

The region's economic success depends on a safe, efficient and reliable transportation system. This report provides only a snapshot of the performance information available. For additional transportation system performance measures visit www.h-gac.com/taq/performance.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

1. IMPROVE MOBILITY AND REDUCE CONGESTION

TRAFFIC CONGESTION Cost per Peak Auto Commuter	FREEWAY USAGE Daily Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT)	TRANSIT USAGE Annual Passenger Miles of Travel (PMT)
<p>- \$1,090 in 2011</p> <p>- \$1,071 in 2010</p>	<p>- Down 1%</p> <p>- 142.6 million daily VMT in 2012</p> <p>- 143.8 million daily VMT in 2011</p>	<p>- Down 1%</p> <p>- 541.5 million annual PMT in 2012</p> <p>- 546.2 million annual PMT in 2011</p>
Source: TTI 2012 - Most Current Data	Source: TxDOT 2012	Source: National Transit Database 2012

2. IMPROVE ACCESS TO JOBS, HOMES AND SERVICES

ROADWAYS Lane Miles Added	TOLL Lane Miles Added	BICYCLE Miles Added
<p>- Up .002%</p> <p>- 68,899 lane miles in 2012</p> <p>- 68,749 lane miles in 2011</p> <p><i>Includes state, county and local roads</i></p> <p>Source: TxDOT 2012</p>	<p>- Up 4%</p> <p>- 663 lane miles in 2012</p> <p>- 635 lane miles in 2011</p> <p>Source: TxDOT 2012</p>	<p>- Up 1%</p> <p>- 1,215 miles in 2013</p> <p>- 21 miles obligated for funding in 2013</p> <p>Source: H-GAC 2013</p>

3. PRESERVE THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

ROADWAY PAVEMENT CONDITIONS Percent of Lane Miles in Good or Better Condition	BRIDGE CONDITIONS Percent of On-system Bridges in Good or Better Condition	MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURES Non-contracted and Contracted Maintenance
<p>- Up 3.5%</p> <p>- 85.1% of miles in good or better condition in 2013</p> <p>- 81.5% of miles in good or better condition in 2012</p> <p>Source: TxDOT 2013</p>	<p>- No change</p> <p>- 83% of system bridges in good or better condition in 2012</p> <p>- 82% of system bridges in good or better condition in 2010</p> <p>Source: TxDOT 2012 - Most Current Data</p>	<p>- Up 2%</p> <p>- \$281.7 million in expenditures in 2013</p> <p>- \$275.6 million in expenditures in 2012</p> <p>Source: TxDOT 2013</p>

4. SUPPORT ECONOMIC GROWTH

SEA PORTS Annual Total Tonnage	COMMERCIAL AIRPORTS Annual Enplaned Passengers	AIR QUALITY 8-Hour Ozone Standard	AIR QUALITY NOx Emissions Reductions
<p>- Down 1%</p> <p>- 329 million tons in 2012</p> <p>- 332 million tons in 2011</p> <p><i>Includes Freeport, Galveston, Houston and Texas City</i></p> <p>Source: USACE 2012</p>	<p>- Up 1%</p> <p>- 25.4 million passengers in 2013</p> <p>- 25.1 million passengers in 2012</p> <p>Source: Houston Airport System 2013</p>	<p>- Down 1%</p> <p>- 87 ppb* in 2013</p> <p>- 88 ppb in 2012</p> <p><i>2008 8-Hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone is 75 ppb</i></p> <p>*Parts Per Billion</p> <p>Source: TCEQ 2013</p>	<p>- Up 29%</p> <p>- 444 tons per year in 2013</p> <p>- 344 tons per year in 2012</p> <p><i>Includes new clean vessel program – 80 tons per year</i></p> <p>Source: H-GAC 2013</p>

5. CREATE A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

6. SAFETY—MINIMIZE CRASHES AND DEATHS

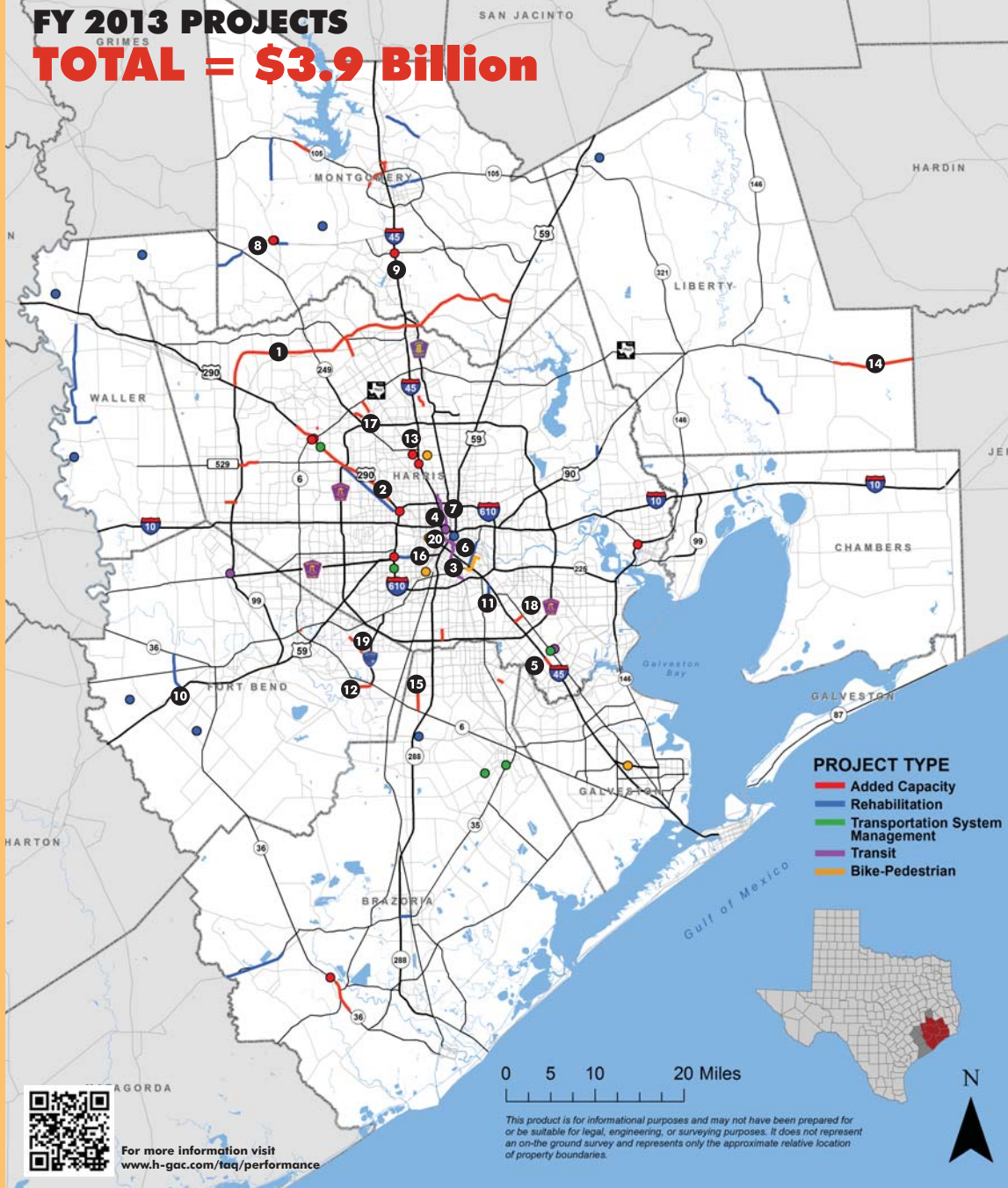
TRAFFIC CRASHES Number of Crashes	TRAFFIC FATALITIES Number of Fatalities	LIGHT RAIL Miles Added	PARK-AND-RIDE LOTS Number of Lots
<p>- Up 10%</p> <p>- 113,112 crashes in 2013</p> <p>- 102,400 crashes in 2012</p> <p>Source: TxDOT, H-GAC 2013</p>	<p>- Up 3%</p> <p>- 592 fatalities in 2013</p> <p>- 575 fatalities in 2012</p> <p>Source: TxDOT, H-GAC 2013</p>	<p>- Up 71%</p> <p>- 12.8 miles of light rail in 2013 with North Line</p> <p><i>Construction continues on the Southeast and East End Lines</i></p> <p>Source: METRO 2013</p>	<p>- No change</p> <p>- 38 lots in 2013</p> <p><i>Includes METRO, Connect/Galveston, Fort Bend and Harris County</i></p> <p>Source: H-GAC 2013</p>

7. INCREASE TRANSIT OPTIONS

LEGEND: GREEN - Change with positive effect RED - Change with negative effect ORANGE - No discernible effect

Net Increase Net Decrease No or Slight Net Change

FY 2013 PROJECTS TOTAL = \$3.9 Billion



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



US 290 – TxDOT is steadily advancing construction on the northwestern segments of US 290. This work is part of \$1.8 billion in planned corridor improvements by TxDOT.



METRORail North Line – The North Line opened in December 2013. Work continues on the Southeast and East End lines, scheduled to open later this year. These lines will add another 10 miles to the light rail system for a total of 22.7 miles.



IH 45 South – The widening of IH 45 to 10 lanes is a \$146 million project sponsored by TxDOT. This project continues the previous expansion work on IH 45 in south Harris County.



SH 99 – Segment E opened in December 2013. Work on the SH 99 Grand Parkway continues eastbound with the construction of Segments F1, F2 and G, from US 290 to US 59. When completed, these segments will add 38 new miles.

The Top 20 Projects in the Houston-Galveston Region

Street	From	To	Project Description	Total
1 SH 99	US 290	US 59 N	Design and construct 4-lane tollway with interchanges and two non-continuous 2-lane frontage roads including four direct connectors at US 290, two direct connectors at IH 45 N, four direct connectors at Hardy Toll Road and two direct connectors at US 59 N	\$1,794,000,000
2 US 290	Pinemont Dr	Eldridge Parkway	Reconstruct and widen to three main lanes with three reversible managed lanes, auxiliary lanes and two 2-lane frontage roads. Reconstruct interchanges at IH 610 (including IH 10 to US 290 outbound direct connectors), SH 6 and FM 1960. Includes right-of-way acquisition.	\$948,884,611
3 METRORail Southeast Corridor	IH 45 at Capitol St	Palm Center	Metro Solutions Southeast Corridor light rail	*\$182,870,889
4 METRORail North Corridor	Northline Mall	UH Downtown	Metro Solutions North Corridor light rail	*\$168,001,778
5 IH 45 S	FM 2351	Eldorado Blvd	Widen and reconstruct to 10 main lanes, two 3-lane frontage roads and one reversible HOV lane. Includes right-of-way acquisition and utility adjustments	\$146,106,337
6 METRORail East End Corridor	Harrisburg at Texas Ave.	Magnolia Transit Center	Metro Solutions East End Corridor light rail	*\$100,000,000
7 Union Pacific Passenger Line	IH 610/SP 548	Burnett St	Relocate passenger rail line into adjacent rail right-of-way	\$50,000,000
8 FM 1488	Millcreek Rd	Community Rd	Construct railroad grade separation over FM 149 and BNSF Railroad at Mostyn	\$36,928,700
9 SH 242	at IH 45		Construct electronically tolled direct connectors from westbound SH 242 to southbound IH 45 and northbound IH 45 to westbound SH 242	\$24,336,000
10 SP 10	US 59 S	SH 36	Construct 2-lane rural facility on a new location and remove existing 2-lane on SP 10/Hartledge Road (Phase 1)	\$23,954,422
11 Broadway St	IH 45	Airport Blvd	Reconstruct 4-lane boulevard roadway with paving, curbs, street lighting and necessary underground utilities	\$18,140,100
12 Fort Bend Parkway	SH 6	Sienna Parkway	Construct 4-lane toll road	\$18,000,000
13 IH 45 N	at Shepherd Dr N		Transportation management system improvements and construction of northbound and southbound direct connectors	\$17,288,000
14 US 90	4.0 miles W of Jefferson C/L	SH 61 in Devers	Add two lanes to existing 2-lane highway	\$17,004,288
15 CR 48	CR 894	SH 6	Reconstruct and widen to 4-lanes divided	\$15,895,105
16 US 59 S	Lancashire St	Shepherd Dr	Reconstruct frontage roads and intersections with fast track pavement	\$15,500,000
17 Greens Rd W	SH 249	Cutten Rd	Construct 4-lane concrete divided section with curb and gutter and 4-lane bridge	\$12,900,860
18 Shaver St S	IH 45	SH 3	Reconstruct and widen to 6-lane divided road with raised median	\$12,822,481
19 FM 2234	FM 3345	Fort Bend Parkway	Reconstruct and widen from two lanes to 4-lane divided rural section with raised median	\$10,994,000
20 METRO Intermodal Terminal	Burnett St at Main St		Construct intermodal transit terminal	\$10,394,415

Top 20 Projects Total: \$3,624,021,986

*FY 2013 full funding grant agreement allocation under Federal Transit Administration. The North Line opened December 2013. The Southeast Line scheduled to open in fall 2014.