

REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

A. LONG RANGE PLANNING

1. Sub-regional Planning Initiatives (SPI)

- The Brazoria County Thoroughfare Map was adopted by the Commissioners' Court on August 11, 2020.
- A kick-off meeting for the Southeast Harris County Sub-Regional Plan was held on October 1, 2020.
- A kick-off meeting for the Liberty County Mobility Plan was held on October 1, 2020.
- H-GAC attended the October 1, 2020 meeting of the Greater Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, to speak about the Liberty County Mobility Plan.
- Staff began initial work on the Montgomery County Precinct 2 Mobility Plan and held a kick-off meeting with the consultant and internal team on September 10, 2020. The first Steering Committee Meeting was held on October 15, 2020.

2. Freight Planning

- Staff are finalizing the scope of work for an update of the 2013 Regional Goods Movement Plan.
- Staff conducted a meeting of the Greater Houston Freight Committee held on September 10, 2020. The meeting covered overviews of the TxDOT Houston District Truck Mobility Study, COVID-19's impact on freight in Houston, TxDOT's Houston-Beaumont Rail Study, and Transportation Improvement Program Subcommittee Project Evaluation Criteria Recommendations.

3. Regional Incident Management, Safety, and Operations

- Staff continued coordination with the Houston Police Department and Harris County Sheriff Office on operations with the Tow and Go Program.
- Staff worked on procurement for Intersection Safety Audits.
- Staff worked with consultants to wrap up safety outreach campaign project.
- Staff is collaborating with TXDPS to update the Regional Evacuation Traffic Management Plan.
- Staff is continuing to work to update the Congestion Management Process plan.

4. Environmental Planning

Staff has completed the "Quick User Guide" to the Eco-Logical tool which is designed to teach a new user how the tool works in several short steps. The guide is going through the final edits before publication. Staff have also begun talks with a contact in the Houston Independent School District (HISD) to discuss the prospect of students using the Eco-Logical tool within the environmental science or social studies curriculum. The initial talks have revealed an apparent interest in introducing the tool to the classroom.

5. Resiliency Planning

- Staff began development of a Low Impact Development study to examine how to cost-effectively integrate low impact development into transportation projects in the Houston area.
- Staff continue work on the Resilience & Durability Pilot project as part of the FHWA program to develop transportation-sector specific resiliency best practices and strategies across the country. The draft report has been submitted to FHWA for comment and review.

6. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

A meeting of the Regional Transportation Plan Subcommittee was held on September 9, 2020. Staff informed the Subcommittee of the recently kicked-off Montgomery County Precinct 2 Mobility Plan. The RTP Subcommittee will be given updates throughout the study process. Staff also presented on the Federal Performance Measures and Targets, the Congestion Management Process, Project Evaluation Criteria Development, and the RTP Amendment Process and Air Quality Conformity.

7. Other Planning Activities

Staff continue to monitor regional travel impacts of COVID-19. Regional travel volumes are monitored through Street Light data and transit ridership numbers are reported monthly from transit agencies within the region. A regional economic impact paper is being developed to examine impacts of COVID-19.

B. SHORT RANGE PLANNING

1. Project Programming

- Staff coordinated on the amendments to the 2021-2024 TIP document.
- Staff coordinated with TxDOT and local governments on the proposed amendments to the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan.
- Discussions on the Transportation Development Credit (TDC) policy and possible new uses of the available credits continued at the TIP Subcommittee. Efforts made to update the current policy as staff continues to refine the policy to present recommendations to the TAC and TPC.
- Staff completed the effort to develop performance measures and targets to comply with federal requirements. A mid-point progress report was developed and is available on the H-GAC website.

2. Pedestrian and Bicyclist Planning

- Staff updated data on H-GAC Website for Mobile Counters program.
- Staff processed multiple requests for Ped/Bike counter data.
- Staff provided mobile counter data/analysis for Buffalo Bayou Partnership.
- Staff continued coordination with Sugar Land regarding the multimodal network connectivity pilot project grant from FHWA.

- Staff held multiple status meetings with METRO regarding the multimodal network connectivity pilot project grant from FHWA. Data collection and rough outline of the narrative portion of the report are completed. Baseline data entry is in process.
- Ped/Bike Subcommittee TIP Project Prioritization Workgroup held a compilation meeting to discuss review comments to two documents provided by the TIP Subcommittee Project Prioritization workgroup. Staff followed up on multiple outstanding tasks from the July 2020 Ped/Bike Subcommittee meeting.
- Staff worked with Bike Safety with American Bicycle Education Association to complete financial and contract forms. Staff coordinated with procurement and purchasing to get the vendor on-board for the Bike Safety program (bicyclist focused training).
- Staff participated in Texas Pedestrian Safety Coalition Meetings
- Staff participated in meetings with the Houston Bicycle Advisory Committee.
- Staff prepared and started providing training sessions on the motorist focused Bike Safety program. Staff delivered two Bicycle Friendly Driver presentations.
- Staff researched ped/bike counters and scheduled demonstration meetings.

3. Transit Planning

- A grant was awarded by TxDOT in the amount of \$100,000 for the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan (RCTP) for 2022-2026. \$139,560 is previously budgeted from the UPWP for the plan. Planning activities on the RCTP are expected to begin October 2020.
- Work on developing the Public Transit Agency Safety Plans (PTASP) has begun with submittal of agency reports to H-GAC Initial safety targets will be set in early 2021.
- Staff continues to conduct a monthly survey regarding the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on regional transit providers. This survey will continue during the course of the pandemic.
- Staff from Texas Southern University presented to TAC and TPC in September regarding the performance and acceptance of an autonomous vehicle that operated on campus between June 2019 and February 2020.
- Implementation of The Woodlands Township - Energy Corridor Commuter service is delayed until at least August 2021 due to COVID 19. A meeting with the principals will be held in August 2020 to determine next steps.
- An updated application of CMAQ Pilot service for the Fort Bend Transit -Houston Central Business District is expected in October. A meeting with staff and Fort Bend Transit was held in late September regarding an expected start in August 2021.
- Planning and implementation for the Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan continues:
 - This includes a Transit Feasibility Review for the City of Huntsville to determine viability of enhanced public transportation in the community. The assessment is that service is viable and the meeting with Huntsville is scheduled remotely of October 15, 2020. A follow-up study is anticipated.
 - Coordination continues between H-GAC and METRO regarding the Regional Transit Seamless Fare System.
 - Work continues to develop and launch General Transit Feed Specifications for the regional transit agencies. The focus now is on Conroe, Harris County, and Brazos Transit.
- Staff facilitated the October 8, 2020 meeting of the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee (RTCS).

4. North Houston Communities Transportation Priorities Study

- Staff continues the Advance Funding Agreement process with TxDOT.
- Staff continues internal coordination in preparation for the kick-off of this project once AFA is approved.
- Prior to AFA approval, staff, funded through the [UPWP task 4.3](#) amendment approved in July 2020, continues work on Literature Review, Public Engagement Planning, and Analysis of Existing Conditions for the study area.
- Staff conducted detailed work breakdown/task meetings for Analysis of Existing Conditions to assign tasks.
- Staff continues internal coordination with GIS team and regional planning to review virtual public engagement platforms.
- Staff continues to prepare kick-off plan and procurement scopes of work.

C. TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Prepared materials to launch the Commute Solutions SitSafe Campaign - designed /printed 8,400 flyers, 550 posters, and 3,600 rack cards for regional transit agencies.
- Designed social media graphics for Commute Solutions.
- Designed a flyer for Commute Solutions Bike to Work (or Anywhere) week.
- Designed interface graphics for the Montgomery County Pct. 2 Study.

D. COMMUTE SOLUTIONS

- Staffed launched Commute Solutions Month, with weekly focus areas including:
 - Week 2- Make Your Commute Count Interactive Web Calculator to measure the impact of your Commute
 - Week 3 – Education Week featuring a number of educational webinars on telework, the Commute Solutions Partners Program and commute solutions for those who drive alone.
 - Week 4- Tropical Storm Beta (no activities)
 - Week 5- Celebrating Bike Anywhere Week, National Bike to Work Day, and offering a Bike Friendly Driver class
- Staff collaborated with Houston ConnectSmart - Employer Focus Group Presentation on September 24
- Staff worked with regional transit agencies to finalize the SitSafe Campaign
- Staff created a SitSafe video in collaboration with H-GAC communications team
- Staff contributed to the development of a Make Your Commute Count interactive calculator.
- Staff participated in the State and Federal Policy Responses on Multi-State Taxation webinar on September 23
- Staff met with METRO RideSponsor on September 29 to reconvene weekly transit talks
- Staff met with ACT Employer Council to discuss nomination and position expectations
- Staff launched Safe Routes to School landing page on H-GAC's website

E. CLEAN VEHICLES/HEAVY DUTY DIESEL REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS PLANNING ACTIVITIES

1. Clean Vehicles Program

- Staff continues to work with several ISD's to replace older school buses.
- Staff is working with several grant recipients to finalize contracts and complete invoicing.
- Staff continues to respond to incoming phone calls and email requests for program information.
- Staff continues to monitor grant recipient's usage of vehicles to assure grant requirements for vehicle use and mileage are met.
- Funds totaling \$829,125 were dispersed to replace 12 vehicles.
- Staff closed out six projects wherein the mileage and emission reduction commitments have been met.
- Staff participated in a variety of internal and external meetings.
- Staff assisted in the development of a Buy America certification form for Alternative Fueling Stations.
- Staff has initiated the process of applying for a new AFA for CSJ643. The Scope and budget have been developed and are awaiting internal approval.

2. Heavy Duty Diesel Replacement Program

- Staff continues to work with grant recipients to finalize contracts and complete invoicing
- Staff continues to respond to incoming phone calls and email requests for program information
- Staff continues to monitor grant recipient's usage of vehicles to assure grant requirements for vehicle use and mileage are met.
- Staff continues to follow-up with grant recipients who are not achieving their emission/mileage commitments.
- Staff participated in a variety of internal and external meetings.

3. Area Emission Reduction Credit Organization – Supplemental Environmental Projects

- Staff continues to track and monitor incoming funds received as a result of agreed orders from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

F. GENERAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ACTIVITIES

- Staff is continuing to develop of the annual Air Quality Initiatives report to cover regional air quality improvement programs administered in 2019 with the assistance of H-GAC.
- Staff is working with the Regional Air Quality Planning Advisory Committee to develop the 2020 update to the regional PM2.5 Path Forward report. This is an effort undertaken annually as a requirement for our region's participation in the EPA's PM Advance Program. This program supports regions that want to take proactive steps to improve air quality through the

promotion of local actions to reduce fine particle pollution. This project is updated annually through consultation with RAQPAC and other regional stakeholders. Presently work continues and is expected to be submitted for approval to RAQPAC at the Committee's October meeting with and anticipated final submission to the EPA Advance Program in the last quarter of this calendar year.

- Staff has completed the required updates to the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program Total Emission Reduction Performance Measure. Results were made available for public comment in July and presented to the Transportation and Air Quality (TAQ) Subcommittee for consideration on August 12. Final outcomes were presented to TAC and TPC in September and the final reporting was submitted to FHWA prior to the October 1, 2020 deadline. It is anticipated that these performance measures will be revisited in 2022.
- H-GAC staff is continuing to assist with regional efforts to support the Department of Energy (DOE) sponsored Houston-Galveston Clean Cities Coalition. Under the auspices of this program, staff works with regional fleets to foster economic, environmental, and energy security by working to advance affordable, domestic transportation fuels, energy efficient mobility systems, and other fuel-saving technologies and practices.
- Staff is continuing to work to administer EPA-funded DERA grants to deploy all-electric yard tractors at local freight warehouses. In the past month, staff finalized contracts on the IKEA portion of the project and procurement work is currently ongoing with an anticipated vehicle deployment anticipated in 2021. Staff is continuing to work with H-E-B to complete the contracting process and hopes to move forward with vehicle purchases in the coming months.

G. TRAVEL DEMAND FORECASTING

- Staff continues to provide travel demand modeling and GIS technical supports and assistances to support H-GAC's Regional Transportation Planning (RTP), Transportation Improvement Planning (TIP), the regional air quality conformity process, other H-GAC's internal planning work and to other H-GAC's member agencies such as TXDOT for their various corridor and sub-areas transportation planning and studies.
- Staff continues to process H-GAC 2018-2019 traffic count data into three summary tables: (Volume, Class and Speed), ran REMI simulation including business closure for HCFCFCD project, continues to work on updating REMI v.4.4. with H-GAC demo forecast, assisting BGE Transportation project in North Houston to include new development into DEMO data for TAZ4408, assist in the ACS block group 2018 data for Montgomery County and Precinct – 2 in geography shape file. On-going
- Staff continues to develop highway networks as input for the AIMSUN Meso and Micro modeling for Montgomery County Precinct – 2 subarea study and for SE Harris County sub-area studies. On-going
- Staff continues to participate and assist the Cambridge Systematic (CS) in development of the Activity Based Model (ABM) model – on going

TPC Agenda Item 17B
Mailout 10/16/20

- Staff continues to development the 2020 base year highway and transit networks for the 2020 conformity analysis. On-going
- Staff continues to work on the development of the highway network for Aimsun for meso and micro modeling for Montgomery County Precinct 2 and SE Harris County sub-area studies. On-going
- Staff continues to work with the Steering Committee of the Origin-Destination On-board Transit Survey to monitor transit ridership in the region, evaluate and resolve some potential issues and concerns the planned Fall of 2021 survey may encounter as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff and the Steering Committee continue to review the scope of services and methodology originally drafted for the forthcoming survey in order to adjust to the potential issues and concerns. On-going
- Staff continues to work with City of Houston Aviation department to develop a MOU, scope of services, sample size, and timeline for regional commercial airport (IAH & Hobby) ground access count travel survey. On-going
- Staff continues working on the acquisition of the location-based software which lets user see how people are travelling within the eight-county region and understand how this may be changing throughout the day. On-going
- Staff continues to review INRIX speed data to look at speeds and travel times to determine the impact and assist the COF with her Tow and GO program. On-going
- Staff continues to assist with the North Houston Communities Transportation Priorities Plan- helping with task 2 data collection, mapping existing recommended projects (RTP, TIP, Livable Centers, etc.), transit routes and stops, bike lanes, sidewalks, Bi-cycle locations, staff continuing work with the GTFS Feed; creating GTFS feed for local transit agencies, continuing with the Montgomery County PCT 2 mobility plan, creating online interactive maps and apps to support the FHWA MMNCP joint pilot study with METRO for Ped/Bike studies and to revamp ped/bike regional bikeways online map on H-GAC website. On-going
- Staff continues to assist with the development of Python Scripts for Center-Lane miles, and Speeds Analysis before and during COVID pandemic, HPD Minor crash Pilot project and the sub-regional studies of the dashboard program. On-going
- Staff continues with various updates of the: MOVES, SEE calculations; the re-formatting of input files for activity inputs for MOVES for conformity test, the running of the 2020 networks on SEE using new 2018 vehicle registration data for conformity test, the exploration of differences in VMT mixes from 2014 to 2018 vehicle registration data, the analysis of the light, medium, heavy duty population of vehicles from 2014 to 2018 registration data. Staff continues to refine the conformity air quality master schedule and the off-network activity calculations. On-going.