

10. REGIONAL GOODS MOVEMENT LESSONS LEARNED WORKSHOP

**BACKGROUND**

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The 2023 Regional Goods Movement Plan (RGMP) Update serves as a framework that supports the region’s economic activity through efficient, safe, and connected freight movement while addressing the externalities associated with freight transportation. The RGMP Update builds upon and complements previous freight studies and plans, including the 2013 Regional Goods Movement Plan and the Ports Area Mobility Study. This plan identifies actionable, operational, logistical, and technological policies, programs, and projects that improve goods movement, leverage private and public investment, and further the goals outlined in the Regional Transportation Plan. The Houston Galveston Area eight-county region has one of the fastest-growing economic sectors in the United States. Moving forward, freight tonnage is expected to grow at 2.1 percent annually until 2050 to a total of 1.7 billion tons annually. For the region to maintain its economic competitiveness, it must support a growing demand for goods moving from, to, and through the region.

**CURRENT SITUATION**

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On September 30, 2024, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) held its first of many lessons-learned workshops to discuss implementing the recommendations from the Regional Goods Movement Plan. This workshop included discussions on the RGMP to better understand areas where the plan succeeded, areas of improvement, and information that should be captured in the next iteration of the RGMP. The workshop was also a time for HGAC staff to gather initial ideas for implementing the Plan. The key takeaways from the workshop are as follows:

1. Decreasing time between goods movement studies.
2. Collaboration with other Transportation committees and subcommittees to implement RGMP Policies and Programs
3. Need for freight congestion management tools to be studied and developed.
4. Need to provide updated freight data through the RGMP dashboards and self-service raw data.

For this first workshop members of the RGMP steering and stakeholder committee were invited to participate. The next steps are to present the initial results to the TAC and TPC members and then bring the information to the Greater Houston Freight Committee to discuss the next steps in implementing the RGMP.

**ACTION REQUESTED**

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Information Only