Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee

October 14, 2021

9:30 AM

1. Introductions, Roll Call, and Certification of Quorum

2021 Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee

Nominated Position	Primary-Name	Organization	Alternate-Name	Organization
Local Government	Monique Johnson	City of Sugar Land	Krystal LaStrape	City of Sugar Land
Local Government	Melissa Lanier	Cleveland Chamber	David Douglas	Liberty County
Local Government	Sharon Moses-Burnside	City of Houston-Planning	Katrina Bayer	City of Houston
Business Interests	Elizabeth Whitton, AICP	Energy Corridor	Tandelyn Weaver	Lift Fund/TIRZ 9 South Post Oak
Citizens Interests	Alan Watkins	Houston Housing Collaborative	Angela Cox	Houston Habitat for Humanity
Social Services/HHS	Deborah Moore	City Of Houston Health Dept.	Paula Johnson	City of Houston Health Dept. (Aging)
Social Services/HHS	Jason Jones	Houston Center for Independent Living	Chamane Barrow	Houston Center for Independent Living
Social Services/HHS	Cornelius Blackshear	United Way of Greater Houston	Halley Goldstein	United Way of Greater Houston
Social Services/HHS	Dave Lewis	Harris County Veteran Services	Jason Williams	Harris County Veteran Services
Transit Agency	Sarah Coulter	The Woodlands Township	Ruthanne Haut	The Woodlands Township
Transit Agency	De'Andre Guin	City of Conroe	Shawn Johnson, MPA	City of Conroe
Transit Agency	Perri D'Armond	Fort Bend County	Yvette Maldonado	Fort Bend County
Transit Agency	Vernon Chambers	Harris County	Ken Fickes	Harris County
Transit Agency	Shain Eversly	METRO	Rachael Die	METRO
Transit Agency	Taslima Khandaker	Brazos Transit District	Sarah Santoy	Brazos Transit District
Transit Agency	Claudia Wicks	Colorado Valley Transit	Antonio Salazar	Colorado Valley Transit
Transit Agency	Sean Middleton	Gulf Coast Transit District	Ted Ross	Gulf Coast Transit District
Transit Agency	James Oliver	Island Transit	Vacant	

TOTAL: 18

Ex-Officio	Travis Madison	TxDOT- HOU	Brenda Bustillos	TxDOT-HOU
Ex-Officio	Arnold Vowles	TxDOT- BMT	Rawetts Baaheth	TxDOT-BMT

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Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions, Roll Call, and Certification of Quorum (9) – Perri D'Armond, Fort Bend County Transit, Chair
2. Public Comments
3. Action Items:
   - 3.1 Approval of RTC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2021
4. Information Items:
   - 4.1 Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan Workgroup Update – Sandy Klanfer, H-GAC
   - 4.2 Regional Transit Connectivity (Workgroup Update – Thomas Gray, H-GAC
   - 4.3 Survey of Effects of Coronavirus Pandemic on Regional Transit Providers – Thomas Gray, H-GAC
   - 4.4 ConnectSmart Update – Brenda Bustillos, TxDOT
   - 4.5 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update – Adam Beckom, H-GAC
   - 4.6 Commuter and Transit Pilot Update – Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC
   - 4.7 Pearland Transit Study – Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC
   - 4.8 Liberty County Mobility Study Update – Thomas Gray, H-GAC
   - 4.9 Southeast Harris Regional Study Update – Thomas Gray, H-GAC
5. Agency Reports (5 minutes or less each)
6. Adjourn

The Regional Transit Connectivity Workgroup will meet immediately following this meeting.

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2. Public Comments

- Please click the small "hand" icon at the bottom of your screen to raise your hand in order to be recognized to speak.

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3.1. Action Item – Approval of RTC Subcommittee Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2021

(The July 8, 2021 meeting minutes are contained in the subcommittee packet posted in the chat box)

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4.1. RCTP Workgroup Update

Sandy Klanfer, H-GAC Staff

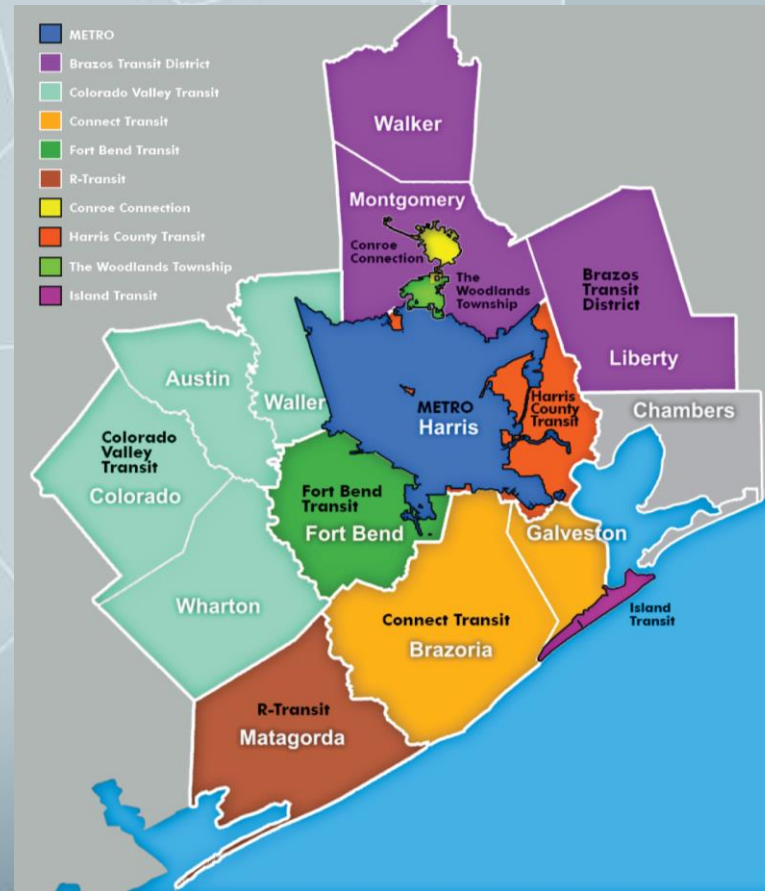# REGIONALLY COORDINATED TRANSPORTATON PLAN WORKGROUP UPDATE

Sandy Klanfer
October 14, 2021

Regional Collaboration • Transportation Planning • Multimodal Mobility

Contents

- **Project Overview**

- **Project Updates**
  - Provider Inventory
  - Needs Assessment
  - Gaps Analysis
  - Outreach

- **Future Project Phases**

Project Overview

- RCTP required to be updated every five years

- Covers 8-county MPO region plus five additional rural counties

- Emphasis on transit and coordination gaps

Map legend:
- METRO
- Brazos Transit District
- Colorado Valley Transit
- Connect Transit
- Fort Bend Transit
- R-Transit
- Conroe Connection
- Harris County Transit
- The Woodlands Township
- Island Transit

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Provider Inventory

- Draft Provider Inventory is now complete
- Provider survey response rate was very low
  - Made repeated efforts to reach providers
  - Many providers have temporarily or permanently ceased operations
- Public transit agencies are happy with the current level of coordination, while for-profit providers are not, and non-profit providers have mixed opinions
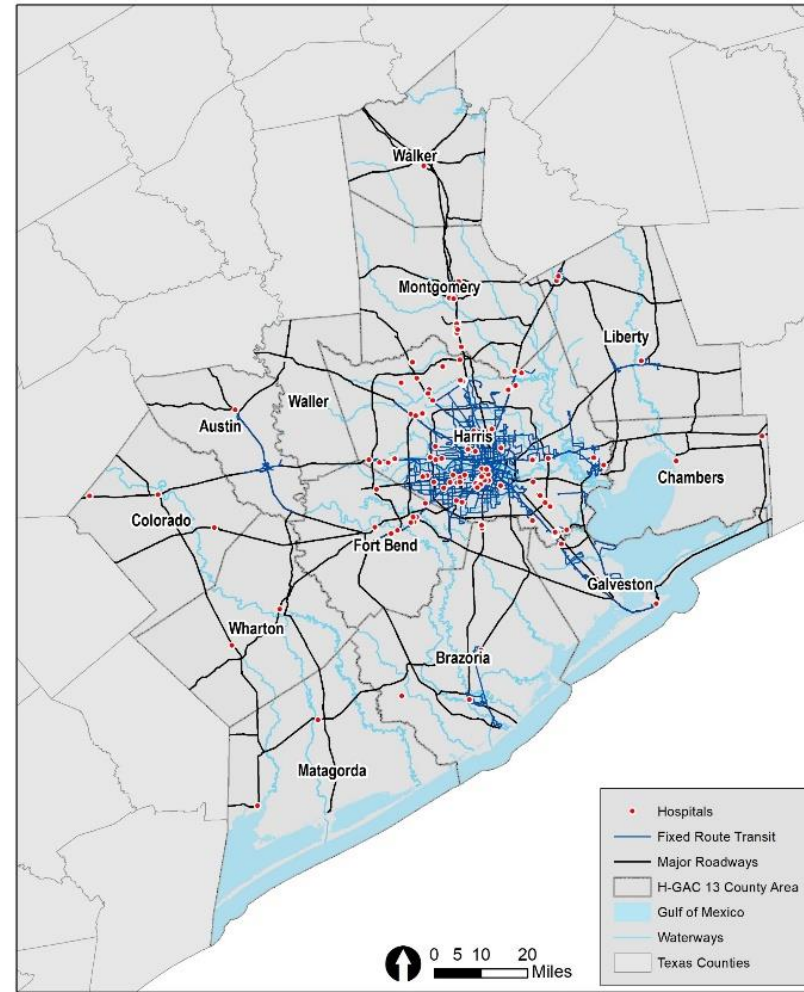
Needs Assessment

- Needs Assessment is nearing completion, undergoing internal review

- Performed a variety of different analyses to understand the region's transportation need:
  - Demographic
  - Current Transit Availability
  - Access to Jobs and Healthcare
  - (pre-COVID) Travel Flows
  - Projected Future Growth
  - Feedback from Public Outreach

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Needs Assessment

Distance to Nearest Hospitals
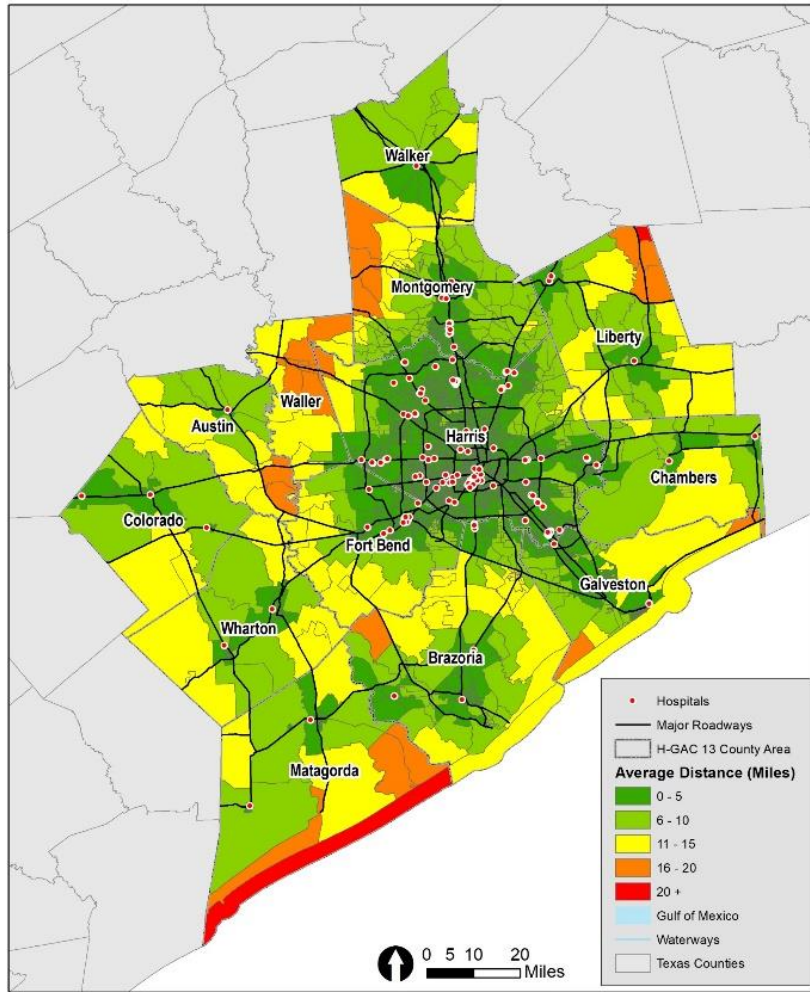
**Hospitals with Fixed Route Transits**

Gaps Analysis

- Gaps Analysis is nearing completion
- Builds on work done in the Needs Assessment
  - Where is need not being met?
  - Spatial Gaps
  - Temporal Gaps
  - Information Gaps
- Also incorporates feedback from public outreach process
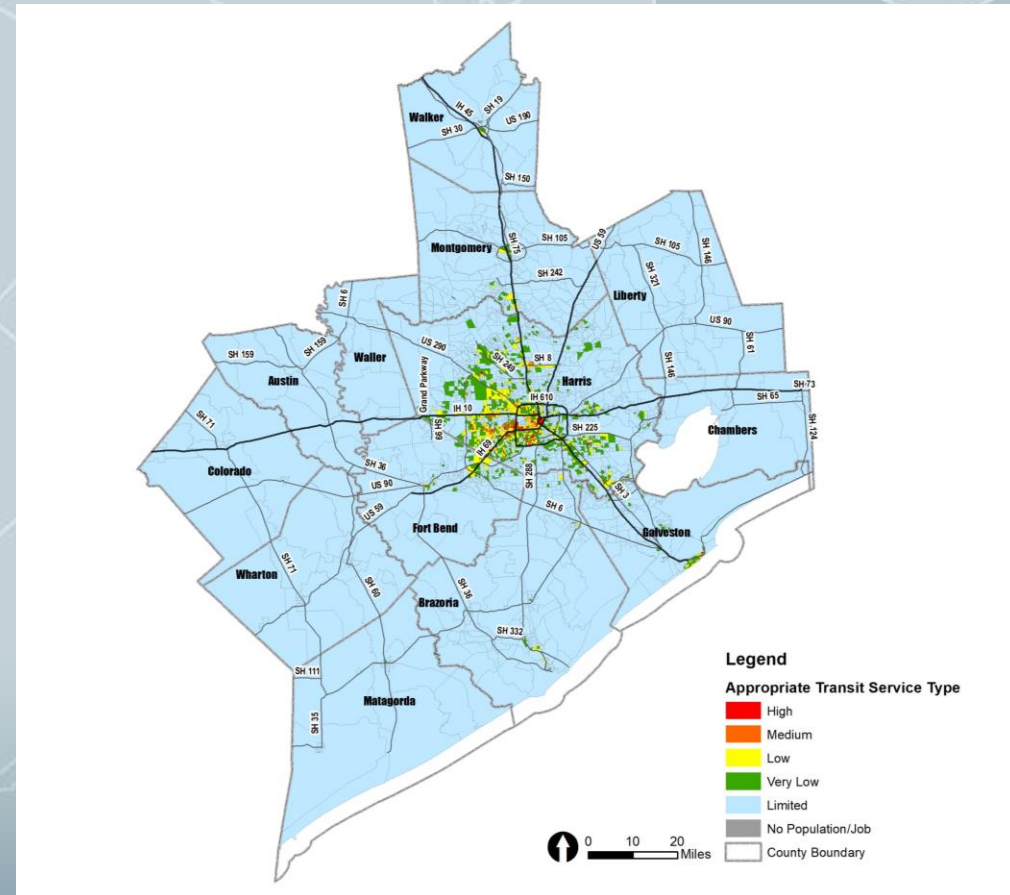
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Transit Need and Access

- Transit Need Index
- Based on several factors:
  - Population Density
  - Poverty
  - Zero-car Households
  - Seniors
  - Persons with Disabilities
  - Students
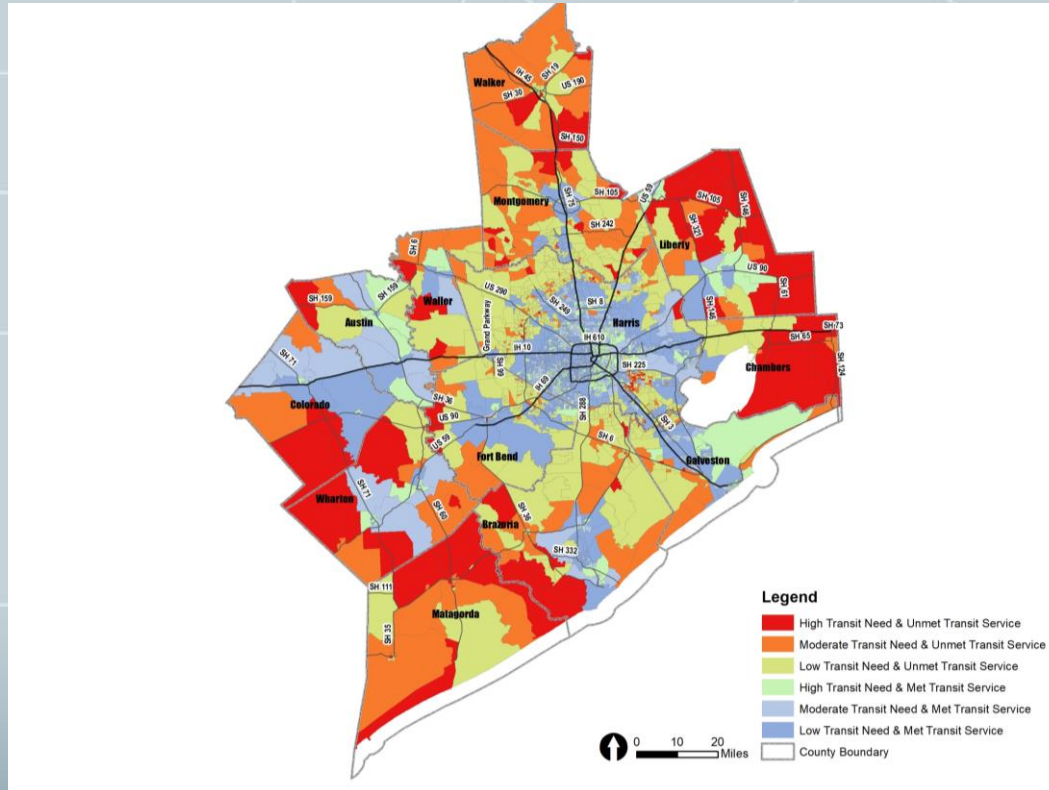- Each factor weighted differently for urban and rural areas
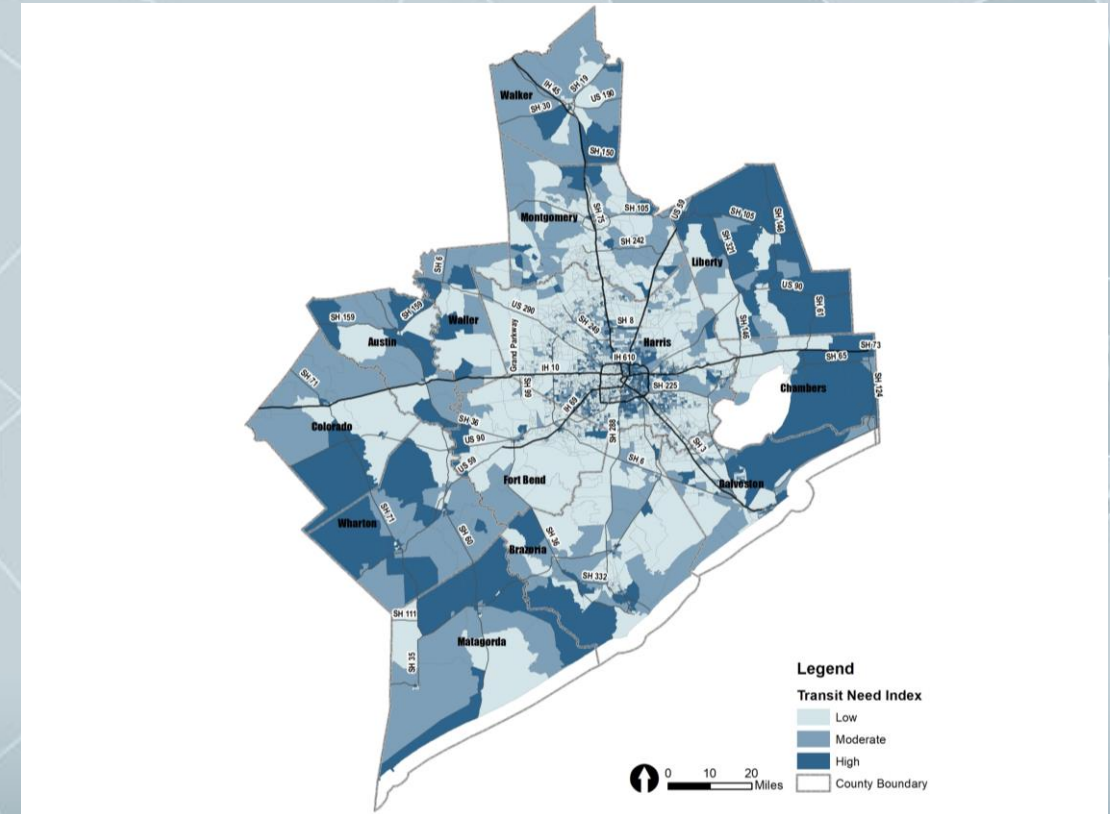
Transit Need and Access

- Categorized required level of service based on H-GAC Regional Transit Framework Study
  - Level of service based on population and employment density
  - Denser areas require higher capacity and higher frequency services

Legend

Appropriate Transit Service Type
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very Low
- Limited
- No Population/Job
- County Boundary

Transit Need and Access

Legend

- High Transit Need & Unmet Transit Service
- Moderate Transit Need & Unmet Transit Service
- Low Transit Need & Unmet Transit Service
- High Transit Need & Met Transit Service
- Moderate Transit Need & Met Transit Service
- Low Transit Need & Met Transit Service
- County Boundary

0 10 20 Miles

- Areas of high unmet transit need in both urban and rural parts of the region
- Transit need in region's core more likely to be met than transit need in outlying areas
- Solutions are not one-size-fits-all

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Public Outreach

- Public Outreach Phase I is complete
  - Virtual Interactive Events
  - Survey
  - Mapping Activity
- Public Outreach Phase II starts next week
  - Focus Groups
- Public Outreach Phase III will take place in early 2022
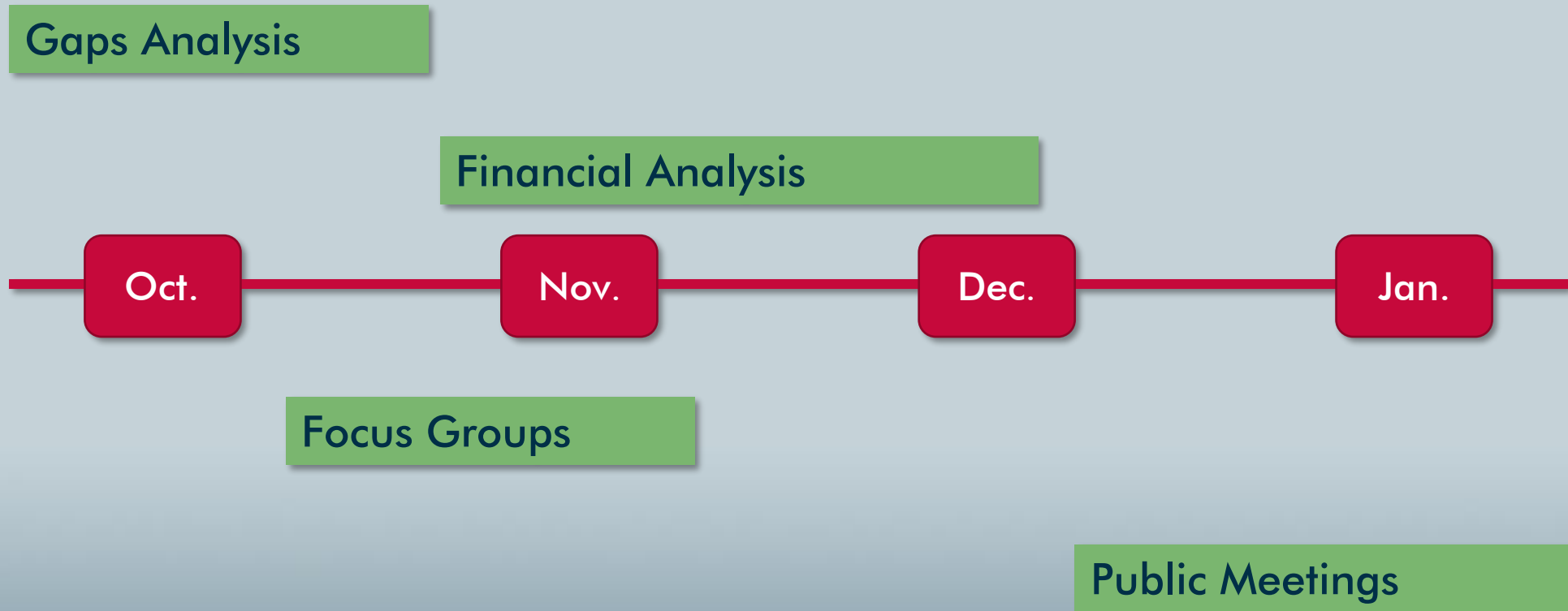 - Present draft recommendations at public meetings

Phase I Outreach Takeaways

- Even people who don't use transit, care about transit:
  - Nearly half of survey respondents reported never using public transit
- People in the region want high-quality public transit, but don't believe they currently have it
- "Information Gaps" are region-wide barriers to transit use
- Other notable barriers to transit use:
  - Nonexistent/inconvenient service
  - Infrequent service
  - Unreliable service
  - Lack of transit amenities (e.g. shelters)

Focus Groups

- October 18-27
- Deepen insights from first round of outreach
- Recruiting with help from internal/external partners
- Moderated by trained H-GAC staff

- Persons with disabilities
- Seniors (65+)
- Low income
- LEP
- Students
- Veterans
- Workforce
- General Public

What's Next?

Gaps Analysis

Financial Analysis

Focus Groups

Public Meetings

Oct. — Nov. — Dec. — Jan.

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Questions?

Sandy Klanfer

Sanford.Klanfer@h-gac.com

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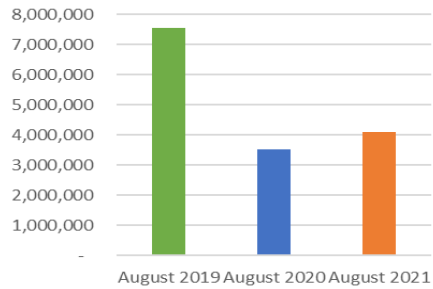# 4.2. Regional Transit Connectivity Workgroup Update

Thomas Gray, H-GAC Staff

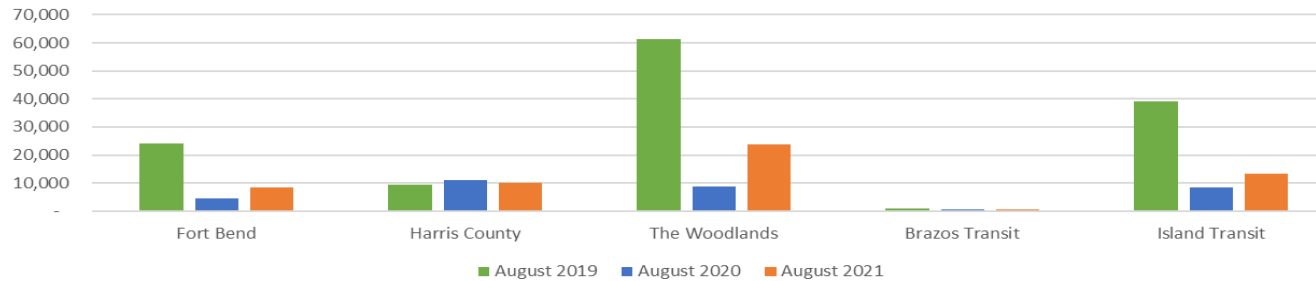# 4.3. Survey of Effects of Coronavirus on Regional Transit Providers Update

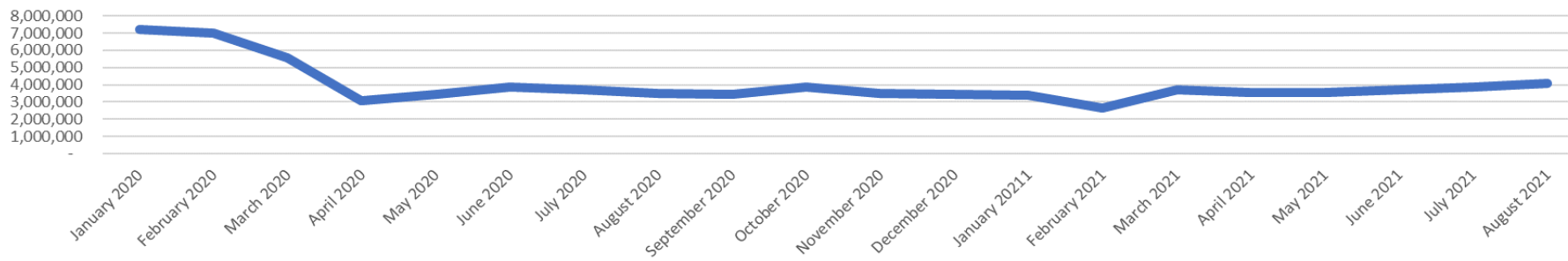## Thomas Gray, H-GAC Staff

August 2021 Fixed Route Ridership

- 54% of Aug 2019 ridership
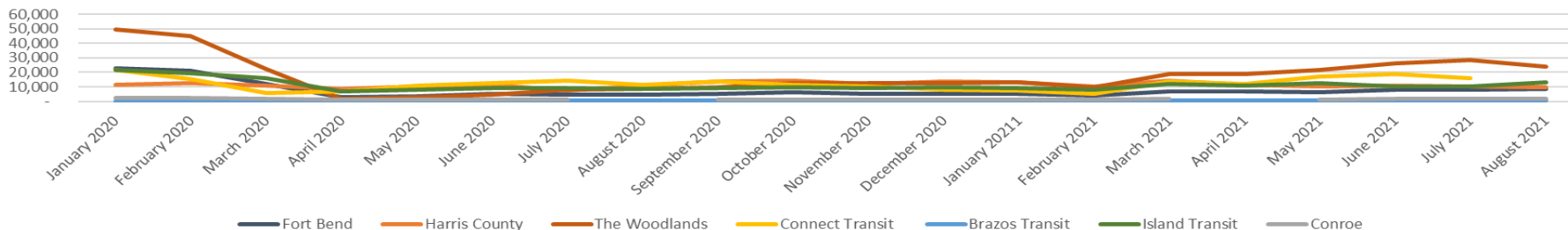
- 117% of Aug 2020 ridership

May 2021 Demand Response Ridership

DR Ridership - METRO
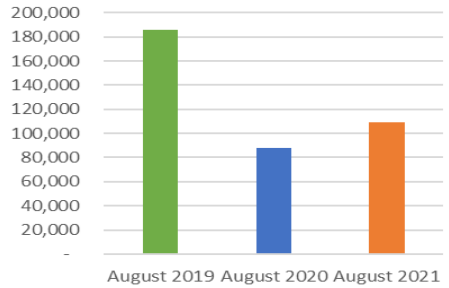
DR Ridership - Other Regional Agencies
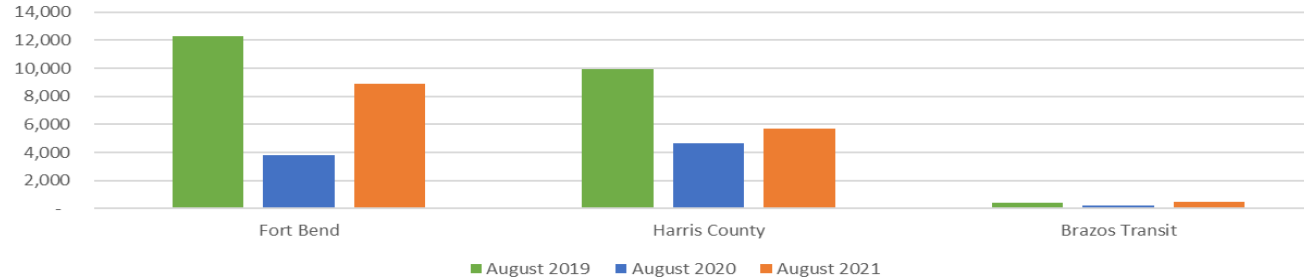
Demand Response Ridership by Month - METRO

Demand Reponse Ridership by Month - Other Regional Agencies

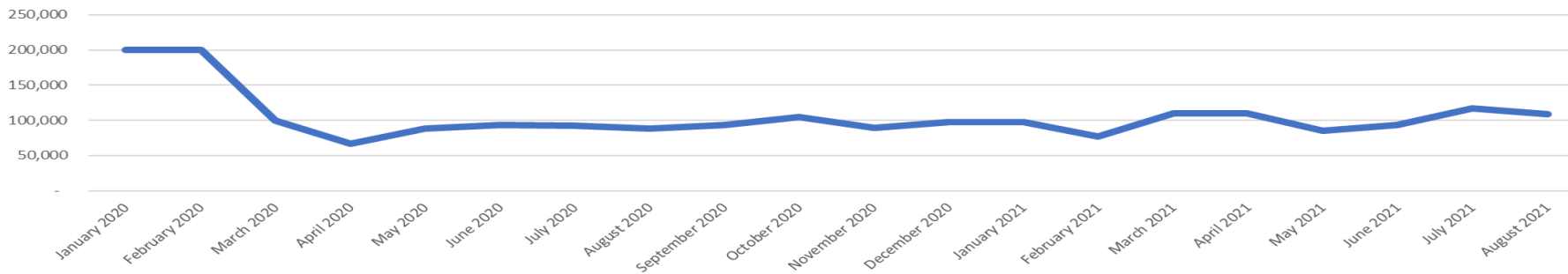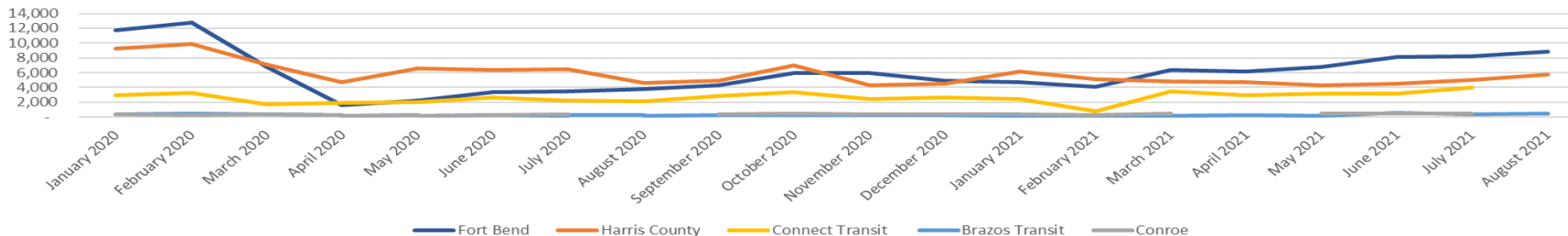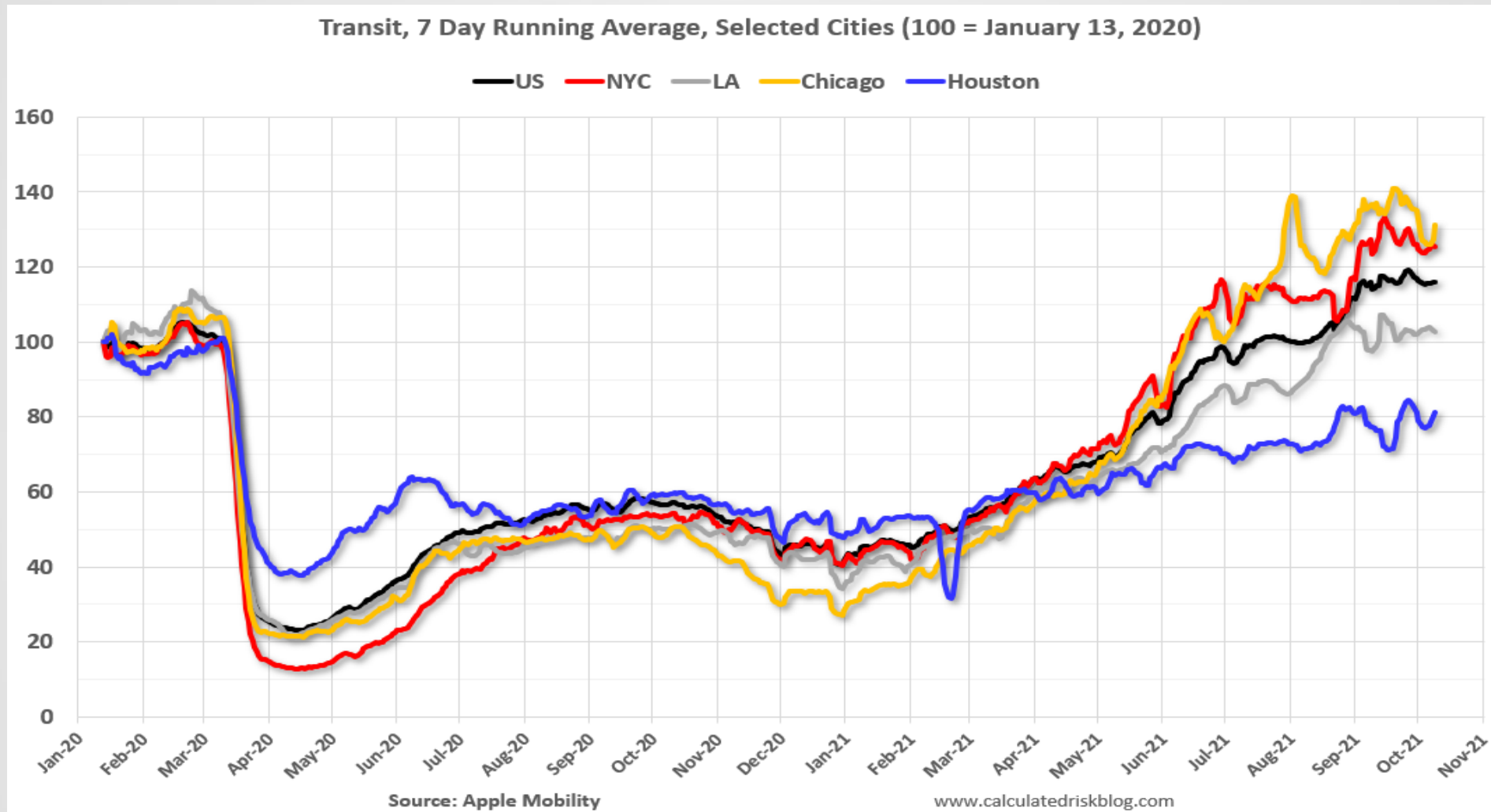(Includes ADA Paratransit)

- 59% of Aug 2019 ridership

- 125.5% of Aug 2020 ridership

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May 2021 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measures Taken to Reduce Spread of Coronavirus

	METRO	Fort Bend	Harris County	The Woodlands	Connect Transit	Brazos Transit	Island Transit	Conroe
What specific measures has your agency taken to reduce the spread of Coronavirus? Check all that apply:								
Temporarily suspended fare collection						YES		
Required bus boarding by rear doors only								
Taped off seats on buses to ensure social distancing for passengers					YES			YES
Enforced lower capacity restrictions (e.g. "half-full") on buses and vans					YES			
Trained employees on proper hygiene and social distancing techniques	YES	YES	YES		YES		YES	YES
Required operators to wear Personal Protective Equipment, such as masks and gloves	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Provided information about proper hygiene and social distancing techniques to patrons (e.g. signs or flyers on buses)	YES	YES		YES	YES	YES		YES
Enhanced and/or more frequent cleaning/disinfection of buses and vans	YES	YES		YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Required passengers to wear masks or face coverings while riding	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Enhanced and/or more frequent cleaning/disinfection of passenger facilities (bus stops, park and rides, light rail stations, etc.)	YES				YES		YES	
Installed plastic shields to separate operators from riders	YES					YES	YES	YES
Modified air filtration in vehicle HVAC systems (e.g. installation of HEPA air filters)				YES				
Other (please specify)[1]					YES			
In August 2021, did your agency make any changes to its Coronavirus reduction measures (e.g. resume fare collection, add or eliminate barriers between drivers and passengers, change vehicle capacity limits, etc.)? If so, please briefly explain:[2]								

Apple Mobility Trends - Transit

Transit, 7 Day Running Average, Selected Cities (100 = January 13, 2020)

US — NYC — LA — Chicago — Houston

Source: Apple Mobility   www.calculatedriskblog.com

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4.4. ConnectSmart Update

Brenda Bustillos, TxDOT

4.5 TIP Update

Adam Beckom, H-GAC Staff

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Call for Projects Development Update

RCT Subcommittee
October 14, 2021

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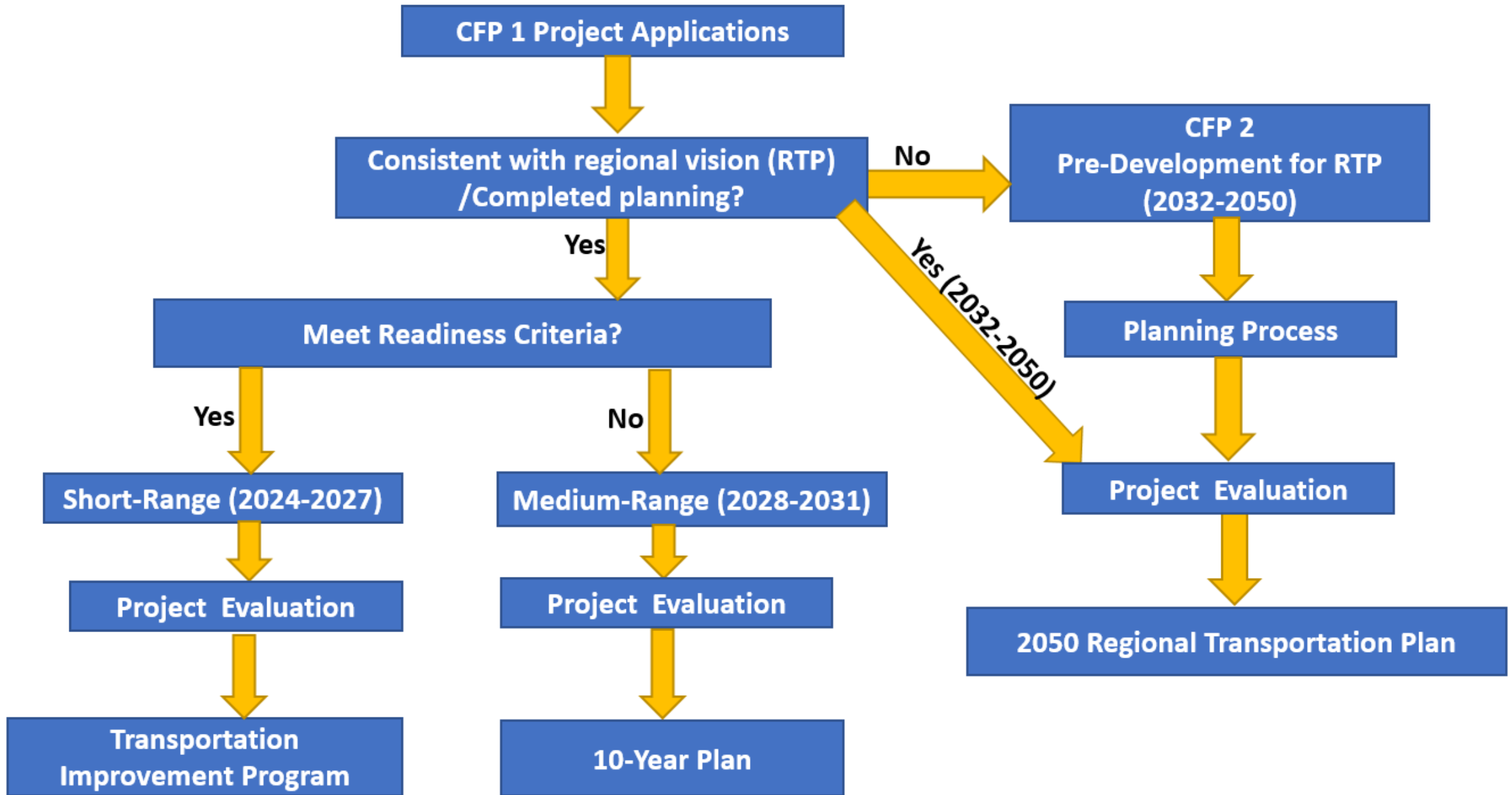
Call for Projects – Process

- Call for projects for
  - Short-range: Begin construction within 5 years (2024-2027)
  - Medium-range: Begin construction within 6-8 years (2028-2031)
  - Predevelopment for RTP (long-range projects)
- Application process in two phases
  - Phase 1(Pre-application)
  - Phase 2 (Application)
- Phase 1 (Pre-application) (30 days submission period)
  - Screening criteria for consistency with regional vision (RTP)
  - Project readiness (project development) Criteria

Call for Projects – Consistency with Regional Vision

- Screening criteria for consistency with regional vision (RTP)
  - Is the proposed project listed in the 2045RTP?
  - Was the project listed in any other regional or local plans?
  - Did the project go through any public review?
  - Does the project have jurisdictional support?

- Project readiness criteria for short-range (begin construction within the next 5 years) (federal funding requests for <u>construction phase</u> only)
  - Environmental clearance complete (for EA or EIS required projects), or underway to be completed at least 24 months prior to anticipated letting
  - For Categorical Exclusion (CE) projects at least 12 months prior to anticipated letting

Call for Projects – Readiness Criteria

- ROW acquisition complete, or underway to be completed at least 24 months prior to anticipated letting
- Utility coordination and agreements complete, or underway to be completed at least 12 months prior to anticipated letting
- Utility relocation may continue after project is let
- If required must have Army Corps of Engineers permits approved
- If required must have executed railroad agreements

- If proposed projects cannot meet any of the project readiness criteria will be considered medium range projects.

Call for Projects – Process

- Projects consistent with regional vision and project development phases are complete or soon to be completed will compete with other to short range projects (2024-2027)

- Projects consistent with regional vision and have not begun project development phase will compete with other medium range projects (2028 - 2031)

- Sponsors may request federal funds for all project phases. Projects that are scheduled to begin construction in medium range may request project development phases to be scheduled in short range.

- Long range projects (2032-2050) that did not complete pre-planning will advance to project predevelopment planning

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Call for Projects – Process

- Phase 2 (Application) (45 days submission period)
  - Benefits calculation templates
    - Safety, Delay, Emissions
  - Planning factors
    - Major Investments, Expand, Manage, Maintain, and Active Transportation

Call for Projects Schedule

Task	Short and medium range (2024-2027 or 2028-2031)	Pre-development planning program for 2050RTP (2032-2050)
Pending Selection Criteria Questions	October 2021	
Funding Discussion	November 2021	
Readiness Program	December 2021	
TAC/TPC Information	February 2022	April - September 2022
TAC/TPC Action	March 2022	
Release Call Phase 1 (pre-application) (30day)	End of April 2022	
Phase 1 Evaluation	May 2022	
Start Call Phase 2	June 2022	
Submission deadline (45 days)	July 2022	
Phase 2 Evaluation	August/September 2022	
TAC/TPC Information	November 2022	January 2023
TAC/TPC Action	December2022	February 2023
RTP Deadline		April 2023

4.6. Commuter and Transit Pilot Project Update

Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC Staff

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CMAQ TRANSIT AND COMMUTER PILOT STATUS UPDATE

Alan Rodenstein, AICP

October 14,2021

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CMAQ Update

- Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program in place for over 20 years

- Instrumental in starting park and rides throughout region

- Has slowed its growth in recent years

- Most recent Call for Partners (2018) has not resulted in an executed contract

2018 Call for Partners

- Most flexible of calls in program's history
- Did not require consultant analysis
- Allowed full 80% compensation for all three years or five years of project
- Simplified greatly emissions analysis and process
- Encouraged innovative projects that were non-commuter or suburb to suburb

Ongoing Developments

- Initial interest was promising – five applications, three accepted

- Only two decided to enter into contract; both were delayed (COVID and other factors)

- Strong interest from numerous other potential sponsors, however this has not led to any additional applications

Why?

- Sharp decline in commuter ridership and vehicles used as a result of COVID

- Inability to receive funding after three years of CMAQ

- Lack of capital funds for vehicles currently available

- Development needs for innovative service and speed of CMAQ funding

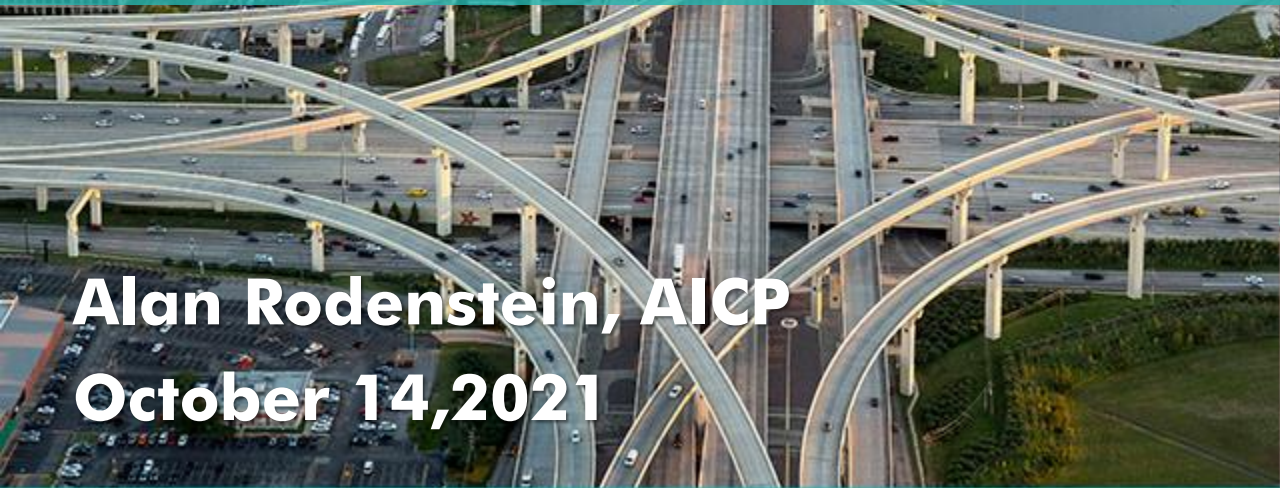- Technical ability to complete CMAQ application

CMAQ Future

- Current Request for Applications Closes August 31, 2022
- Opportunity to reevaluate the guidelines for the CMAQ Commuter and Transit Pilot Project
- Suggestions and input will be welcomed
- Application Training is tentatively scheduled for January 2022 for those interested in applying

4.7. Pearland Transit Study Update

Alan Rodenstein, H-GAC Staff

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PEARLAND TRANSIT NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PLAN

Alan Rodenstein, AICP

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Pearland Background

- Rapidly growing suburban city of immediately south of Houston

- Challenged to provide commuter bus service, especially in SH 288 and SH 35 corridors

- Very limited community service

- Pearland Prosperity Committee wants to develop Pearland transit mobility services

- H-GAC and City of Pearland met to develop scope and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to start project in June 2021

Pearland and ETJ

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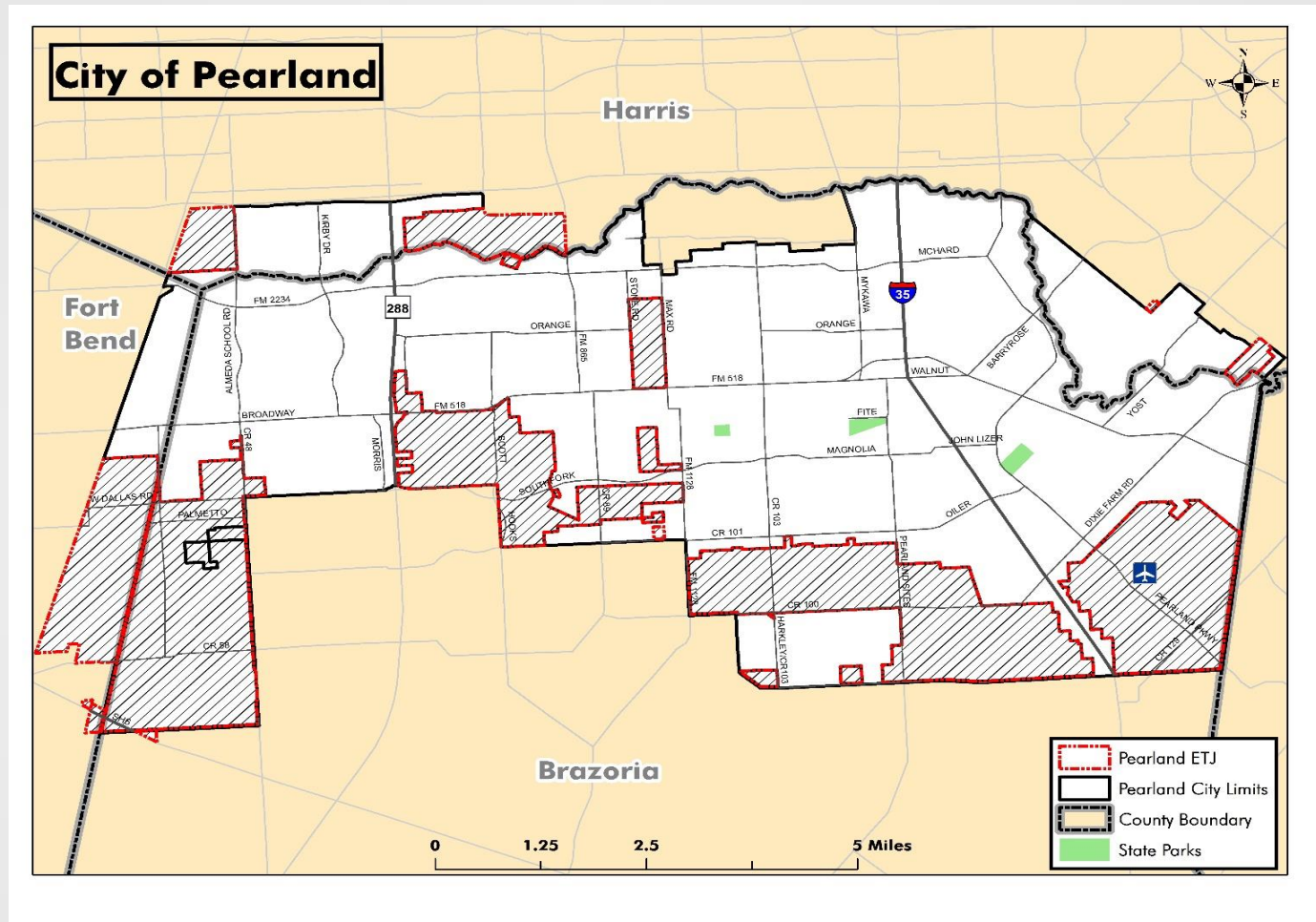
The Transit Needs Assessment Approach

- Study will be entirely conducted by H-GAC
- Start with strong technical study
- Robust public outreach (similar to other current studies)
- Surveys, outreach through our online engagement platform
- Develop alternatives and preferred approach (recommendations)
- Prepare final report by end of 2022

Kickoff Meeting – Steering Group

- High level of engagement and interest
- Discussed more emphasis on highlighting the benefits of transit services
- Overview of scope and goals and objectives with some changes
- Strong regional transit presence

Scheduled Next Steps

2021

- Fall – Existing Conditions Review
- Late Fall– Interactive Internet Site Functional
- Late Fall – Development of Community Survey

2022

- January - First Technical Memoranda
- February - First Round of Public Meetings
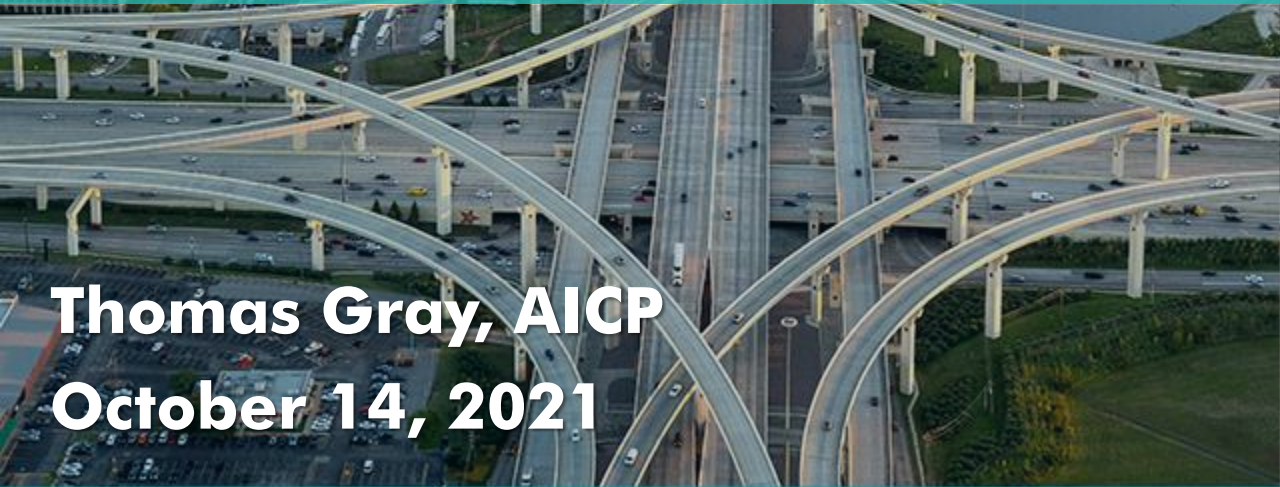
- Completion of Project by end of 2022

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4.8. Liberty County Mobility Study Update

Thomas Gray, H-GAC Staff

LIBERTY COUNTY MOBILITY STUDY

Thomas Gray, AICP
October 14, 2021

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Project Overview – Purpose and Study Area
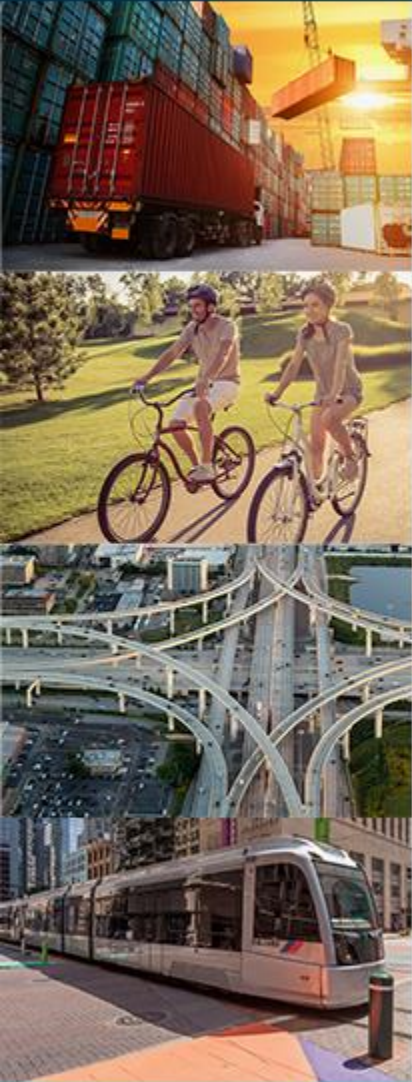
Conduct a study and develop a Comprehensive Mobility Plan for Liberty County:

- Analyze existing transportation network

- Consider existing and future land use and growth scenarios

- Recommend improvements for transportation for residents, businesses and visitors

- Individual assessments for Cities of Cleveland, Dayton, and Liberty
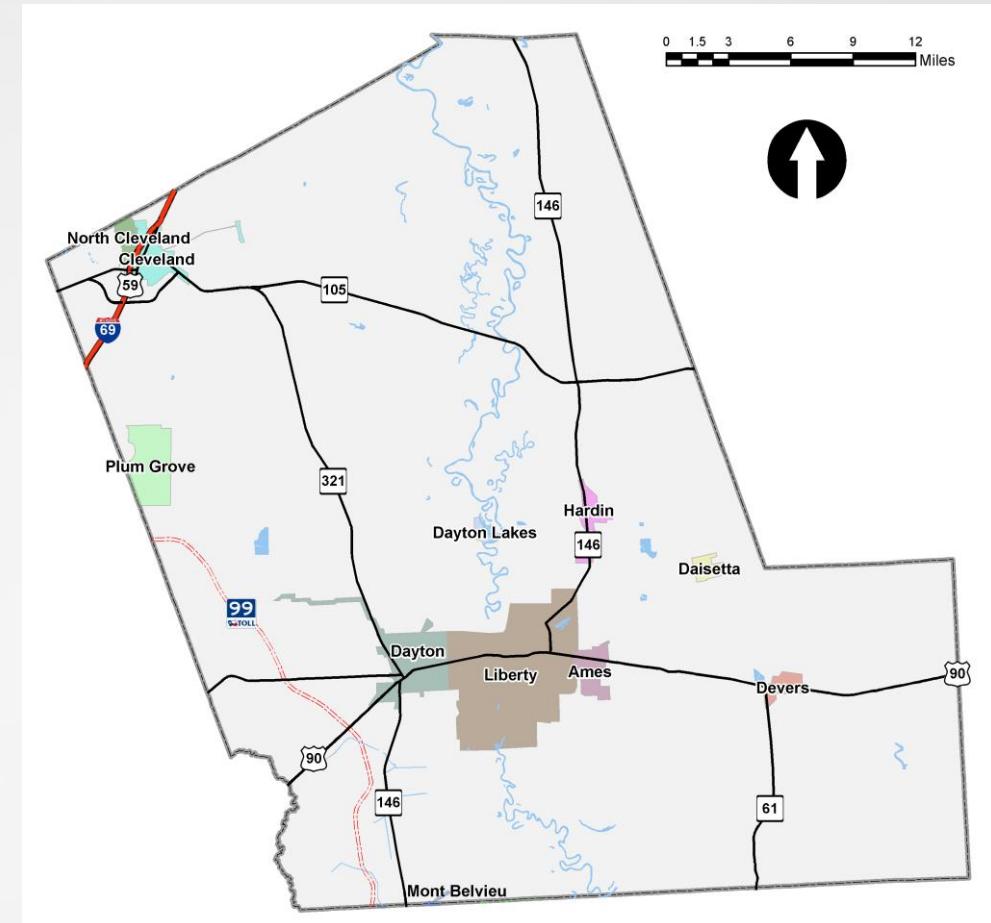
Steering Committee

Liberty County Engineer's Office	David Douglas	County Engineer
City of Cleveland	Robert Pennington	City Manager
City of Dayton	Kimberly Judge	Assistant City Manager / Director of Development Services
Dayton EDC	Ann Miller	EDC Director
City of Liberty	Tom Warner	City Manager
	Chris Jarmon	Assistant City Manager
TxDOT	Lisa Collins	TxDOT Beaumont District
TxDOT	Jeffrey English	TxDOT Houston District

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Thoroughfare Recommendations

Ultimate recommendation: Update Thoroughfare Plan through legal process

Inputs

- Existing Liberty County Thoroughfare Plan
- Barriers and limitations
- Existing adjacent Thoroughfare Plans

Focus Areas

- Locations without connectivity
- Grand Parkway access
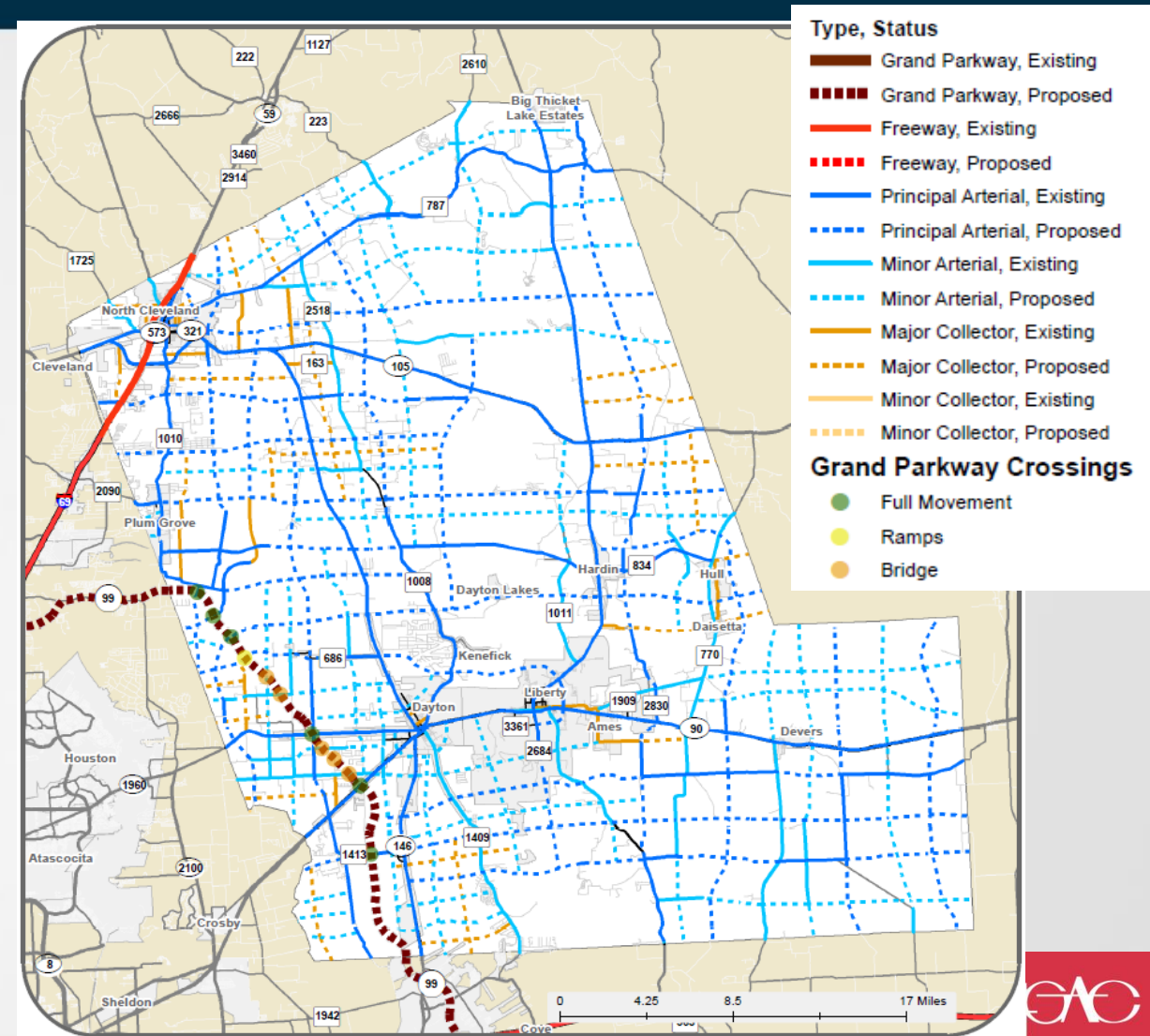
Dayton Bypass Alternatives

	1	2	3
Length	4.62 mi	4.58 mi	6.18 mi
Bridge	.34 mi	.24 mi	.44 mi
Cost	$34 M	$32 M	$41.6 M
Residences	4	7	4
Commercial	6	10	0

Policy / Practice Recommendations

LIBERTY COUNTY

- Submittal requirements
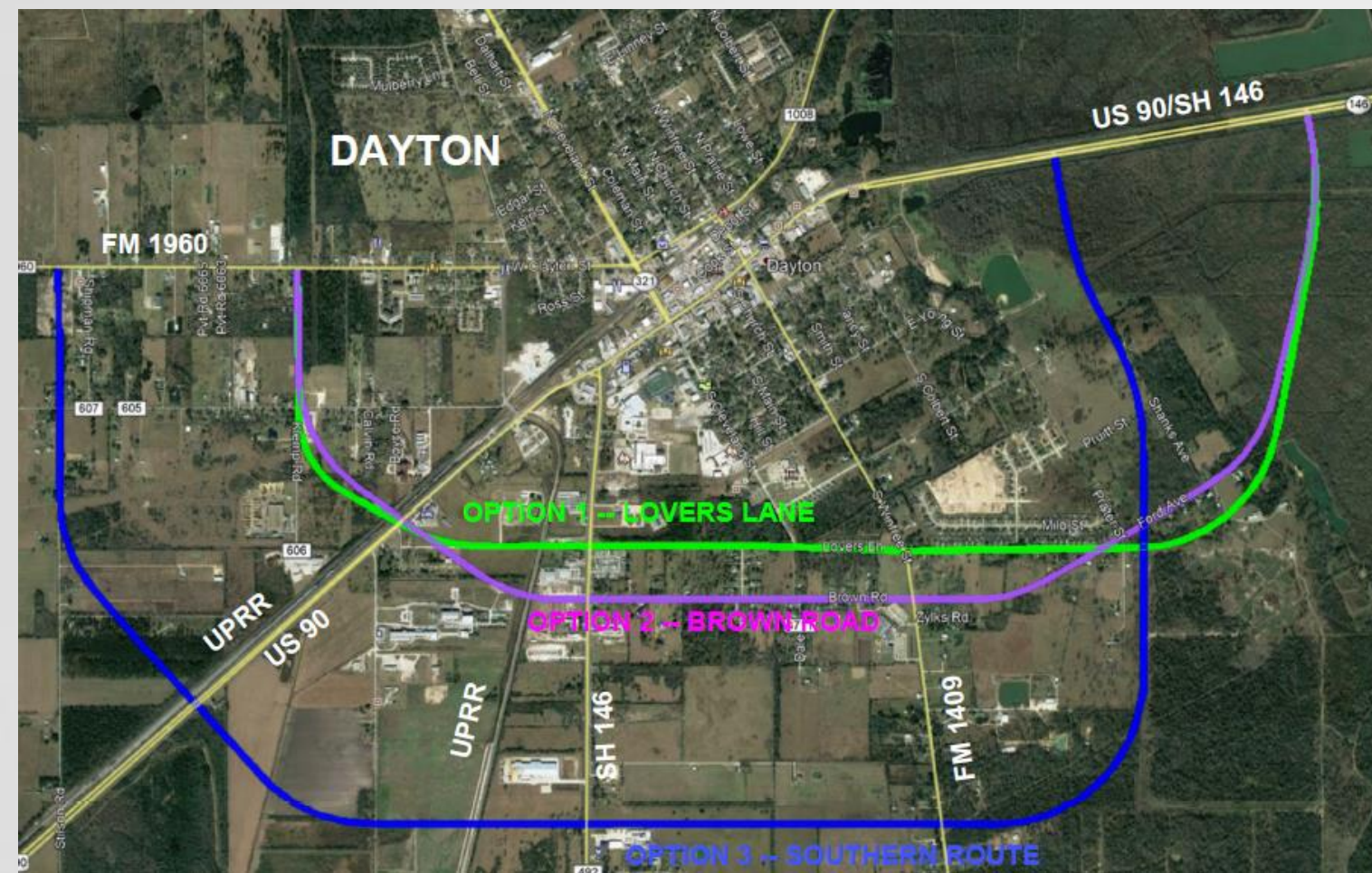 - Require a plat for all subdivisions
  - General Plan submittal for all contiguously-owned property
  - Digital submission process
  - Revise the plat submittal checklist

- General subdivision requirements
  - Common platting regulations / general street requirements
    - Points of access, block length, curve requirements, ROW widths, etc.
  - Consistent provisions for requiring ROW dedication for properties along MTP
  - Adopt Dayton's current sidewalk requirements

- Create roadway and utility Design and Construction standards

CITIES

- Adopt Liberty County regulations and standards; can apply more restrictive requirements if desired
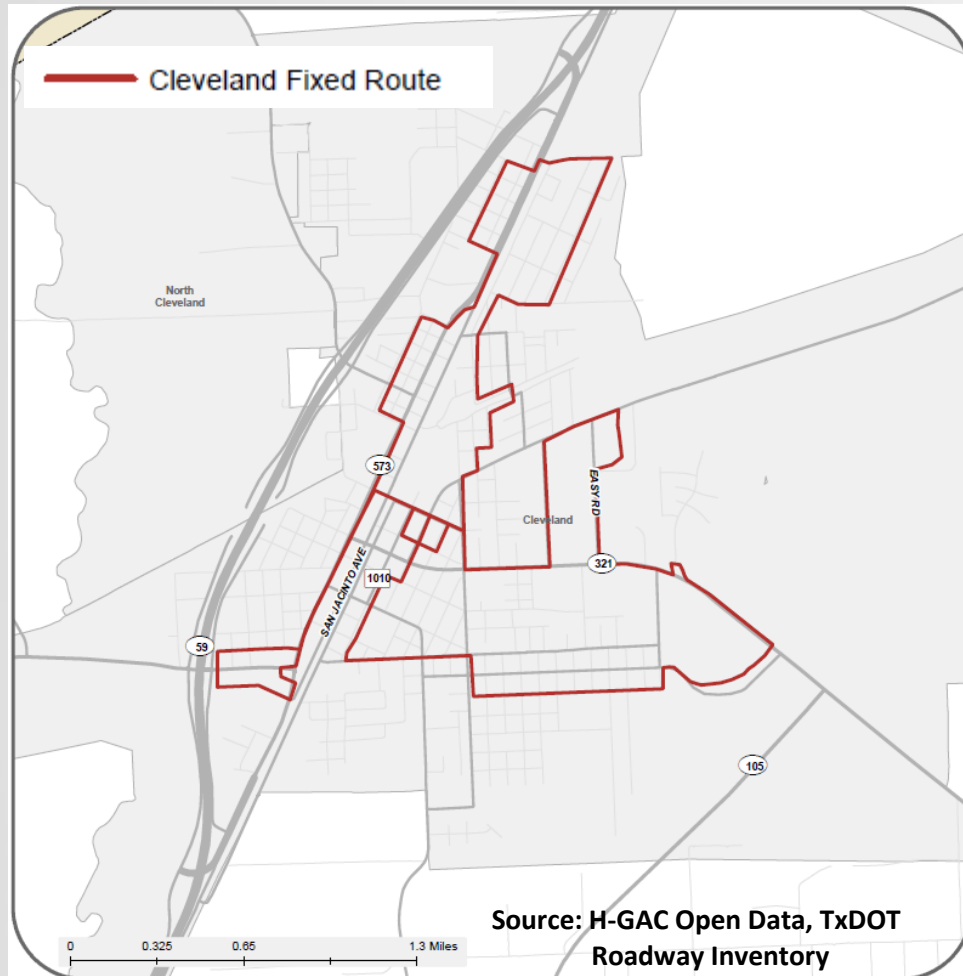
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Transit Summary

City of Cleveland

Cleveland Fixed Route

Source: H-GAC Open Data, TxDOT Roadway Inventory

- Cleveland – one fixed route; headways are one hour

- Dayton / Liberty – one fixed route circulates between cities four times per day

- BOTH – no established bus stops (flagged rider system)

- BTD considering more on-demand services

Transit Summary

Cities of Dayton and Liberty
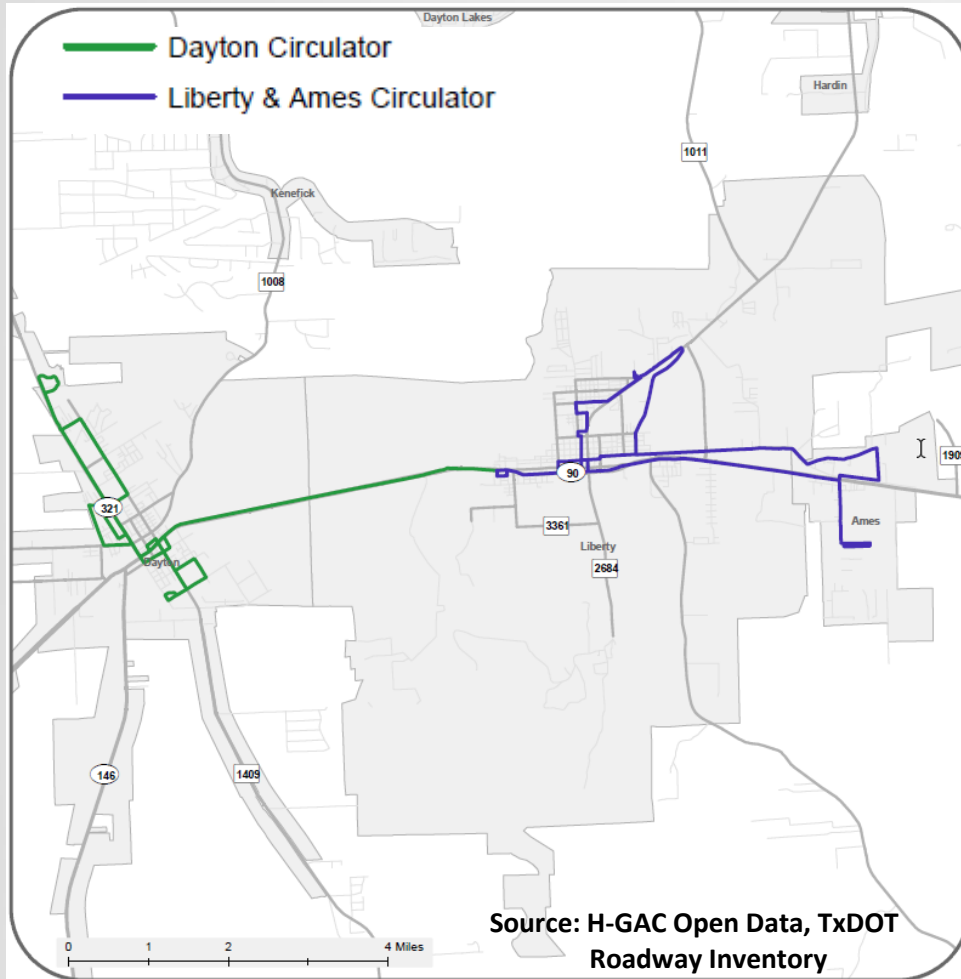
Source: H-GAC Open Data, TxDOT Roadway Inventory

- **Cleveland – one fixed route; headways are one hour**

- **Dayton / Liberty – one fixed route circulates between cities four times per day**

- **BOTH – no established bus stops (flagged rider system)**

- **BTD considering more on-demand services**

Transit Summary

BTD 2020 Fixed Route Ridership - Cleveland, TX

Legend
2020 Ridership
- Sparse
- Dense
- Cleveland Route
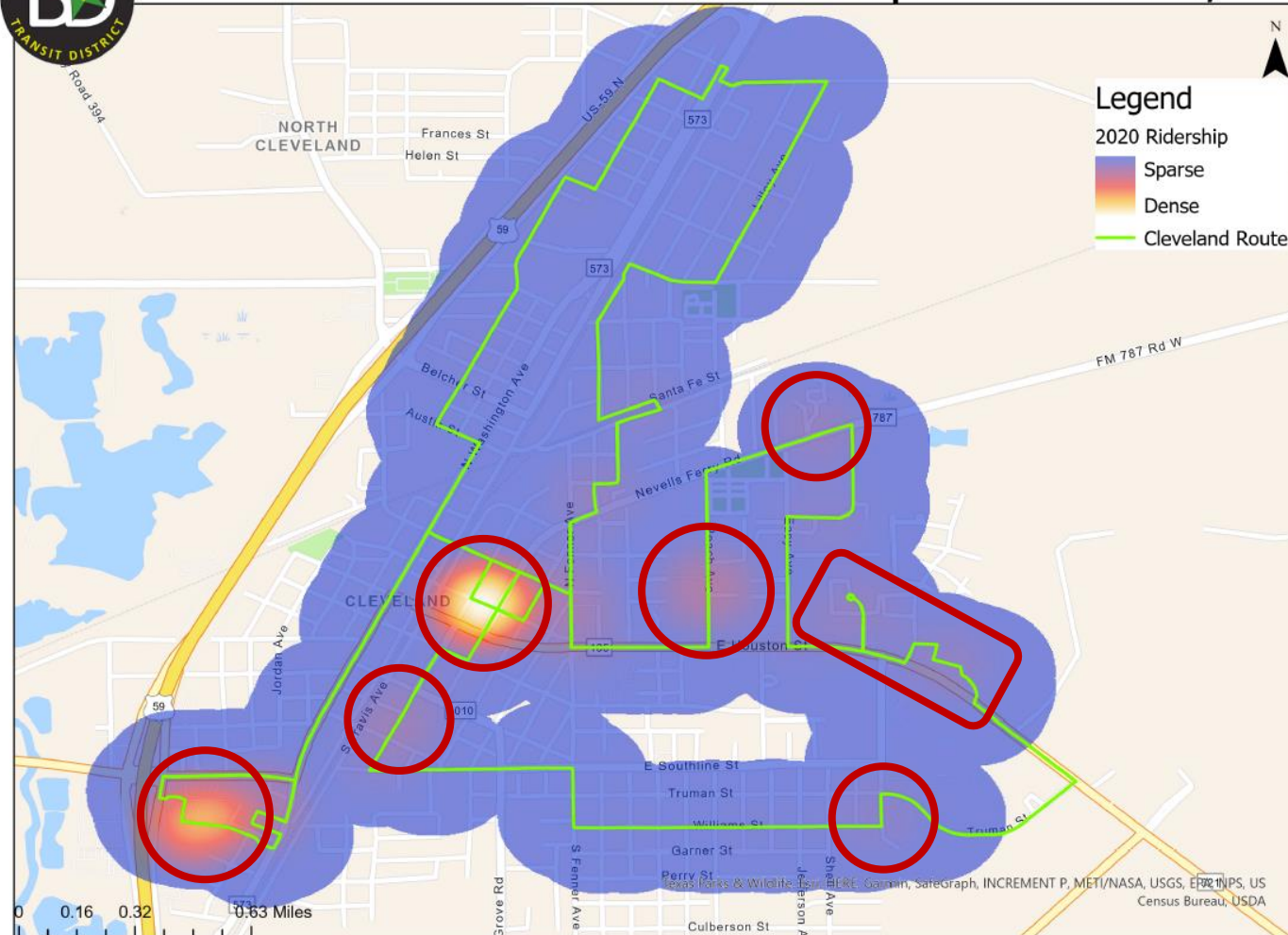
- Transit activity near:
  - Shopping centers
  - Schools
  - Senior housing / apartment complexes

Transit Recommendations

Build basic passenger facilities at high-ridership stops

- Pads, signage, shelters, sidewalks
- Prioritize according to BTD boarding and alighting data

Plan for a Park and Ride facility in Dayton

- Ideally close to intersection of Grand Parkway and US 90
- Could serve downtown Houston and Texas Medical Center

Publish GTFS data for BTD services in Liberty County

- Makes service information more accessible for users

Identify additional funding sources to provide local match

- This is a region-wide problem that is difficult to solve

Next Steps

LIBERTY COUNTY MOBILITY STUDY SCHEDULE

Task	2020		2021			
	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Identification of Issues and Needs						
Data Assembly and Evaluation						
Analysis						
Implementation and Funding Plan						
Final Report						
Public Outreach						
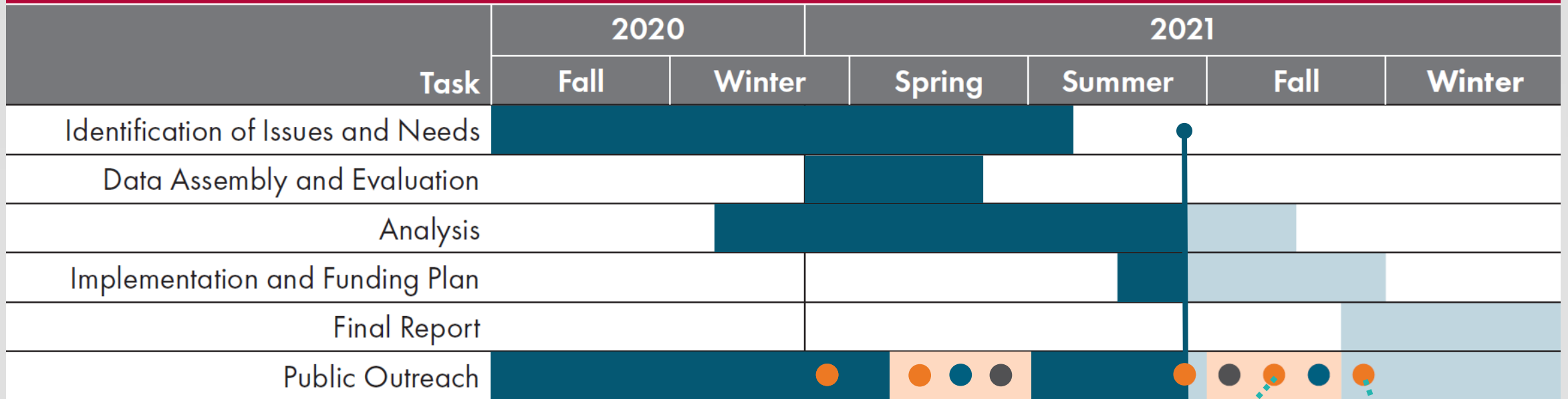
Legend:
- Duration of Task
- ● Steering Committee meeting
- ● Stakeholder meeting
- ● Public meeting
- Online engagement activity

We are here

Recommendations and implementation

Report Draft

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Thank You!
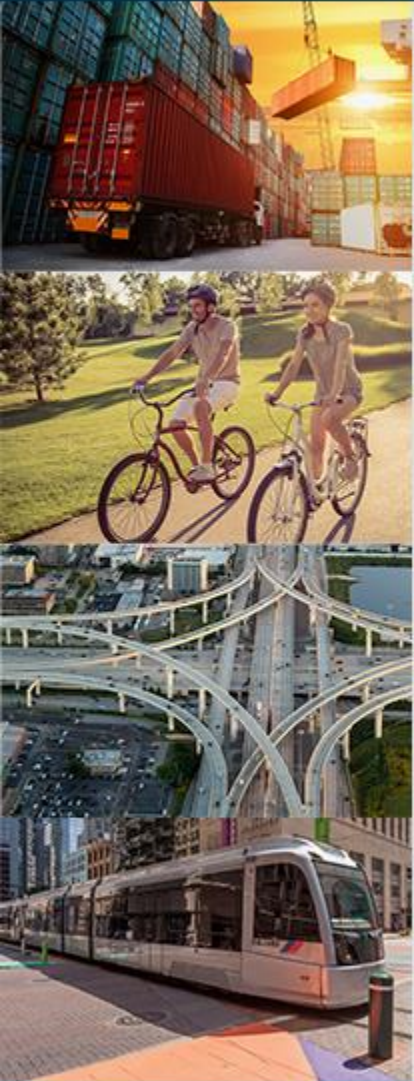
For More Information:

- **www.engage.h-gac.com**

- Thomas Gray, AICP
  - **Thomas.Gray@h-gac.com**
- Allie Isbell, AICP
  - **Allie.Isbell@h-gac.com**

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4.9. Southeast Harris Subregional Study Update

Mike Burns, H-GAC Staff

Southeast Harris County Subregional Study
Priority Corridors - Mobility
Functional Class & Traffic Signals

September 2021

Source: TxDOT Roadway Inventory

Legend:
- Signals
- Priority Corridors
- Principal Arterial
- Minor Arterial
- Interstate
- Freeway/Expressway
- Major Collector

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Southeast Harris County Subregional Study

All Study Priorities & Houston PELs

Corridors and Intersections

February 2021

Source: TxDOT Roadway Inventory

N

0   0.75   1.5   3
Miles

Legend:
- SH 225/IH 610E PEL
- IH 45 S PEL
- Safety Priority Intersection
- Safety Priority Corridor
- Mobility Priority Intersection
- Mobility Priority Corridor
- Safety & Mobility Priority Intersection

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Introductions – Steering Committee

Representing	Name	Title
Port Houston	Bruce Mann	Director, Freight Mobility
Harris County	Bryan Brown	Senior Planner - Engineering Dept
Economic Alliance Houston Port Region	Chad Burke	President and CEO
City of Houston Public Works	Donald Buaku	Principal Planner
TXDOT	Jeffrey English	TxDOT
Gulf Coast Rail District	Katherine Parker	Executive Director
Harris County Transit	Ken Fickes	Director - Transit Services
Harris County Precinct 2	Milton Rahman	Director of Engineering
La Porte Police Dept	Sgt Bennie Boles	Police Sergeant
La Porte	Teresa Vazquez-Evans	Planning & Development Director
City of South Houston	Arthur Olivera	Street and Bridge
Deer Park	Adam Ballesteros	City Engineer
Pasadena	Sarah Benavides	Senior Assistant Director, Public Works
Harris County	Loyd Smith	ALTERNATE - Harris County
City of Houston Planning	Sharon Moses-Burnside	ALTERNATE - City of Houston

Transit Recommendations
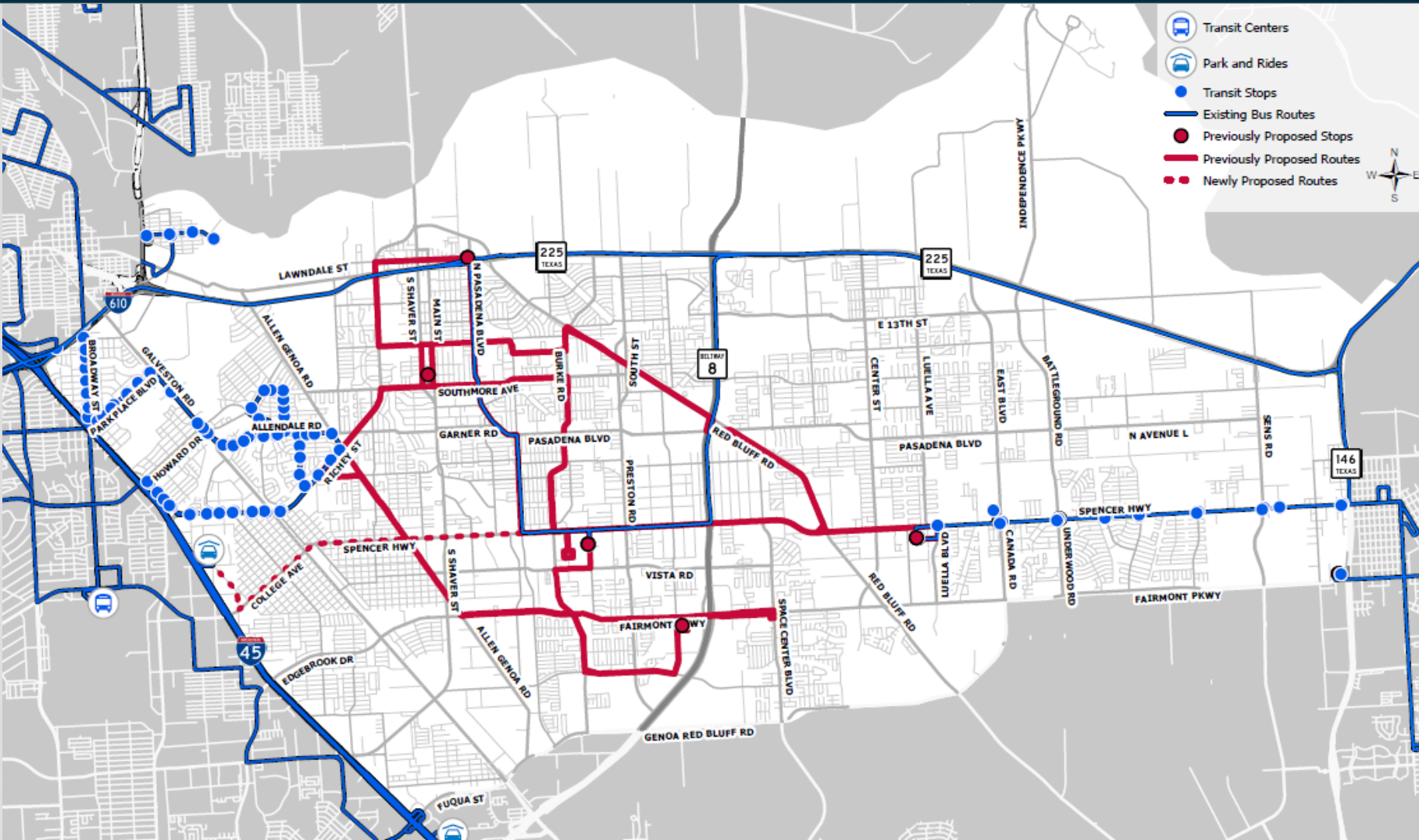
- Documents previous Harris County Transit recommendations
  - Completed using ridership data and public outreach
- Proposes one new connection to park and ride

Note: Feasibility study is recommended

Bus Stop Shelters
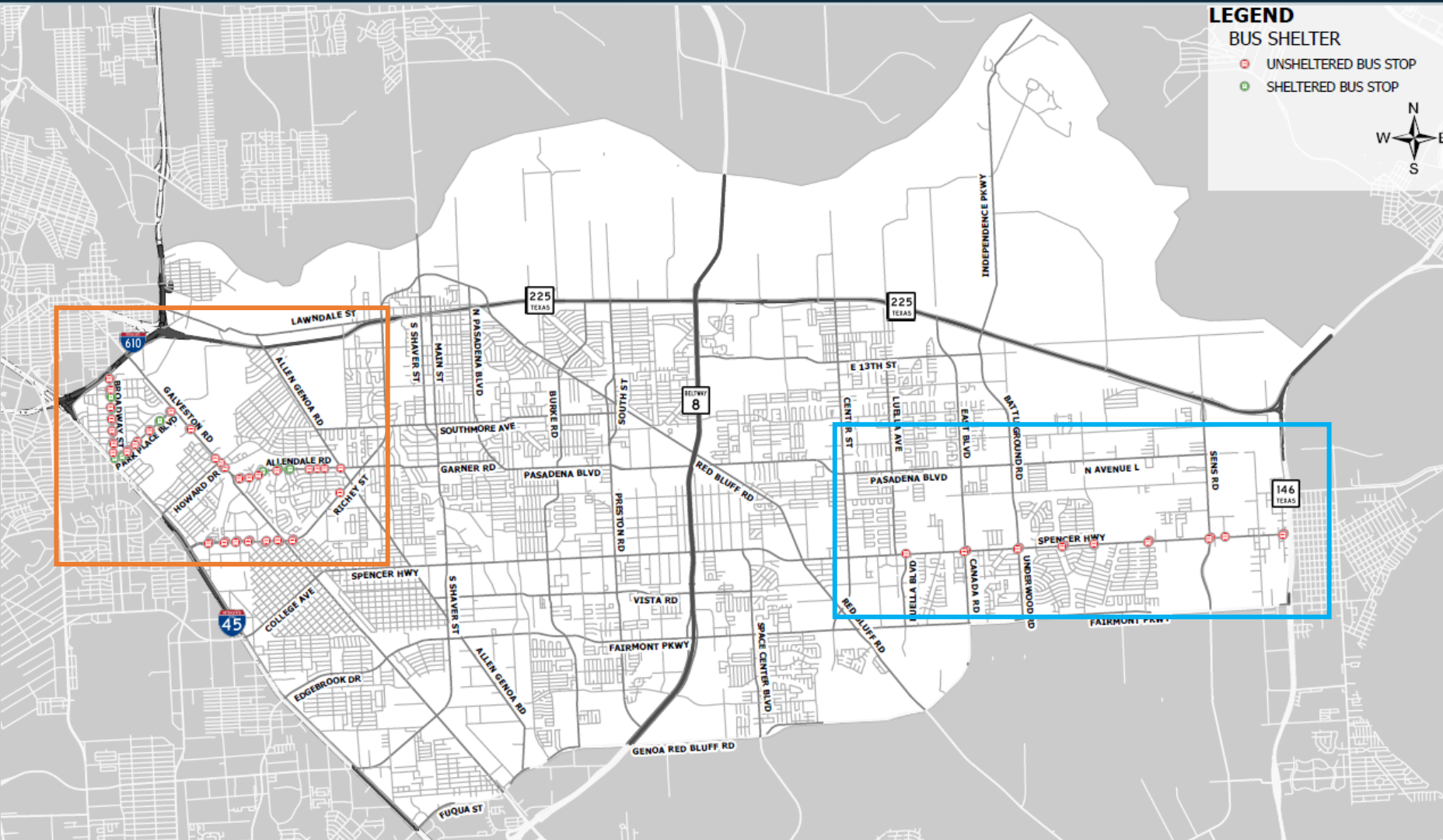
Total Bus Stops – 80

- Unsheltered – 67 (84%)
- Sheltered – 13 (16%)

Bus Stop Lighting Improvements

LEGEND

LIGHTING
- INADEQUATE LIGHTING
- ADEQUATE LIGHTING

- **Total Bus Stops – 80**
  - Inadequate – 34 (43%)
  - Adequate – 46 (57%)

Schedule

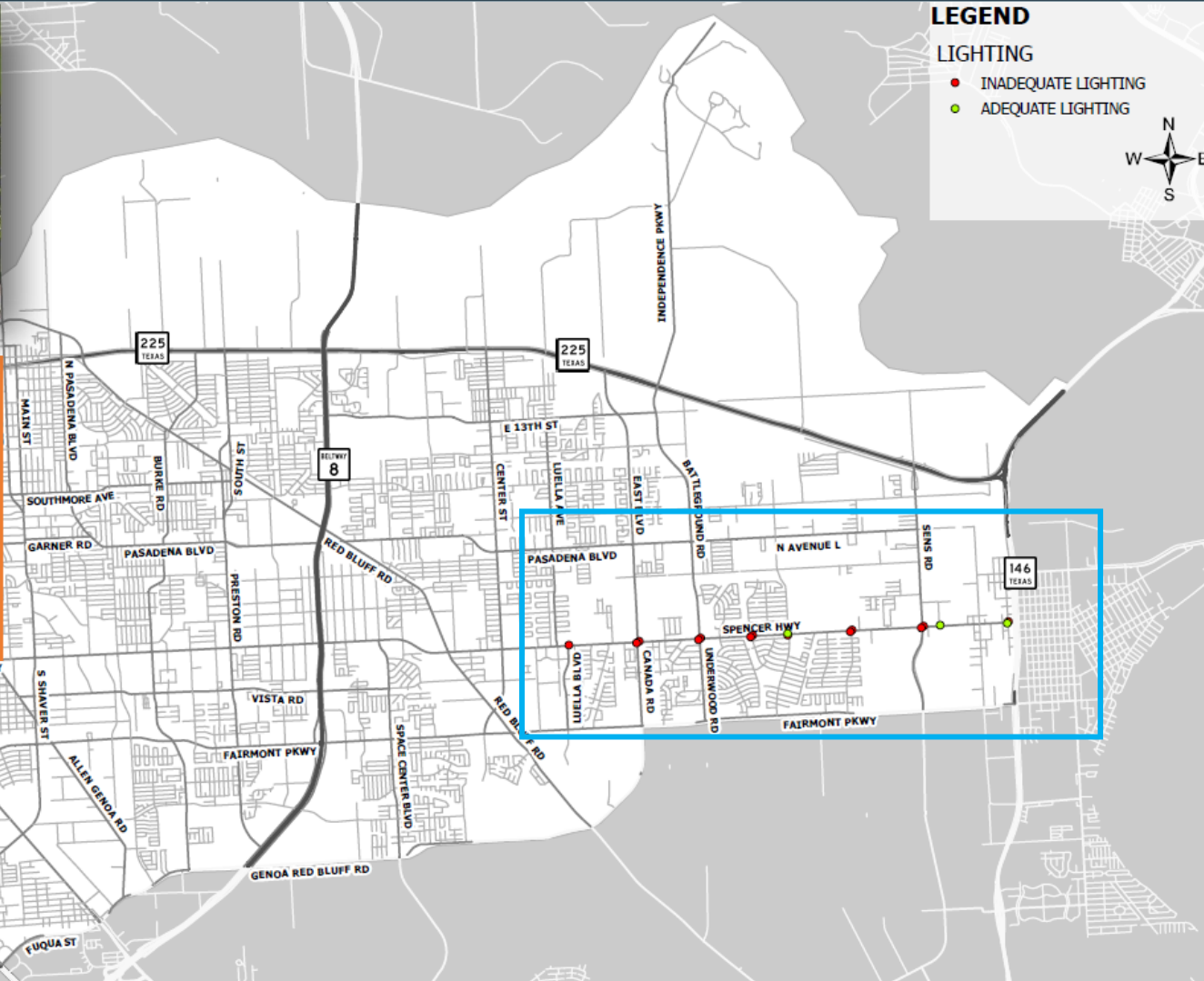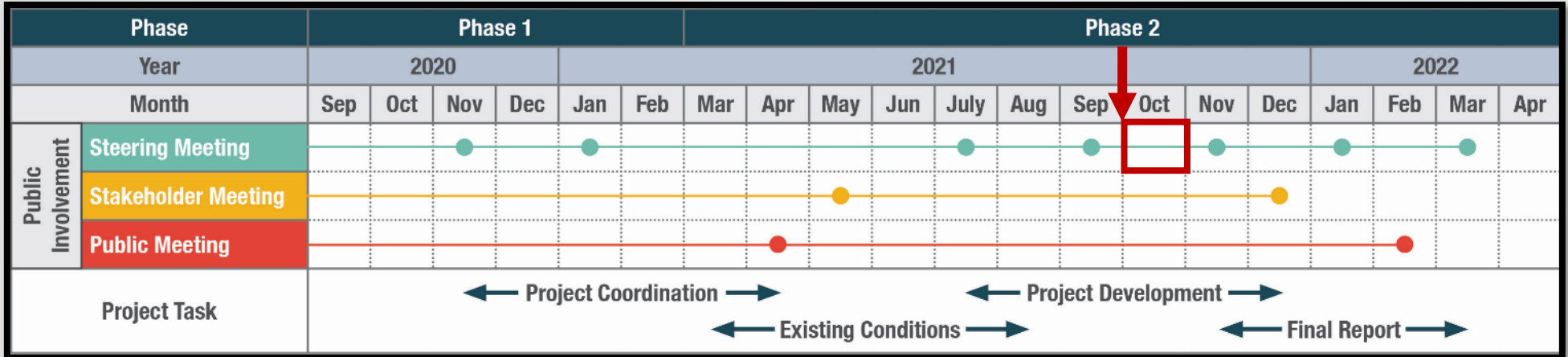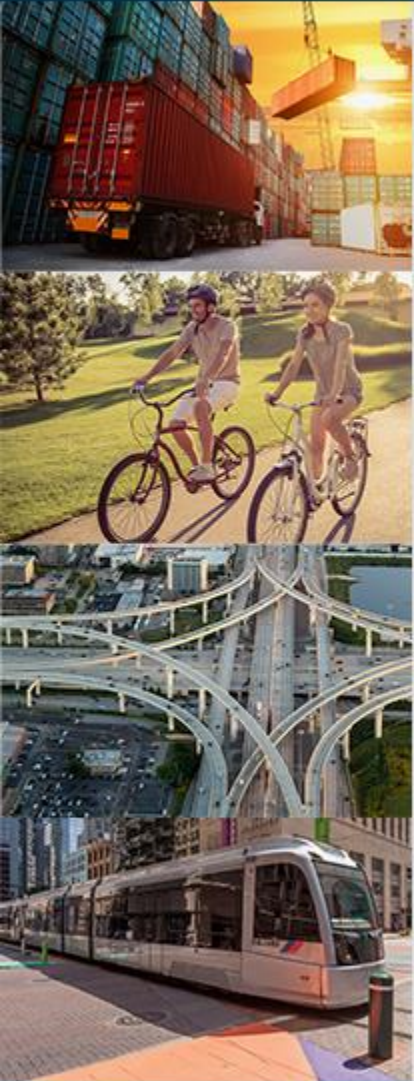| Phase		Phase 1											Phase 2							
Year		2020				2021												2022		
Month		Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Public Involvement	Steering Meeting			●		●						●		●		●		●		●	
	Stakeholder Meeting								●								●				
	Public Meeting								●										●		
Project Task		← Project Coordination →										← Project Development →									
					← Existing Conditions →											← Final Report →					

- Follow Up Meetings
- H-GAC Modeling Results
- Revised Draft Improvements
- Steering Committee Review

- Draft Final Improvements
- Steering Committee Review
- Final Improvements

- Stakeholder Meetings Part II
- Public Meeting
- Steering Committee Review

- Draft Report
- Steering Committee Review
- Final Report

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Thank You!

For More Information:

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5. Agency Reports

(Please limit to five minutes or less per agency)

2022 Meeting Dates

- January 13
- April 7
- July 7
- October 6

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Houston-Galveston
Area Council

Meeting Adjourned

RTC Subcommittee Staff Contacts:
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Sandy Klanfer, Senior Planner, Sanford.Klanfer@h-gac.com
Jamila Owens, Manager, Jamila.Owens@h-gac.com

Regional Transit Connectivity Workgroup

October 14, 2021

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Agenda

1. Welcome and Roll Call – *Vernon Chambers*
2. Project Components Review – *METRO*
3. Scope of Work for Initial Assessments – *H-GAC with METRO*
4. Review Next Steps and Timeline – *H-GAC*
5. Questions/Comments/Thoughts

Roll Call

Vernon Chambers, Harris County Transit	Perri D'Armond, Fort Bend Transit
Denise Wendler, METRO	Taslima Khandaker, Brazos Transit District
Reggie Brown, METRO	Ken Fickes, Harris County Transit
Ted Ross, Gulf Coast Transit District	Shawn Johnson, City of Conroe
Sarah Coulter, The Woodlands Township	James Oliver, Island Transit
Brenda Bustillos, TXDOT	Claudia Wicks, Colorado Valley Transit
Sharon Moses-Burnside, City of Houston	Ben Finley, H-GAC

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Project Components Review

METRO

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Project Components

Project 1: Regional Data Management

Provides a single source of transit data to travelers throughout the Houston region by:

- Enabling regional members to create/manage their General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) and GTFS real-time (GTFS-RT) feeds in a hosted solution
- Aggregating all participating member's GTFS, GTFS-RT, and GTFS-RT alert feeds
- Providing a regional multi-modal trip planning application that can simultaneously utilize multiple member's data

Project 2: Mobile Ticketing

Provides a Smartphone-enabled application that allows customers to securely purchase, store and use fares for the transit system on their mobile device.

- Provides for various types of passes based on agency needs
- Multiple payment methods: Credit card, ApplePay, GooglePay, PayPal and mobile wallets
- RideSponsor capabilities to distribute tickets and stored value
- Expansion to include regional partners

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Project Components

Project 3: Automated Fare Collection System (AFCS)

Provides an account-based, open payment architecture with system interfaces based on Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)

Open architecture provides:
- Flexibility as technology and agency needs change in the future
- Capability to deploy various fare media types and front-end devices
- Variety of data formats and communications needed for fare sales, payment, media distribution, revenue processing, device management, customer service, etc.

Fare Policy: Fully supports current fare policies, plus future flexibility and scalability

Payment Types:
- Open Payments - Customers will be able to pay fares directly using contactless bank cards without the need to purchase agency-issued media. Will also support paying fares using mobile devices running mobile wallet applications
- Closed-Loop Payments - Customers will be able to use agency and third-party issued cards that are linked to closed-loop transit accounts to pay fares.

AFCS will include a new robust Retail Network allowing customers to purchase and reload accounts at numerous locations throughout the region
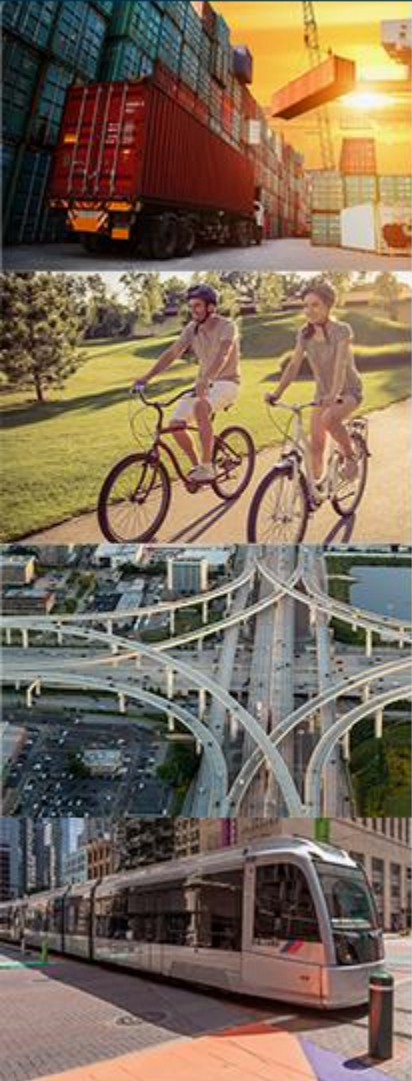
Scope of Work for Initial Assessments

H-GAC and METRO

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Scope of Work – Initial Assessments

Task 1: Regional Partner Mapping
Identify list of regional partners based on meetings with Metro internal stakeholders and with potential regional partners as needed.
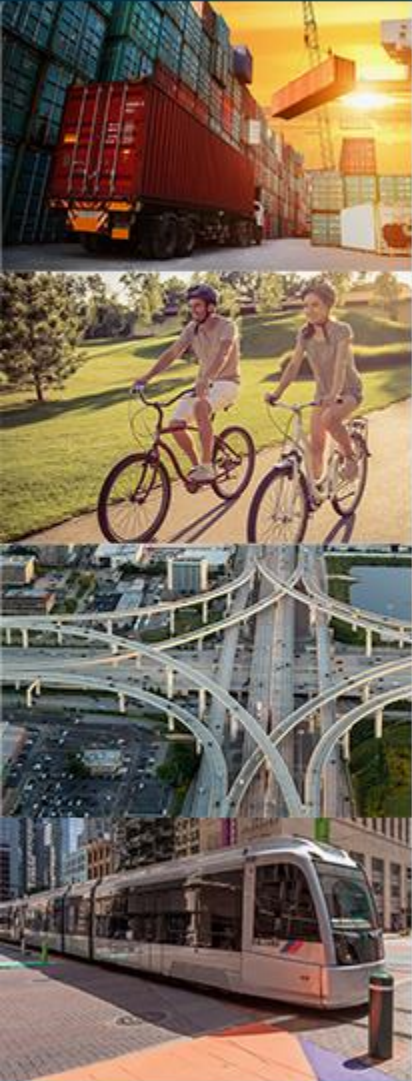
Task 2: Regional Integration Business Plan
a) Establish regional partner Business Plan with Metro, including a high-level strategy for cost and revenue sharing, software maintenance, security, any fare policy issues, and marketing.
b) Establish regional partner baseline schedule that does not impact and is complementary to the METRO schedule
c) Draft regional memorandum of understanding that can be used to codify the relationship between METRO and each potential partner

Task 3: Detailed Planning
a) Meet with regional partners individually
b) Document their current ticket sales and collection approach

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Scope of Work – Initial Assessments

Task 4: Recommended Regional Integration Strategy
   a) Document recommended solution for each regional partner
   b) Meet collectively with regional partners to review interoperability approach
   c) Update, if required, Task 2 Regional Partner Business Plan and/or Regional partner baseline schedule

Task 5: Implementation
   Develop an engineer's estimate to support regional integration

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Next Steps and Timeline

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Next Steps and Timeline

October 2021
- Execute MOU
- **Select Agency Project Managers**
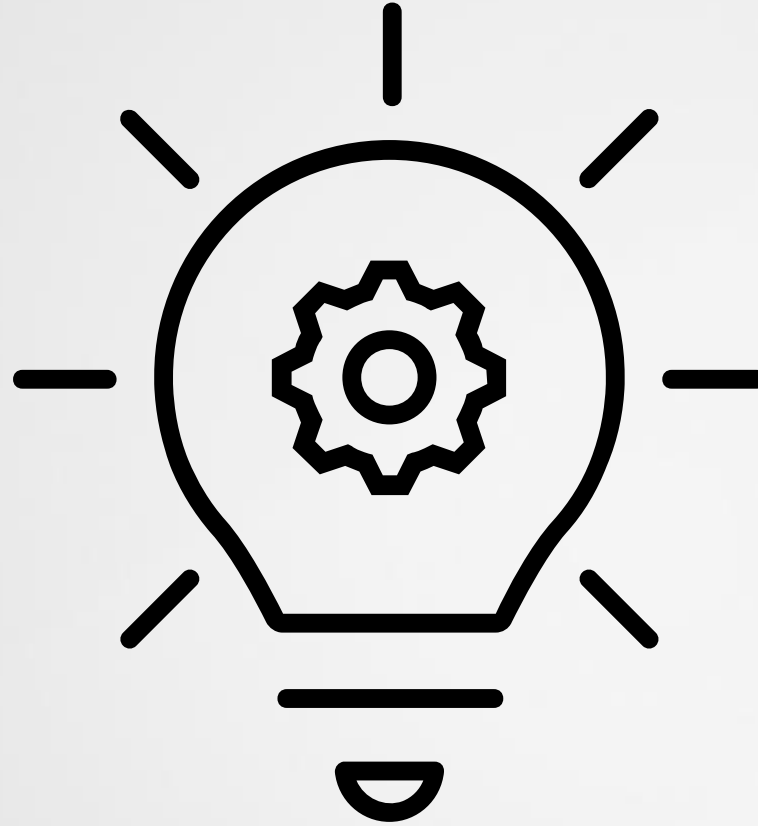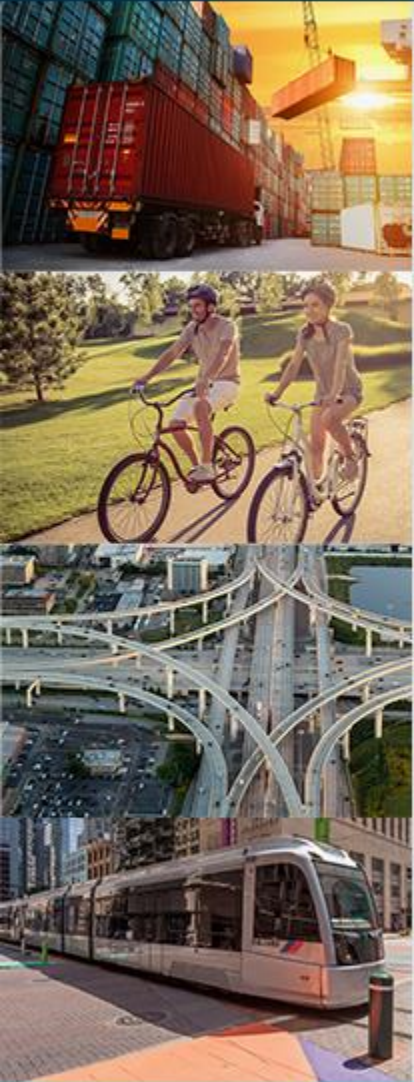- Provide Feedback for Agency Agreements Boilerplate Language

November 2021
- Begin Initial Regional Assessments with Jacobs
- Begin Executing Agency Agreements

Future Dates TBD
- Additional Assessments based on Selections
- Implementation/Training/Ordering, As Needed
- Add Funding, As Needed

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Questions, Thoughts, Comments

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- Denise Wendler, VP and CIO, Denise.Wendler@Ridemetro.org

- **Workgroup Chair**
- Vernon Chambers, Assistant Director, Harris County Transit, Vernon.Chambers@csd.hctx.net

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