

10. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

**BACKGROUND**

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The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a required document describing all anticipated planning activities for the Metropolitan Planning Organization; It includes a description of tasks and budgets for the Federal Fiscal Year (October 1 to September 30). The UPWP describes the regional transportation plans and programs carried out in the 8-county Metropolitan Planning Area:

- Development of all required planning products or activities (primarily the Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Congestion Management Process, etc.);
- Continuous and one-time planning activities related to safety, freight, transit, subregional areas, corridors, active transportation, air quality, data and modeling, and livable centers; and
- Special planning activities (e.g. Safe Streets and Roads for All, PROTECT resiliency planning, and development of grant-funded plans and projects).

The UPWP includes description of major planning activities, responsible parties, expected products, and a summary of the funding to be used. The UPWP includes five priority areas as described below:

- TASK I – Administration and Management; which are activities that provide administrative support to the transportation planning process for the region.
- TASK II - Data Development and Maintenance; which has the purpose to collect, update, model, and maintain basic data and tools for executing planning activities.
- TASK III - Short Range Planning; are efforts that focus on continued coordination and development of transit and travel demand management projects, maintenance of intelligent transportation systems, improvement of traffic safety in the region, the development of the Transportation Improvement Plan, sub-regional or county-level mobility studies, transit feasibility studies, and operations planning.
- TASK IV - Metropolitan Transportation Planning; activities include the development and maintenance of the Regional Transportation Plan, activities related to air quality planning, regional bicycle and pedestrian planning, and transportation performance management.
- TASK V - Special Studies; are ongoing planning activities relating to safety and congestion management, livable centers, air quality, resiliency, and one-time planning studies for corridors and individual projects.

**CURRENT SITUATION**

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The 2024 UPWP needs to be completed, adopted, and initiated to start on October 1, 2023. Staff is proposing a one-year UPWP rather than the typical two-year. Multiple projects in the current 2022-2023 UPWP are still underway or will start in the next few months. Developing a one year UPWP will allow these projects to carryover into 2024 and facilitate better workload management for existing staff to complete them. Similarly, the new UPWP will only add a few new activities; primarily new grant-funded activities or new planning requirements from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Once

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projects are underway and the MPO's staffing levels are restored, development of the 2025 UPWP will return to a two-year format. Staff also anticipates a significant number of new corridor- or project-level studies that will be identified as part of the Project Selection Process, and those will need to be included in the UPWP as they are identified.

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

For Information and Discussion.

**2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) DRAFT Summary**  
*Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area*

**Task One: Administration and Management**

***1.1 Program Support/Unified Planning Work Program***

- 1.1.a Program Support and Administration
- 1.1.b Unified Planning Work Program Development
- 1.1.c Public Policy and Governmental Affairs

***1.2 Public Involvement and Outreach***

- 1.2.a Public Involvement

**Task One Highlights**

*Activities Currently Underway*

- Support for all MPO committees
- Language Assistance Plan

*Activities Under Development*

- Planning Support Services (Staff Extension)
- Local Agency Grant Coordination and Support

*Carryover or New Activities*

- Impacts of Inflation on MPO Activities [NEW]

## **Task Two: Data Development and Maintenance**

### ***2.1 Travel Demand Modeling***

2.1.a Travel Demand Forecasting

### ***2.2 Transportation Data Development***

2.2.a Travel Data Collection and Surveys

### ***2.3 Socioeconomic Data and Models***

2.3.a Socioeconomic Data

2.3.b Socioeconomic Models

2.3.c Information Services and Analytical Support

## **Task Two Highlights**

### *Ongoing Activities*

- Socioeconomic and transportation data collection and model development

### *Activities Currently Underway*

- Regional Travel Surveys
- Travel Demand Modeling
- Air Quality Modeling
- Modeling Support for Project Selection Process

### *Activities Under Development*

- Active Transportation Model

### *Carryover or New Activities*

- Project-Level Performance Outcomes and Impacts Model Development [NEW]

## **Task Three: Short-Range Planning**

### ***3.1 Transportation Project Programming***

- 3.1.a Transportation Improvement Program
- 3.1.b Project Evaluation and Prioritization
- 3.1.c Project Information and Transparency
- 3.1.d Project Tracking, Monitoring and Support

### ***3.2 Planning Support for Transit Service Implementation***

- 3.2.a Transit Coordinated Planning
- 3.2.b Regional Transit Agency Coordination

### ***3.3 Air Quality Planning***

- 3.3.a Air Quality Planning
- 3.3.b Air Quality Conformity
- 3.3.c Emissions Reduction Planning

### ***3.4 Evacuation Planning***

- 3.4.a Regional Evacuation Planning

## **Task Three Highlights**

### *Activities Currently Underway*

- Regional Fare Plan
- Hurricane Evacuation Planning
- Project Selection Process
- Project Implementation Tracking
- Ongoing Transportation Improvement Program Maintenance

### *Activities Under Development*

- Project Selection Process Database
- Transit Information Study
- Greenhouse Gas Inventory

### *Carryover or New Activities*

- Health Impacts of Air Quality
- Project Development Program [NEW]

## **Task Four: Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Long-Range Planning)**

### ***4.1 Regional Transportation Plan and Project Planning***

- 4.1.a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Development
- 4.1.b Financial Planning
- 4.1.c Project Development and Mitigation Planning

### ***4.2 Multimodal System Planning***

- 4.2.a Thoroughfare Planning
- 4.2.b Freight Planning
- 4.2.c Sub-Regional Planning

### ***4.3 Transportation Performance Management***

- 4.3.a Performance Measures and Targets

### ***4.4 Transit Planning***

- 4.4.a Regional Transit Planning
- 4.4.b Local Area Transit Studies

### ***4.5 Active Transportation***

- 4.5.a Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning
- 4.5.b Pedestrian/Bicycle Data Collection, Mapping, and Reporting
- 4.5.c Pedestrian and Bicycle Local Plans
- 4.5.d Pedestrian and Bicycle Outreach

**Task Four Highlights**

*Activities Currently Underway*

- Regional Goods Movement Plan
- Bicycle Safety Education
- Chambers County Thoroughfare Plan
- Bay Area (Harris County Pct 2) Ped-Bike Study

*Activities In Procurement or Contracting*

- Pearland Mobility Plan
- TIRZ 13/Old Sixth Ward Mobility Plan
- Dayton Transit System
- US-90 High-Capacity Transit Study
- Buffalo Bayou Bike-Ped Plan
- Friendswood Trail Plan

*Activities in Development*

- RTP Regional Transportation Vision
- North Houston Community Transportation Priorities Plan
- Outer Westpark High-Capacity Transit Plan
- Memorial Drive Bike-Ped Study

*Carryover or New Activities*

- Regional Bus Transit Feasibility Study
- Regional Active Transportation Plan
- Regional Bike Highway Study
- Regional Safe Routes to School Plan
- RTP Scenario Planning Analysis [NEW]
- Consolidated Thoroughfare Plan [NEW]

## **Task Five: Special Planning Projects**

### ***5.1 Safety Planning***

- 5.1.a Regional Safety Planning
- 5.1.b Safe Streets and Roads for All
- 5.1.c Safety Performance Measures, Analysis, and Reporting
- 5.1.d Safety Outreach

### ***5.2 Congestion Management Planning and Operations***

- 5.2.a Congestion Management Process
- 5.2.b Development of Travel Demand Management Strategies
- 5.2.c Intelligent Transportation Systems
- 5.2.d Regional Incident Management Planning
- 5.2.e Travel Demand Management Operations
- 5.2.f Regional Incident Management Operations

### ***5.3 Livable Centers***

- 5.3.a Livable Centers Planning and Technical Support
- 5.3.b Livable Centers Planning Studies

### ***5.4 Emerging Transportation Technologies and Alternatives***

- 5.4.a Connected and Autonomous Vehicles

### ***5.5 Air Quality Management and Operations***

- 5.5.a Air Quality Initiatives for Fleets
- 5.5.b Air Quality Initiatives for Consumers and Communities
- 5.5.c Clean Cities

### ***5.6 Resiliency Planning***

- 5.6.a Regional Resiliency Planning

### ***5.7 Corridor, Project-Level, and Special Studies***

- 5.7.a Corridor Planning
- 5.7.b Project-Level Planning
- 5.7.c Complete Streets Planning
- 5.7.d Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning
- 5.7.e Partner Agency Planning Activities



**Task Five Highlights**

*Activities Currently Underway*

- Safety Intersection Audits
- Multiple Safety Programs
- Regional Safety Campaign
- Commute Solutions Evaluation
- Commute Solutions Planning
- “Toa and Go” Programs

*Activities In Procurement or Contracting*

- Washington Avenue Corridor Plan
- Pearland FM 518 Corridor Plan
- Galveston County Cemetery Road Study

*Activities in Development*

- ITS Architecture Plan
- Safe Streets and Roads for All Plan (FHWA Grant)
- Friendswood Blvd. Corridor Study

*Carryover or New Activities*

- Autonomous Vehicle Transit Pilot
- AV & Tech Regional Strategy
- Region-Wide Resilience Plan
- Resiliency Low-Impact Development Guide
- Complete Streets Plan (BIL req.) [NEW]
- Regional EV Infrastructure Plan [NEW]
- Houston & Pearland SH-35 Corridor Study [NEW]
- Project-Selection Process-Identified Corridor & Project-level Plans [NEW]