

12. APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER AS COMMUTE SOLUTIONS MONTH

BACKGROUND

Commute Solutions is a travel demand management outreach and education program that provides marketing, education, and outreach about transportation options in the region that can help reduce congestion and improve air quality. The Commute Solutions program is administered by the Houston-Galveston Area Council, in partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation, regional transportation agencies, area employers and universities, local governments and other community organizations.

2024 marks the 30th anniversary of the Commute Solutions program. This year the Federal Highway Administration and the Texas Department of Transportation have given the Commute Solutions program the “green light” to pilot an Ozone Action Campaign during this time. Ozone Action campaigns provide marketing to encourage people to make choices that can reduce ground level ozone during a subset of the peak ozone season. September has, in recent history, been one of the worst months for ground level ozone exceedances in our region.

CURRENT SITUATION

In celebration of the 30th year of the Commute Solutions Program, H-GAC staff is requesting to recognize September 2024 as Commute Solutions Month. During the month, H-GAC staff will pilot an Ozone Action Campaign, Breathe Easy September, that will:

- **Encourage** the region to try transportation strategies that can reduce ground level ozone during the peak ozone season (ex: Trip chaining, taking transit, carpool, vanpool, fueling up at night)
- **Partner with area transit providers** to provide funding support to help people try transit on Fridays in September.
- **Partner with additional agencies such** as the Texas Department of Transportation ConnectSmart program, Air Alliance and METRO Star vanpool program to raise awareness about the campaign and strategies that can reduce ground level ozone during this time.

ACTION REQUESTED

TPC approval of Resolution No. 2024-22 in support of September as Commute Solutions Month.



Resolution

No. 2024-22

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REGIONAL COMMUTE SOLUTIONS PROGRAM AND RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 2024 AS COMMUTE SOLUTIONS MONTH.

WHEREAS, the goal of the Commute Solutions Program is to reduce traffic congestion and improve regional air quality by encouraging transportation options that reduce vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled; and

WHEREAS, the Commute Solutions Program will provide organizations and the commuters they serve with information about carpooling, vanpooling, regional mass transit, teleworking and other transportation alternatives and strategies that can improve air quality during peak ozone season; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Policy Council supports the goals of the Commute Solutions Program and H-GAC's involvement in partnerships with other area agencies and businesses to promote transportation alternatives and strategies to improve air quality; and

WHEREAS, the Commute Solutions Program, enters its 30th year, in September 2024;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Transportation Policy Council of the Houston-Galveston Area Council that:

1. The Transportation Policy Council hereby recognizes September 2024 as Commute Solutions Month and expresses its support for the Commute Solutions Program during its annual celebration.
2. This resolution is effective immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 23rd day of August 2024, at a regularly called meeting of the Transportation Policy Council.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Hon. Justin Beckendorff, Chairman
Transportation Policy Council

Hon. Nancy Arnold, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council