

5A. SUMMARY OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Sub-regional Planning Initiatives (SPI)

- Pearland FM 518 Corridor Study: Steering Committee Meeting #4 is anticipated for April 2025 for a final review of alternatives.
- Pearland Mobility Plan: Staff is in the process of reviewing the draft plan document and coordinating with the city to schedule joint meetings to approve the Mobility Plan, and joint public hearings to adopt updates to the Thoroughfare Plan with the Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council. The joint meetings and public hearings are anticipated for June 2025.
- Chambers County Thoroughfare Plan: The Thoroughfare Plan report was presented to Commissioner's Court on March 11 and received approval to hold a public hearing to adopt the Thoroughfare Plan. The public hearing is scheduled for April 22, 2025.
- Washington Ave Corridor Study: The project team held a public meeting on March 6 at Memorial Elementary School to present alternatives for public comment. A virtual public meeting to present alternatives for public comment is scheduled for March 19. A survey is open on the Engage H-GAC website until 3/23.
- Cemetery Road Corridor Study: The project team is preparing for the next public meeting on March 25 at Runge Park in Santa Fe to present alternatives for public feedback.
- Friendswood Parkway (Friendswood Lake) Corridor Study: The first Focus Group Meeting was held on March 12 to gather input on existing conditions within the study area. The first public meeting is scheduled for March 31 to gather input on existing conditions within the study area.
- Buffalo Bayou East Design Concept: The first Stakeholder meeting is scheduled for March 19 to discuss and gather feedback about existing conditions in the study area. A bike/walk audit of the study area is anticipated for April 2025.

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

- 2045 RTP Update Amendment is in development. H-GAC has contacted all project sponsors for the latest, most up to date information. Coordination with several sponsors still ongoing before draft list will be published on H-GAC's website.
- The 2050 RTP scope was revised to reflect comments received and being finalized. An introductory meeting was held with the Steering Committee volunteers in preparation for the anticipated kick off meeting in April/May.
- Messaging for the 2050 RTP are being finalized for the upcoming first phase of public engagement.

Safety Planning

- Staff met with consultant to discuss Safety Action Plans and current status. All internal pre-award items have been completed and staff are gearing up for the consultant agreement execution and project kick-off.
- New staff were introduced to the Traffic Safety Committee Chair and Vice Chair in advance at the upcoming meeting on March 25, 2025. Preparations for the meeting are being finalized.

Freight Planning

- The Greater Houston Freight Committee will meet April 17, 2025, at 1:30 pm. This meeting will be held via MS Teams.
- The Houston Area Rail Transformation Advisory Committee will meet March 28, 2025.
- Staff continues working to implement recommendations from the Regional Goods Movement Plan Update

Intelligent Transportation Systems and TSMO Planning

- H-GAC is reviewing the draft of the ITS Architecture report.
- The contractor will provide an update to the TSMO Subcommittee on April 3.
- Contract ends April 30.

Resiliency Planning

- The PROTECT grant agreement execution is on hold due to the federal funding pause.

Other Planning Activities

- The Public Participation Plan (PPP) is being revised and the initial draft is nearing completion.

SHORT RANGE PLANNING

Project Programming

- Coordinated with TxDOT districts and the local sponsors to prepare TIP amendments. Completed project selection process with approval of \$721M in federal funding for 19 new projects in 5 investment categories.

Pedestrian and Bicyclist Planning

- Memorial Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Study: The first public meeting was held on February 26th at the Energy Corridor District Office. The team is working on reviewing the Existing Conditions Report.
- H-GAC staff submitted a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for vendors to lead train the trainer sessions across the region to certify instructors to teach bicycle safety classes as part of the Regional Safety Campaign AFA. The tentative timeline for the RFQ is to release it for submissions via OpenGov in late March and close it in mid-April.
- TASA Call for Projects: H-GAC staff is drafting active transportation “investment category focused criteria” to use in evaluating applications for the upcoming Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Call for Projects. The draft criteria is currently under internal refinement and will be presented to the Pedestrian/Bicyclist Subcommittee, TIP Subcommittee, and TAC in April and May. Staff also coordinated with TxDOT staff to ensure H-GAC’s execution timeline for our TASA call doesn’t conflict with the TxDOT call and minimizes the risk of a sponsor applying to both for the same project.
- Safe Routes to School: H-GAC staff is researching how MPOs provide support to and implement SRTS programming to create a literature review of best practices H-GAC can incorporate into its own Safe Routes to School program.
- Pedestrian/Bicyclist Subcommittee: in anticipation of the TAC Subcommittee nominations staff contacted non-TAC members of the Ped/Bike Subcommittee and asked their interest in staying on another year. The names of those who did were shared with TAC members for nomination and forwarded to the nomination committee.

- Regional Active Transportation Plan: staff revised the RATP consultant scope and incorporated it into the 2050 RTP scope package.
- H-GAC staff deployed new Mobile MULTI counters at Mercer Botanic Gardens in Humble to gauge spring break traffic to the facility. The counters were up from March 10th to the 23rd.

Transit Planning

- H-GAC staff held the first meeting of the Transportation Performance Measures working group of the Regional Transit Coordination Subcommittee (RTCS). Topics discussed included setting a recurring meeting time that avoided other existing monthly and quarterly meetings of working group members & gauging the group's opinions on when to begin the next round of data collection for federal transit performance measure reporting. This group plans to meet quarterly unless a need arises to convene more frequently.
- Work continues for the TSU AV Pilot research project. TSU has provided a PMP and a letter explaining the extenuating circumstances that have led to delays on the project.

Tracking and Monitoring

- Staff conducted quarterly meetings with local government sponsors regarding projects included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Staff drafted minutes of the TIP Quarterly meetings.
- Staff provided H-GAC's TIP Programming Team a list of needed amendments resulting from the TIP Quarterly meetings.
- Staff worked to ensure amendments resulting from the TIP Quarterly meetings are completed.
- More specifically staff conducted the following:
 - ✓ Sent meeting minutes to sponsors per 35 quarterly TIP meetings.
 - ✓ Met with contracting staff to discuss Carryover Spend Down Project ILAs.
 - ✓ Prepared and emailed FTA transfer letters to sponsors for signatures.
 - ✓ Created budget sheets and contact information for over twenty ILAs.
 - ✓ Requested FTA transfer request letters and TDC applications from sponsors, including a project information spreadsheet, template letter, and application weblink.
 - ✓ Created and updated TDC application tracking spreadsheet.
 - ✓ Consolidated thirteen spreadsheets into a master spreadsheet specifying details regarding current projects.
 - ✓ Scheduled 35 upcoming TIP quarterly meetings.
 - ✓ Compiled spreadsheet of requested amendments from quarterly meetings.

TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC OUTREACH

Regional Planning

- 2050 RTP (Phase 1)
- Washington Avenue Corridor Study
- Friendswood Parkway Corridor Study
- Cemetery Road Corridor Study
- Dayton Transit Study

- Energy Corridor Memorial Drive Pedestrian Study (TEI)
- Buffalo Bayou East Design Concept (SWA)
 - Transportation Conformity
 - US 90A

Regional Incident Management

- Developed a webpage for upcoming Traffic Incident Management Trainings with training information and a registration page.

Travel Demand Management

- Commute Solutions published a thought leadership article on H-GAC news and YourCommuteSolution.org that shared how to avoid traffic in the region
- Commute Solutions team presented to the Air Quality subcommittee findings and results from Free Fare Friday
- Commute Solutions will be launching their paid advertising campaign next month (April) highlighting resources available to employers
- Commute solutions continually shares content on H-GAC's social media channels promoting ways for commuters to not drive alone

Safety Outreach

- Regional Safety Plan – Drive Sober Campaign

Air Quality

- FIFA World Cup Air Quality Summit
- Climate Corner – H-GAC Regional Focus Newsletter Feature
- TPC Meeting Reminders – Email & Social Media (Ongoing)

MPO PROGRAMS

Incident Management/Tow and Go

- Tow and Go – Conducted 3,098 free tows for motorists. Staff received Board approval for the next batch of funding for the continuation of the program. Communications staff worked on the development of the paid media campaign and promotion of upcoming Traffic Incident Management training.

Safety Outreach

- Teen Drivers Education- Procurement evaluation process complete. Completed board documentation. Board is scheduled for April 15th.
- Youth Traffic Safety Outreach- Solicitation process closed on March 14th. Procurement is in the process of resoliciting and beginning the process.
- Regional Safety Campaign- Outlined campaigns with tentative schedule and marketing efforts for 2025-2026.
- Meeting with communications team to create marketing plan with budget.

Hurricane Evacuation

- Staff worked with regional partners for input on changes for the 2025 hurricane map.
- Hurricane Preparedness – Paid Media Campaign

Title VI/Language Access

- Staff are working to educate the public about the language support services offered by the agency so everyone can participate effectively in H-GAC meetings.
- Outreach efforts include going out to community events to publicize the Language Access Plan.

Travel Demand Management

- The Bike Encouragement Pilot concluded this month and Love to Ride is finalizing a report to show the region's ROI including the cost per result (i.e. bike commuter, transportation rider, new regular rider, mile of route data). The team will also provide the final tally of Transport Miles, Transport trips, and CO2 lbs saved.
- Commute Solutions is finalizing the Scope of Work for the next Regional Bike Encouragement pilot. The pilot will run for two (2) years with an option for an additional year.
- The Regional Emergency Ride Home pilot is preparing to launch with a kickoff. Following the kickoff, the contractor, Charitable Adult Rides & Services will refine the timeline and schedule of activities to the launch date and begin work.
- Commute Solutions consulted Metropia on a campaign to acknowledge active partners that have prioritized the promotion of the app and encourage participation.
- Commute Solutions continued to work with AECOM with the development of the TDM Handbook which will provide guidance and support to the team. The Contractor also submitted drafts scenarios of commuter campaigns that will encourage a reduction in VMTs.

CLEAN VEHICLES PROGRAMS PLANNING ACTIVITIES

- The Clean Vehicle Program Staff has identified 3 unused Buy America waivers and are reengaging applicants. Staff intends to issue grants while continuing to reshape the Clean Vehicle Program with funding from the next applicable TxDOT advance funding agreement.
- Staff continue to monitor vehicle usage data for program participants in H-GAC's Clean Vehicles Program. A total of 87 vehicles are currently being monitored as of March 2025.
- In February 2025, staff closed out two subrecipient agreements that had funded for ten vehicle replacements. Additionally, staff are planning to close out three (3) additional sub agreement in March 2025.

GENERAL AIR QUALITY PLANNING ACTIVITIES

- Staff continued working to prepare for three upcoming regional conformity activities by conducting a conformity kick-off meeting with conformity consultation partners to support the amendments to the TIP and 2045 RTP project lists. Staff is also conducting follow up meetings with individual partners to ensure the data to be used in the upcoming conformity analysis is accurate and up to date.
- TCEQ's Rider 7 project is funding that is available to near nonattainment areas to support projects that may assist with the development of the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Our region has been awarded approximately \$450,000 in project funding. Staff have been working since late last year to develop a regional project to support this effort. This month, staff received responses to the RFP and have been working to review the responses.
- The Houston-Clean Cities Coalition continues to gather information from regional organizations and businesses about their alternative fuel and other strategies that generate fuel use and emissions reductions. This data will help identify trends in alternative fuel usage, assess future needs, and potentially support the development of grant funding programs.

Organizations that would like to participate are encouraged to download a form at houston-cleancities.org, and submit their completed form to staff by April 10, 2025.

- The Houston-Clean Cities Coalition will hold the Quarter 1 2025 Stakeholder meeting on March 25, 2025. This meeting will allow stakeholders to network, while receiving information on the Harris County EV Migration plan, the H-GAC Zero Emission Dashboard, the Coalition's efforts regarding the above mentioned Annual Survey, and hold a discussion on grant funding opportunities.
- Staff is working with the 2026 Houston World Cup Sustainability Initiative to plan a full-day Regional Air Quality Summit. The event will bring together students, community members, policymakers, and industry leaders to discuss local air quality challenges and solutions. We aim to host 100+ attendees and are currently finalizing the agenda, securing speakers, and selecting a venue with breakout rooms.
- In partnership with the Houston Advanced Research Center, staff has completed a regional greenhouse gas inventory and a 2050 emissions projection. We are now procuring an engagement consultant to lead community discussions on pollution reduction and public health. Additionally, we are contracting a marketing consultant to support the CPRG engagement plan, with a kickoff meeting tentatively set for April.
- ZEV Planning: Staff have developed one-page fact sheets about each of the 3 types of zero-emission vehicles. We are working with our communications team to develop a webpage for ZEV efforts at the agency. Staff evaluated EV registration data across the region by county to compare with EV charger distribution. We had an introductory meeting with H-GAC's Enterprise Solutions team to discuss applications for future work.

TRAVEL DEMAND MODELING & FORECASTING

- Staff continues to provide travel demand and forecasting modeling supports to support the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP), and other traffic and travel related data developments within the H-GAC MPO region that supports sub-regional and corridor studies. These include modeling support for TxDOT and non-TxDOT projects such as:
 - ✓ Westpark Toll Road Calibration - a No-build scenario run and calibration with 10 screen-line locations, and Westpark Corridor Study (Follow-Up) for future-years scenario model
 - ✓ Friendswood Corridor Study - intersection TMC data for the study area, and Friendswood Corridor Study (Follow-Up) - model scenario run for the Friendswood scenario
 - ✓ SH 288 Study - Travel Demand Model runs using Consultant demographic data
 - ✓ GHG Baseline Request - ran MOVES3, post-processed the outputs
 - ✓ TDM Data Request - request for model network input data and Origin – Destination table for Trans-DNA testing.
- Staff continues to coordinate with Cambridge Systematics and team of sub-contractors in the Travel Demand Model Update and Maintenance tasks in the areas of:
 - ✓ Model validation/calibration - exploring the Travel Demand Model outputs and comparison with count data for validation/calibration purposes.
 - ✓ Model validation/calibration - incorporating weaving movement into the existing travel demand modeling to accurately account for delays at weaving locations in the network.

- ✓ Regional household survey data - investigating the new trends in the regional survey data for model validation and calibration purposes
- Staff continues to coordinate with RSG Consultants under the ETC Institute Survey contract for in the review of the:
 - ✓ airport sub-model structure and Activity Sim documents,
 - ✓ the TDM base model run and 3 transit sensitivity tests,
 - ✓ the ABM Airport Sub-model base model run,
 - ✓ update of the Airport sub-model input files for the new TAZ structure
 - ✓ apply the new airport sub-model seamlessly into our existing platforms for TDM to forecast typical airport activity and run simulations for the upcoming multi-day event planning
 - ✓ review of the project deliverables.
- Staff reviewed:
 - ✓ 2024 Quarter-1 demographic data with new TAZ structure
 - ✓ time-of-day development with weighted H-GAC and TxDOT counts
 - ✓ time-of-day factor updated, and the
 - ✓ Travel Demand Model Project Management.
- Staff continues to coordinate with the TxDOT TP&P and H-GAC Procurement Team on the:
 - ✓ Commercial Vehicle and Galveston County Special Generator survey in the H-GAC region,
 - ✓ assist to translate script developed by Contractor (ETC Institute and TxDOT TP&P) for outreach as the awareness program is developed
 - ✓ continue to work with the H-GAC Procurement team on the responses and the evaluations of the proposals received for Regional University Surveys RFP.
- Staff continues to coordinate effort with interested partners on the development of the scopes of work for the forthcoming:
 - ✓ 2026 World Cup coming to the Houston area,
 - ✓ 2026 Origin-Destination Transit On-board Survey and the
 - ✓ Regional Transportation Models & Tools which includes two major tasks; Advance Transportation Scenario Planning Tools and Big Data Acquisition.
 - ✓