

11. BYLAWS REVISION WORKSHOP

BACKGROUND

At the October 2023 Transportation Policy Council meeting, the TPC established a Select Committee on Planning Area and Composition to review the following issues and make recommendations to the TPC:

1. **Metropolitan Planning Area:** based on urbanized area and growth projections, the region's growth in the next 20 years will extend past the current MPO boundary.
2. **The Woodlands Township's recent request to join the TPC:** The Woodlands Township recently requested to join the TPC.
3. The outcome of Houston's Proposition B led to a review of the **TPC's voting structure, representation, and membership**. The Select Committee examined Houston's membership needs or requirements, and considered options for recommendation to the full TPC.

Additional possible activity:

4. For recommendations involving changes to the planning area, membership, or representation of the MPO would require Bylaws changes, the Select Committee would discuss these and make recommendations.

The Select Committee met 5 times for a total of more than 17 hours to discuss these topics. Based on these extensive discussions, the Select Committee also oversaw the preparation of TPC Bylaws revisions that would implement the recommendations they have developed.

CURRENT SITUATION

At its January 26, 2024 meeting, the Transportation Policy Council reviewed the draft Bylaws revisions and voted to remove elements relating to proportional voting structure. The TPC's decision also requested staff to revise the draft Bylaws revisions to include the updates on other topics that the Select Committee had reviewed.

The major remaining potential Bylaws revisions include:

- Establishing two new membership categories for new areas added to the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPO Boundary). First is a "Growth Area" membership, where the new area shares one TPC vote with other growth area members and all MPO planning and programming activities are eligible within the area. The Growth Area membership is intended for areas to engage with the MPO and prepare for full membership. Second is an "Associate" membership, where the new area does not seek to join the MPO, but the MPO is required to add the geographical area to comply with its federal regulations. An Associate member will have a non-voting ex officio seat on TPC, is also represented by the voting TPC member from the Growth Area Caucus, and may seek planning studies from the MPO. Additionally, any TxDOT or local projects in the Associate member's area that require inclusion in the TPC's Transportation Improvement program or other MPO documents will be added unless a TPC supermajority votes to not include the project (because it is incompatible with existing TPC plans).
- Adding The Woodlands as a local government member of the TPC.

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- Adding an additional At-Large TPC member representing cities smaller than 50,000 residents and makes both positions at-large for the entire region (e.g., both represent small cities in the entire MPO area).
 - Adding a process for the TPC to follow for expanding the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPO boundary).

Additionally, there are numerous revisions intended to update the Bylaws to address current regulations pertaining to Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

As a result of the MPO's 20-year urbanized area growth projection, five areas have been identified where the urbanized area of the MPO will extend beyond the current MPO boundary. For the first time since 1974, the MPO boundary will need expand to include those areas for the MPO to stay in compliance with federal regulations. At the Select Committee's request, MPO staff have initiated conversations with officials from those areas, with the goal of identifying how those areas wish to participate in the MPO and TPC. Those conversations remain open and staff will seek to advance them following completion of updated Bylaws revisions for TPC consideration.

Staff will review proposed Bylaws revisions for discussion and recommendations from the Transportation Policy Council members. The discussion will follow a workshop-type approach.

The anticipated timeline for consideration and adoption of revised Bylaws is:

- February: TPC discussion of elements to include in revisions
- March: Preview draft Bylaws revisions; initiate review by H-GAC outside counsel
- April: TPC action

ACTION REQUESTED

For Discussion and Possible Action. [No Action Recommended]