

5A. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA

DATE: Friday, October 27, 2023

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: 3555 Timmons Lane, Conference Room B, Houston, Texas 77027 and Video Conference

The presiding officer, Chair David Robinson called the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting of October 27, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. to order.

Chairman David Robinson made a statement to TPC members and others that he was the presiding officer at a meeting of the Transportation Policy Council being held in-person or by a video conference on Friday, October 27, 2023 and he was physically present at 3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, Texas 77027 and attested that the meeting was open and accessible to members of the public and reminded each member of the governing body participating in via Zoom they must be visible and audible to be considered a participant in this meeting, and they must enable their video and microphone when responding to a roll call, voting on action items and asking questions

ITEM 1 & 2 CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman David Robinson recognized Ms. Allie Isbell, H-GAC, for the Certification of the Quorum and she conducted the Roll Call of the TPC membership. Fourteen (14) members comprise a quorum. A quorum was declared present and recorded on the Roll Call, which is included with these Minutes as Attachment 1.

ITEM 3. DECLARE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Chairman David Robinson asked members of the Council to Declare Conflicts of Interest on any item on the agenda. No TPC members declared any conflicts.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under Items 1-3 are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Allie Isbell, H-GAC informed the Council that American Sign Language services and Spanish translation services were available to the public. Ms. Isbell asked Robert Helms to introduce himself and provide instructions in Zoom. Chair Robinson acknowledged the Spanish translator and the Spanish translator provided instructions in Spanish on a separate channel. No public comments were received or made.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under Item 4 are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 5. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman David Robinson asked the Council if there was any discussion on the consent agenda. No items were requested to be pulled. Chairman Robinson asked for a motion on the Consent Agenda items below:

- A. Request approval of September 29, 2023 Meeting Minutes Summary
A motion was made by Secretary Nancy Arnold and seconded by Mayor Joe Zimmerman to approve the September 29, 2023 meeting summary. The Council voted and approved the motion.
- B. Amendments to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)
The Council was asked to approve receiving the Amendments to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) due the status of the Air Quality Conformity. A brief question and answer period occurred regarding clarification of the action. The Council voted and approved receiving the Amendments. For Information and review only.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 6. RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CRASH RESPONDER SAFETY WEEK

Mr. David Fink, H-GAC, gave a presentation in support of Crash Responder Safety Week. Crash Responder Safety Week (CRSW) takes place November 12-17, 2023. This Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)-sponsored initiative communicates the simple steps everyone can take to keep roadway responders and the public safe around traffic incidents. Mr. Fink asked the Council to approve TPC Resolution No. 2023-33. A motion was made by Mayor Joe Zimmerman and seconded by Mayor Kevin Cole. A brief comment and discussion period occurred after the presentation. The Council voted and approved TPC Resolution No. 2023-33.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 7. APPOINTMENT OF TPC TIP PROCESS REVIEW WORKGROUP MEMBERS, CRAIG RABORN, H-GAC

Mr. Craig Raborn, H-GAC gave the Council a brief overview on the purpose and goals of TPC TIP Process Review Committee and listed the Committee Members for the record. The TIP Process Review Workgroup are as follows:

MEMBER	REPRESENTING	MEMBER	REPRESENTING
Justin Beckendorff, Chair	Waller County	Varuna Singh	TxDOT-Houston
Grady Prestage, Vice-Chair	Fort Bend County	Sanjay Ramhabhadran	METRO
Joe Zimmerman	City of Sugar Land	Carol Lewis	Gulf Coast Rail District
Kevin Cole	City of Pearland	Chuck Wemple	H-GAC
Carolyn Evans-Shabazz	City of Houston	Veronica Chapa-Gorczyński	TAC Chair
Ryan Dagley	Chambers County	Morad Kabiri	TAC 1 st Vice Chair
Mark Keough	Montgomery County	Perri D'Armond	TAC 2 nd Vice Chair
Adrian Garcia	Harris County		

Chairman Robinson proceeded to clarify that membership might change due to the upcoming election. Mr. Raborn requested the Council approve the appointments to the TIP Process Review Workgroup. Mayor Joe Zimmerman made a motion to approve, and the motion was seconded. A brief discussion period occurred. The Council voted and approved the appointments.

ITEM 8. SELECT COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AREA AND COMPOSITION, MR. CRAIG RABORN, H-GAC

Mr. Craig Raborn, H-GAC, gave a presentation on the Select Committee on Planning Area and Composition. The Select Committee will review and make recommendations to the TPC on the following topics:

1. Impacts of region's Adjusted Urbanized Area and projected growth area on the Metropolitan Planning Area and any potential adjustments to the MPO's boundary and membership;
2. The Woodlands Township's recent request to be added to the TPC;
3. Following outcome of the City of Houston's Proposition B ballot measure, and potential changes to the TPC's voting structure, representation, and membership; and
4. Any Bylaws amendments or potential redesignation that should be considered to implement the Committee's recommendations.

MEMBER	POSITION	REPRESENTING	MPO MEMBER TYPE
Justin Beckendorff, Chair	County Commissioner	Waller County	Elected, County
Grady Prestage, Vice-Chair	County Commissioner	Fort Bend County	Elected, County
Joe Zimmerman	Mayor	City of Sugarland	Elected, City
Kevin Cole	Mayor	City of Pearland	Elected, City
Sallie Alcorn	Council Member	City of Houston	Elected, City
Carolyn Evans-Shabazz	Council Member	City of Houston	Elected, City
Mark Keough	County Judge	Montgomery County	Elected, City
Adrian Garcia	County Commissioner	Harris County	Elected. County
Ryan Dagley	County Commissioner	Chambers County	Elected, County
Eliza Paul	District Engineer	TxDOT-Houston	State appointee
Sanjay Ramabhadran	Chair	METRO	Major Trans. Mode
Carol Lewis	Chair	Gulf Coast Rail District	Major Trans. Mode
Chuck Wemple (non-voting)	Executive Director	H-GAC	Appointed official

Mr. Raborn requested approval of the establishment of the Select Committee on Planning Area and Composition and Appointments to the Select Committee. A lengthy discussion occurred after the presentation and included an explanation by Mr. Chuck Wemple regarding Proposition B. Chair Robinson asked for a motion. A motion was made by Mayor Kevin Cole and seconded by Mayor Joe Zimmerman. The Council voted and approved the Select Committee on Planning Area and Composition and Appointment to the Select Committee.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording

ITEM 9. PROPOSED ADJUSTED URBANIZED AREA BOUNDRY, MR. CRAIG RABORN/MR. PRAMOD SAMBIDI, H-GAC

Mr. Craig Raborn, H-GAC gave the Council an overview of the Urbanized Area Adjustment Basics. The adjusted urbanized area adjustment is conducted every 10 years and follows the Decennial Census. The

purpose is to smooth out irregularities, maintain administrative continuity and encompass growing fringe areas with residential, commercial, or industrial significance. The impacts change roadways' Functional Classification and funding eligibility, federal or state funding allocation, performance measures, targets and reporting targets. The adjustment also affects urban/rural designation of Critical Freight Corridors and may impact MPO Planning area. This has not changed since 1974. Mr. Raborn also described Key "non-technical" definitions which included Urban Area (Census), Urbanized Area (FHWA), Adjusted Urbanized Area (FHWA) and Metropolitan Planning Area (FHWA). Mr. Raborn introduced Mr. Pramod Sambidi, H-GAC who gave a presentation on the 2020 Census Urbanized Areas criteria. Mr. Sambidi elaborated on the Historic Census Urbanized Area 1970 to 2020 and gave specific information on the authorization by state and local officials to cooperatively adjust Urban Area boundaries and informed the Council of the potential MPO recommendations and informed the Council the Urbanized Area is growing and we are reaching outside the MPO County boundaries. Mr. Sambidi concluded his presentation with detailed information using maps as illustration. Mr. Raborn concluded the presentation by reviewing the maps presented by Mr. Sambidi. A lengthy discussion occurred after this presentation.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 10. PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS UPDATE, VISHU LINGALA, H-GAC

Mr. Vishu Lingala, H-GAC, gave an update on the Project Selection Process. Mr. Lingala told the Council the 88 projects had been reviewed under the Regional Goods Movement Investment Category. 40 projects scored 50 points in the evaluation scoring that moved on to the Benefit Cost Analysis phase of the process. 38 Benefit Cost Analysis responses were submitted and 2 projects were withdrawn from consideration. Mr. Lingala concluded his presentation recapping the Benefit cost scoring and next steps in the process. The presentation was followed by a discussion.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 11. TRANSPORTATION AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY UPDATE, MR. ANDREW DECANDIS, H-GAC

Mr. Andrew DeCandis, H-GAC, gave a presentation on the Transportation Air Quality Conformity. Mr. DeCandis informed the Council that our region remains in a Conformity Lapse Grace Period. Projects in the current TIP/RTP may advance and no new TIP/RTP Amendments are allowed. Progress has occurred since last update. Mr. Craig Raborn, H-GAC concluded the presentation with additional information regarding the Air Quality Conformity.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 12. CARRY OVER BALANCE POLICY DISCUSSION. MR, ADAM BECKOM, H-GAC

Mr. Craig Raborn, H-GAC, provided comment to the Council prior to Mr. Adam Beckom's, H-GAC, presentation. Mr. Raborn told the Council that this would be a two-part presentation about the policy staff

has been developing in collaboration with TIP subcommittee and members of the TPC and presentation he would be providing the presentation regarding a proposed TxDOT rule regarding funding sources and carry-over balances among other topics. Mr. Beckon made a presentation on the background regarding the Carry-over Balance, Carry-Over Balances as of October 2023, Carry-Over Spend Down Policy Summary, Carry-Over Spend Down Preferred Strategies and Timeline. A lengthy discussion occurred after the presentation.

Mr. Raborn gave an overview on the specific elements of the TxDOT proposed rule, issues/questions with the proposed rule, CMAQ and Air Quality Conformity, issues with time to complete a project, what causes project delays, points of consideration, and a timeline regarding a workshop. A lengthy discussion occurred after the presentation.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 13. CARRYOVER/SPEND DOWN PROJECTS, MS. CALLIE BARNES, H-GAC

Ms. Callie Barnes, H-GAC gave an update on the Carryover/Spend Down Projects. Ms. Barnes informed the Council of H-GAC's actions to address Carryover balances, Carry-over Balance Spend down projects, next steps and next major milestones.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed

ITEM 14. PREVIEW FOR ADOPTION OF THE REGIONAL GOODS MOVEMENT PLAN, MS. SYDNI LIGONS, H-GAC

This item was deferred until the meeting of the November TPC.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

for Information Only. No action needed

ITEM 15. PLANNING ACTIVITIES

- A. Administrative Amendments to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program and the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan
Information was provided to TPC members in the meeting packet.
(Staff Contact: Jim Dickinson)

- B. Future Amendments to the 2023-2025 TIP and 2045 RTP
Information was provided to TPC members in the meeting packet.
(Staff Contact: Jim Dickinson)

C. Transportation Planning Activities

Information was provided to TPC members in the meeting packet.
(Staff Contact: Craig Raborn)

D. H-GAC Board of Directors Report

Mr. Craig Raborn gave an update of Transportation items that were approved at the October 17, 2023 meeting of the H-GAC Board meeting.
Information was provided to TPC members in the meeting packet.
(Staff Contact: Craig Raborn)

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJORNMENT

The Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting will occur on November 8, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. -In person
Area Emission Reduction Credit Organization Meeting on November 8, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. Hybrid
The Transportation Policy Council Meeting will occur on November 17, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.- Hybrid

Chairman David Robinson adjourned the meeting at 12:00 P.M.

The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under this item are included in the meeting record
For Information Only. No action needed.

Hon. Nancy Arnold, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council

Attachment 1
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)
FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA
October 27, 2023

ROLL

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Baytown, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Honorable Brandon Capetillo Mayor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Jason Reynolds – Alternate	City of Baytown
Conroe, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Honorable Howard Wood Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Norman McGuire – Alternate	City of Conroe
Galveston, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Honorable Marie Robb Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Hon. John Paul Listowski - Alternate	City of Galveston
Houston, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Honorable David W. Robinson Council Member – Chairman <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Honorable Abbie Kamin- Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Honorable Carolyn Evans-Shabazz Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Honorable Sallie Alcorn - Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Carol Haddock, P.E. Director, Houston Public Works <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Veronica O. Davis, P.E. – Alternate	City of Houston
League City, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Honorable John Bowen Council Member <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Honorable Andy Mann - Alternate	City of League City
Missouri City, City of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Shashi Kumar, P.E.. Director of Public Works <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Marcus Snell – Alternate	City of Missouri City
Pasadena, City of	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ Sarah Benavides, P.E. Sr. Assistant Public Works Director <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Mark Gardemal- Alternate	City of Pasadena

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Pearland, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Kevin Cole Mayor <u> </u> Trent Epperson-Alternate	City of Pearland
Sugar Land, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Joe Zimmerman Mayor <u> </u> Honorable Suzanne Whatley – Alternate	City of Sugar Land
Texas City, City of	<u> </u> Honorable Dedrick Johnson Mayor <u> </u> Jon Branson - Alternate	City of Texas City
Waller, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Nancy Arnold <u> </u> Council Member, Secretary <u> </u> Honorable Sally Branson-Alternate	Smaller Cities, Harris County
Vacant	<u> </u>	
Brazoria County	<u> X </u> Matt Hanks, JD, P.E. County Engineer <u> </u> Honorable David Linder – Alternate	Brazoria County
Chambers County	<u> X </u> Honorable Ryan Dagley County Commissioner <u> </u> Honorable Tommy Hammond. - Alternate	Chambers County
Fort Bend County	<u> X </u> Honorable Grady Prestage County Commissioner, 2nd Vice Chair <u> </u> Stacy Slawinski, P.E. – Alternate	Fort Bend County
Galveston County	<u> </u> Honorable Robin Armstrong County Commissioner <u> </u> Honorable Joe Giusti– Alternate	Galveston County
Harris County	<u> </u> Honorable Lina Hidalgo County Judge <u> X </u> Roberto Treviño, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Harris County	<u> </u> Honorable Adrian Garcia County Commissioner, Pct. 2 <u> X </u> Milton Rahman, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Liberty County	<u> </u> David Douglas Director of Economic Development <u> </u> Honorable Jay Knight - Alternate	Liberty County

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Montgomery County	_____ Honorable Mark Keough County Judge <u> X </u> Commissioner, Matt Gray – Alternate	Montgomery County
Waller County	<u> X </u> Honorable Justin Beckendorff County Commissioner – 1st Vice Chair _____ Commissioner, Walter Smith - Alternate	Waller County
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	<u> X </u> Sanjay Ramabhadran METRO Chair _____ Thomas Lambert	METRO
Houston-Galveston Area Council At Large	<u> X </u> Chuck Wemple Executive Director _____ Onyinye Akujuo – Alternate	H-GAC
TxDOT-Houston	<u> X </u> Eliza Paul, P. E. District Engineer _____ Varuna Singh, P.E.– Alternate	TxDOT Houston District
TxDOT-Beaumont	<u> X </u> Martin Gonzalez, P.E. District Engineer _____ Ana I. Mijares, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Beaumont District
Other Transportation Interests	_____ Roger Guenther Executive Director, Port Houston _____ Phyllis Saathoff, Port Freeport- Alternate	Other Transportation Interests
Gulf Coast Rail District	<u> X </u> Dr. Carol Lewis Chairman, GCRD _____ Jeff Ross - Alternate	Gulf Coast Rail District
	<u> 28 </u> Total Voting Membership	
	<u> 22 </u> Voting Membership Present	
	<u> 14 </u> Required Quorum	

AGENCY

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

REPRESENTING

Texas State Senate

 Hon. Carol Alvarado

8-County Region

Freight Rail Interests

 Clint Schelbitzki

Union Pacific

Texas State Legislator

 Hon. Dennis Paul

8-County Region

Texas State Legislator

 Hon. Ed Thompson

8-County Region

Wharton County

 X Hon. Phillip Spenrath

Wharton County