

6A. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA

DATE: Friday, August 23, 2024
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
PLACE: 3555 Timmons Lane, Conference Room B, Houston, Texas 77027

The presiding officer, Chair Justin Beckendorff called the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting of August 23, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. to order.

CERTIFICATION OF QUORUM, INTRODUCTIONS AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Chairman Justin Beckendorff recognized Ms. Allie Isbell, H-GAC, for the Certification of the Quorum and she conducted the Roll Call of the TPC membership. Fifteen (15) members comprise a quorum. A quorum was declared present and recorded on the Roll Call, which is included with these Minutes as Attachment 1. Chairman Justin Beckendorff asked members of the Council to Declare Conflicts of Interest on any item on the agenda. No TPC member declared a conflict of interest. The presentation, comments, questions and discussion are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Allie Isbell introduced one person to provide public comment in person and no public comments were made online. Instructions to access American Sign Language Interpretation services were posted on a slide in Zoom and provided by Rpbert Helms and Rian Norris. Spanish Translation services were available as needed and provided by Maria Alegrett. The presentation, comments, questions and discussion under Item 4 are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 5. MPO DIRECTOR REPORT AND ORIENTATION OF AGENDA, MR. CRAIG RABORN, H-GAC

Mr. Craig Raborn, H-GAC, informed the Council that he submitted his resignation as Transportation Director to Chuck Wemple, Executive Director and he accepted. Mr. Raborn will continue in the position until the end of the year. This will allow continuity and allow him to work with staff to complete major initiatives to fully program funds for the TIP and RTP.

A. Planning Activities Report

Mr. Craig Raborn, H-GAC, informed the Council on the September Planning Activities, a meeting with TxDOT, Galveston County, and the City of Galveston on August 6th concerning discussions regarding Pelican Island Bridge.

B. H-GAC Board Update

Mr. Craig Raborn, H-GAC, informed the Council that the H-GAC board meeting on August 20th approved the media purchases related to the Commute Solutions program and deferred action on the procurement for the EcoInteractive planning tool which would be discussed on the agenda later in Item 9.

C. Project Selection Update

Mr. Vishu Lingala, H-GAC, provided an update on Project Selection and gave the Council a brief update on the Project Selection Process. Mr. Lingala informed the Council in the five investment categories; scoring had been completed on submitted projects and distributed them to the sponsors and staff is in the process of validating scores. Projects that scored at least 50 points in draft scores may submit a benefit cost analysis online by August 30th. Comments have been reviewed and provided adjusted scores to sponsors as well as meeting with project sponsors on benefit calculators. Mr. Lingala concluded his update with a summary of draft scores for investment categories, available funding by investment categories and a timeline for the Project Selection Process which is anticipated for approval in November 2024.

D. RTP Project Development Update

Mr. Craig Raborn, H-GAC, provided an update on the RTP Project Development. Mr. Raborn informed the Council that application date closed on Wednesday, August 7th and 99 projects were submitted from 12 sponsors and the total cost in approximately \$10 billion. Staff is working on a meeting timeline and new fiscally constrained RTP project list expected for preview in October.

E. Project Exceptions and Carryover Balance Strategy and Timeline

Mr. Craig Raborn, H-GAC, made a presentation on the Project Exceptions and Carryover Balance Strategy and Timeline. Mr. Raborn informed the Council of a report by TxDOT to the TPC in July regarding STIP exceptions, short-term Carryover Balances (1-3 years), and Programming and Long-Term Balances (3 to 20 years.) Mr. Raborn specifically described the anticipated timelines and actions, highlighted a meeting with NCTCOG, FHWA conversations, TxDOT-HQ and MPO Directors Meeting and briefed the Council on the details of the meetings and conversations. The presentation comments, questions answers and discussion in [Item 5](#) are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 6. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Secretary Nancy Arnold to approve the TPC July 26, 2024 Meeting minutes summary and the Commute Solutions Months Resolution No. 2024-21. The motion was seconded by Mayor Joe Zimmerman. The Council voted and approved the motion. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 7. RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION FOR OUTGOING TPC MEMBER, ROGER GUENTHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PORT HOUSTON

Mr. Craig Raborn, H-GAC read TPC Resolution No. 2024-19 recognizing and honoring the service Mr. Roger Guenther, Executive Director, Port Houston. A robust round of applause occurred after reading of the resolution. Mr. Guenther provided his comments on his time served with the TPC and introduced his successor, Charlie Jenkins to the Council. Several TPC members provided kind words of appreciation for his service to Port Houston, the TPC and the Houston-Galveston region. A motion was made by Mayor Joe Zimmerman and seconded. The Council voted and unanimously approved TPC Resolution No. 2024-19. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

TEM 8. AMENDMENTS TO THE 2025-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND THE 2045 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN, JIM DICKINSON, H-GAC

Mr. Jim Dickinson, H-GAC, gave a presentation on the Amendments to the 2025-2026 Transportation Improvement Plan and the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan. A summary of the proposed revisions to the 2025-2026 TIP and 2045 RTP is included below:

- Delay the FM 528 4-lane widening project in Brazoria County (MPO ID 17209) from FY 2030 to FY 2035 in the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan to allow for anticipated environmental clearances. (Total Project Cost: \$8.5M)
- Add \$4.2M of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding to the TxDOT Houston District's IH 45 North frontage road construction, operational and drainage improvements project in Montgomery County (MPO ID 17221) to cover updated cost estimates. Project was let to contract in FY 2024 in the TxDOT Statewide Preventative Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program. (+ \$4.2M; Total: \$18.0M)
- Add the \$7.0M federal Congressional Community Projects award (Category 10), matched with \$1.75M of local funding, to Montgomery County's FY 2025 Ford Road 4-lane widening project (MPO ID 18120). Also, update the limits and the description of work. (+ \$8.75M; Total: \$46.2M)
- Convert all federal District Discretionary (Category 11) funding of TxDOT Houston District's US 290 truck parking lot construction project at FM 2920 in Harris County (MPO ID 18917) to a state contribution at TxDOT's request. (+ \$0M; Total: \$1.8M)

A motion was made by Mayor Joe Zimmerman and seconded by Judge Mark Keough. The Council voted and approved TPC Resolution 2024-20. The presentation, comments, questions and discussion are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 9. APPROVAL OF 2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM, (UPWP), CRAIG RABORN, H-GAC

Mr. Craig Raborn, H-GAC, gave a presentation on the Unified Work Program which is a two-year plan, that runs from October 1, 2023—September 30, 2024, and describes the regional transportation plans and programs. The current UPWP was adopted by the TPC on September 8, 2023. No amendments to date. Mr. Raborn described the additions below:

- **Sub-task 3.1.a – Transportation Improvement Program**
 - Add: Formalized review process for TIP project entries and amendments prior to submittal to State Transportation Improvement Program
 - No net funding change due to other projects' low expenses
 - Consultant will be utilized (Transportation Planning Funds)
- **Sub-task 3.1 – Transportation Project Programming**
 - Table 6-7: Add "Project Selection Process and Programming Database" as an anticipated software purchase
 - Up to \$650,000 for three years
 - Previously listed as a potential consultant activity
No cost change: Previously included in UPWP budget as a consultant activity (Transportation Planning Funds)

Mr. Raborn requested approval of UPWP Resolution No. 2024-01. A discussion period occurred after the presentation. After this discussion, a presentation was made by Luke Motta from EcoInteractive. EcoInteractive is a software services company that helps MPO’s and DOT’s across the country manage their plans and programs. Mr. Motta gave specifics of the software and what the platform could provide to the MPO. A discussion period occurred after the presentation. A motion to approve UPWP Resolution No. 2024-01 was made by Mayor Joe Zimmerman and seconded by Commissioner Adrian Garcia. The Council voted and was approved. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 10. DRAFT 2025 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM, CRAIG RABORN, H-GAC

Mr. Craig Raborn, H-GAC, gave a presentation on the Unified Planning Work Program and began with a brief overview and background of the program. The current UPWP was adopted by the Transportation Policy Council on September 8, 2023 and ends on September 30, 2024. Mr. Raborn outlined the basic structure of the UPWP and each task includes multiple subtasks, Summaries of previous, current, future planning activities, and Budget Summaries for each task. Mr. Raborn gave the Council a recap of the current UPWP Progress Status, specifics on the 2024 UPWP Overall Summary, the 2023 New Task IV description which was approved by the TPC in September 2023 and informed the Council on retained new elements from the 2024 version, any updates and changes to the Draft 2025 Unified Planning Work Program, an overview of the 2025 UPWP Budget detail, a timeline for approval and a brief overview of future updates and activities. Mr. Raborn requested TPC approval of the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program and UPWP Resolution No. 2025-00. A discussion occurred after the presentation. A motion was made by Commissioner Adrian Garcia and seconded by Mayor Kevin Cole. The Council voted and approved UPWP Resolution No. 2025-00. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

ITEM 11. APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL BYLAWS, JUDGE MARK KEOUGH, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

At the June 2024 Transportation Policy Council meeting, the TPC established a Bylaws Committee to review the current TPC Bylaws and make recommendations to the full Transportation Policy Council for any revisions or amendments. The Chair of the TPC Bylaws Committee, Judge Mark Keough, informed the Council of recommendations for amendments from the Committee to the TPC Bylaws. Judge Keough described the changes which include a section on definitions, the removal of H-GAC as a voting member of the TPC, H-GAC will continue as an advisory member. An additional smaller cities position will be added and will keep the membership at 29, and an amendment was proposed for the addition of an Executive Committee as follows:

TPC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	
VOTING MEMBERSHIP	ADVISORY MEMBERSHIP
TPC Chairman (Presiding Member)	H-GAC, Executive Director
TPC First Vice Chair	TxDOT Houston, Planning Director
TPC Second Vice Chair	FHWA, Planning
TPC Secretary	
City of Houston Member (or at-large if two)	

Harris County Member (or at-large if two)	
TxDOT District Engineer – Houston	

The purpose of the Committee is described below as per the proposed TPC Bylaws:

The TPC Chairman shall convene an Executive Committee whose purpose is to provide general oversight of MPO operations, to establish the MPO Director’s performance objectives, to review the MPO Director’s performance, compensation, and continued employment, and to consider all other matters as determined by the Chairman. All actions of the Executive Committee shall be presented to the TPC for a vote in accordance with Section H – Quorum.

Judge Mark Keough made a motion to approve the amendments to the TPC Bylaws. A discussion occurred after the presentation among the TPC members. After the discussion, the motion was seconded by Mayor Joe Zimmerman. Additional comments were made by several members of the TPC. The Council voted and approved the bylaws changes. Dr. Carol Lewis, Gulf Coast Rail District, voted No. Council Member Sallie Alcorn, City of Houston, Council Member Carolyn Evans Shabazz, City of Houston, and Mr. Randy Macchi, City of Houston abstained. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording: [HERE](#)

ITEM 12. CARRY OVER SPEND DOWN-ADDED PROJECTS FOR POSSIBLE ACTION, CALLIE BARNES, H-GAC

Ms. Callie Barnes, H-GAC, gave a presentation on the Carry Over Spend down added projects for possible action next month. In December 2023, 60 projects with 25 sponsors were programmed for a total programmed cost of \$335M. These projects would be let or transferred to FTA by August 2025. If successful, will generate \$23M for Regional Strategic Transportation Fund. One TxDOT-Houston project has been let to date with a cost of \$21M. The additional six projects with six sponsors for a total cost of \$47,000.00, if successful, will generate an additional \$4,750,000 in Regional Strategic Transportation Fund. Five projects programmed as FTA transfers. One project programmed for the “E” (Engineering/Environmental) Phase only. If approved in September, the projects will be added to the November STIP revision and anticipated approval in February 2025. Comments by TPC members occurred after the presentation. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 13. CARRY OVER SPEND DOWN-ADDED PROJECTS FOR PREVIEW, CALLIE BARNES, H-GAC

Ms. Callie Barnes, H-GAC, previewed two projects from two sponsors. Additional request amount from Carry Over Spend down \$17,600.00. If successful, it would generate an additional \$800,000 for Regional Strategic Transportation Fund Program. One project would be programmed as FTA transfer. One project was submitted by TxDOT for TranStar for the “C” (Construction) phase. Staff will request approval in September and roll into the November STIP revision and anticipate approval in February 2025 with an August 2025 let date. Comments by TPC members occurred after the presentation. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 14. RELIABILITY, CONGESTION, AND AIR QUALITY PERFORMANCE MEASURE UPDATE, KAREN OWEN, H-GAC

Ms. Karen Owen, H-GAC, presented on the Reliability, Congestion, and Air Quality Performance Measures. Ms. Owen informed the Council on the Federal measures that are focused on the National Highway System and described a map that illustrated the interstate and the non-interstate national highway system. These measures are for Reliability, which is personal and truck travel, Congestion measures of peak hour excessive delay, and non-Single occupant vehicles, and Air Quality which is tailpipe emission reductions from Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) projects. Ms. Owen described the data gathered by staff. the results and future measures. There are no penalties for missing the targets.

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

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 15. TITLE VI PROGRAM UPDATE PREVIEW, AYO JIBOWU, H-GAC

Mr. Ayo Jibowu, H-GAC, on the Title IV Program which is a report documenting H-GAC's compliance with the USDOT's Title VI/Nondiscrimination regulations. This update is required every three years. H-GAC receives federal transportation funds through the FTA and FHWA. Title VI Program was last updated in 2021. Mr. Jibowu highlighted some of the topics that are required to be in comply and demographic maps. Mr. Jibowu let the Council know of the Public Comment period which is August 13, 2024-September 12, 2024 and informed them of an upcoming virtual Public meeting on September 10, 2024. Approval will be requested by the TAC and TPC in September 2024 and action by the H-GAC Board of Directors in October 2024. A draft of the updated Title VI Program can be found on the H-GAC website at: <http://www.h-gac.com/title-vi-program>. The presentation, comments, questions, answers and discussion under this item are included in the meeting recording [HERE](#)

For Information Only. No action needed.

ITEM 16. FUTURE AMENDMENTS TO THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATEWIDE SAFETY PROGRAM, JIM DICKINSON, H-GAC

Mr. Jim Dickinson, H-GAC, gave a presentation on the Future TIP Amendments to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Plan and The Regional Transportation Plan. A summary of the proposed revisions to the Texas Department of Transportation Statewide Safety Program is included below for the Council's review.

- Add \$1.8M of federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding to the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Regional Freeway Incident Management (FY 2022-FY 2024) project (MPO ID 11917) to fund continuing towing operations. An additional 352K Transportation Development Credits (TDCs) will be programmed in lieu of matching funds. (+\$1.8M; Total: \$11.8M)
- Add \$3.1M of federal STBG funding to the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Regional Freeway Incident Management (FY 2017-FY 2018) project (MPO ID 17020) to fund

continuing towing operations. An additional 616K TDCs will be programmed in lieu of matching funds. (+\$3.1M; Total: \$11.1M)

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

For Information Only. No action needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJORNMENT

Transportation Advisory Committee will occur on September 18, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.. – In person
The Transportation Policy Council Meeting will occur on September 27, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.- In person
MPO 50th Anniversary Luncheon will occur on September 27, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. at The Briar Club

Chairman Justin Beckendorff adjourned the meeting at 12:24 p.m.

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

For Information Only. No action needed.

Hon. Nancy Arnold, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council

Attachment 1
MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC)
FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT AREA
August 23, 2024

ROLL

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Baytown, City of	_____ Honorable Brandon Capetillo Mayor <u> X </u> Jason Reynolds – Alternate	City of Baytown
Conroe, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Howard Wood Council Member _____ Norman McGuire – Alternate	City of Conroe
Galveston, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Marie Robb Council Member _____ Hon. John Paul Listowski - Alternate	City of Galveston
Houston, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Sallie Alcorn Council Member _____ Honorable Abbie Kamin- Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Carolyn Evans-Shabazz Council Member _____ Honorable Joaquin Martinez - Alternate	City of Houston
Houston, City of	<u> X </u> Randy Macchi Chief Operating Officer -Public Works _____ Steven David - Alternate	City of Houston
League City, City of	_____ Honorable Tommy Cones Council Member _____ Honorable Andy Mann - Alternate	City of League City
Missouri City, City of	<u> X </u> Shashi Kumar, P.E.. Director of Public Works _____ Marcus Snell – Alternate	City of Missouri City
Pasadena, City of	_____ Sarah Benavides, P.E. Sr. Assistant Public Works Director _____ 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- 2nd Vice Chair Mayor Trent Epperson-Alternate	City of Pearland
Sugar Land, City of	<u> X </u> Honorable Joe Zimmerman Mayor Honorable Suzanne Whatley – Alternate	City of Sugar Land
Texas City, City of	<u> </u> Honorable Dedrick Johnson Mayor Jon Branson - Alternate	City of Texas City
Waller, City of	<u> X </u> Hon. Nancy Arnold Council Member, Secretary	Smaller Cities Harris County
Friendswood, City of	<u> * </u> Honorable Sally Branson-Alternate	
The Woodlands Township	<u> X </u> Dr. Ann K. Snyder Chair, The Woodlands Township Board Kyle Watson-Alternate	The Woodlands Township
Brazoria County	<u> X </u> Matt Hanks, JD, P.E. County Engineer Honorable David Linder – Alternate	Brazoria County
Chambers County	<u> </u> Honorable Ryan Dagley County Commissioner <u> X </u> Honorable Tommy Hammond. - Alternate	Chambers County
Fort Bend County	<u> X </u> Honorable Grady Prestage County Commissioner, 1st Vice Chair Stacy Slawinski, P.E. – Alternate	Fort Bend County
Galveston County	<u> </u> Honorable Robin Armstrong County Commissioner <u> X </u> Honorable Joe Giusti– Alternate	Galveston County
Harris County	<u> X </u> Honorable Lesley Briones County Commissioner, Pct. 4 Roberto Treviño, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Harris County	<u> X </u> Honorable Adrian Garcia County Commissioner, Pct. 2 Milton Rahman, P.E. – Alternate	Harris County
Liberty County	<u> </u> David Douglas Director of Economic Development Honorable Jay Knight - Alternate	Liberty County

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>VOTING MEMBER/ALTERNATE</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Montgomery County	<u> X </u> Honorable Mark Keough County Judge <u> </u> Commissioner, Matt Gray – Alternate	Montgomery County
Waller County	<u> X </u> Honorable Justin Beckendorff County Commissioner – Chair <u> </u> Commissioner, Kendric Jones- Alternate	Waller County
Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority	<u> </u> Elizabeth Gonzalez Brock METRO Chair <u> X </u> Thomas Jasien-Alternate	METRO
Houston-Galveston Area Council At Large	<u> X </u> Chuck Wemple Executive Director <u> </u> Onyine Akujuo- Alternate	H-GAC
TxDOT-Houston	<u> </u> Eliza Paul, P. E. District Engineer <u> X </u> Varuna Singh, P.E.– Alternate	TxDOT Houston District
TxDOT-Beaumont	<u> X </u> Martin Gonzalez, P.E. District Engineer <u> </u> Ana I. Mijares, P.E. – Alternate	TxDOT Beaumont District
Other Transportation Interests	<u> </u> Phyllis Saathoff Executive Director, Port Freeport <u> X </u> Roger Guenther, Port Houston- Alternate	Other Transportation Interests
Gulf Coast Rail District	<u> X </u> Dr. Carol Lewis Chair, GCRD <u> </u> Jeff Ross - Alternate	Gulf Coast Rail District
	<u> 28 </u> Total Voting Membership	
	<u> 25 </u> Voting Membership Present	
	<u> 15 </u> Required Quorum	

AGENCY

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

REPRESENTING

Texas State Senate

 Hon. Carol Alvarado

8-County Region

Freight Rail Interests

 X 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