

DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2021-2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) – UPDATE

Background

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a four-year capital improvements program for transportation projects. Under federal rules, all federally assisted projects must be included in the TIP to be eligible for funding. In addition, federal rules require that regionally significant local projects must also be included in the TIP.

H-GAC’s TIP is included, along with all other MPO TIPs and rural TIPs developed by TxDOT, in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP, reviewed and approved by Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, forms the basis for federal project actions including environmental approvals, permits and fund obligations.

A new STIP is compiled every two years resulting in at least two years of projects carried over from the previous STIP each cycle.

Current Situation

The public comment period for the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program began on February 28, 2020. The public comment period was to close on March 29, 2020. However, due to the ongoing global health concerns the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) extended the public comment period to April 15, 2020. Public comments can be submitted online via the web form at <https://www.h-gac.com/transportation-improvement-program/comments.aspx> H-GAC held two open house public meetings on the draft 2021-2024 TIP on March 5, 2020. The meetings were held in-person at H-GAC offices and was made available online as well. As of today, a total of 65 public comments were received. A summary of the comment types is listed in the table below.

Comment Type	# comments
NHHIP	26
Roadway	13
Transit	16
Bike/Ped	4
All modes	2
General	4
Total	65

TxDOT is requesting the TPC to fund the three gap/bottleneck projects that are not funded at this time. These projects were presented in Table 6 of the draft 2021-2024 TIP projects listing presented online at <http://www.h-gac.com/transportation-improvement-program/documents/2021-2024/Draft-TIP-New-Projects.pdf>.

TxDOT is also requesting funding MPOID 16320 (FM 517 widening Between SH 35 and Galveston County Line) and converting the \$35 M cost increase for MPOID 467(SH 146 RR overpass) from Category 4 to Category 2 presented in Table 5 of the draft 2021 -2024 TIP projects listing presented at <http://www.h-gac.com/transportation-improvement-program/documents/2021-2024/Draft-TIP-Project-Cost-Increases.pdf>.

2021 - 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Schedule:

January 2020	2021-2024 TIP Development (Information)
February 2020	Draft Project Listings for Public Comment – Technical Advisory Committee /Transportation Policy Council (Information)
	Public Comment Period Begins (February 28, 2020)
March 2020	Public Meeting (March 5, 2020)
April 2020	Final Draft Listings – Technical Advisory Committee /Transportation Policy Council (Information)
	Public Comment Period Ends April 15, 2020
May 2020	Final Draft Listings – Technical Advisory Committee /Transportation Policy Council (Action/Adoption)
June 2020	TIP Document Submitted to TxDOT for inclusion in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
August 2020	Anticipate Texas Transportation Commission Action
October/November 2020	Anticipate Federal Approval

Action Requested

For information only.