

IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON TRANSPORTATION

Background

The COVID-19 Pandemic and subsequent mitigation efforts, such as social distancing guidelines, stay home orders, and mandatory closure of businesses, has had a dramatic effect on travel patterns in the Houston-Galveston region over the past year. Not only has the Pandemic significantly impacted the region's transportation, but it has also impacted the economic activity that facilitates its maintenance and expansion.

Current Situation

In the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Houston-Galveston Area Council began tracking transportation data and identifying trends caused by remote work adopted by many employers, business closures, and stay home orders. The Transportation Department released a [report](#) in September 2020 outlining these impacts on various transportation modes, including vehicular, transit, bicyclist and pedestrian travel.

Aspects of the various transportation modes, such as volumes, congestion, speed, and crash rates are being monitored as well. Data described in the newsletter article as well as this presentation is available online through the [COVID Dashboard](#). The Houston-Galveston Area Council will continue to track this data and update the COVID Dashboard.

From December 2020 to January 2021, H-GAC conducted an employer survey related to the impacts of COVID-19 on business operations, practices concerning telework prior to COVID, and their outlook on telework, office space and the commute in 2021. The results of the survey are available at datalab.h-gac.com/employersurvey.

Action Requested

Information only.