

TRANSPORTATION AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, March 02, 2022 – 10:00 A. M.
Houston-Galveston Area Council of Government Offices
Virtual Teams Meeting

MEMBER PRESENT

Fort Bend Transit – Perri D’ Armond
Air Alliance Houston – Harrison Humphreys
Baytran – Amy Skicki
Bike Houston – Kristina Ronneberg
TCEQ – Jamie Zech
TXDOT – Brenda Bustillos
University of Houston – Bruce Race
Port of Houston – Kenneth Gathright
Metro – Edmund Petry
Harris County Transit – Ken Fickes
City of Houston – Peter Eccles
H-GAC – Andrew DeCandis
H-GAC – Susan Jaworski

ALTERNATE PRESENT

City of Sugarland – Shahid Ali
Harris County Transit – Vernon Chambers
METRO – Vincent Sanders
City of Houston Planning – Peter Eccles
CenterPoint Energy – Michael Conklin
North Houston Association – Marlisa Briggs
TXDOT – Jered Simpson
TXDOT – Charles Airiohuodion
H-GAC – Veronica Green
HARC – Stephanie Thomas
Port of Houston – Kelli Gallagher

OTHERS PRESENT

Metro – David McMaster

STAFF PRESENT

Houston-Galveston Area Council – Carrie Evans
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ben Finley
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Carlos Lugo
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Graciela Lubertino
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Karen Owen
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Cassandra Marshall
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Larry Meyer
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Shixin Gao
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Diane Domagas
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Mike Burns
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Ayo Jibowu
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Gilbert Washington
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Veronica Green
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Brandy George
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Sanford Klanfer
Houston-Galveston Area Council – Daniel Brassil

BRIEFING

Overview

- a. The TAQ Subcommittee Members and Alternates were presented with no action’s items; discussion items were presented; and the meeting concluded with agency reports and no member announcements.
- b. Visit <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/transportation-committees/TAC/transportation-air-quality-subcommittee/agendas.aspx> to view the meeting materials for this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

ITEM 1A. Introductions

Amy Skicki, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order members and alternates introduced themselves.

ITEM 1B. Approval of Meeting Summary (08-04-2021)

Meeting minutes approved.

ACTIONS ITEMS

ITEM 2A.

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 3A. Using Street Light Data for Air Quality and Transportation Analysis (Larry Meyer, H-GAC)

Larry gave an overview on using street light data for Air Quality and Transportation analysis. It was discussed that they use special techniques to filter the data and run analytics on it. As discussion continued the project that the streetlights were used for is called the inner state I-45 zero emission vehicle projects. The projects were originated at NCTCOG in Dallas. It is a federal highway funded project to help develop a plan for zero emission corridor on I-45 between Houston and Dallas. This project has been ongoing for one and a half years.

Discussion continued that part of the project NCTCOG initiated, but H-GAC has been assisting through outreach participation. In the stakeholders meeting, it became clear there was a need to understand what freight patterns look like along the corridor. Therefore, we recently gained access to the street light data. So, we enlisted the help of H-GAC staff into this project to get a better understanding of the street light perspective what the usual freight pathways were between Houston and Dallas. We want to give some insight starting off specifically with air quality related project.

Discussion continued with the route analysis of trucks on I-45 freeway. It was mentioned that the north corridor of the interstate is based on an index rather than an actual volume itself. It was pointed out that the index is reflective of volume. It is critical to this study. The first streetlight of top route analysis was done only for trucks. It is easy to get a glimpse of where trucks are going. A graph was demonstrated to reflect the top route diversions. Trucks like to divert through Fort Worth before reaching the Metro area. Then another diversion through Denton and Plano. There will be more analysis with this project.

Next, they discussed Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). VMT is correlated with things that matter to transportation practitioners, gas tax revenues, road wear and tear, and greenhouse gas emissions. The VMT tool utilize its big data methods and cuebigs real time mobility index to capture and measure all individuals in a region. It's important to know the street light VMT considers the frequency of trips, not just the length of a median trip. Trips by individuals are calculated using trips that start or end in a county. They do not include trips that pass through a county.

For the Covid VMT data, a baseline was established in the street light data. The total for each day gives us the percentage of the baseline VMT for the entire region, which measures difference in vehicular traffic during the pandemic. During the emergency, it was determined there was a short dip in VMT as far as normal levels. As time passed there seem to be a short stabilization. The last Covid peak towards the end of 2021, from street light data, traffic was near seventy percent of normal levels. The VMT data from Harris county concluded that Harris experienced more VMT reduction than the surrounding counties.

Also, SE Harris County Regional study truck cut through analysis was done to determine and recommend improvements. It will also address multimodal transportation, development, and economic policy needs in the subregion that aligns with H-GAC's goals of mobility, safety, economic competitiveness, transportation asset conditions, natural and cultural resources. There was a need to determine if trucks cut through the port of Houston particularly Barbour's cut and Bay Port industrial Park.

Finally, the Montgomery County PCT 2 Regional study is used to show traffic patterns that will let us know what roads are being used and which roads need to be built to mitigate congestion. It was discussed that an origin destination analysis is used to determine how resident travel from one city to another. Two origins zones are selected. The most traversed

routes to Harris county from both cities were displayed on a map. Currently, this project is still ongoing and should be completed this summer. More feedback will be given when the project is completed.

ITEM 3B. H-GAC Air Quality Performance Measures (Karen Owen and Andrew DeCandis)

Karen gave an overview to the stakeholders regarding transportation performance management, which is required by the Fast Act and the infrastructure and investment job act and the particular interest to the subcommittee is the CMAQ emission reduction measures. Discussion continued that the end goal is to improve the region's air quality. As a nonattainment region, H-GAC is required to develop and set CMAQ emission reduction targets for nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compounds. It was pointed out that the collaborative effort between H-GAC, transit agencies, and TxDOT will allow them to monitor conditions and track progress. All of this is documented in a report. This helps to facilitate the performance base planning we have here at H-GAC.

In closing, Andrew gave an overview of what has been done with the air quality portion of the PM cycle. Discussion continued with how you specifically expect those targets to be met and what you anticipate going into those targets. It was further discussed in year two, we will revisit those targets that were developed in year zero to reassess the four-year targets moving forward. Discussion continued that a lot of the targets are revised. In year four, the progress is tracked and then you start to move forward and develop the new performance measures for two to four years ahead of where we are now. Targets were reviewed by H-GAC staff and advisory committees-TAQ, TAC, and TPC. We do intend to meet the four-year target.

OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 4A. Agency Announcements

Andrew notified the members they will be conducting a round table discussion with Center for Energy Leadership to talk about EV's and Equity. Bruce Race and a guest from Evolve Houston will be speaking. The virtual event will be held on Thursday, April 14 at 10:00am. When the invite is received, members will be notified.

ITEM 4B. Member Announcements

None

Next meeting: June 01, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:19 A.M.