

11. MPO STRATEGIC HIGHWAY NETWORK (STRAHNET) CONCURRENCE

BACKGROUND

The Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) is a network of highways which are important to the United States' strategic defense policy, and which provide defense access, continuity and emergency capabilities for defense purposes.

To ensure that defense important roadways were being considered as part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) strategic plan, the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 provided for the inclusion of STRAHNET and STRAHNET Connectors into the National Highway System (NHS). Federal oversight will help ensure optimum maintenance levels for the NHS, thus assuring that the roads can support a military deployment. Source: FHWA website and the STRAHNET Atlas.

CURRENT SITUATION

For the routes within an MPO boundary, TxDOT is requesting an approved document from their policy boards acknowledging concurrence and approval of the route location. This concurrence is necessary for TxDOT to submit the recommendation to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for consideration. After their review, FHWA will forward the request to the DoD to officially have these routes added to the STRAHNET system.

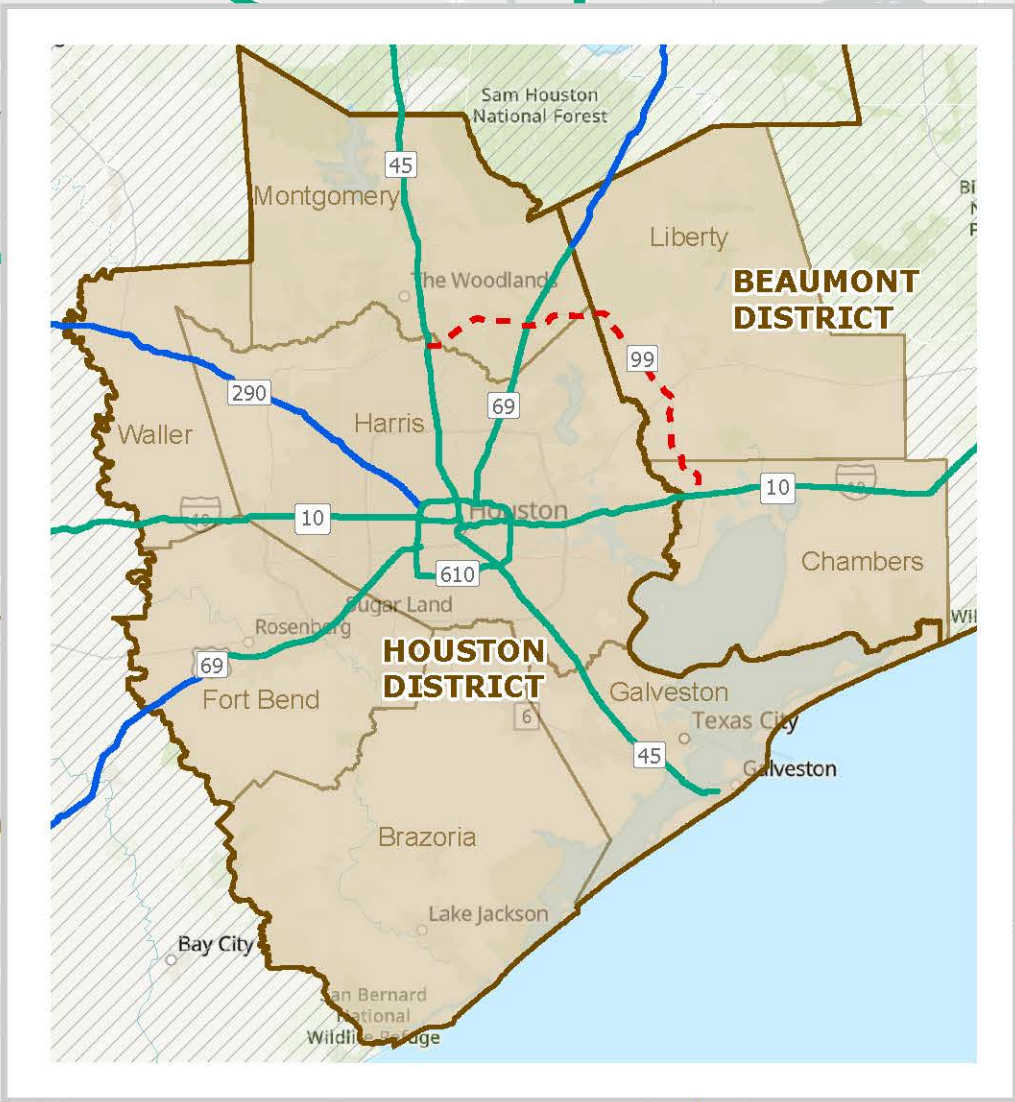
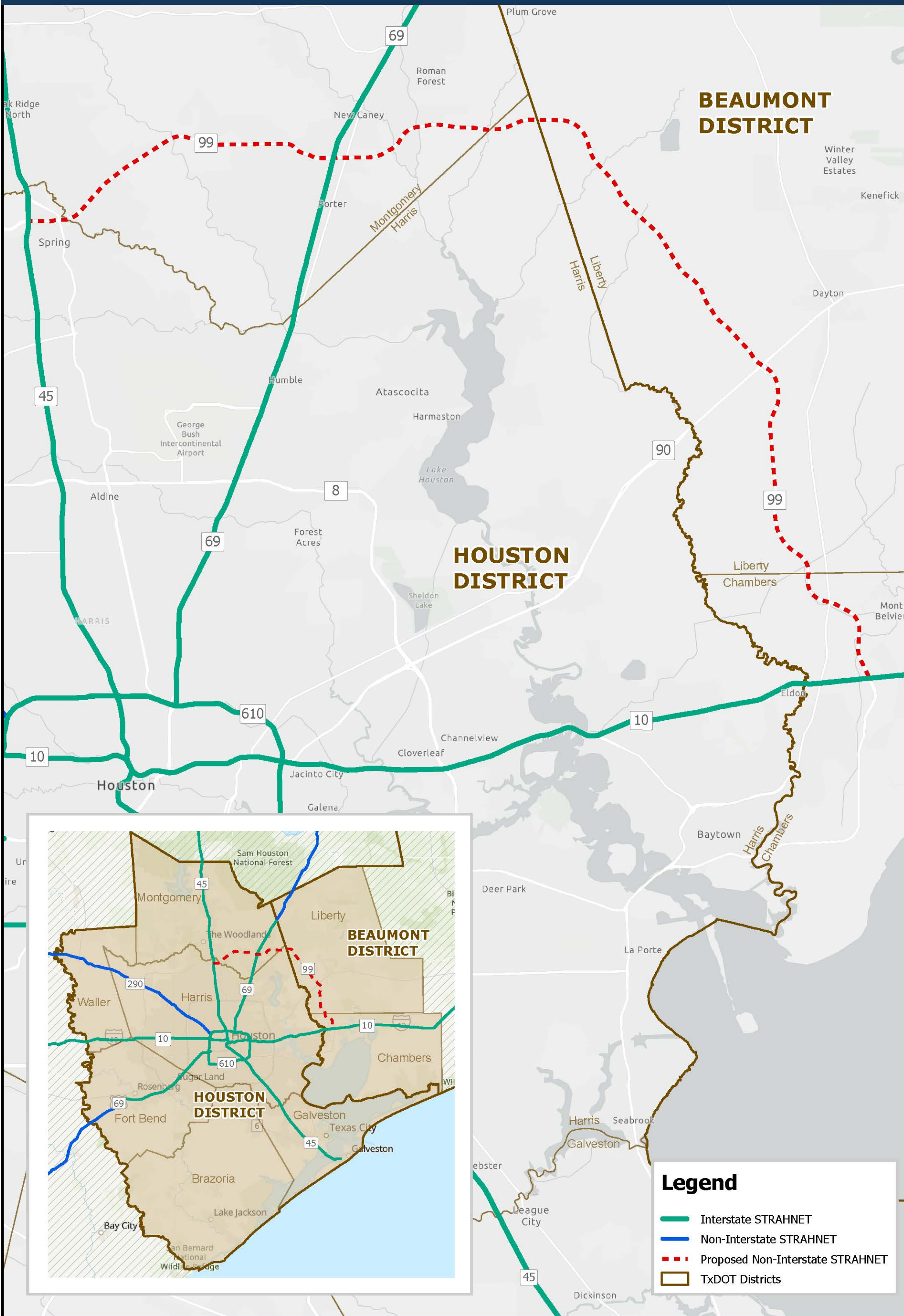
The route being requested to add to this network in the H-GAC region is 51.5 miles of SH 99/Grand Parkway from IH 45 North to IH 10 East. It is part of 14 segments across the state being added to the Strategic Highway Network to ensure connectivity between Fort Bliss and Fort Cavazos and their designated seaports of embarkation, of Port Arthur and Port Beaumont (see attached map).

The concurrence document is due November 19, 2024, for submission to FHWA by early December 2024. Staff has prepared Resolution 2024-36 to satisfy this request. The resolution is attached along with a map of the route and table of additional locations throughout the state of Texas.

ACTION REQUESTED

Information Only.

Proposed SH 99 STRAHNET Location



Legend

- Interstate STRAHNET
- Non-Interstate STRAHNET
- - - Proposed Non-Interstate STRAHNET
- TxDOT Districts



Resolution

NO. 2024-36

AUTHORIZING CONCURRENCE WITH THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S ADDITION OF EXISTING ROADWAY LOCATIONS TO THE STRATEGIC HIGHWAY NETWORK

WHEREAS, the Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) is a network of highways which are important to the United States' strategic defense policy, and which provide defense access, continuity and emergency capabilities for defense purposes, and;

WHEREAS, the TxDOT and the Department of Defense (DoD) have been coordinating the addition of 14 existing roadway locations to STRAHNET as part of the DoD's efforts to improve connectivity between Fort Bliss and Fort Cavazos and their designated seaports of embarkation in Port Beaumont and Port Arthur, and;

WHEREAS, for the routes within an MPO boundary, TxDOT is requesting an approved document from the their policy boards acknowledging concurrence and approval of these locations, and;

WHEREAS, this document is necessary for TxDOT to submit the recommendation to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION POLICY COUNCIL (TPC) FOR THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA THAT CONCURRENCE IS GRANTED FOR THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S ADDITION OF THESE ROADWAY LOCATIONS TO THE STRATEGIC HIGHWAY NETWORK.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 25th day of October 2024, at a regularly called meeting of the Transportation Policy Council.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Hon. Justin Beckendorff, Chairman
Transportation Policy Council

Hon. Nancy Arnold, Secretary
Transportation Policy Council