10. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WITH TRANSIT AGENCIES FOR THE REGIONAL TRANSIT CONNECTIVITY PROJECT

Background

In response to comments from regional transit patrons, transit service providers and transportation stakeholders, the Gulf Coast Regionally Coordinated Transportation Plan recommended the development of a regional transit seamless fare system to improve access and connectivity between all of the MPO's transit providers.

The Regional Transit Connectivity Project has several components in development that work together to ensure a seamless experience for the region's transit patrons. These components include a development of the regional fare system (equipment, planning and software), regional data management system, regional trip planner, and related General Transit Feed Specifications (GTFS).

In the 2018 Call for Projects, $2.5 million was set aside for implementing this project. $2.244 million has been transferred to the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County through Federal Transit Authority transfer to support the ability of the region's other eight transit providers to participate in the project. An additional $256,000 has been set aside in the H-GAC's Unified Planning Work Program for METRO's contractor to begin assessments of these eight transit agencies to evaluate what it would take to integrate these agencies into the project.

Current Situation

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between H-GAC, METRO, and the region's eight other transit providers is now circulating for signature. This MOU will guide role of participating agencies and the expected outcomes of this effort. An Intergovernmental Agreement between H-GAC and METRO is under development to fund METRO's contractor to begin the work on assessments of the eight transit agencies. H-GAC staff is working with area transit agencies to develop and publish of the GTFS feeds, and to prepare information for other applications (Google Maps, Apple Maps, ConnectSmart, the regional TripPlanner).

Action Requested

Information only.