

9. METRO SCOPE CHANGE CONCURRENCE

**BACKGROUND**

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The Transportation Policy Council awarded the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) \$20,183,738 in federal CMAQ funding for the expansion of the West Bellfort Park and Ride Facility. These funds were transferred to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in 2020. Although much of METRO's transit ridership has rebounded from the impacts of the Covid pandemic, transit patronage at the West Bellfort Park and Ride has been slow to recover. Consequently, METRO has decided to indefinitely delay the planned expansion of this facility's parking capacity.

METRO is seeking to repurpose the available grant dollars to the construction of the Missouri City Park and Ride. As a new facility, METRO expects the approximately 1,700 spaces constructed will result in both greater mobility benefits and greater on-road vehicle emissions reduction than would have resulted from the approximately 500 additional spaces to be provided at West Bellfort.

**CURRENT SITUATION**

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FTA has agreed to consider this grant scope change contingent on concurrence with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (see Item 09-02) that this change in grant scope is consistent with the purpose of the original award and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

The Missouri City Park and Ride is in both the Transportation Improvement Program and the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan Update. This concurrence will also allow the region to move forward with the related project in the Carryover Spend Down Plan and amendments.

METRO is seeking Transportation Policy Council concurrence with the scoping change.

**ACTION REQUESTED**

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Transportation Policy Council concurrence with the scoping change.



**Mission Statement**

*“Provide safe, clean, reliable, accessible and friendly public transportation services to our region.”*

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September 13, 2024

Craig Raborn  
Director of Transportation Services  
Houston-Galveston Area Council  
3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120  
Houston, TX 77227-2777

**RE: Request for Concurrence with Rescoping Grant Funds for TX-2021-125 West Belfort Park and Ride Construction (MPO ID 18017)**

Dear Mr. Raborn:

METRO requests concurrence of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to rescope approximately \$20M in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant funds received for the expansion of the West Belfort Park & Ride to a new park and ride garage located in Missouri City near the intersection of the Fort Bend Parkway and State Highway 6.

Due to post COVID changes in ridership, the West Belfort Park and Ride does not warrant expanded parking capacity. While METRO still plans to reconstruct the West Belfort Park and Ride, METRO believes that rescoping the CMAQ funds received for West Belfort to the new 1,750 space Missouri City Park and Ride garage reflects current transit needs and the Transportation Policy Council’s (TPC) original intent for the use of these funds.

The Missouri City Park and Ride garage will be an integral part of a mixed-use residential and retail development serving residents of the rapidly growing areas of eastern Fort Bend and northern Brazoria Counties. This facility will offer frequent, convenient transit service to the Texas Medical Center, Rice University and, through convenient connections to the METRO Red Line, jobs and educational opportunities across the METRO Service area. I have attached a separate file showing the estimated on-road emissions reductions expected from this new transit service.

Letter to Mr. Craig Raborn

I am requesting your concurrence with METRO's desire to rescope these previously awarded funds in support of the Missouri City Park and Ride. This action requires no commitment of new or additional funds from the MPO. Should you concur, I will also seek the same from the Texas Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration. And the Federal Transit Administration under whose purview these funds have been awarded.

I believe a reply by email or other means of your choice will be sufficient.

Sincerely,

*Alan Clark*

Alan Clark  
Chief Strategy Officer

Letter to Mr. Craig Raborn

cc: Thomas Jasien, METRO  
Vishu Lingala, H-GAC  
Ronisha Hodge, FTA  
Catherine McCreight, TxDOT  
Jose Campos, FHWA  
Alberto Lyne, METRO  
Bryan Carroll, METRO  
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