

9. CARRYOVER SPEND-DOWN PROJECT IDENTIFICATION PROCESS UPDATE

BACKGROUND

H-GAC has been working to identify projects that could help spenddown carryover balances accrued from the past several years. At the August 2022 TPC meeting, H-GAC presented the following cumulative carryover balances*: 1) \$218,946,663 of Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) – Category 5, 2) \$136,827,127 of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) - Category 7 and 3) \$14,493,037 of Transportation Alternative Set Aside (TASA) – Category 9. A plan was devised to spend down these carryover balances on projects that could be ready to let within a 0-3 year timeframe (from Mid-2022). A project readiness assessment questionnaire was developed (with input from a technical committee) to assist in determining which “new” projects (not currently included in the TIP with federal funds) submitted by local sponsors in Early 2022 through Mid-2023 could be ready to let within a 0-3 year timeframe. The readiness assessment process was presented to TIP Subcommittee, Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and TPC in subsequent months (between August 2022 – May 2023). The formal Policy for the spenddown of the carryover balances was presented to TIP Subcommittee, TAC and TPC several times in Mid-2023. H-GAC will request action on this Policy in November 2023.

CURRENT SITUATION

In Late 2022 through Mid-2023, H-GAC solicited (from the region) a full list of transportation projects requesting federal funds (or the addition of federal funds) for which the project sponsor believed the projects could let within a 0-3 year timeframe. Below provides a summary of each major step that would be included (as applicable**) within this timeframe:

- 1) Project Initiation*** - addition of the project to the appropriate planning documents (Regional Transportation Plan, Unified Transportation Plan and/or TIP) and execution of the Advanced Funding Agreement (AFA) with Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
- 2) Project Development – includes design/engineering, environmental, permits, right-of-way acquisition, utilities and railroad agreements
- 3) Project letting - funds are obligated to the local sponsor for the project

H-GAC received federal funding requests for 219 projects for which local sponsors indicated the projects could be completed (all steps listed above) within a 0-3 year timeline (starting from Mid-2022). In Late July and Early August 2023, H-GAC requested sponsors (of the 219 projects) complete a project readiness questionnaire (with 12 questions as well as sub-questions, if prompted) for each project within an approximate 3-week timeframe. Of the 219 projects, H-GAC received project readiness questionnaires for 180 projects. The “gap” (of 39) is due to one of the following: 1) the project was already listed in the TIP with federal funds; therefore, H-GAC instructed the project sponsor to submit a formal cost increase request (note: these projects are not included in this effort/assessment since they are already included in the TIP****), 2) the sponsor realized the project could not let within a 0-2 year timeframe (note: approximately 1 year had expended since the initiation of the effort in Mid-2022), 3) the sponsor received funding for the project from another source or 4) the sponsor decided not to pursue federal funds for the project.

* Per July 2022 Monthly Federal Transactions & Apportionment Balance Report for CMAQ, STP-MM and TAP

** Each step listed is project dependent, so some steps do not apply to certain projects (examples: AFA is not required for TxDOT sponsored project and design is not required for some transit projects)

*** As presented at TIP Subcommittee, TAC and TPC, this is an approximate 8-months process

**** Note: Projects included in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and/or Unified Transportation Plan and NOT included in the current TIP are still considered for this “carry-over balance spenddown effort”

In September 2023 H-GAC met with 44 sponsors regarding the 180 projects to discuss the critical path schedules for each project and the estimated let dates based on the details provided by the responses to the project readiness questionnaires. Of the 180 projects, 96 were determined to have a high likelihood of letting within 0-2 years. The list of the 180 projects was presented at TIP Subcommittee on October 4, 2023. The following is list of detailed next steps (and identified responsible parties for each) which will (or continue to) occur until the end of October 2023:

- 1) H-GAC – Screen Projects to Determine Which Projects Meet the RTP Visions and Goals
- 2) H-GAC – Screen Projects to Determine Which Projects Meet CMAQ Funding Eligibility
- 3) H-GAC – Conduct Emissions Reduction Analysis to Confirm Which Projects Meet CMAQ Funding Eligibility
- 4) Local Sponsors – Provide Data as Requested by H-GAC to Support in Emissions Reduction Analysis
- 5) Local Sponsors – Provide Detailed Cost Breakdown for Projects
- 6) H-GAC – Develop Suggested List of Projects to Program per Carryover Balance Funding Category

H-GAC will present the Draft List of “Recommended Carryover Balance Spend Down Projects” to the TIP Subcommittee, TAC and TPC in November 2023 for information only. H-GAC will address any comments received in November, then present the Final Draft List of “Carryover Balance Spend Down Projects” to the TIP Subcommittee, TAC and TPC in December 2023 for Action. Projects selected are anticipated to be programmed in the approved TIP/STIP by April/May 2024 (earliest possible date for AFA execution, if needed).

ACTION REQUESTED

For information and discussion.

* Per July 2022 Monthly Federal Transactions & Apportionment Balance Report for CMAQ, STP-MM and TAP

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Draft List - Carryover Spend-Down Projects to Let Within 0-2 Years

Sponsor Name	Project Name	H-GAC Notes*	Project IDs
FTA Transfer Likely			
City of Houston	West Belt Railroad Grade Separations	TxDOT Coordination Needed	1271
City of Sugar Land	John Sharp (Owens Rd) Trail		766
City of Sugar Land	Ditch H Trail - Sugar Land Trail Phase 1 and 2		1270
City of Sugar Land	New Territory Trail		754
East End District in Coordination with Buffalo Bayou Partnership and	Navigation Boulevard Reconfiguration		1211
Fort Bend County Public Transportation	Bus Support Equipment		798
Fort Bend County Public Transportation	Bus Support Equipment		802
Fort Bend County Public Transportation	ITS - Scheduling & Dispatch System		807
Fort Bend County Public Transportation	Rolling Stock - Expansion		806
Fort Bend County Public Transportation	Rolling Stock - Low Emission Pilot Program		808
Fort Bend County Public Transportation	Rolling Stock - Replacement		801
Fort Bend County Public Transportation	Rolling Stock - Replacement		799
Fort Bend County Public Transportation	Signage and Wayfinding		805
Gulf Coast Transit District	Demand Response Coverage Area Increase		827
Gulf Coast Transit District	Fleet Replacement		825
Gulf Coast Transit District	GCTD Universal Accessibility Program		822
Gulf Coast Transit District	Texas City Maintenance Facility		823
Memorial Heights Redevelopment Authority	11th Street Shared Use Path		1227
METRO	Replacement Buses FY '23		1268
METRO	Sunnyside curb2curb service		877
METRO	Bus Shelter Program		864
METRO	Hiram Clarke curb2curb service		868
METRO	Zero Emissionsn Infrastructure & Readiness		881
METRO	54 Scott BOOST Corridor		860
METRO	56 Airline/Montrose BOOST		861
METRO	82 Westheimer BOOST		862
METRO	Emergency & Community Services Bldg.		866
METRO	Missouri City Park & Ride Capitalized Lease		871
METRO	Northline TC		873
METRO	West Bellfort Park and Ride		879
METRO	Universal Accessibility (UA) - Phase 2		878
Montrose TIRZ 27 Redevelopment Authority	Montrose Safe Routes to School Connections		1237
Montrose TIRZ 27 Redevelopment Authority	Wagh Drive Bike Lane		1236
Near Northwest Management District	West Little York Phase 2 Project		1238
North Houston District	Imperial Valley Walking & Biking Connections (Revised)		930
The Woodlands Township	Commuter Bus Purchase		958
Upper Kirby Management District (Harris County Improvement Distr	West Alabama Complete Street		1244
Uptown Houston District	West Loop Shared Use Path and Bayou Bridge		1245
Westchase Management District	Meadowglen West Complete Streets		1246
TxDOT Sponsored Projects (No AFA Needed)			
TxDOT Beaumont District	SH 146 TURN LANES		969
TxDOT Houston District	CCTV Replacement		1190
TxDOT Houston District	CCTV Replacement		1186

H-GAC Draft Date: 10-16-2023

* It is the local sponsor's responsibility to coordinate with TxDOT (and provide H-GAC with letter of support) if the project impacts a TxDOT facility.

Draft List - Carryover Spend-Down Projects to Let Within 0-2 Years

TxDOT Houston District	Communication Upgrades		1193
TxDOT Houston District	Connect Smart Phase 2 (FY 23, 24, 25) - Features Expansion		1195
TxDOT Houston District	Connect Smart Phase 2 (FY 23, 24, 25) - Marketing and Outreach		1194
TxDOT Houston District	Connect Smart Phase 2 (FY 23, 24, 25) - Operations and Maintenance		1196
TxDOT Houston District	DMS Upgrades		1188
TxDOT Houston District	DMS Upgrades		1192
TxDOT Houston District	FM 1097 Drainage Improvements		978
TxDOT Houston District	IH 10 W Frontage Road Pedestrian Improvements		1060
TxDOT Houston District	IH 10 W Frontage Road Pedestrian Improvements		1061
TxDOT Houston District	IH 10 W Frontage Road Pedestrian Improvements		1062
TxDOT Houston District	IH 10 W Frontage Road Pedestrian Improvements		1063
TxDOT Houston District	IH 45 N HOV Extension		1067
TxDOT Houston District	IH 45 Resiliency		1071
TxDOT Houston District	IH 69 Rehab Pump Station at Mandell Street		1095
TxDOT Houston District	ITS Equipment Support		1189
TxDOT Houston District	ITS Equipment Support		1191
TxDOT Houston District	ITS Equipment Support		1185
TxDOT Houston District	ITS Equipment Support		1187
TxDOT Houston District	ITS Support for Transtar		1171
TxDOT Houston District	ITS Support for Transtar		1172
TxDOT Houston District	ITS Support for Transtar		1169
TxDOT Houston District	ITS Support for Transtar		1170
TxDOT Houston District	SL 8 Pump Station		1165
TxDOT Houston District	SL 8 Pump Station		1164
TxDOT Houston District	US 90 Grade Separation at Purple Sage		1180
TxDOT Houston District	US 90 Greens Bayou Bridge		1176

Local Government Sponsored Projects (AFA Needed With TxDOT)

Chambers County	Belton Lane Extinsion Widen	Development Only	641
Chambers County	NEEDLEPOINT RD		639
Chambers County	Hatcherville RD		642
Chambers County	Rhonda Rosa	Development Only	645
City of Bellaire	Pavement Conditions Analysis	Development Only	656
City of Bellaire	Speed Study		657
City of Bellaire	Traffic Signal Timing Optimization Program		655
City of Dickinson	Dickinson High School Pedestrian Enhancements	TxDOT Coordination Needed	663
City of Galveston	Bicycle Infrastructure Improvements	Development Only	691
City of Galveston	Seawall Blvd Traffic: Signal Installation		692
City of Galveston	Seawall Blvd: Pedestrian Safety & Traffic Calming Measures (4	Combined into Bicycle Infr Improvements Study	694
City of Galveston	Seawall Blvd: Pedestrian Safety & Traffic Calming Measures (4	Combined into Bicycle Infr Improvements Study	695
City of Galveston	Traffic Signal / Safety Improvements		693
City of Galveston	Traffic Signal at 16th St/SH-275		699
City of Houston	Parker Road	Development Only	1202
City of Houston	Waugh Dr. - Package 1	Development Only	1207
City of Missouri City	ITS Communications Upgrade Network	Development Only	724
City of Missouri City	Traffic Management Center Upgrade	Combined with ITS Communications Network	725
City of Missouri City	Installation of new Mast Arm Traffic Signal	TxDOT Coordination Needed	1272

Draft List - Carryover Spend-Down Projects to Let Within 0-2 Years

City of Missouri City Parks and Recreation	Hunters Glen Trail		728
City of Mont Belvieu	Traffic Management Center.	Development Only	735
City of Sugar Land	Gannoway Lake Trail		753
City of Sugar Land	ITS Railroad Monitoring, Notification, & Communication (CTR2203)		751
City of Tomball	Alley Improvement Project		768
City of Galveston	Traffic Signal at 33rd St/SH-275	TxDOT Coordination Needed	698
Galveston Wharves	IH-45 Direct Connect	Development Only	820
Galveston Wharves	Old Port Industrial Improvements	Development Only	821
Galveston Wharves	Traffic Signal at 33rd St/SH-275	TxDOT Coordination Needed	816
Harris County Engineering	Mason Creek Trail Extension		831
Midtown Management District	Caroline and Wheeler NHHIP Impact Mitigation		1234
Montrose TIRZ 27 Redevelopment Authority	Montrose Boulevard Reconstruction		1235
Port of Houston Authority	Grade Separation Expansion over Rail	Development Only	941
The Woodlands Township	SH 242 Pathway		1273