



THE WOODLANDS
T O W N S H I P

Overview of the Houston - Galveston Area Council (H-GAC)

Presentation to
The Woodlands Township Board of Directors
March 23, 2023

Houston-Galveston Area Council



The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is the voluntary association of local governments for Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties comprising the Gulf Coast State Planning Region designated by the Governor of Texas.

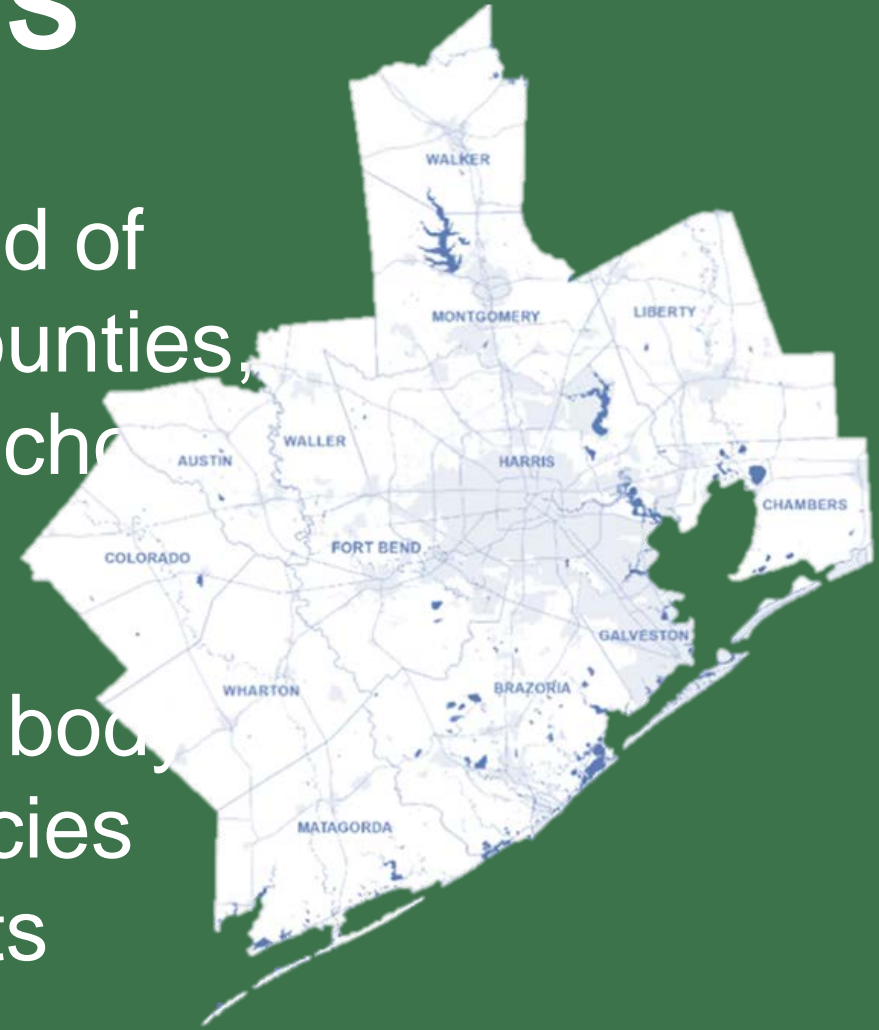
H-GAC functions as a Regional Planning Commission under Ch. 391 of the Texas Local Government Code, and may exercise powers conferred on it by State Law by its member local governments.

Any County, City, or Independent School District located in whole or in part within the Gulf Coast State Planning Region may become a member by appropriate action of its governing body, and payment of dues (\$200 or \$.04 per capita, whichever is greater).

H-GAC Board of Directors

The H-GAC Board of Directors is composed of 37 elected officials representing the 13 counties, 107 cities, and 11 member independent school districts in the region.

The Board of Directors are the governing body of H-GAC responsible for the general policies and programs of H-GAC and for control of its funds.



H-GAC Program Areas

Business and Economic Development

Community Development Grants
Cooperative Purchasing
Livable Centers
Regional Broadband Initiative
Workforce Solutions

Community

Area Agency on Aging
Census Data
Elder Justice
Hazard Mitigation
Regional Housing Coordination

Emergency/Disaster Planning

Disaster Debris
Emergency Preparedness Program
Hurricane Evacuation Planning
Regional Flood Management Committee

Environment

Air Quality
Clean Cities
Clean Vehicles Program
Low Impact Development
Regional Conservation Program

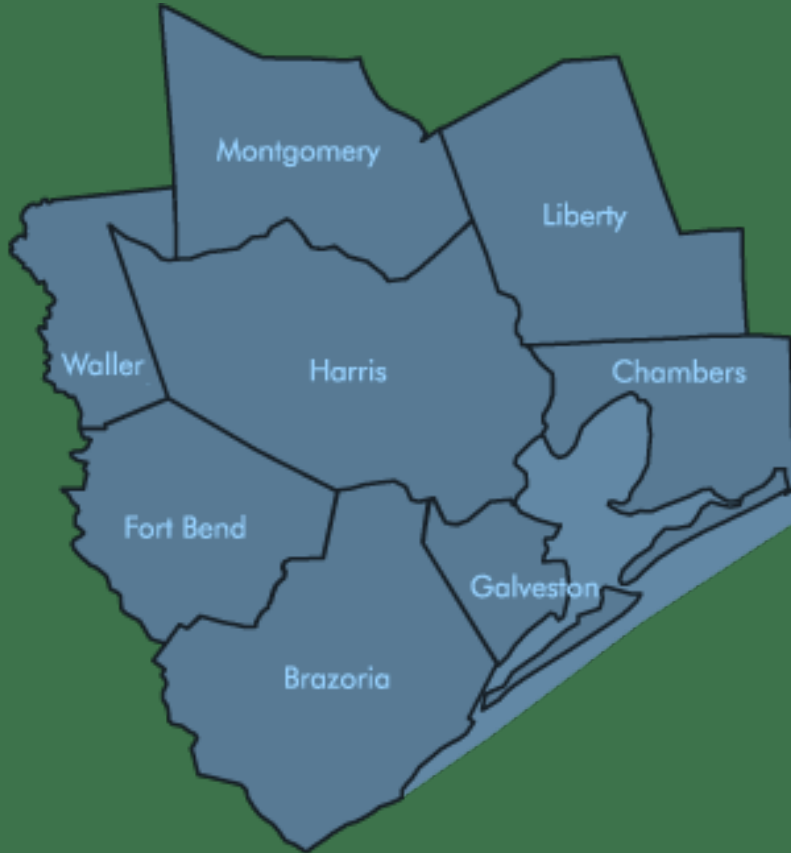
Mobility

Transportation Policy Council
Transportation Improvement Program
Regional Transportation Plan
Transportation Planning Studies

Public Safety

Criminal Justice Planning
Gulf Coast Regional 911 Emergency Communications District
Law Enforcement Training
Transportation Safety Program

Transportation Metropolitan Planning Organization



H-GAC serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the eight-county Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area and for the Conroe-The Woodlands Transportation Management Area.

A MPO is a federally mandated and federally funded transportation policy-making organization that is made up of representatives from local government and governmental transportation authorities.

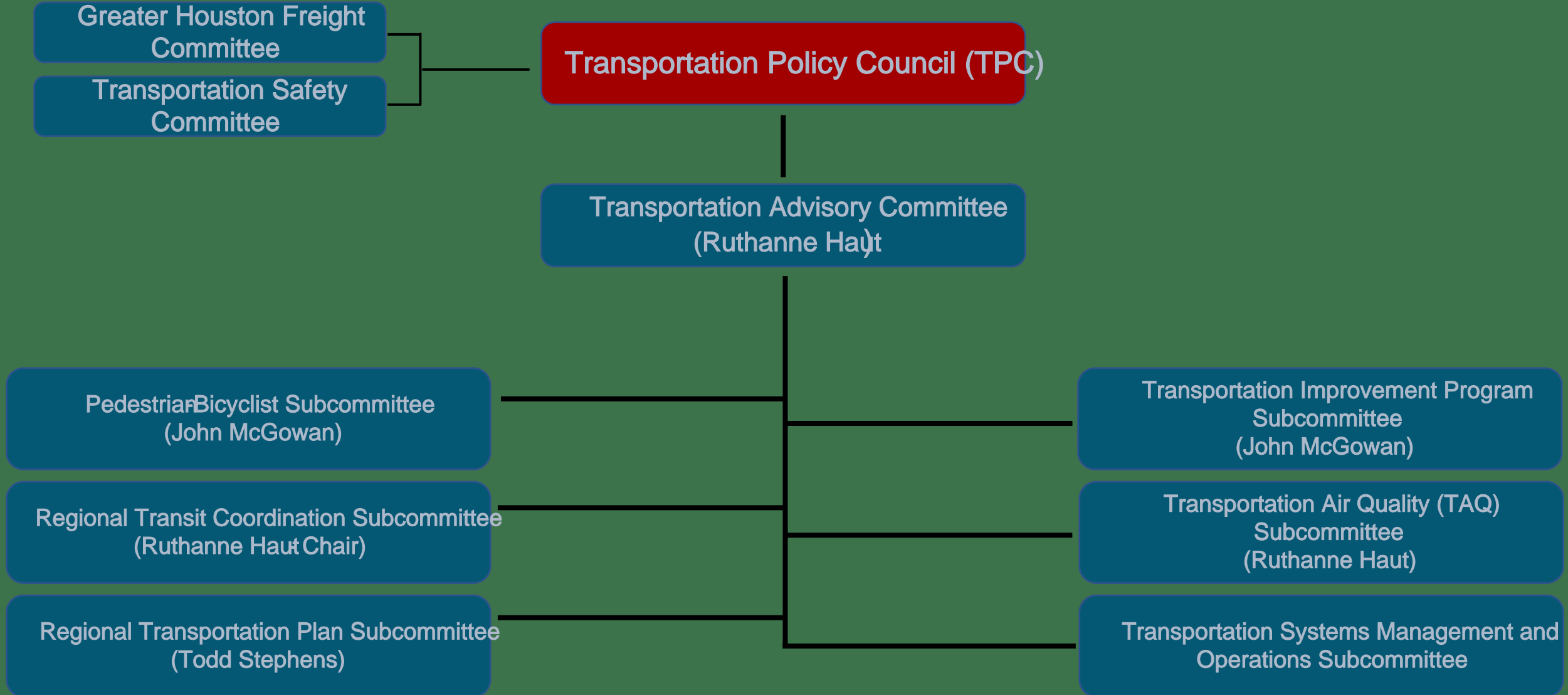
Federal funding for transportation projects and programs are channeled through the MPO planning process. Congress created MPOs to ensure that existing and future expenditures of federal funds for transportation projects and programs are based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process.

Transportation Policy Council

The Transportation Policy Council (TPC) consists of 28 members and provides policy guidance and overall coordination of the transportation planning activities within the region.

Cities	Votes	Counties	Votes	Transportation Stakeholders	Votes
Baytown	1	Brazoria	1	Metropolitan Transit Agency	1
Conroe	1	Chambers	1	Texas Department of Transportation	2
Galveston	1	Fort Bend	1	Houston-Galveston Area Council	1
Houston	3	Galveston	1	At-large City Appointee (Smaller Cities)	1
League City	1	Harris	2	Other Transportation Interests (Port of Houston)	1
Missouri City	1	Liberty	1	Gulf Coast Rail District	1
Pasadena	1	Montgomery	1		
Sugar Land	1	Waller	1		
Pearland	1				
Texas City	1				

MPO Transportation Committees



H-GAC

The Woodlands Express and Town Center Trolley Transit Programs

Transit Study for Town Center

Grant funding for purchase of The Woodlands Express buses

Energy Corridor Transit Pilot Program

Transportation Credits for replacement of the Town Center Trolleys

Transit Route Planning Grant

Transportation Mobility Studies

South Montgomery County Mobility Study

Montgomery County Precinct 2 Mobility Study

Cooperative Purchasing

Parks and Recreation Department Vehicle

Fire fighter equipment

Fire vehicles and fire fighter gear

Streetscape maintenance equipment

Generators



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Questions?

Grant Funding for Township Parks and Pathways

- Several parks and pathway projects have received state grant funding through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Local Park Grant Assistance program.
- The Township's predecessor community associations did not qualify for direct state grant funding for the development of the community's parks and pathway amenities.
- Woodlands MUDs, the developer and conservation groups have partnered in various capacities as the eligible project sponsor securing state funds for parks and pathway projects.
- In total, 13 grants totaling nearly \$4 million have been awarded by TWPD for the development or maintenance of these amenities.