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## APPENDIX F

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### **Public Involvement and Outreach Phase I, II and III Summary**

#### **Introduction and Goals**

In compliance with federal regulations for publishing the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the public must have an opportunity to review and comment on the content of the Plan. A public involvement plan has been developed to provide a structured, ongoing forum for public and private involvement. The goals of the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Transportation Public Involvement Plan (TPIP) are as follows:

#### ***Education***

- Develop educational materials that support a cooperative planning process and describe regional transportation and related air quality plans and activities in a concise and straightforward manner.
- Develop educational materials on how transportation plans are affected by federal clean air mandates and how the failure to meet these mandates will affect the region economically.
- Disseminate this information to the general public.

#### ***Outreach***

- Increase awareness of and interest in transportation plans and the transportation planning process using innovative approaches.

#### ***Participation***

- Provide frequent opportunities for the general public and interested parties from private entities, the public sector, environmental interests, neighborhood organizations, the disabled and other groups interested in transportation plans to learn about and comment on the issues.

#### ***Process***

- Engage the public and provide information concerning regionally significant transportation issues. H-GAC uses the following strategies to inform, educate and engage the public:
  - Distribute meeting notices and information to individuals and organizations on the 2025 RTP mailing list.

- Disseminate information through newsletters, including the *VISION* for transportation issues and *Commute Solutions* for commuters.
- Hold public meetings to receive public comment prior to the adoption of or major amendment to the RTP or Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Advertise meetings and legal notices in a variety of media, including newspapers, radio and TV media.
- Disseminate information through various Web sites maintained by the H-GAC Transportation Department.
- Conduct surveys, where appropriate, to determine public awareness and/or sentiment with regard to certain transportation planning issues.

**Potential new strategies for obtaining greater public input could include the following:**

1. Meet in more communities and with more community leaders and local organizations.
2. Conduct more periodic public opinion surveys to gauge public attitudes/opinions about transportation and air quality issues.
3. Catalog all comments received by geography to identify potential clustering of transportation issues.
4. Improve the H-GAC Transportation Web page by including a link to a public involvement page, which would include specific strategies for getting involved in local and regional transportation issues.
5. Publish a series of short informational and educational brochures to disseminate in public libraries, the H-GAC library and on the H-GAC Transportation Web page. Currently under construction is a frequently asked questions brochure.
6. Conduct additional consensus-building activities, including open houses, focus groups, listening sessions, roundtables, conferences and forums among various transportation stakeholders.
7. Schedule H-GAC presentations to be part of other meetings or presentations, such as METRO, TxDOT and City Council meetings.

## 2025 RTP Outreach Activities

Using the H-GAC Transportation Public Involvement Plan goals as a guide, the 2025 RTP Outreach activities included:

### *Education*

- Distributed three brochures related to the 2025 RTP: *2025 RTP Executive Summary Brochure* (2004); *Transportation Progress Brochure* (2003); and *2022 Regional Mobility Update* (2003).
- Distributed Air Quality Reference Guide(s) in 2000 and 2002.
- Periodically distributed the *Vision* Newsletter.

### *Outreach and Participation*

- During 2025 RTP – Phase I Outreach, H-GAC conducted six meetings in various locations throughout the eight-county region. A total of 69 people attended the meetings.
- During Phase I, two surveys were conducted. The first was a telephone survey (1998) conducted to assess public opinion on transportation priorities, other transportation-related issues, funding and changes in travel patterns. Survey participants in the survey consisted of 802 residents chosen at random from the eight-county region. The second survey was a mail-back public opinion survey. The findings of each survey are located in the “Survey” section of this appendix.
- During 2025 RTP – Phase II Outreach, H-GAC conducted eight meetings in various locations throughout the eight-county region. A total of 126 people attended the meetings.
- In the fall of 2000, Harris County Judge and TPC Chairman Robert Eckels distributed a mail-back public opinion survey to 60,000 Harris County residents. The purpose of the survey was to gauge public opinion on a variety of transportation issues.
- During 2025 RTP – Phase III Outreach, H-GAC conducted 14 meetings in various locations throughout the eight-county region, including 7 that were held in locations where populations are underserved by the transportation system. A total of 273 people attended the meetings.
- During Phase III Outreach, Transportation Policy Council (TPC) members sponsored and hosted 2025 RTP meetings in their respective jurisdictions.

### Summary of Outreach Activities

<b>Table 1: Phase I, II and III Public Meetings</b>			
<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Attendance*</b>	<b>Publicity</b>
<b>Phase I</b>			
October 14, 1998	Houston (Harris and Waller counties)	39	N/A
October 19, 1998	Galveston (Galveston County)	1	N/A
October 21, 1998	Baytown (Liberty and Chambers counties)	4	N/A
October 27, 1998	Angleton (Brazoria County)	9	N/A
November 4, 1998	Conroe (Montgomery County)	10	N/A
November 5, 1998	Sugar Land (Fort Bend County)	6	N/A
<b>Total Attendance</b>		<b>69</b>	
<b>Phase II</b>			
October 4, 2001	Houston (Harris County)	12	Press release, invitation, H-GAC Web site, <i>Houston Chronicle</i> (10/2/01 & 10/3/01)
October 9, 2001	Pearland (Brazoria County)	8	Press release, H-GAC Web site, <i>Brazosport Facts</i> (10/7/01 & 10/8/01)
October 15, 2001	Texas City (Galveston County)	14	Press release, H-GAC Web site, <i>Galveston County Daily News</i> (10/13/01 & 10/14/01)
October 17, 2001	Conroe (Montgomery County)	14	Press release, H-GAC Web site, <i>Conroe Courier</i> (10/7/01 & 10/15/01)
October 23, 2001	Meadows Place (Fort Bend County)	12	Press release, H-GAC Web site, <i>Herald-Coaster</i> (10/21/01 & 10/22/01)
October 25, 2001	Baytown (Liberty and Chambers counties)	20	Press release, H-GAC Web site, <i>Baytown Sun</i> (10/23/01 & 10/24/01)
October 30, 2001	Houston (Harris County)	13	Press release, H-GAC Web site
November 8, 2001	Houston (Harris County)	33	Press release, H-GAC Web site, <i>Houston Chronicle</i> (11/6/01 & 11/7/01)
<b>Total Attendance</b>		<b>126</b>	
<b>Phase III</b>			
May 31, 2003	Houston – East End (Harris County)	25	Media alert, flyers (6,550), H-GAC Web site
July 8, 2003	Waller (Waller County)	20	Press release, flyers (5,000), H-GAC Web site, <i>Waller</i>

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			<i>County News Citizen (7/3/03), Waller Times (7/7/03)</i>
July 17, 2003	Rosenberg (Fort Bend County)	25	Press release, media alert, flyers (2,500), H-GAC Web site, <i>Herald-Coaster (7/16/03), Houston Chronicle – This Week (7/17/03)</i>
July 29, 2003	Conroe (Montgomery County)	68	Flyers (15,500), H-GAC Web site, <i>Conroe Courier (7/27/03), La Informacion (7/24/03)</i>
August 5, 2003	Galveston (Galveston County)	20	Press release, flyers (5,000), H-GAC Web site, <i>Galveston County Daily News (8/3/03 &amp; 8/5/03)</i>
August 18, 2003	Lake Jackson (Brazoria County)	32	Press release, media alert, flyers (5,000), H-GAC Web site, <i>Houston Chronicle – ThisWeek (8/14/03), Alvin Sun (8/18/03), Angleton Times (8/13/03), The Facts (8/17/03), West Columbia Brazoria (8/14/03), Pearland Journal (8/13/03)</i>
September 8, 2003	Wallisville (Chambers County and Liberty County)	11	Media alert, flyers (10,000), H-GAC Web site, <i>The Progress (9/3/03), Cleveland Advocate (9/3/03), Cleveland Illustrated Paperboy (9/3/03), Liberty Gazette (9/3/03), Mont Belvieu Barbers Hill Press (9/5/03), Rye Big Thicket Messenger (9/4/03), Liberty Vindicator (9/3/03), Hometown Press (9/3/03)</i>
September 29, 2003	Houston – Acres Homes (Harris County)	N/A	H-GAC Web site, <i>Houston Chronicle (9/27/03)</i>
October 9, 2003	Houston – Kashmere/Fifth Ward (Harris County)	1	Press release, media alert, flyers (5,000), H-GAC Web site, <i>Houston Chronicle (10/2/03)</i>
October 21, 2003	Pasadena (Harris County)	5	Press release, media alert, flyers (5,000), H-GAC Web site, <i>Houston Chronicle (10/16/03)</i>
October 30, 2003	Houston – Third Ward (Harris County)	17	Press release, media alert, flyers (5,000), H-GAC Web site, <i>Houston Defender (10/26/03)</i>
November 6, 2003	Houston – H-GAC (Harris County)	3	Press release, media alert, flyers (5,000), H-GAC Web site, <i>Houston Chronicle (11/6/03)</i>
November 10, 2003	Houston – Spring Branch (Harris County)	21	Media alert, flyers (5,000), H-GAC Web site
November 20, 2003	Houston – Southwest (Harris County)	25	Press release, media alert, flyers (5,000), H-GAC Web site,

			<i>Vietnam Moi News (11/18/03), Chinese Community News (11/15/03), Houston Chinese Press (11/15/03), Southern Chinese News (11/15/03 &amp; 11/18/03), Liberty News (11/15/03), World Journal (11/19/03), International Daily News (11/19/03)</i>
<b>Total Attendance</b>		<b>273</b>	
<b>Total Attendance Phase I, II &amp; III</b>		<b>468</b>	
*Attendance from sign in sheets, not including H-GAC staff or H-GAC consultants.			

## Surveys

- **Mail-back Public Opinion Survey, January 1999**

- Distributed to 1,500 residents in the Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area (TMA)
- Received 171 responses
- Findings:
  1. The survey indicates that respondents favor increased funding in transportation sectors in addition to roadways.
  2. More detail is wanted on how the Plans' goals will be implemented.
  3. Consideration should be given to increasing funding in strategies most likely to affect commuting choice such as carpool/vanpool facilities.

- **Telephone, Fall 1998**

- 802 residents chosen at random from the eight county TMA
- Findings:
  1. Some survey respondents expressed they wanted an increased emphasis in public transportation and congestion reduction.
  2. Quality of life factors (environmental-related, congestion reduction and neighborhood preservation) were mentioned as important concerns to be considered when developing solutions to transportation needs.

3. 37 percent of the respondents feared there was inadequate funding to meet our transportation needs within the next 10 years.
4. Strategies mentioned for meeting potential future funding shortfalls were changing existing priorities, seeking more private sector contributions and considering new tolls and parking fees.
5. Some respondents noted they believed effective strategies to change existing commuting habits are; more flexibility in work hours and days, a guaranteed ride home program and improved transit service coverage.
6. A majority of the respondents expressed they want to continue driving, while 28 percent of drivers want a change. Options they are willing to try are transit (bus and/or rail), carpools and vanpools.

- **Mail-back Public Opinion Survey, Fall 2000**

- Harris County Judge Robert Eckels distributed 60,000 to Harris County residents
- Approximately 1,200 responses
- *Most common responses:*
  1. Support for and opposition to comprehensive rail, commuter rail, monorail
  2. Support for expansion of bus routes
  3. Support for park and ride/carpool/vanpool expansion
  4. Support for and opposition to the expansion of the freeway system
  5. Support for elimination of the HOV system
  6. Support for truck restrictions in the left lane
  7. Support for and opposition to toll roads
  8. Support for synchronization of traffic lights
  9. Support for and opposition to bike and pedestrian trails
  10. Support for better fiscal responsibility and accountability
  11. Support for construction project management
  12. Support for a needs assessment of proposed projects
  13. Support for the completion of projects before starting new projects

## **Comments Received via Letter, E-mail, Public Meetings and Other Correspondence**

Comments received by H-GAC are forwarded to the proper sponsoring agency for consideration. For example, comments received regarding transit are forwarded to METRO and comments regarding interstate projects are forwarded to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). All letters received from organizations receive a formal reply from H-GAC.

### **Phase I: Summary of Comments**

The following is a list of comments received during Phase II of public outreach. Many of the comments have been incorporated into the RTP, such as maintenance and preservation receives higher priority, transit expansion and additional transportation demand management programs are proposed, additional bicycle and pedestrian facilities are proposed, some corridor specific improvements are planned.

- ***Transportation System Capacity and Efficiency***
  1. Provide better maintenance of freeways.
  2. Close funding gaps by changing priorities and seeking private sector funding.
- ***Land Use***
  1. Control urban sprawl.
  2. Coordinate plans with port improvements to minimize conflicts.
- ***Mass Transit***
  1. Pursue mass transit, including rail.
  2. Expand bus transit services, especially for the disabled.
  3. Maximize utility of existing and future HOV facilities.
  4. Build a light rail system.
  5. More public transportation and congestion reduction projects.
- ***Travel Demand Management***
  1. Increase promotion of alternatives to driving alone.
  2. Workplace flexibility is the key to changing commuting habits.
- ***Proposed Projects***
  1. Tailor transportation solutions to each community.
  2. Roadway and public transportation improvements are top two priorities.

3. Recognition of inadequate funding for transportation projects.
  4. Balance approach in establishing transportation priorities.
- ***Environmental***
    1. Minimize transportation impacts on communities and neighborhoods.
    2. Protect the environment, reduce congestion, improve air quality, and preserve neighborhoods and other quality of life issues when planning transportation projects.
  - ***Bicycle and Pedestrian***
    1. Expand pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

## **Phase II: Summary of Comments**

The following is a list of comments received during Phase II of public outreach. Many of the comments have been incorporated into the RTP, such as increasing synchronization of traffic lights, addressing unmet transit needs, and providing vanpool incentives. Some issues, such as restrictions on truck traffic, are subject to authorizing legislation but will remain on H-GAC's list of alternatives. Likewise, further analysis of regional unmet transit needs remains.

- ***Transportation System Capacity and Efficiency***
  1. Accurate assessment of potential impacts of highway capacity increases on nearby residences, businesses and air quality.
  2. Implement incentives for the timely completion of construction projects and penalties for construction projects not completed on time.
  3. Restrict truck traffic to only 1 lane during rush hour and other peak periods.
  4. Discontinue current HOV system and support the installation of commuter rail lines utilizing the same right of way.
  5. Stop funding additional freeways and roadways as a solution to congestion problems.
  6. Increase synchronization of traffic signals and lights especially during peak hours of traffic.
- ***Safety***
  1. Route trucks carrying hazardous materials away from residential areas.
  2. Provide greater bicycle and pedestrian safety on shared roadways.

- ***Land Use***
  1. Restrict residential development in the floodplains.
  2. Address the jobs-housing imbalance by placing jobs and housing within a reasonable proximity of one another.
  3. Curtail growth and sprawl.
- ***Mass Transit***
  1. Expand METRO bus system and service area.
  2. Address unmet service needs of residents in rural areas with limited commuter options and the inaccessibility of transit in rural areas as a barrier to population growth.
  3. Develop a comprehensive rail system including commuter rail along IH-45 (North and South), Highway 290 (Northwest Freeway), IH-10 (Katy Freeway) and U.S. 59 (North and South), and light rail to Intercontinental Airport and Hobby Airport from downtown.
- ***H-GAC***
  1. Take the lead role in implementing a regional public transportation system.
  2. Assume a leadership role in transportation coordination efforts with current special needs service providers.
  3. Include provisions in the plan for special needs groups such as: elderly, disabled, low-income, workforce trainees, welfare-to-work recipients, and students.
  4. Provide information on grant funding availability for job access programs, pilot projects, start-up providers, mobility studies and railroad safety.
- ***Emergency Management***
  1. Develop additional evacuation routes particularly from Galveston County and Southeast Harris County.
- ***Travel Demand Management***
  1. Develop a telecommunications infrastructure.
  2. Incentives for vanpooling, especially among professionals.

- ***Proposed Projects***
  1. Explanation of funding sources to be expended on future planning activities for the proposed IH-69 NAFTA corridor.
  2. Opposition to any project related to the Grand Parkway/SH 99.
- ***Outreach***
  1. Provide 2025 RTP presentations at civic organization meetings, Parent Teacher Organization meetings and schools.
  2. Representation from unions, bicycle advocates, child advocates, the medical community, public health officials, schoolteachers, environmentalists, university researchers and industry on the Regional Air Quality Policy Council and other transportation committees.
  3. More detailed explanations regarding project elements and levels of congestion.
- ***Modeling***
  1. Greater accuracy in H-GAC's modeling capabilities.
- ***Environmental***
  1. No new road construction because of the possible deleterious impacts to the region's air quality.
  2. Greater public education regarding an overall environmental assessment and the conformity process.

### **Phase III: Summary of Comments**

The following is a list of comments received by meeting location during Phase III of outreach. The H-GAC presenter responded to each comment or question at the meeting, and questions that could not be answered during the meeting were forwarded to the appropriate agency.

- ***East End Meeting (5/31/03)***
  1. Why does the Houston region receive less funding for transportation than other parts of the state?
  2. Pedestrian safety and railroad crossings are still issues in the East End. The commenter was also happy to see the Harrisburg line in the METRO Phase II plan.
  3. There is a need to enforce speed limit laws on Harrisburg and Polk.

4. There is a need for a circulator or shuttle between transit center and neighborhoods.
  5. How can neighborhoods receive money for improvements?
  6. What can the citizens do to help agencies receive more funding for improvements?
  7. How does the East End community ensure that it gets its fair share of dollars for improvements?
  8. Need ADA compliant sidewalks throughout the area.
  9. Rumor of a new highway from SH 225 to 75<sup>th</sup> Street.
  10. Congestion on Wayside.
  11. What is the level of mobility around the Gulfgate Shopping Center (IH-45/ Gulf Freeway and Loop 610 South)?
- ***Waller County Meeting (7/8/03)***
    1. Are concept roadways going to have controlled access? Isn't that expensive? Any indication that TxDOT will help with the concept road funding?
    2. Is there any possibility of the Colorado Valley Transit Agency (service in Waller County) being saved? Is local matching the downfall of the CTVA?
    3. Has H-GAC developed a response to Commissioner Radack's light rail comments?
    4. How is H-GAC funded?
    5. Who will pay to move billboards for new roads? What control does a community have over billboards?
    6. Can the RTP address the milling of roads?
    7. Any plans to widen 1488?
    8. What does 2022-2025 project list mean?
    9. Does H-GAC make the final decisions on projects?
    10. What is the TPC?
    11. Waller has a problem with flooding because of 290.

12. What actually happens after our voices have been heard? What happens after these meetings that improves our quality of life?
  13. Prairie View is experiencing flooding because of 290.
  14. Any plans to build connecting roads between Waller and Harris County?
  15. What methodology do you use to identify the needs on this project list?
  16. Are traffic counts for other roads available?
  17. Why spend money on a road we don't use or need?
  18. Some of the projects on this list might not get done?
  19. Is TxDOT planning on working on overpasses? Will they redirect traffic? When will this happen?
  20. The city of Waller is missing some exit signs.
- ***Fort Bend County Meeting (7/17/03)***
    1. There is a lack of projects in eastern Fort Bend County.
    2. Is there a plan to make changes to the 2025 RTP, as needed?
    3. What will change when U.S. 59 becomes I-69?
    4. The 2025 RTP is important for smaller cities in that it enables smaller municipalities to compete for federal transportation funds. It is imperative that local jurisdictions complete long- and short-range plans?
    5. To what extent should toll facilities be considered? What are the implications?
    6. Would like to see more transit, bus rapid transit in particular.
    7. How will HOV lanes change? Will the HOV lanes become managed lanes with congestion pricing?
    8. FM 360 in southwest Fort Bend County – look at that area for improvements and development.
    9. Recognize that connectivity from Fort Bend into Harris County is important.
    10. There is a need for park and ride services in Kendleton.
  - ***Montgomery County Meeting (7/29/03)***
    1. How overcommitted is TxDOT for existing projects? Implementation?

2. When will red lines showing congested roadways be funded and relieved?
3. Is there a schedule available that lists when construction will begin on projects?
4. Montgomery County Woodlands Chamber of Commerce has concerns about roadway construction that currently are not in the 2025 RTP. Letter sent to H-GAC requesting these be added to the plan.
5. Transportation needs for citizens who need to get to work, doctors' appointments, etc. Need a study on public transportation needs in Montgomery County.
6. Please explain urban vs. rural road classification.
7. Does Montgomery County still have a mobility committee that feeds information to H-GAC? Does mobility committee address public transportation system needs?
8. Lack of right of way on county roads to add bike lanes.
9. How does the process work to get funding for a new kind of project in Montgomery County?
10. Who in H-GAC listens to Montgomery County needs and can help address these needs?
11. Corridor presentation – How does this work since state money is limited?
12. 100 percent plan for The Woodlands – grid roadway to meet future density demands of population.
13. Requesting specific list of projects to be implemented in Montgomery County.
14. Suggestion: FM 1488 – move up in priority to get completed.
15. Housing Authority – low income residents constricted in getting federal money for private-public partnership for mass transportation needs.
16. Is it helpful for counties to make recommendations on prioritization of projects waiting to be implemented?
17. Projects have a resident count vs. traffic count?
18. Is it planned for Hardy Toll Road to expand to Conroe?
19. Input accepted for TxDOT. Who all gives input for Montgomery County?
20. Expansion of I-45 (why the hold up at San Jacinto River Bridge). Ironic that it's an environmental issue because the delay is causing lots of emissions due to back up of traffic every day!
21. How do sidewalks/cycle paths get factored into roadway projects?

- ***Galveston County Meeting (8/5/03)***
  1. Who are the Galveston County representatives on H-GAC's Transportation Policy Council?
  2. There should be a mechanism to have big institutions, such as the Ports, pay for improvements in their areas. The usual way is to collect taxes to fund improvements for road systems.
  3. We need to have a fair share of funding for transportation development. It seems like Houston gets better funding than Galveston.
  4. Comment regarding intersections in Texas City and League City.
  5. What is the current situation with the project to install DSL (high-speed internet) services and increase the number of teleworkers?
  6. When will the Draft 2025 RTP go to the TPC for approval?
  7. What is the deadline for projects to be proposed as a Candidate project for the 2025 RTP?
  8. Comment made about the need for more clean fuel vehicles to reduce emissions.
  9. What is the process for getting bike lanes constructed?
  10. What about Bayport Rail?
  
- ***Brazoria County Meeting (8/18/03)***
  1. There needs to be a link between public transportation and evacuation routes. If there is a hurricane, people need to be able to catch a bus and get out of town.
  2. There is a need for public transportation for low-income households.
  3. SH 288 is not a good evacuation route because it feeds into Loop 610 and the feeder roads on Loop 610 flood.
  4. Rubbernecking on Loop 610 (and other highway facilities) needs to decrease. If the vision to rubberneck was eliminated, the rubber necking would cease.
  5. Are there plans to add additional lanes to SH 288? How soon?
  6. Is the current hurricane evacuation plan to send people to Houston?
  7. Is there a current evacuation plan that is made available to the public?
  8. Are there any planning studies currently underway for an east-west corridor through Brazoria County to the western part of the region?

9. When Hwy. 36 is widened, will it serve as an evacuation route?
  10. What was the purpose of building the bridge in Quintana?
  11. Truck traffic through Lake Jackson is a major concern.
  12. Are there any short-term plans for mass transit in Brazoria County?
  13. How is H-GAC getting local freight industry professionals engaged in the dialogue on freight issues?
  14. Is there anything in the 2025 RTP to address the needs of low-income persons and welfare recipients?
  15. Park and Pool lots in Brazoria County are overcrowded. What is the process to increase the capacity at Park and Pool lots?
  16. Why can't Brazoria County residents access METRO services?
  17. Connect Transportation is a joke and not a viable transportation option.
  18. There is a safety gap between unlicensed immigrant workers and public transportation. Public transportation should be provided for immigrants because they can't obtain a driver's license and car insurance.
  19. There is a need to make the public comments available via the H-GAC Web site.
- ***Liberty County and Chambers County Meeting (9/8/03)***
    1. Are H-GAC's funds for TxDOT projects only?
    2. There is a need in our counties for funding. Liberty needs assistance with county roads.
    3. We need help with Hwy 90 today. There is a huge bottleneck at Hwy 90.
    4. Hurricane evacuation - .5 miles into Liberty is a low flooding spot. There needs to be an escape for us during flooding.
    5. Trinity River Bridge – What is the alternative route when TxDOT begins work on the bridge?
    6. I-10 – the access roads go both ways and we need this fixed.
    7. East & West Loop I-10 – Need strait shot to San Antonio without going through Houston.
    8. The bridge construction combined with construction on I-10 will cut our county off.

9. 146 & 90 intersection is not an intersection. We need an intersection there.
  10. Why can't we have high-speed rail out here, connecting Beaumont to Houston?
  11. Will the Trinity bridge construction resemble the Sabine River Bridge construction?
  12. Is the RR track crossing in Dayton slated for 2018?
  13. Can H-GAC help our district get the funding we need even though we're in the Beaumont district?
  14. When will the Parkway construction begin?
  15. We would like to see an easing of the curve located on FM 562 South.
- ***Acres Homes (Harris County) Meeting (9/29/03)***

No Comments
  - ***Kashmere (Harris County) Meeting (10/09/03)***
    1. When does it become necessary for the government to "take" someone's property for transportation projects?
    2. If the METRO Solutions plan is approved, would any of the proposed routes require the taking of property in the area?
    3. How are transportation projects funded?
  - ***Pasadena (Harris County) Meeting (10/21/03)***
    1. Can the City of Pasadena still include projects for inclusion in the 2025 RTP?
    2. Does the City of Pasadena need to send projects to H-GAC that are included in the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that are not requesting federal funds?
    3. The Strawberry Road extension project is not a popular project with the citizens. It involves the demolition of 34 homes.
  - ***Third Ward (Harris County) Meeting (10/30/03)***
    1. Bus breakdowns are a problem when patrons have to wait an extended time period before a replacement bus arrives. Does the regional vanpool program include some way of taking the patrons from a broken-down bus on to their final destination?
    2. There are some rude METRO bus drivers, also some friendly ones.

3. Why aren't the bus-to-bus transfers timed at the Transit Centers so that disembarking passengers can get directly onto their next bus?
  4. What criteria were used to decide where the rail system would connect? Were the elderly and disabled considered in the rail plans? Why isn't the rail service planned for Cunney Homes because the poor people there are more likely to ride than the rich?
  5. What about flooding, it's a major concern in the area?
  6. What about bicycle facilities, how are they planned for? What about the Rails to Trails initiative and its potential in the area, along the Columbia Tap abandoned railroad corridor?
- ***H-GAC (Harris County) (11/6/03)***
  - ***Spring Branch/Memorial (Harris County) (11/10/03)***
    1. What incentives are (included in the plan) for the general public to help achieve the clean air targets?
    2. How are NAFTA, foreign trucks and their impacts on air quality considered? What about efforts for cleaner vehicles?
    3. Why not time the traffic signals along major roads like Westheimer, if the potential benefits are so apparent?
    4. What about incentives for alternative fuels?
    5. Better construction management is needed. Examples include Memorial and Westview. Apparently sections of the improved roadway(s) had to be re-constructed within a short time because the road construction and the drainage improvements were not adequately coordinated.
    6. Where do the H-GAC funds come from?
    7. What about parallel routes during the Katy freeway expansion?
    8. Why not consider alternative technologies for mass transit? A proponent of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) within dedicated guideways expressed concerns that the Mayor stopped METRO's former Monorail plans that were approved by the voters at that time. The BRT/Guideway technology would only cost about \$1 million per mile, and would carry 30,000 people per hour in the peak direction and is self-propelled.

- ***Southwest (Harris County) (11/20/03)***
  1. There is a need for direct park and ride/express bus service from the Clear Lake/Bay Area vicinity to the Westchase area using the South Beltway 8. The bus service that goes downtown and requires a transfer takes too long and the proposed route would be much faster.
  2. Pedestrian safety is a concern, especially for the elderly in commercial districts and particularly on the weekends. The intersections near Fondren and Gessner at Bellaire Blvd., and crossings along Bellaire, Westpark, Harwin and Westheimer are hazardous for pedestrians.
  3. People from other cultures do not cross at the intersections but tend to “jay-walk” across the streets to get to the shops on either side.
  4. There is a need for some type of circulator or shuttle bus service that could pick up senior citizens and others at the various community centers and transport them to medical, shopping and recreational activities. Such services could also be useful to connect workers from the various apartment complexes to the METRO transit facilities nearby.
  5. There is a concern that no roadway improvements are planned for the Alief community, west of Beltway 8/Sam Houston Tollway. The commuters on the major roadways there experience significant delays each day and mobility improvements are needed.
  6. Major roadways in the general area are in need of maintenance and repair. In particular, segments along Westpark, Gessner, Fondren and Harwin show signs of significant deterioration. It was observed that large numbers of trucks using the roadways in the area are probably making the conditions worse. Many of the trucks are associated with the major construction of the Westpark Tollway. Others are distributing goods to and from the various warehouses and shops in the commercial areas.
  7. Sidewalks in the area are not well maintained, often overgrown with weeds and not continuous along the roadway segments adjacent to the retail shops, which are used by many pedestrians.