

12:00pm to 1:30pm WHA Offices

Attendees on April 15, 2019

Marlene Gafrick
William Papadopoulos
Auggie Campbell
Carmen Kumpula

Bryan Brown
Sivaji Senapathi
Chad Criswell
Greg Turner

Jim Webb
J Sam Lott

1. **Welcome.....Marlene Gafrick**

2. **Addressing the Coming Mobility Storm.....J. Sam Lott**

- a. *Lott reported that massive congestion is coming to this region and will start to impact smaller streets as well. The traffic will last all day and automated vehicles will not help mitigate this issue and only make it worse. Lott reported that he has written an opinion paper that is used as a reference for H-GAC for their RTP. He has also presented at the H-GAC Brown Bag Series on January 18, 2018 and March 25th, 2019. Lott will provide the links to those videos and this presentation.*
- b. *Automated vehicle technology is already being implemented into buses and there is more of a focus on fleet usage than individual. H-GAC Buy provides a platform for a company to purchase automated vehicles for shuttle purposes.*
- c. *Lott reported that according to the 2045 Vision plan more people will be moving to the outer, suburban, areas of Houston. This will highlight the need to provide connectivity to a rail system. The Texas Medical Center train has the most capacity with 10,000 boardings per day. A passenger rail could run at high capacity times of day to meet ridership goals but the infrastructure would need to be strategically placed. Rail would provide a sustainable option, reduce congestion and provide a hurricane evacuation plan. Ideally the rail would be elevated. The push back against elevation is the expense of the grade separation.*
- d. *Lott reported that his top recommendations include:*
 - i. *Automated transit system such as AV buses operating in platoons*
 - ii. *BRT in a few selected corridors with high transit ridership*
 - iii. *AV transit integrated in high capacity areas*
- e. *Lott reported that our region must start now to be prepared for the incoming population. The use of the automated technology will likely be in a decade and some projects in about 5 years.*
- f. *The committee discussed the need to start looking at the north and south connections and how to get people into these public transit systems.*

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3. **METRONext Update.....Marlene Gafrick & Bryan Brown**
 - a. *The group discussed that they have not heard an update on the METRONext plan. The group discussed that there was a transit bond in 2003 for \$640M that passed but not by a huge margin. The group is not sure how the voters will response with the flood bond and other funding needed.*
 - b. *The group discussed receiving an update on the Climate Action Plan Update at the June meeting. The goal is to get a net 0 on greenhouse gas emission. Currently 49% of emissions are from transportation and 51% from buildings (within city limits).*

4. **Old Business.....Marlene Gafrick**
 - a. Red, Yellow, Green Lists: Next Steps
 - i. *The committee discussed the need to identify projects for the red, yellow and green lists. Gafrick reported that the projects should tie back to WHA’s 2060 Plan. The proposed roadway widening along FM 529 from the Grand Parkway to FM 362 was added to the groups red list. The committee discussed if 6 lanes is enough long-term.*

5. **New Business.....Marlene Gafrick**

6. **Adjourn**



WEST HOUSTON

2019 WHA REGIONAL MOBILITY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

All Meetings at WHA Offices, 12 pm

Monday, February 18
 Monday, April 15
 Monday, June 17
 Monday, August 19

Monday, October 21
 Monday, December 16

Leadership in Quality Growth