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Meetings to tackle future transportation needs

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By 2045, the Houston-Galveston region will have about 66 percent more people living in the area — which means more vehicles on the road.

To get a head start and identify transportation needs, goals and policies over the next 20 years, the Houston-Galveston Area Council is seeking public involvement with a series of public meetings around the eight-county service area.

In Chambers County, H-GAC will host a public meeting Thursday, April 12, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Eagle Pointe Golf Club and Recreation, 12450 Eagle Pointe Drive.

“The feedback collected at the public meetings and other stakeholder meetings will be utilized in the development of the plan,” said Meagan Coughlin, H-GAC spokeswoman. “The next step will include identifying transportation priorities and needs and develop performance measures for the plan. This process will take about a year to develop the draft plan.”

The public and stakeholders will then have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan before the Transportation Policy Council adopts it.

According to Coughlin, the plan will be developed in four phases. Phase one is currently ongoing as H-GAC reaches out to stakeholders and the public. During phase two, the group will conduct a systematic analysis of current transportation system and compare it to what they project it will look like in 2045. During phase three, H-GAC will select transportation projects that will align with the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan, which will take place during the fall of this year.

“Once these phases are completed, the draft plan will be prepared and shared with the public and stakeholders sometime during the second quarter of 2019,” Coughlin said about phase four.

The 2045 Regional Transportation Plan highlights efforts to reduce traffic congestion and vehicle crashes, concentrates on asset management and operations, supports regional economic development opportunities and maintains an emphasis on protecting the environment.

The agency forecasts nearly 11 million more people will live in the Houston-Galveston region by 2045, leading to a 61 percent increase in roadway travel.

Over the next few months, the MPO will initiate conversations about the region's mobility needs and will actively engage the public and key stakeholders for feedback about what the community envisions for the future of transportation.

For more information, visit <http://H-GAC.com>.