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NEWSLETTER

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HOUSTON - GALVESTON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STUDY

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1994 TIP RECEIVED APPROVAL

On June 25, 1993, the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) for Multimodal Transportation Planning in the Gulf Coast State Planning Region adopted the 1994 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Houston-Galveston Transportation Management Area. The TIP was approved after the TPC determined that it conformed to the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments.

This annual document lists the transportation projects anticipated to be implemented by all the transportation agencies in the eight-county H-GRTS area during the period 1994-1996. Due to actual needs, the 1994 TIP was amended on October 29, 1993. The Highway Element of the amended TIP is shown in greater detail in the package enclosed with this Newsletter. The costs of these projects for this 3-year period listed in the TIP are summarized in the following table.

1994 TIP SUMMARY Approved June 25, 1993 (In Millions of Dollars)

Project Type	FY 1994	FY 1995-96	Total
Transit	132.5	411.8	544.3
Highways	383.0	701.3	1,084.3
Total	515.5	1,113.1	1,628.6

The 1994 TIP for this area has been developed by the Metropolitan Planning Organization in cooperation with State, local officials, transit operators and grant recipients authorized under various titles of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991.

FREEWAY AND EXPRESSWAY STATUS MAP UPDATED

The Status of Freeway and Expressway System Map is published annually by the Study Office. Enclosed with this Newsletter is the updated 1994 map showing the current status of the freeway and expressway system for the eight-county Houston-Galveston Regional Transportation Study Area. Also included on the reverse side of the map is the proposed freeway construction schedule as indicated by the Ten-Year Project Development Plan of the Texas Department of Transportation. The construction schedule was not published last year; therefore, a significant amount of updated information is presented in this year's issue.

The major progress during the past year was on Beltway 8 (South Sam Houston Parkway). Two new sections of frontage roads were completed during 1993 on this facility. One of these new sections was completed from IH 45 (Gulf Freeway) to SH 35 (Telephone Road). The other new completion was from SH 288 (South Freeway) to east of FM 521 (Almeda Road). Several new contracts were awarded during 1993 for construction of frontage roads on Beltway 8 (South Sam Houston Parkway). With the awarding of these contracts, all of the frontage roads for South Sam Houston Parkway are either completed or under construction.

The Cypress Bypass for US 290 (Northwest Freeway) was opened to traffic in late 1993. This opening completed US 290 as a full freeway from IH 610W in Houston to northwest of the town of Cypress.

For progress on other freeways and expressways please refer to the status map.

INCREASE IN 1993 VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

Statistics released by the Budget and Finance Division of the Texas Department of Transportation show that vehicle registrations have exceeded 14 million for the first time in the State of Texas. The eight-county H-GRTS area increased by 86,708 during 1993. This represents a fourfold increase (in raw numbers) over the 1992 registration increase which was 18,931. (H-GRTS Newsletter, Fall 1993 issue).

Further comparison of the data show that while the State of Texas registrations grew by 2.1 percent, the H-GRTS area grew by 2.9 percent. Almost 30 percent (28.9%) of the State's increase of vehicle registrations were in the H-GRTS eight-county area with no reductions of registrations in any counties as opposed to 1992 in which Chambers and Harris Counties decreased in registrations. The largest percentage increase in registrations occurred in Waller County (6.7 percent).

H-GRTS Vehicle Registrations - All Vehicles

County	1992	1993	Change	% Change
Brazoria	175,783	179,734	3,951	2.3
Chambers	21,014	21,949	935	4.5
Ft. Bend	175,035	183,296	8,261	4.7
Galveston	175,232	179,829	4,597	2.6
Harris	2,211,467	2,269,397	57,930	2.6
Liberty	47,254	48,131	877	1.9
Montgomery	172,460	180,864	8,404	4.9
Waller	26,155	27,908	1,753	6.7
H-GRTS	3,004,400	3,091,108	86,708	2.9
State of Texas	13,963,403	14,262,705	299,302	2.1

Source: Budget & Finance Division, TxDOT

HOUSTON-GALVESTON Regional Transportation Study

The H-GRTS NEWSLETTER is published periodically by the Houston-Galveston Regional Transportation Study Office at 7721 Washington Ave.; Hans C. Olavson, Study Director; Lankford Bolling, Jr., Editor, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251-1386. Tel. (713)802-5314.