

HOUSTON-GALVESTON CLEAN CITIES COALITION STAKEHOLDERS

MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, August 11, 2021 – 9:30-11:00 AM Houston-
Galveston Area Council of Government Offices
3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77027
Virtual Meeting

Overview

- a) The following Houston-Galveston Clean Cities Coalition (H-GCCC) Stakeholders were presented:

STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT

Almeda Fuels – Luke Noons
Center Point Energy – David Owen
City of Houston – Gary Glasscock
Dual Green Consulting–DanMartin
Fort Bend County – Tennille Jones
HEB – Mike Moynahan
Houston ISD – Emma Lockett
ICF – Bridgette Wellendorf
METRO – Vincent Sanders
NAT-G – Dennis Foose
Rice – Lisa Lin
Rush Enterprise– Robert Holt
Rush Enterprise– Heather Mims
TXNG – Heather Ball

STAFF PRESENT

H-GAC – Andrew DeCandis
H-GAC – Sandra Holliday
H-GAC – Cassandra Marshall
H-GAC – Gilbert Washington

OTHERS PRESENT

Unknown – Troy Ottmer
Unknown– Mike Thigpe

ITEM 1. Introductions (Andrew DeCandis, H-GCCC)

- a) Andrew DeCandis, Staff, called the meeting to order.
- b) H-GCCC Stakeholders introduced themselves.

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DISCUSSION ITEMS

ITEM 2. Alternative Fuel Activities at City of Houston- (Gary Glasscock, City of Houston)

- a) Gary Glasscock gave an overview to the stakeholders about EV cars for the City of Houston. They have approximately 40 EV battery electric vehicles. Also, ten chargers at three different city facilities. Discussion continued with light duty vehicle's goal to purchase 100 EV'S each. It was mentioned there is only 27 light duty in the entire FY 22 capital improvement program. They will look into source funding which will come from other grant programs as well as other opportunities to try and reach the goal of 100 vehicles. In further discussion vehicle specification report was done by evolve to determine where the opportunities are. The work with Ford will help to reserve 100 of the used model EV'S that they will be offering includes the F-150 lightening as well as the Ford E-Transit.

To name a few of the efforts that are underway:

- They are reaching out to different cities departments. This can be a challenge trying to convince others to move toward with a technology that they are not familiar with. It was mentioned they are in the process to see how these vehicles will be used so they can find a vehicle to fit their application. Discussion continued that they manage to stay up on what the manufacturer are offering. This will give knowledge to answer every question that comes up from the staff of different departments.
- The stakeholders were notified there is an allocation of funding going to counsel in August. The funding will be allocated or offered for electric vehicles as well as the purchase of battery charging infrastructure. In terms of support there will be some auto technician training done. In doing so, we know that this can be a challenge for the technicians that are involved and probably most important if some one makes a mistake they can be seriously injured. In continued discussion, the focus is to teach technicians what not to do relative to EV'S.
- There were discussions with other departments that have some interest in purchasing EV'S. As well as looking into a Pilot project with a refuge's truck that will occur in the downtown area based at Northeast Service Center. It was mentioned that throughout vehicle research it was discovered that two different manufacturers are now producing electric chassis they are Home Mac and Porter Boat.
- In final discussion, it was pointed out that a charging infrastructure is imperative. The goal is to have 8000 EV 'S in place by 2030. We are working with different departments to identify where the charging stations will work out best.

ITEM 3. H-GAC Clean Vehicle and Buy America,- (Gilbert Washington, H-GCCC)

- a) Staff discussed with the Stakeholders the Clean Vehicles replacement program has experienced a severe decline in issuing grants due to the Buy America Act. A list of available grants was discussed that are funded through H-GAC. The impact of Buy America was mentioned as well as the 8 million remaining that is typically awarded every two years. To date, 91 vehicles has been replaced. Normally, 450 vehicles would have been replaced. The

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goal of the program is NOX reduction. If the program would have continued, we would be at one-thousand tons NOX reduced.

It was pointed out that this was established to be applied to all federal funded grants and we receive our funds from FHWA as for as Clean Vehicle projects. The usage of waivers was emphasized, but since 2017 there has been no issue of a new waiver.

Staff discussed steps made by Clean Vehicles regarding the usage of waivers:

- Held meeting with TXDOT to explain the situation.
- Wrote letters to TXDOT and FHWA administration to explain.
- Join with other Clean Vehicle Programs.
- Continuing to apply.

No funding has been released to anyone.

Strategies to utilize funds (\$8,000,000) dollars.

- Use all remaining waiver for school buses.
- Continue to update TXDOT and FHWA
- Pursue leasing opportunities.
- Redefine retrofit definition
- Focus on EV charges with public access (BA compliant)
- Continue to apply for waivers

ITEM 4. Current Funding Announcement and Updates- (Gilbert Washington, H-GCCC)

- a) Staff gave an update on the current and available grant funding opportunities for clean vehicles.

ITEM 5. Announcement of Current & Upcoming Activities

- a) Vincent Sanders notified the Stakeholders that Metro will be procuring 20 EV vehicles. It is to be determined when this will take place. A press release from Metro will be released. Currently, the EV'S are in the process of being built. The location is 28 Old Spanish Trail (OST) and 402 Bellaire.

ITEM 6. Adjourn Meeting

- a) The next meeting is: November 10, 2021
- b) Meeting adjourned at 10:47 A.M.