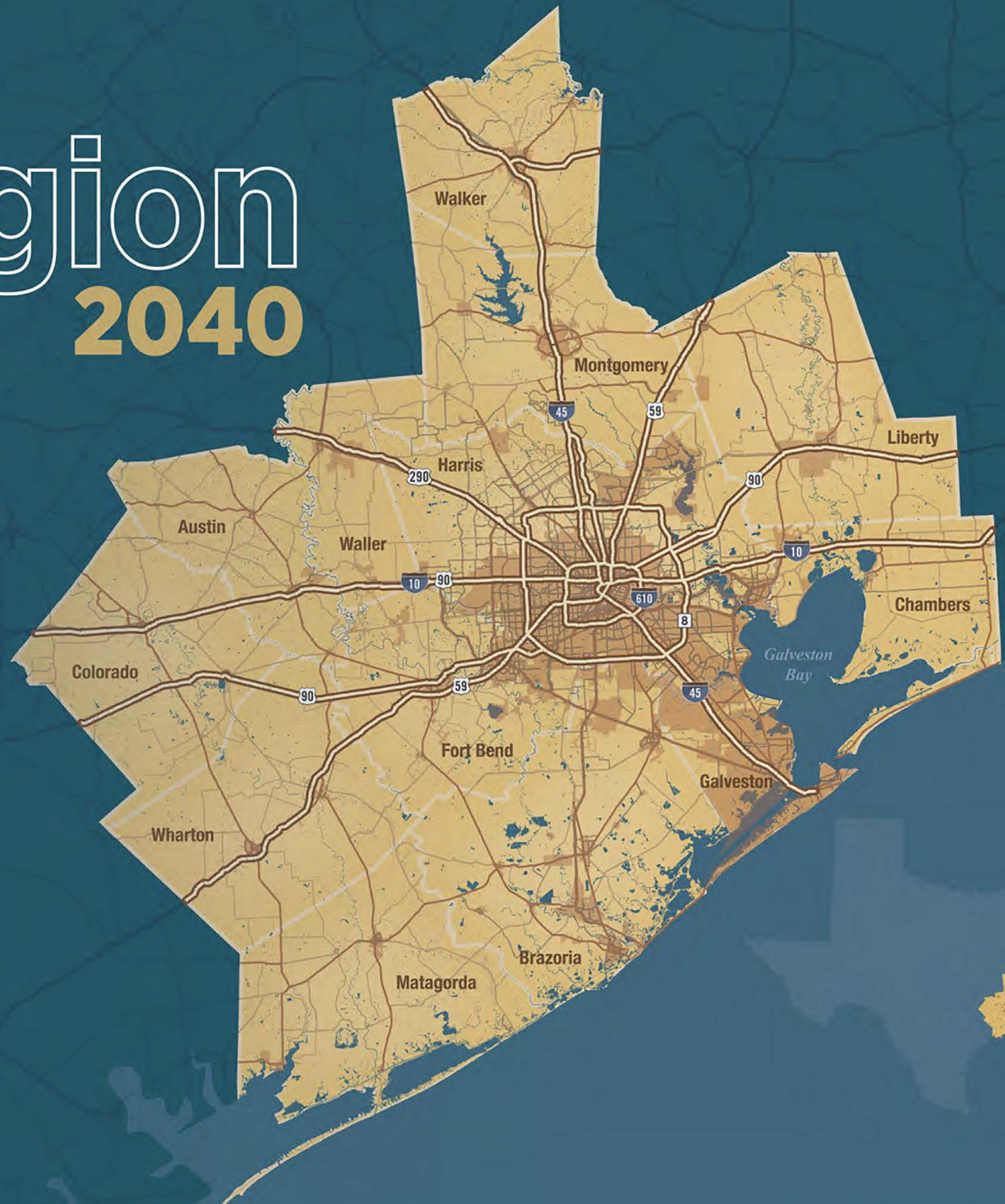


*great*  
**ourregion**  
**2040**

**Part 2 of 2**



## Who Developed Our Great Region 2040?

*Our Great Region 2040* was developed based on an extensive public and stakeholder-driven process. The general public, local government officials, and committees comprised of local, community, and business leaders were actively engaged throughout the entire planning process.

### Coordinating Committee

24 partner organizations provided oversight and drafted goals, metrics, and implementation strategies.

### Government Advisory Committee

Elected officials provided feedback about needs and desires of Our Region's communities.

### Local Leaders

Local community, business, and government leaders, as well as local and regional advisory groups, reviewed and refined draft strategies.

### Regional Workgroups

More than 200 subject matter experts and representatives from different geographic areas provided a reality check on the differing needs of Our Region's communities.

### The Public

The public has been continuously engaged throughout the process of developing this plan through public meetings and other events, including an online survey and ideas forum. Input from the public shaped *Our Great Region 2040*, including the goals and strategies.

## Major steps in the planning process include:

### Vision and Goals

*SPRING 2012*

The Coordinating Committee drafted goals under the framework of "People, Places, and Prosperity." The public offered comments on the draft goals.

### Objectives and Metrics

*SUMMER - FALL 2012*

Workgroups developed and prioritized objectives and metrics to measure the progress toward achieving the plan's goals.

### Existing Conditions

*FALL - WINTER 2012*

H-GAC published an *Existing Conditions Report* highlighting baseline conditions in Our Region, including opportunities and challenges pertaining to the plan's topic areas.

### Alternative Futures

*FALL 2012*

The Coordinating Committee developed four alternative futures - "Current Course," a baseline alternative; "Less Time on the Road;" "Greener Region;" and "Competitive Workforce."

### Alternative Futures Survey

*FALL 2012*

More than 8,800 residents responded to the Think 2040 survey, which gauged public attitudes about the tradeoffs associated with the alternative futures.

### Fair Housing Equity Assessment

*FALL 2012- SPRING 2013*

The Fair Housing Equity Workgroup developed the *Fair Housing Equity Assessment* which examines linkages between housing, socioeconomic, and demographic factors across Our Region's rural, suburban, and urban communities.

### Case Studies

*WINTER 2012 -SPRING 2013*

H-GAC and partners conducted six case studies to demonstrate ways the goals and strategies can be applied to issues at the local level.

### Regional Equity Report

*WINTER 2012 - SPRING 2013*

PolicyLink and the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity worked with the Coordinating Committee to evaluate conditions and make recommendations to improve equity in Our Region.

### Voluntary Strategies

*SPRING 2013*

The Coordinating Committee and workgroups used H-GAC's analysis of the "Think 2040" survey responses to draft voluntary strategies considered for inclusion in *Our Great Region 2040*.

### Priority Strategies

*SPRING - SUMMER 2013*

Local leaders and advisory groups met in strategy sessions to weigh in on the draft strategies and to identify priorities.

### Review and Comment

*FALL 2013*

The public provided comment on the draft plan online and at open house events.

## Want to Know More?

This document is an introduction to the goals, Big Ideas, and strategies that can help us become a greater region. Additional documents are available as part of *Our Great Region 2040* online at [www.ourregion.org](http://www.ourregion.org). Additional supporting documents online include:

- the *Existing Conditions Report*, containing baseline regional data
- the *County Profiles*, containing baseline information for each of the 13 counties
- the *Community Engagement Report*, detailing the public engagement process and feedback
- the *Best Practices Report*, exploring how other communities are addressing similar challenges
- the six local *Case Studies* (Bay City, Brazoria County, Cypress Creek, Galveston, Houston, Huntsville), exploring how local communities are moving toward implementation
- the *Community Resource Guide*, providing information to help navigate services in your community
- the *Fair Housing Equity Assessment*, containing baseline conditions for fair housing, equity, and opportunity across Our Region
- *An Equity Profile for the Houston-Galveston Region*, a report completed by PolicyLink and PERE addressing how to advance equity in Our Region
- the *Strategy Playbook*, containing more than 80 voluntary strategies and more detailed information, including costs, ease of implementation, measures of progress, and successful implementation examples from communities in this region and elsewhere

**The Strategy Charts, beginning on page 22, offer a snapshot of the information found in the larger *Strategy Playbook*.**

Additional regional planning documents, including the *Regional Transportation Plan*, *Regional Solid Waste Management Plan*, and the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy*, are available on H-GAC's website at [www.h-gac.com](http://www.h-gac.com).

## Benefits of *Our Great Region 2040*

### Coordination

In addressing Our Region's challenges and opportunities, we will need to build on Our Region's successful history of collaborations and partnerships between the public, private, and non-profit sectors. We will also need to take a holistic approach to problem solving, as most of the big issues we face are interrelated. *Our Great Region 2040* provides an overall framework for coordinating our efforts to address overarching issues, instead of dealing with them individually.

### Learning from Others

The plan identifies best practices under way around the nation, Texas, and Our Region, so we don't have to reinvent the wheel if there are proven solutions.

### Telling Our Story

Our Region includes unique places, diverse voices, and strong traditions. *Our Great Region 2040* is a chance to tell our story by highlighting our values and our vision for the future.

### Public Involvement

*Our Great Region 2040* is based on public input, and sustained public involvement will be necessary to achieve its goals. Many of its recommendations address ways to increase public awareness and participation in the decision-making that will be necessary to make the plan a success.

### Fiscal Efficiency

To be a great region in 2040, we will need to use taxpayer dollars wisely. Financial sustainability and fiscal efficiency are advanced through the plan's recommendations. This plan can serve as a guide to ensuring our public investments will pay off in the long run.



## Next Steps

The recommendations in *Our Great Region 2040* can be implemented through partnerships, priorities, and flexibility without sweeping new government programs.

### Partnerships for Implementation

Implementation of *Our Great Region 2040* will require the commitment of many partners. The best solutions will result from many of us working on the same problems together. Building implementation networks, locally and regionally, can be the first step toward sustained collaboration.

### Priorities

Longer term strategies need to be broken down into action steps. This will require setting clear priorities for short-term efforts. Support for the Big Ideas and plan strategies, at both the regional and local level, will determine short-term efforts.

As near-term efforts begin they may take different shape in different parts of the region. *Our Great Region 2040* is intended to be utilized by local communities in the manner that best suits their needs. It is not a one-size-fits-all approach but rather a tailored, flexible approach.

### Flexibility

*Our Great Region 2040* is a roadmap to a vision for a great region based on what we know today. Unknowable events, innovations, and trends will unfold over time, causing us to alter the route. That is why long-range plans and strategies must be flexible and updated regularly, based on current challenges and opportunities.

### Measuring Success

In the early stages of implementation, the most important measurements are level of effort and short-term results. Knowing what has been tried, what worked, what did not, and why, will help us build our knowledge base so that successful practices can be replicated or scaled up. Celebrating these successes can also create momentum and help bring in new partners.

Longer term, measuring outcomes will become more important to make sure we are moving forward toward our goals. *Our Great Region 2040* includes metrics – quantifiable data points that can be tracked over time. Each of the strategies has recommended metrics for measuring progress and evaluating the effectiveness of efforts. The metrics can be found in the *Strategies Playbook* online at [www.ourregion.org](http://www.ourregion.org).



## Call to Action

Are you a representative for an organization or local government that would like to partner on moving a strategy forward?

Would you like to pledge your support for *Our Great Region 2040*?

**Let us know. Please visit [www.ourregion.org](http://www.ourregion.org).**

## Economic Development Strategies

*Improve the opportunities for lifelong learning by scaling up efforts, from quality early childhood education to GED and community education programs to skills training for seniors.*

*Expand programs to improve job and financial skills and promote self-sufficiency.*

*Increase availability of information on job skills needed by employers to educational institutions allowing them to better tailor their course and training offerings.*



<b>Type(s)</b>	 Program	 Education  Program	 Partnership
<b>Implementers</b>	School Districts ● Colleges and Universities ● Non-Profits ● Regional Workforce Board	School Districts ● Colleges and Universities ● Non-Profits ● Regional Workforce Board	School Districts ● Colleges and Universities ● Regional Employers ● Regional Workforce Board ● Non-Profits ● Economic Development Corporations
<b>Implementation Tools</b>	Pre-K Programs ● Apprenticeship Programs ● Senior Community Service Employment Programs ● Community College Vocational Training Programs	Apprenticeship Programs ● Community College Vocational Training Programs ● Financial Literacy Programs ● Soft Skills Programs ● Career Counseling	Inter-organizational Partnerships and Coordination ● New and Expanded Workforce Education Programs
<b>Possible Funding Sources</b>	Early Head Start Program ● Head Start Program ● Social Services Block Grant ● Child Care and Development Fund ● Title I Grants ● Bernard Osher Foundation ● Employment and Training Administration YouthBuild Grants	Pathway to Financial Success (Discover) ● FINRA Investor Education Foundation ● Opportunity Texas: Innovation and Investment Fund ● National Financial Educators Council ● Skills Development Program (TWC) ● Apprenticeship Training Program (TWC)	Veterans Workforce Investment Program (DoL) ● Skills Development Fund: Pre-Employment Training for New Jobs (TWC) ● Environmental Workforce Development & Job Training Program (EPA) ● Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College & Career Training Grant Program (DoL) ● KnowledgeWorks Foundation ● Lumina Foundation ● Parallel Pathways to Success Grant Program (TXDA)
<b>Cost</b>	\$\$-\$\$\$	\$\$-\$\$\$	\$\$-\$\$\$
<b>Ease of Implementation</b>	Moderate	Moderate	Easy – Difficult Cost and complexity vary, depending on incentives offered
<b>Model Policies/Helpful Programs</b>	City of Houston: After School Achievement Program ● City of Houston: Youth Councils ● H-GAC Workforce Solutions ● Houston ISD: East Early College High School ● State of Oklahoma Universal Pre-K Program ● Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes ● Neighborhood Resource Center of Greater Fulton (Richmond, VA): Montessori Preschool, Educational & Creative Arts After-School Programs, Educational & Health Programs for Adults	University of Houston: Program for Financial Literacy ● H-GAC Workforce Solutions ● Bank on Houston ● LISC Financial Opportunity Centers ● Project Quest ● Generation E Institute ● Center for Employment Training ● MoneySKILL	H-GAC Workforce Solutions: Targeting High-Skill High-Growth Jobs ● Bayer Material Science: Production Technician Internship Program ● Ohio Skills Bank ● Strategic Compass







Promote business attraction and retention efforts through multi-jurisdictional coordination and financial incentives.

Increase availability of high speed data connections and broadband Internet across the region, especially in rural areas.

Institute a “buy local, make local, grow local” campaign to support local businesses.

 Partnership  Program

 Program  Policy

 Program  Policy

State Agencies ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Non-Profits ● Economic Development Corporations ● Economic Development Districts

H-GAC ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Non-Profits ● Economic Development Corporations ● Economic Development Districts ● Businesses ● Utility Providers

H-GAC ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Non-Profits ● Economic Development Corporations ● Economic Development Districts ● Businesses

Marketing Campaigns ● Technical Assistance to Local Governments and Businesses ● Economic Development Alliances ● Low-Interest Financing ● Grants ● Tax Breaks ● Land Assembly ● Infrastructure Improvements ● Waived/Reduced Permitting Fees

Assessment of High-Speed Data Connections ● Internet Skills Training ● Public/Private Partnerships

Local and Regional Marketing Campaigns ● Technical Assistance to Local Governments and Businesses

Texas Enterprise Fund ● Texas Product/Business Fund ● Texas Industry Development Loan Program ● Industrial Revenue Bond Program ● Texas Capital Fund Infrastructure Development Program ● Main Street Improvements Program (TXDA) ● Real Estate Development Program (TXDA) ● Texas Leverage Fund ● Texas Enterprise Zone Program ● New Markets Tax Credit Program

Community Connect Program (USDA) ● Farm Bill Broadband Loan Program (USDA) ● Distance Learning & Telemedicine Loan & Grant Program (USDA)

GO TEXAN Partner Program ● Sustainable Community Innovation Grants (Southern Rural Development Center)

\$-\$\$\$

\$-\$\$\$

\$\$-\$\$

Easy – Moderate  
Cost and complexity vary, depending on incentives offered

Easy – Moderate  
Cost and complexity vary, depending on the tools used






Easy – Moderate

Harris County Tax Abatement ● Harris County Green Building Tax Abatement for New Commercial Construction ● Greater Houston Partnership ● City of Houston: LEED Tax Abatement ● City of Houston: Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ) ● University of Minnesota Extension: Business Retention & Expansion Program






City of Houston: WeCAN (Wireless Empowered Community Access Network) ● Connected Texas ● Florida Rural Broadband Alliance

Hire Houston First ● City of Houston: City Hall Farmers Market ● Urban Harvest ● GO TEXAN ● Buy Local First (Clinton County, OH) ● Think Local – Buy Local – Be Local (Northwest WA)

# Environment Strategies

	<i>Work together on long term structural solutions to increase water storage and distribution capacity.</i>	<i>Create watershed protection plans to protect recharge zones, water sources, as well as waterways and wetland buffer areas.</i>	<i>Conserve natural assets through multi-benefit green infrastructure projects and designing with nature, such as Low Impact Development and expanding Our Region's network of open space and trails along waterways.</i>	<i>Increase awareness of the economic benefits of environmental systems.</i>
<b>Type(s)</b>	 Partnership	 Plan	 Policy  Program	 Education
<b>Implementers</b>	State Agencies ● Counties ● Cities ● River Authorities ● Groundwater Conservation Districts ● Utility Providers	State Agencies ● H-GAC ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Subsidence Districts ● Flood Control Districts ● River Authorities ● Utility Providers	State Agencies ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Municipal Utility Districts ● Flood Control Districts ● Non-Profits ● Developers ● Private Landowners	H-GAC ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Non-Profits
<b>Implementation Tools</b>	Inter-organizational Partnerships and Coordination	Watershed Protection Plans ● Total Maximum Daily Loads (TDML) and Implementation Plans	Conservation Easements ● Purchase of Development Rights ● Transfer of Development Rights ● Land Acquisition ● Development Agreements ● Local Development Regulations ● Conservation Subdivision Design ● Low Impact Development Techniques ● Density Bonuses/ Other Development Incentives ● Tax Breaks/ Incentives ● Design Guidebooks	Public Education Campaigns ● Sustainable Return on Investment (SROI) Framework
<b>Possible Funding Sources</b>	Regional Facility Planning Grant Program (TWDB) ● Regional Water Planning Group Grant Program (TWDB) ● Water Research Grant Program (TWDB) ● Water Infrastructure Fund (TWDB) ● State Water Implementation Fund of Texas ● State Water Implementation Revenue Fund of Texas	Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program (TWDB) ● Non-Point Source Grants (TSSWCB)	Recreation Grant Programs (TPW) ● Landowner Incentive Programs (USFWS) ● Texas Farms & Ranch Lands Conservation Program ● National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants (USFWS) ● Green Infrastructure Community Partnerships Program (EPA) ● Strategic Conservation Guidance Program (The Conservation Fund) ● Nonpoint Source Grants (TCEQ/TSSWCB) ● Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Grants (NPS) ● Community-Based Restoration Program (NOAA)	Environmental Education Regional Grant Program (EPA) ● Environmental Literacy Grants Program (NOAA) ● Bay Watershed Education and Training Program (NOAA)
<b>Cost</b>	\$\$\$	\$\$	\$\$	\$
<b>Ease of Implementation</b>	Difficult	Moderate	Moderate - Difficult	Easy
<b>Model Policies/ Helpful Programs</b>	Region H Water Planning Group ● Bay Area Regional Desalination Project ● North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership ● Jordan Lake Regional Water Supply Partnership	H-GAC Watershed Protection Plans ● City of Austin: Save Our Springs Ordinance ● City of Wilmington, DE: Source Water Protection Plan ● Handbook for Developing Watershed Protection Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters (EPA)	Harris County Low Impact Development & Green Infrastructure Design Criteria for Stormwater Management ● Bayou Greenways Initiative ● Local Land Trusts (Bayou Land Conservancy, Katy Prairie Conservancy) ● Travis County (TX): Conservation Design Manual ● San Diego County (CA): Low Impact Development Handbook ● Prairie Crossing (Grayslake, IL)	Galveston Sustainable Return on Investment Case Study ● Return on Investment: The Economic Value of Protected Open Space in Southeastern Pennsylvania ● Wildlife Habitat Benefits Estimation Toolkit



<p><i>Establish alliances to coordinate water conservation and protection efforts across Our Region, including sharing data and best practices, developing financial incentives, and implementing public awareness programs.</i></p>	<p><i>Develop a regional plan to conserve high quality natural areas.</i></p>	<p><i>Promote efficient resource management, including energy, solid waste, and water.</i></p>
<p> Partnership</p>	<p> Plan</p>	<p> Policy  Program  Education</p>
<p>State Agencies ● H-GAC ● Regional Water Planning Groups ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Utility Providers ● River Authorities ● Groundwater Conservation Districts ● Subsidence Districts ● Non-Profits</p>	<p>State Agencies ● H-GAC ● Counties ● Non-Profits</p>	<p>State Agencies ● H-GAC ● Regional Water Planning Groups ● Counties ● Cities ● Municipal Utility Districts ● River Authorities ● Groundwater Conservation Districts ● Subsidence Districts</p>
<p>Inter-Organizational Partnerships and Coordination</p>	<p>Strategic Planning ● NatureServe VISTA (Land Use Decision Support Tool) ● Ecological</p>	<p><b>OVERALL</b> - Facility Audits ● Public Education Campaigns ● Incentives (Low-Cost Loans, Grants, Tax Breaks, Reduced Permitting Fees, Expedited Permit Review) ● Awards/Certification Programs ● <b>ENERGY</b> - Weatherization Programs ● Energy-Efficient Vehicle Fleets ● <b>SOLID WASTE</b> - Recycling Facilities (Drop-Off Centers, Buy-Back Centers, Curbside Pickup, Recycling Transfer Hubs, Dual Collection Vehicles, Organic Waste Management Programs, Building Material Reuse Centers) ● <b>WATER</b> - Water Recycling Programs ● Water Conservation Plans</p>
<p>Regional Water Planning Group Grant Program (TWDB)</p>	<p>National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (USFWS) ● Coastal Impact Assistance Program (USFWS) ● North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grants Program (USFWS) ● Landowner Incentive Program (USFWS) ● Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (USDA) ● Cooperative Landscape Conservation &amp; Adaptive Science Grants (USFWS)</p>	<p><b>ENERGY</b> - Innovative Energy Demonstration Grant Program (SECO) ● Building Efficiency &amp; Retrofit Program ● LoanSTAR Revolving Loan Program (SECO) ● Weatherization Assistance Program (DOE) ● Energy Efficient Commercial Building Tax Deduction ● State Energy Program Competitive Awards ● <b>SOLID WASTE</b> - H-GAC Solid Waste Management Program ● Solid Waste Management Grant Program (USDA) ● <b>WATER</b> - Agricultural Water Conservation Grants (TWDB) ● WaterSMART Grants (Bureau of Reclamation) ● Environmental Education Regional Grant Program (EPA) ● Water Infrastructure Fund (TWDB) ● State Water Implementation Fund of Texas ● State Water Implementation Revenue Fund of Texas</p>
<p>\$\$</p>	<p>\$\$</p>	<p>\$\$-\$\$\$</p>
<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Moderate</p>
<p>North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnerships ● Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN)</p>	<p>Cumberland Voices: A Conservation Vision for the South Cumberland Region ● Vision Plan for Open Space Conservation and Trail Connectivity in the Mid-Columbia Region</p>	<p><b>ENERGY</b> - Houston Green Office Challenge ● Houston Residential Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) ● Houston Green Transportation Initiative ● Austin, TX: Energy Conservation Audit &amp; Disclosure Ordinance ● New Jersey Clean Energy Program: Local Government Energy Audit Program ● Kansas City Regional Energy Efficiency &amp; Conservation Strategy Initiative ● <b>SOLID WASTE</b> - Houston Green Waste Diversion Program ● San Antonio, TX: Multi-Family Recycling Ordinance ● Regional Recycling Transfer Hubs (GA) ● <b>WATER</b>- Austin Water: Rainwater Harvesting Rebates Program ● Austin Water: ICI Audit Rebate Pilot Program ● San Antonio, TX: Recycled Water Delivery System ● Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority: Free Water Audits Program ● Portland Water Bureau: Commercial Water Efficiency Survey Program</p>

# Healthy Communities Strategies

*Establish regional infrastructure and distribution mechanisms to support farmers markets and other means to provide fresh, healthy food to residents across Our Region.*

*Increase current funding and identify innovative funding sources to develop and maintain sidewalks, bikeways, bike-share infrastructure and parks/open space that promote a more active lifestyle.*

*Create a regional task force that works across multiple disciplines (health departments, public safety, etc.) to address mental health issues.*

<b>Type(s)</b>	 Policy  Program	 Funding	 Partnership
<b>Implementers</b>	State Agencies ● H-GAC ● Economic Development District ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Non-Profits	State Agencies ● H-GAC ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Management Districts ● Non-Profits	Federal Agencies ● State Agencies ● H-GAC ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Local Mental Health Authorities ● Healthcare Providers ● Non-Profits
<b>Implementation Tools</b>	Farm-to-School Projects ● Farm-to-Hospital Projects ● Regional Food Hubs ● Regional Food Processing Facilities ● Technical Assistance to Food Producers and Farmers Markets ● Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food Program (USDA) ● I-PLACE3S Software (Econometric Agricultural Output Model)	Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) ● Local Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs) ● Tax Increment Financing ● Adopt-a-Path Programs ● Impact Fees ● Federal/State Grant Programs	Interdisciplinary Working Group/Task Force
<b>Possible Funding Sources</b>	Specialty Crop Block Grants (USDA) ● Farmers' Market Promotion Program (USDA) ● Community Food Projects Competitive Grants (USDA) ● Sustainable Agriculture Grants (Sustainable Agriculture Research) ● Rural Business Enterprise Grants ● Rural Business Opportunity Grants ● Rural Cooperative Development Grants ● Small Socially-Disadvantaged Producer Grants ● Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans (USDA) ● Agricultural Loan Guarantee Program (TXDA) ● Texans Feeding Texas: Surplus Agricultural Products Grants	MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) ● Transportation, Community & System Preservation Program (FHWA) ● Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program	Prevention and Public Health Fund (USHHS)
<b>Cost</b>	\$ - \$\$\$	\$ - \$\$\$	\$
<b>Ease of Implementation</b>	Moderate	Moderate	Easy
<b>Model Policies/ Helpful Programs</b>	City of Houston: City Hall Farmers' Market ● Plant It Forward Farms ● Western North Carolina Regional Livestock Center ● Georgia Organics ● Sacramento Area Council of Governments: Rural-Urban Connections Strategy ● Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project ● GrowFood Carolina	City of Houston: Regional Bicycle/ Pedestrian Connections to Transit ● Houston B-cycle ● Bayou Greenways Initiative ● Atlanta BeltLine	Burlington County Community Health Improvement Plan (Burlington County, NJ) ● Connecticut Prevention Network: Regional Action Councils




*Foster life-long neighborhoods that put an emphasis on health, incorporating elements that promote active living, social interaction, and healthy eating that allow for aging in place.*

*Identify and promote existing and emerging community resources for mental health services.*

*Expand availability of community health services and trauma care, particularly in low-income and rural areas.*

 Policy  Program

 Assessment

 Policy  Program

H-GAC ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Local Housing Authorities ● Neighborhood/Homeowners' Associations ● Developers ● Non-Profits ● Healthcare Providers

State Agencies ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Local Mental Health Authorities ● Healthcare Providers ● Non-Profits

State Agencies ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Healthcare and EMS Providers ● Non-Profits

Community Gardens ● Pocket Parks ● Multi-Use Trails ● Vacant Lot Clean-Up Programs ● Traffic Calming Features ● Complete Streets Policies ● Standards, Requirements, and/or Incentives for Sidewalks, Street Trees, Bicycle Parking, Street Interconnectivity and Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Online Database Resource (e.g. Network of Care Website) ● Mental Health Services Directory

Telemedicine ● Low-Cost Healthcare Clinics ● Healthcare Education Programs ● Community Health Workers

MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program ● Transportation, Community & System Preservation Program (FHWA) ● People's Garden Grant Program (USDA)

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration Grants

Community Facility Grants (USDA) ● Distance Learning & Telemedicine Loan & Grant Program (USDA) ● Rural Health Network Development Planning Program (USHHS) ● New Access Points Grants (USHHS)

\$ - \$\$\$

\$

\$\$\$

Easy - Medium

Easy


Hard

Houston B-cycle ● Houston Department of Health & Human Services: Community Garden Program ● Healthy Kids Houston ● City of Houston: Urban Grows Initiative ● Houston Public Works & Engineering Department: Neighborhood Traffic Management Program ● Houston Bikeway Program ● LISC Great Opportunities (GO) Neighborhoods ● Bayou Greenways Initiative ● Pittsburgh, PA: Edible Gardens Program ● Charlotte, NC: Urban Street Design Guidelines ● Madison, WI: Bicycle Parking Requirements ● Virginia Beach, VA: Crime Prevention through Environmental Design - General Guidelines for Designing Safer Communities






Montgomery County (TX) Network of Care for Mental/Behavioral Health

Legacy Community Health Services (Houston) ● Hidalgo Medical Services: Lifestyle & Values Impact Diabetes Awareness (LaVIDA) ● University of Mississippi Medical Center: Telehealth Program

## Housing Strategies

	<i>Develop local housing plans to accommodate future growth.</i>	<i>Provide financial incentives, such as tax foreclosure property programs or property lien dismissals, for developers to build diverse housing types near jobs, transit centers and services, including mixed-use developments and housing that has a variety of price points.</i>
<b>Type(s)</b>	 Plan	 Program
<b>Implementers</b>	Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Management Districts ● Local Housing Authorities	Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Management Districts ● Local Housing Authorities ● Non-Profits
<b>Implementation Tools</b>	Housing Plan ● Housing Needs Analysis ● Transformation Plan	Tax Incentives ● Expedited Permitting Process ● Design Guidelines ● Property Lien Dismissals ● Tax Foreclosure Property Program ● Public-Private Partnerships (Infrastructure Improvements, Land Acquisition, etc.) ● Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZs) ● Other Value-Capture Programs
<b>Possible Funding Sources</b>	Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants (HUD) ● Community Development Block Grants (HUD)	Mortgage Revenue Bonds ● Multifamily Housing Bonds ● Community Development Block Grants ● HOME (HUD) ● Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Program ● Rural Single-Family Housing Grants & Loans (USDA)
<b>Cost</b>	\$\$	\$\$-\$\$\$\$
<b>Ease of Implementation</b>	Moderate	Cost and complexity vary, depending on the tools used
<b>Model Policies/Helpful Programs</b>	Loudoun County (VA): Five-Year Fair Housing Plan ● Des Moines, IA: Municipal Housing Agency Plan ● College Park, MD: Housing Plan ● Seattle (WA): Consolidated Plan for Housing & Community Development ● Center for Neighborhood Technology: Housing and Transportation Affordability Index	San Antonio (TX): Center City Housing Incentive Policy ● Austin (TX): S.M.A.R.T. Housing Policy Initiative ● Massachusetts Housing Development Incentive Program ● Local Assistance: Housing Trust, Local Funding, and Indirect Support (MA) ● San Luis Obispo (CA): Affordable Housing Incentives



<p><i>Develop incentives and a toolkit for matching and maintaining local housing stock to meet economic development needs, bringing greater access to opportunities.</i></p>	<p><i>Identify gaps and opportunities of the quality and supply of the regional housing stock (including housing for seniors or aging in place).</i></p>	<p><i>Develop and enforce local housing codes and standards to ensure owner-occupied and rental housing is safe and healthy.</i></p>
<p> Policy  Program</p>	<p> Assessment</p>	<p> Policy  Program</p>
<p>Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Management Districts ● Local Housing Authorities ● Non-Profits</p>	<p>Federal Agencies ● State Agencies ● H-GAC ● Counties ● Cities ● Local Housing Authorities ● Non-Profits</p>	<p>Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages</p>
<p>Jobs-Housing Balance Analysis ● Tax Incentives ● Expedited Permitting Process ● Design Guidelines ● Public-Private Partnerships (Infrastructure Improvements, Land Acquisition, etc.)</p>	<p>American Housing Survey ● Opportunity Mapping ● Housing Gap Analysis</p>	<p>Local Building Code ● Property Maintenance Code ● Dangerous Building Ordinance ● Code Enforcement</p>
<p>Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants (HUD) ● Community Development Block Grants (HUD) ● HOME (HUD) ● Good Neighbor Next Door Program (HUD)</p>	<p>Community Development Block Grants (HUD) ● MacArthur Foundation Grants</p>	<p>Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants (FEMA) ● Community Development Block Grants (HUD)</p>
<p>\$\$-\$\$\$</p>	<p>\$\$-\$\$\$</p>	<p>\$-\$\$\$</p>
<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Difficult</p>	<p>Moderate</p>
<p>City of Houston Case Study: Urban Houston Framework ● University of Chicago: Employer Assisted Housing (EAH) Program ● Rochester (NY): Home Buyer Services ● American Planning Association Policy Guide: Job/Housing Balance</p>	<p>Texas Statewide Rural Housing Analysis ● Three-County (Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster) Regional Housing Needs Assessment (NY) ● Bear Creek Valley Regional Problem Solving Project: Housing Needs Analysis (Ashland, OR)</p>	<p>Sugar Land (TX): Building Regulations ● Friendswood (TX): Regulations for Substandard Buildings ● Dallas County (TX): Residential Building Code ● Code Enforcement Association of Texas ● Sacramento (CA): Department of Housing &amp; Dangerous Buildings</p>

## Transportation Strategies

*Improve the efficiency of freight movement by investing in projects that improve connections between ships, trains, and trucks.*

*Optimize existing transportation network through a 'Fix it First' strategy and by using technology and improved incident management to maximize system capacity.*

*Create a regional framework for expanding transit across Our Region.*

### Type(s)

 Policy  Program

 Policy  Program

 Partnership

### Implementers

Federal Agencies ● State Agencies ● Metropolitan Planning Organization ● Counties ● Cities ● Port Authorities ● Railroads ● Trucking and Logistics Companies

State Agencies ● Metropolitan Planning Organization ● Counties ● Cities

State Agencies ● Metropolitan Planning Organization ● Counties ● Cities ● Transit Agencies

### Implementation Tools

Improved IT Systems ● Recommendations from H-GAC Regional Goods Movement Study

Transportation Improvement Plans ● Condition Inventories ● Infrastructure Asset Management Systems ● Transportation Planning Capacity-Building Peer Program ● Programmatic Agreements ● 3D Modeling for Construction Means and Methods ● Intelligent Compaction ● Accelerated Bridge Construction ● Design Build ● Geospatial Data Collaboration

Regional Transportation Authority

### Possible Funding Sources

Surface Transportation Program (FHWA) ● Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program ● Small Starts Program (FTA) ● Metropolitan & Statewide Planning Programs (5303, 5304, 5305) (FTA) ● America's Marine Highway Grants (Maritime Administration)

Metropolitan & Statewide Planning Programs (5303, 5304, 5305)(FTA) ● Transportation, Community & System Preservation (TCSP) Program ● Every Day Counts Initiative (FHWA)

Small Starts Program (FTA) ● Urbanized Area Formula Funds (5307)(FTA) ● Clean Fuels Grant Program (5308)(FTA) ● Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program ● Job Access & Reserve Commute (JARC) Program (FTA)

### Cost

\$\$\$

\$\$\$

\$\$ - \$\$\$

### Ease of Implementation

Moderate

Moderate

Moderate - Difficult







### Model Policies/ Helpful Programs

Houston Region Freight Study ● H-GAC Regional Goods Movement Study ● Chicago Region Environmental & Transportation Efficiency Program ● Puget Sound Regional Council (WA): Regional Freight Mobility Roundtable ● Puget Sound Regional Council (WA): FAST Corridor Partnership

Houston (TX): Geographic Information and Management System (GIMS) ● Houston (TX): Consolidated Transportation Planning Tool ● New Jersey: Fix-it-First Program ● Oklahoma Department of Transportation: Geographic Resource Intranet Portal ● Utah Department of Transportation: UPLAN ● Florida Department of Transportation: Efficient Transportation Decision-Making Process ● Delaware Department of Transportation: Information Network for Online Resource Mapping

Regional Transportation Authority (Chicago, IL) ● Sacramento Regional Transit District



<p><i>Develop and implement policies to improve transit, pedestrian, and bicycle access between and within activity centers, connecting residents to job centers.</i></p>	<p><i>Provide counties with tools to better coordinate land use and transportation planning in unincorporated areas.</i></p>	<p><i>Include economic, safety, and quality of life costs and benefits of transportation projects in funding prioritizations.</i></p>
<p> Policy  Program</p>	<p> Policy  Program</p>	<p> Policy  Program</p>
<p>Metropolitan Planning Organization ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Management Districts ● Municipal Utility Districts ● Transit Agencies</p>	<p>State Government ● Counties</p>	<p>State Agencies ● Metropolitan Planning Organization ● Counties ● Cities</p>
<p>Roadway Design Manuals ● Complete Streets ● Streetscaping ● Livable Centers Program ● Subdivision Ordinance, Parking Ordinances &amp; Other Land Use Policies</p>	<p>State legislation allowing all counties to utilize a greater variety of land use and transportation planning tools, such as access management standards, impact fees, and concurrency and adequate public facilities ordinances.</p>	<p>Strategic Prioritization Process</p>
<p>Metropolitan &amp; Statewide Planning Programs (5303, 5304, 5305)(FTA) ● Urbanized Area Formula Funds (5307)(FTA) ● Formula Grants for Other than Urbanized Areas (5311)(FTA) ● Transportation, Community &amp; System Preservation (TCSP) Program Congestion Mitigation &amp; Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program ● Surface Transportation Program (FHWA)</p>		<p>Metropolitan &amp; Statewide Planning Programs (5303, 5304, 5305)(FTA) ● Urbanized Area Formula Funds (5307)(FTA) ● Formula Grants for Other than Urbanized Areas (5311)(FTA)</p>
<p>\$\$</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>\$</p>
<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Difficult</p>	<p>Moderate</p>
<p>City of Houston Case Study: Urban Houston Framework ● City of Houston: Urban Corridor Planning Initiative ● H-GAC Livable Centers Studies ● METRO Bike &amp; Ride Access &amp; Implementation Plan ● METRO Transit System Reimagining ● METRO Transit Academy ● METRO Customer Advisory Committee ● Minnesota GO: Creating a Transportation Vision for Generations ● Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission: Complete Streets Policy ● Cook County (IL): Complete Streets Ordinance ● Charlotte (NC): Urban Street Design Guidelines</p>	<p>Georgia Development Impact Fee Act ● Florida Statutes §163.3180: Concurrency</p>	<p>Galveston Sustainable Return on Investment Case Study ● North Carolina Department of Transportation: Strategic Prioritization Process ● Puget Sound Regional Council: Transportation 2040 Prioritization (Draft)</p>


## Resiliency Strategies


Create public education programs on wildfire, flooding, and other risks.


Develop an integrated regional storm defense system, which includes both structural and non-structural elements.

Enhance coordination of evacuation planning and preparation efforts, particularly to address the needs of vulnerable populations.

### Type(s)

 Education

 Infrastructure

 Partnership

 Program

### Implementers

Federal Agencies ● State Agencies ● H-GAC ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Flood Control Districts ● School Districts ● Colleges and Universities ● Non-Profits

Federal Agencies ● State Agencies ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Utility Providers ● Non-Profits

State Agencies ● H-GAC ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● School Districts ● Transit Authorities ● Healthcare Providers ● Employers ● Media

### Implementation Tools

Marketing/Public Outreach Campaigns ● Workshops

Floodgates ● Dikes ● Levees ● Wetlands and Riparian Zone Protection ● Stormwater Detention ● Hurricane-Resistant Building Codes ● Repetitive Loss Buyout Programs ● Land Development Regulations

Evacuation Studies ● Disaster Preparedness Plans ● Emergency Communication Plans ● Emergency Shelter Planning ● Public Education

### Possible Funding Sources

Emergency Management Performance Grants (FEMA)

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants (FEMA)

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants (FEMA) ● Emergency Management Performance Grants (FEMA)

### Cost

\$-\$\$

\$\$\$

\$\$ - \$\$\$

### Ease of Implementation

Easy - Moderate

Difficult

Moderate






### Model Policies/ Helpful Programs

Harris County Flood Control: Flood Education Mapping Tool ● Medford (OR): "Ready, Set, Go" Personal Wildfire Action Guide ● Edmonton (Alberta, Canada): Flood Prevention Program

A Stronger, More Resilient New York

Houston-Galveston Region: Together Against the Weather ● Houston, Texas: Ready Houston ● Texas: Ready or Not? Have a Plan ● Texas Emergency Management Executive Guide ● North Central Texas Council of Governments Emergency Preparedness Department



<p><i>Develop a rapid recovery plan to help people and businesses return as quickly as possible.</i></p>	<p><i>Improve regional air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by offering alternative modes of transportation, improving energy efficiency, and effectively managing resources.</i></p>	<p><i>Support innovative adaptation strategies that help communities prepare for potential environmental changes, such as sea level rise and severe weather events.</i></p>
<p> Plan</p>	<p> Policy/Program  Infrastructure</p>	<p> Policy  Program</p>
<p>State Agencies ● H-GAC ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Transit Agencies ● Local Housing Authorities</p>	<p>State Agencies ● H-GAC ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Utility Providers ● Transit Agencies ● Non-Profits</p>	<p>Federal Agencies ● State Agencies ● H-GAC ● Counties ● Cities ● Towns ● Villages ● Flood Control Districts ● Non-Profits</p>
<p>Rapid Housing &amp; Business Recovery Plans ● Business Continuity Plans</p>	<p>Bicycle Facilities ● Pedestrian Facilities ● Increased Transit Opportunities ● Weatherization Programs ● Incentives for On-Site Renewable Energy Production &amp; Energy-Efficiency Improvements (Low-Cost Loans, Grants, Tax, Breaks, Reduced Permitting Fees, Expedited Permit Review) ● Land Use Regulations Supportive of On-Site Renewable Energy Production ● Energy-Efficient Vehicle Fleets ● Public Education Campaigns ● Awards/Certification Programs</p>	<p>Technical Assistance Programs ● Inter-organizational Partnerships and Coordination ● Water Conservation Plans ● Tree Planting Programs ● Heat Wave Management Plans ● Hurricane-Resistant Building Codes ● Green Building Programs ● Local Adaptation Plans</p>
<p>Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants (FEMA) ● CDBG Disaster Recovery Assistance (HUD)</p>	<p>Innovative Energy Demonstration Grant Program (SECO) ● LoanSTAR Revolving Loan Program (SECO) ● Climate Showcase Communities Program (EPA) ● Weatherization Assistance Program (DOE) ● MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program (FHA)</p>	<p>Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants (FEMA) ● Climate Showcase Communities Program (EPA)</p>
<p>\$\$</p>	<p>\$-\$\$\$</p>	<p>\$-\$\$\$</p>
<p>Moderate - Difficult</p>	<p>Moderate - Difficult</p>	<p>Moderate</p>
<p>Beaufort County (SC): Disaster Recovery Plan ● Florida Business Disaster Survival Toolkit ● Leon County (FL) Disaster Housing Strategy: Local Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan Housing Guide</p>	<p>Houston Green Office Challenge ● Green Houston Emissions Reduction Plan ● Houston B-cycle ● Houston Residential Energy Efficiency Program ● Houston Green Transportation Initiative ● METRO STAR ● Rockport (TX): Wind Powered Systems Ordinance ● Portland (OR): Streamlined Building Permits for Residential Solar Systems ● Solarize Portland</p>	<p>Ready Houston ● Louisiana Comprehensive Plan for a Sustainable Coast ● Punta Gorda (FL): Adaptation Plan ● Collier County (FL): Sea-Level Rise Impact Assessment Requirements ● Los Angeles County (CA): Green Building Program</p>

## Acknowledgements

In 2010, 24 local governments and organizations formed a partnership to develop a long-range plan to accommodate Our Region's expected growth, while enhancing the economic opportunity and quality of life available to our people.

### Coordinating Committee

Bay City Community Development Corporation	Houston-Galveston Area Council
Blueprint Houston	Houston Tomorrow
Center for Houston's Future	Houston Wilderness
Chambers County	Local Initiatives Support Corporation
City of Galveston	Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO)
City of Houston	Montgomery County
City of Huntsville	Neighborhood Centers Inc.
Fort Bend County	Port of Houston Authority
Greater Houston Builders Association	Texas Southern University
Gulf Coast Economic Development District	United Way of Greater Houston
Harris County	University of Texas Medical Branch
Houston Advanced Research Center	Waller County Economic Development Partnership

More than 200 individuals and organizations also supported the development of this plan, including elected officials, community leaders, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and research agencies, through participation on regional workgroups and advisory committees. More than 15,000 members of the public also played a significant role in shaping the goals and strategies in this plan.

### Disclaimer

The work provided as the basis for *Our Great Region 2040* was supported by funding under an award from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this plan. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the view of the United States government.

## Partnership for Sustainable Communities

The development of *Our Great Region 2040* was funded, in part, by a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. The grant is part of the federal government's Partnership for Sustainable Communities, which brings the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Department of Transportation together to coordinate the agencies' programs addressing affordable housing, transportation, and environmental protection and the intersection of all three. Based on input from the public and stakeholders, *Our Great Region 2040* also considers healthy communities, economic development, and resiliency to be priority issues.

The *Our Great Region 2040* goals support the broader Livability Principles established by the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. The Livability Principles are:

- Provide more transportation choices
- Promote equitable, affordable housing
- Enhance economic competitiveness
- Support existing communities
- Coordinate policies and leverage investment
- Value communities and neighborhoods



Houston-Galveston Area Council  
[www.ourregion.org](http://www.ourregion.org)

CE0214