

2011

SCHEDULE OF
EVENTS

- October 20th-
Alan Clark
Houston-
Galveston
Area Council

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BAYTRAN

Bay Area Houston Transportation Partnership

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2011

John Barton named TxDot Interim Exec

John Barton, a 25-year employee who previously served as assistant executive director for engineering operations, was promoted to interim executive director by the agency's governing board, the Texas Transportation Commission, effective September 1. The Commission announced the appointment at its Aug. 25 monthly meeting.

Barton confirmed that he is also a candidate for the permanent executive director job. "I have submitted my resume," he said. A national search firm is identifying other candidates for the job, but that firm's work is scheduled to conclude in September. "I know the commission is eager to move forward quickly," Barton said. "I expect the interim position to be for a couple of months, at least, just from the technical part of it. I know they're considering candidates as we speak." Barton's appointment came just hours after commission members said goodbye to Amadeo Saenz Jr., who has served as executive director of the agency since 2007 and is retiring at the end of the month. Saenz took the helm during turbulent times, as lawmakers and residents accused agency officials of mispending millions of dollars in gas tax revenue, and pursuing toll road projects such as the Trans Texas Corridor that the public didn't want. As an assistant director, Barton has overseen the department's work on matters such as aviation, bridge, design, environmental, rail, right of way,

transportation planning and the state turnpike division. With a long history at TxDOT he has worn many hats during his time with TxDOT, including construction project inspector and manager, laboratory technician, surveyor, designer, planner, Assistant Area Engineer, Area Engineer, District Design Engineer, District Bridge Engineer, Acting Deputy District Engineer, District Engineer, Assistant Executive Director for Engineering Operations and now Interim Deputy Executive Director. He grew up in Archer City, near Wichita Falls, and graduated from Texas A&M University with a civil engineering degree. He has worked at the transportation department for 25 years. Commission members have previously mentioned that they're comfortable with Barton's calming influence and vast experience. Barton has been a leading advocate of building State Highway 99, a 180-mile new loop around the Houston region designed to encourage sprawl development at the **region's edges**. In encouraging the Transportation Commission to move forward with segment E of the \$6 billion project, Barton said building the road through the **nearly vacant Katy Prairie is "an opportunity to open up areas for development in the Greater Houston area."**



HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL
Public Comment Period and Public Meeting
for an Amendment to the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
and to the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update

H-GAC is announcing the opening of a 30-day public comment period to give the public an opportunity to review and provide comments on projects proposed for inclusion in the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan Update (RTP). These actions would program \$438 million of funding on projects throughout the eight-county Transportation Management Area. More information regarding these proposed actions and a list of these projects can be found at www.h-gac.com/taq/tip.

The public comment period began on Friday, September 23, 2011 and will end on Monday, October 24, 2011 at 5:00 pm. A public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 4, 2011, to be held at the Texas Department of Transportation Houston District Offices, 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, TX 77251, from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

The public is encouraged to attend this meeting and provide comments to H-GAC. All written comments may be submitted to Transportation Public Information, Houston-Galveston Area Council, P.O. Box 22777, Houston, Texas 77227-2777, emailed to publiccomments@h-gac.com, or faxed to (713) 993-4508.

The transit providers for the Houston-Galveston region are the Texas Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO), Harris County Transit Services, Fort Bend County Public Transportation, Connect Transit, The Gulf Coast Rail District, Island Transit, Colorado Valley Transit, and The District. This public notice and public comment period will satisfy the Federal requirement for each of the transit providers regarding its transit program of projects for specified fiscal years. H-GAC will provide an **opportunity for the public to comment on each provider's program of projects in the TIP and in the RTP.**

Perry Fowler, Director, Heavy, Municipal & Utilities Divisions of AGC

Fowler will be speaking prior to Alan Clark re: Proposition 2 Water Bonds Houston has benefited significantly from Water Board GO Bonds and unless Prop 2 passes the ability to access this funding will likely expire by 2013. Prop 2 will provide a \$6 b evergreen GO Bond authority which provides funding for political subdivisions.

For more information on Prop 2 , please refer to the Texas Water Development Board at:

<http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/newsmedia/constitutional/faqs.asp#what-others-are-saying>

BAYTRAN



Alan Clark

Houston Galveston
Area Council
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October 20th Monthly Luncheon

Alan Clark– Transportaion & Air Quality Houston Galveston Area Council

Alan C. Clark is the Manager of the Transportation and Air Quality programs for the Houston-Galveston Area Council. For over 20 years, he has been the Director of H-GAC's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which is responsible for development of the region's long range, multimodal transportation plan. The MPO's Transportation Policy Council approves the programming of all federal highway and transit funds in Harris and the adjacent seven counties. Mr. Clark's responsibilities also include coordinating the Houston-Galveston area's strategies for reducing air pollution from on and off road vehicles. In 1995, Mr. Clark was awarded the Road Hand Award by the Texas Department of Transportation because of his significant contributions to development of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program and for his expertise in retooling of the transportation planning process. In 1999 and 2000, Mr. Clark served on the Board of Advisors for the Eno Foundation, an internationally recognized organization promoting transportation research and education. Mr. Clark is currently an Advisory Board Member for both the Texas Transportation Institute and the Center for Transportation Training and Research at Texas Southern University. In 2005, Mr. Clark was named a member of the Transportation Research Board's Policy Study Committee on Climate Change in U.S. Transportation. In 2006, Mr. Clark was also appointed to the Federal Advisory Committee on Impacts of Climate Variability and Change on Transportation Systems and Infrastructure-Gulf Coast Case Study. Mr. Clark has been a transportation planner with H-GAC since 1983 and has managed its transportation and air quality programs since 1986. Mr. Clark has served as an Adjunct Professor with Texas Southern University. Prior to coming to H-GAC, he worked as a transportation planner with the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County and as a traffic engineering consultant.

Alan holds Masters Degrees in Civil Engineering and City and Regional Planning from Ohio State University. He completed his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee in his hometown of Knoxville.

Sponsorship Opportunities

11:30– Registration & Program
12:00– Lunch & Program

Cullen's Upscale American Grille
11500 Space Center Blvd.
Houston, TX 77058

(Tables of 8)
Platinum- \$600
Gold- \$500
Silver- \$400
Table-\$300
Individual- \$35

If you know anyone that would like to be added to our email database please email: Stevie.Jones@gcli.com



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We're on the web!
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Hamilton Sunstrand
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Houston Port Authority
Houston TranStar
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Klotz Associates, Inc.
Lubrizol
Lyondell Chemical
Marty Chenault, CPA
Maxim Group
MGA Productions, Inc.
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