



POLICY SUMMIT



GREATER HOUSTON
PARTNERSHIP

Making Houston Greater.

HOUSTON NEXT

ADVANCING HOUSTON AS A GREAT GLOBAL CITY

Houston Next

The Greater Houston Partnership's strategic plan, **Houston Next**, will guide the organization's overall efforts through the next decade. The plan is designed to empower Houston's business community to accelerate the region's progress at the intersection of three focus areas of impact and ensure Houston's continued success as a great global city.

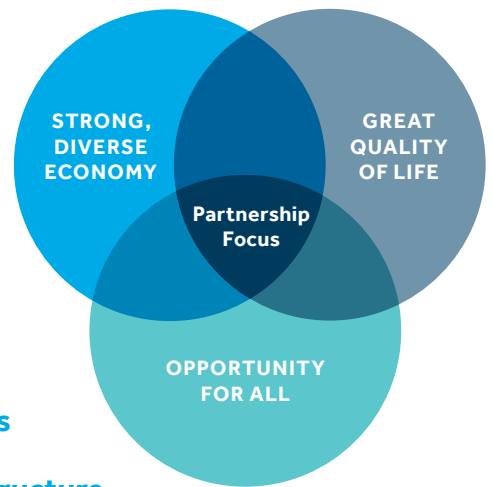
COMMITTEE ALIGNMENT

The Partnership's Board of Directors, Public Policy Advisory Committees and Public Policy Division are aligned to deliver on the three focus areas of Houston Next. Each policy advisory committee has worked in 2019 on policy areas critical to accomplishing the core goals of Houston Next: creating a strong and diverse economy, ensuring a great quality of life and supporting opportunity for all. In 2020, the committees will continue to play an important role in advancing the following key activities within Houston Next.

HOUSTON NEXT: FOCUS AREAS OF IMPACT

DRIVING A STRONG, DIVERSE ECONOMY

- Energy Transition
- Global Headquarters Recruitment
- Life Sciences
- Manufacturing, Trade and Logistics
- Houston's Digital Transition
- Freight Logistics Infrastructure



ENSURING A GREAT QUALITY OF LIFE

- Flood Mitigation and Resilience
- Transportation Infrastructure
- Efficient and Effective Government

SUPPORTING OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

- Public Education (Pre-K-12)
- Higher Education
- Workforce Development

2019 POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Public Education Advisory Committee focuses on public education quality, school finance and outcomes. Before the 86th Texas Legislative Session, the committee developed five school finance reform principles that the Partnership believed were critical to any school finance reform legislation. These principles enabled Houston's business community to be a leader in school finance reform policy discussions. The Partnership's principles were included in the final reform legislation, House Bill 3, which led to more than an estimated \$800 million for the Houston region and a total of \$11.5 billion across Texas in new state funding for the biennium. The legislation provided funding specifically for economically disadvantaged and English language learner students, increased funding aimed at improving third grade literacy

rates and significantly reduced the local burden of funding public education.

After successfully advocating to improve the way public schools are funded, the committee has focused on strategies to improve student outcomes and provide opportunities for students in the greater Houston region. The committee will continue to focus on strengthening reading and math competencies in prekindergarten to third grade; recruiting, supporting and retaining teachers and principals; advancing college and career readiness; and improving low-performing schools. The Partnership recognizes that the business community must continue to be a leading voice in supporting and improving the public education system to ensure all students in Houston are provided with an opportunity to succeed after graduation.



INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESILIENCY

The Infrastructure and Resiliency Advisory Committee addresses the long-term infrastructure and resiliency needs of the greater Houston region and plays a prominent role in informing and coordinating advocacy efforts related to securing local, state and federal funds for flood mitigation purposes.

During the 86th Texas Legislative Session, the committee played a major role in securing approximately \$2 billion in appropriations contained in Senate Bill 500 for Hurricane Harvey recovery and long-term, statewide flood mitigation infrastructure needs. The committee also helped develop Senate Bill 7, which created a statewide, dedicated fund for flood mitigation infrastructure. The passage of Senate Bill 500, Senate Bill 7, an accompanying constitutional amendment, and Senate Bill 8 (which relates to developing a statewide flood plan), marked the first time the state has significantly been involved in flood mitigation efforts, forever changing the dynamics of flood mitigation infrastructure funding and development.

The committee also worked with the Port of Houston Authority and industry representatives to understand

and support the need to widen and deepen the Houston Ship Channel to provide safe and efficient transit for each vessel traversing the busiest deep-draft international trade waterway in the nation. The Partnership passed a committee-led resolution supporting these efforts and will continue its work to support a collaboration between the federal government, Port of Houston Authority and private industry that will authorize, fund and implement the project.

Throughout 2019, the committee worked closely with the City of Houston in the development of its resilience strategy by leading a delegation of key stakeholders to New Orleans to build relationships around resilience and share pertinent information that informed the inclusion of flood mitigation needs within the Resilient Houston strategy.

The committee will continue working throughout 2020 to identify and support policy positions and creative solutions to improve resilience and address ongoing funding and infrastructure needs for flood mitigation and other critical, transformative regional projects.

2019 POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



ENERGY

The Energy Advisory Committee is dedicated to strengthening Houston's position as the Energy Capital of the World. During the 86th Texas Legislative Session, the committee worked alongside industry and other key stakeholders to support an equitable and expeditious eminent domain process in Texas. Although legislation did not pass, the Partnership advanced its position for the development of critical energy infrastructure.

In 2019, the committee furthered its support of developing energy infrastructure necessary for the region to accommodate future demand growth and lead the energy transition. Committee discussions focused on the increasing demands on industry to effectively manage carbon emissions and the opportunity for the region to develop the relevant infrastructure and technology.

The committee will carry these discussions forward into 2020 through a carbon management initiative that is

intended to set a strategic direction, build awareness and cultivate public policies that can be pursued for incremental steps to be taken to ensure Texas, the Gulf Coast and, specifically, Houston is a leader in carbon management technology development and deployment. Strategically building awareness with stakeholders and policy makers, identifying regulatory hurdles, and pursuing legislation will position the business community, Texas and the Houston region to capitalize on its strengths and take on a leading role during the transition to a low-carbon energy future.

The Partnership is in a strong position to work with the members of the committee to align on low-carbon transitional priorities, identify related actionable policies, develop effective messaging and then actively advocate for those policies at the appropriate government levels on behalf of the Houston business community.



HEALTH CARE

The Health Care Advisory Committee focuses its efforts on creating a healthier Houston. During the 86th Texas Legislative Session, the committee promoted and supported legislation relating to mental health, maternal health, increasing access to health care, and preventative measures, such as raising the minimum age of tobacco use to 21 years old.

The committee conducted a two-part workshop series to address the role of social determinants of health in improving overall health outcomes for Houstonians. During the workshops, participants aligned on a composite framework of five interrelated factors influencing health outcomes that will inform Houston's path to building a healthier city, including health behavior, clinical care, the region's built environment, social connectedness, and socioeconomic factors. Participants used this framework to evaluate Houston's health outcomes and highlighted areas of opportunity where the region's health falls behind the national average.

The workshop participants identified key areas of opportunity where outcomes could be improved and prioritized health, community preventative measures, over health care, which is typically more costly, reactive care. Based on identified areas of opportunity, the workshop participants highlighted potential public policy solutions for some of the more pressing needs of the region, including mental health, maternal health and policies focusing on childhood health. Additionally, through the workshop process, participants helped to create a catalogue of programs addressing the social determinants of health of the Houston region in order to obtain a comprehensive view of the available resources.

The committee will continue this work in 2020, with the goal of promoting health in the Houston region and identifying opportunities to establish Houston as a healthier city. Additionally, the committee will advocate for policies that address increasing access to and support for behavioral health, improvements for health outcomes for maternal and childhood health, and the cost of health care.

2019 POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



HIGHER EDUCATION

The Higher Education Advisory Committee works with Houston region higher education institutions to identify solutions for increasing the quantity and improving the quality of baccalaureate degrees awarded to ensure Houston's competitiveness in attracting and retaining employers. The committee has identified interventions that improve student persistence and success that have worked on individual campuses and is looking to replicate those efforts regionally.

Houston's higher education ecosystem has grown tremendously over the past twenty years, but it remains under-degreed and under-funded. As the city continues

to grow, it is imperative that educational programs align with industry growth and needs. To address this issue, the Partnership is launching an initiative to develop Houston's current and future talent by creating a sustainable platform for long-term collaboration between industry and higher education institutions in the Houston region. The initiative will promote the growth of Houston's higher education ecosystem by increasing student enrollment, degrees awarded and available funding sources. The effort will also work to improve the perception of Houston as an innovation hub through the talent and research produced by the region's universities.



BUSINESS ISSUES

The Business Issues Advisory Committee addresses policy issues carrying tax and fiscal consequences. Specifically, during the 86th Texas Legislative Session, the committee quickly assembled to analyze and respond to a proposal by state leadership to increase the state sales tax by one penny in order to reduce local ad valorem property taxes levied by school districts. A

bill from the Texas House proposed a similar one penny sales tax increase, which included a portion of funding for public education. Although legislation on these proposals did not pass, the committee will continue to study potential tax proposals and fiscal policies that impact the business community.



QUALITY OF PLACE

The Quality of Place Advisory Committee acts as an adviser on key initiatives, including the City of Houston's new 50/50 Park Partners program. 50/50 Park Partners focuses on improving the city's existing neighborhood parks and is an effort jointly led by the Mayor's Office, the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department, the Houston Parks Board, and the Greater Houston Partnership.

The program brings together 50 private businesses through monetary contributions, in-kind support and volunteers with 50 neighborhood parks to create a long-term relationship for sustained impact. The Quality of Place Advisory Committee has provided input in the creation and development of the program and will continue to engage the business community in this effort

as the program moves into its implementation phase.

The committee also has focused on the green space opportunities relating to the North Houston Highway Improvement Project, the \$7 billion, 24-mile, TxDOT project to rebuild IH-45 from Beltway 8 through downtown. Working closely with Central Houston, the committee is identifying and evaluating potential funding sources to support green space improvements associated with the project.

In 2020, the Quality of Place committee will continue its role as an advisory committee to the 50/50 Park Partners program and further its work to find collaborative solutions to improve the green spaces and parks across the region.

2019 POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



SUSTAINABILITY

The Sustainability Advisory Committee promotes responsible growth, innovation, and long-term environmental quality improvements. The committee supported efforts to continue the funding mechanism for the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) during the 86th Texas Legislative Session. The legislation reestablished the TERP dedicated fund outside of the state treasury. This legislation ensures an ongoing dedicated funding stream will be used for air quality projects.

The committee also launched its efforts in building Houston as a smart city and convened stakeholders from across the region for a Smart Cities Strategy Lab to set the vision for the committee's smart cities work. The workshop identified goals for a Houston regional

smart cities plan. To implement the plan, the committee prioritized public policies relating to establishing and improving Houston's smart infrastructure, specifically privacy and permitting. The committee is working closely with the City of Houston and other governmental entities to address plan design challenges and identify potential regulatory improvements which will enable strong, smart infrastructure for the Houston region.

In 2020, the committee will continue to identify and support policies that enhance Houston's growth and improve the region's air quality. Additionally, the committee will advance policy research and discussions on issues such as the circular economy and the promotion of the reuse of resources.



TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Advisory Committee prioritizes sustainable solutions to meet the region's transportation needs. The committee played a major role in the development of significant portions of the METRONext plan that area voters approved by a wide margin through a referendum in November.

Through regular monthly committee meetings and extensive ad hoc deliberations with METRO, the committee worked closely with METRO leaders to ensure the METRONext referendum was fiscally responsible, contained sound covenant restrictions on the issuance of debt, continued the General Mobility Program through 2040, contained a proper multi-modal balance and prudent use of light rail, included the flexibility to adapt to technological advancements, and was structured to fund and implement only the projects agreed to by the voters in the referendum. The

Partnership's board passed a committee-led resolution supporting the referendum authorizing METRO to issue up to \$3.5 billion in bonds for the purposes of improving and expanding its transit authority system.

Through committee actions throughout the year, the Partnership also publicly endorsed key regional infrastructure developments. The Partnership supported advancing and funding the North Houston Highway Improvement Project and led a broad, regional coalition to maintain the Grand Parkway Tollway project in TxDOT's Unified Transportation Program.

The committee will continue to identify policy positions that support necessary transportation infrastructure development in 2020 through discussions on local road infrastructure, overall transportation infrastructure and mobility finance.

2019 POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Executive Leadership

Scott McClelland | Chair

Bobby Tudor | Vice Chair

Bob Harvey | President and CEO

2019 Partnership Public Policy Advisory Committees

Business Issues | Earl Hesterberg, President and CEO, Group 1 Automotive, Inc.

Energy | Scott Nyquist, Senior Advisor, McKinsey & Company

Health Care | Troy Villarreal, President, HCA Gulf Coast Division, HCA Houston Healthcare

Higher Education | Thad Hill, President and CEO, Calpine Corporation

Ben Moreland, (vice chair), Principal, Moreland Interests

Infrastructure and Resiliency | Steve Clarke, Division Vice President, Jacobs Engineering

Public Education | Andy Waite, Co-President, SCF Partners

Quality of Place | Ric Campo, Chairman and CEO, Camden Property Trust

Sustainability | Amy Chronis, Managing Partner, Deloitte

Transportation | Mark Cover, CEO, Southwest Region and Mexico/Central America, Hines

Walt Mischer, (vice chair), Partner, Mischer Investments, LP

Partnership Public Policy Division

Taylor Landin, Senior Vice President

Jenny Philip, Vice President

Chase Kronzer, Director

Ben Melson, Director

Lindsay Munoz, Director

Tiffani Tatum, Director

Sophia Guevara, Manager

Kaitlyn Murphy, Manager

Steven Will, Manager

Jessica Ruland, Coordinator

Linda Garcia, Executive Assistant

Underwritten by:

