

County Judge

Fort Bend County, TX

Robert E. Hebert
Fort Bend County Judge
Phone (281) 341-8608
www.fortbendcountynews.info

Andrea Tantillo
Houston-Galveston Area Council
Phone (832) 681-2507
andrea.tantillo@h-gac.com

For Immediate Release



HOUSTON-GALVESTON REGIONAL PLAN KICKS OFF

Residents are Encouraged to Share their Ideas about what their Communities and the Region Should Look Like for Future Generations

COMMUNITY (January 31, 2012) – Residents, business owners, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, and local government representatives have teamed up in an unprecedented effort to develop a regional plan for the 13-county area. In addition to Fort Bend, the region includes Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Galveston, Liberty, Harris, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton counties.

More than 6 million people now live in the region and as many as 4 million new people could live in the 13-county area by 2040. This two-year planning project is the first step in answering questions such as “*Where will those residents live?*” “*How will they move around the region?*” and “*How will change affect quality of life?*”

Over the next two months residents will have an opportunity to give their feedback on what they think are the most pressing issues facing their communities and the region overall and share their hopes for what a better tomorrow may look like.

A very important goal of the planning process is to make sure that the plan reflects ideas from all parts of the region. Residents can share their ideas as part of upcoming public meetings to be held in each county, a survey, and an on-line forum. Community visioning sessions will kick off in early February. The following locations will be the most convenient for our Fort Bend County residents:

Tuesday, February 7, 6-8 p.m.
George Memorial Library
1001 Golfview Drive
Richmond, Texas 77469

Wednesday, February 8, 6-8 p.m.
City of Sugar Land City Council Chamber
2700 Town Center Blvd., North
Sugar Land, Texas 77479

Saturday, February 11, 10 a.m.-Noon
Hiram Clark Multi-Service Center
3810 W. Fuqua
Houston, Texas 77045

Public input will help set goals and priorities for the plan. The plan will explore opportunities to improve the region's most significant resources, including clean air and water, good jobs, safe and attractive neighborhoods, affordable housing, transportation choices, and open spaces and parks.

The first phase of the plan will focus on setting goals and a vision for the region and its communities. Later phases will look at different ways that the region can grow and develop implementation steps to encourage sustainable, economically competitive places for current and future residents. The final document will offer strategies and projects that local communities can voluntarily select. This menu will include different options appropriate for coastal, rural, suburban and urban areas.

For more information on the plan and a listing of all the upcoming meeting dates or to become a Community Ambassador Team volunteer, please visit <http://www.ourregion.org>. You can also email ourregion@h-gac.com or call 713-463-8200.

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