Goals, Objectives, and Metrics

Green = recommended metric

Yellow = recommended for data appendix

Blue = HUD 'Flagship Indicator' Metric (Recommended)

Section	Goal	Objectives	Metrics
People	Our region's residents have access to education and training opportunities to allow them to realize their full potential	1. Reduce disparity in educational attainment rates 2. Ensure that residents with special needs have equal access to education and training 3. Provide access to training opportunities for life skills and a wide spectrum of careers	• Degree completion rate (high school, college) by ethnicity • Number of vocational certification programs/students by ethnicity • Number of households within x radius of higher ed. Opportunity (maybe look at affordability) • Expenditure per student (National Center for Education Statistics) • Average freshman graduation rate (by race/ethnicity) • Pupil/teacher ratio • Percent of people ages 25+ without college degree, with 2 yr degree, etc. by ethnicity • Percent limited English Proficiency • Number of workforce continuing education programs • Literacy rate • # of Head Start programs (and number of eligible versus number served) • Funding for public education (local/state) • Children enrolled in preschool (ACS, Census : used in St. Louis plan) • Proficiency Levels (3rd, 5th, 8th, 11th grade reading and math levels – TEA – From All Kids Alliance) by ethnicity • % with special needs served by educational opportunity
	Our region's residents live in safe, healthy communities with	1. Encourage community planning and design that allows for shorter trips and accommodates safe pedestrian and bicyclist travel	• VMT (daily total and per capita) • Total percentage of workers commuting via walking, biking, transit or rideshare

	transportation options, including walking, biking, transit and driving	2. Improve the safety of all transportation systems 3. Strengthen regional collaboration to increase transportation funding options 4. Increase access to commute alternatives, including transit, carpools, vanpools, and telework	• # of Mixed use/TOD • H+T Affordability: Proportion of household income spent on housing and transportation costs • Frequency of transit and number of transit boardings • % of funding approved by TPC for ped/bike and transit projects and amount requested (unmet need) • #/frequency of crashes involving bike/ped • #/frequency of motor vehicle crashes • # of jurisdictions in region with a complete streets policy or # of complete streets projects • % LMI households within access to transit/bikeway/trail • % of all households within access to transit/bikeway/trail • # of safe routes to school programs and participating schools in the region • # of lane mile of roadway identified as deficient • # of deficient bridges • # of bikes on buses • # of people/trips participating in commute alternatives • # of companies participating in commute alternative programs • Congestion costs (TTI)
	Our region enjoys clean and plentiful water, air, soil and food resources to sustain healthy future generations	1. Meet and maintain national air quality standards 2. Continue to reduce levels of bacteria and other pollutants throughout our region's waterways 3. Increase capacity for local food production by promoting stewardship of prime farmland, water resources, and improved business infrastructure for local food production 4. Encourage water conservation across agricultural, commercial and residential sectors to decrease water demand and maintain existing	• # of counties and percent of population in non-attainment area • # of 8-hour ozone exceedance days per year • Estimated tons of NOx reduced through H-GAC Air Quality programs • # of air industrial upsets. Toxic chemical releases to land, air, and water (toxic release inventory, US EPA. Used in St. Louis and King County) • # and % of stream miles for water bodies with bacteria impairments • # of jurisdictions adopting Bacteria Implementation Group Plan • # and % of stream miles that fully meet water quality standards for contact recreation • # and listing of TMDL implementation plans and watershed protection plans within the region • Acres of prime farmland and # of farms

		water supplies	• Acres of active/working agricultural land • Revenue from agricultural production • % of water demand being met or per capita water usage • Number of farms using organic practices (USDA – Used in St. Louis) or sustainable practices if available • Per capita carbon emissions (Brookings Report – Used in St. Louis)
	Our region's residents are physically and mentally healthy and are able to lead healthy lifestyles	1. Increase opportunities for residents to be physically active 2. Increase access and availability of health services, especially in areas/populations that are currently underserved 3. Create an emphasis on wellness focusing on lifestyle choices that will reduce health care costs 4. Increase access of all residents to healthy, nutritious food	• Obesity rate by county for adults and children • # of jurisdictions with parkland dedication ordinances • # of uninsured • % of residents within x radius of hospital or trauma center or community clinic (recommend: change to % with access to primary care) • # of students enrolled in free lunch programs, # residents utilizing Meals on Wheels program • # of participants in WIC program • Infant mortality rate • Allocation of dollars for preventive health • Average incidence rates of preventable diseases • Percent of total population that reside in a low income census tract AND reside more than one mile from a supermarket/large grocery store (for rural census tracts, the distance is more than 10 miles) (expand to include all) • Crime level (Uniform Crime Reports – Used in St. Louis and King County) or Violence in Homes • UTMB Texas Health Equity Index Indicators (see list) • % smoking
	Our region provides choices for individuals and for local communities to fulfill their needs	1. Increase public awareness of and participation in local and regional planning. 2. Improve access to data and information to inform decision-making. 3. Maintain a diverse range of choices in housing and neighborhoods	• # of registered voters • % of registered voters who turn out to vote • # of media outlets • % mix of housing types in the region • # of special purpose districts in the region • % of population living in unincorporated areas • Homeownership rate

			• General local government debt to revenue ratio (ratio of debt to local revenue – State and local government finance, Census) Used in St. Louis. Also HUD indicator.

Section	Goal	Objectives	Metrics
Places	Our region coordinates infrastructure, housing, and transportation investments, creating areas of opportunity and enhancing existing neighborhoods	1. Coordinate infrastructure and land use planning, construction and maintenance to optimize system performance and realize cost savings to taxpayers 2. Remove barriers to development in areas with existing infrastructure networks 3. Improve connectivity of land uses and multiple transportation modes 5. Prioritize rehabilitation and maintenance of existing infrastructure	• % of transportation funding going to new capacity vs. existing (including rehab and maintenance) and amount requested (unmet need) • # of brownfield acres/sites • # of households within ¼ to ½ mile of transit • % of population living in areas with high score on H-GAC connectivity/density index • % of population living within major activity centers
	Our region values and preserves its unique ecosystems, working landscapes, parks, open spaces, and the ecological benefits they provide	1. Promote more efficient land use patterns 2. Preserve, protect, and restore green infrastructure, vital ecosystems and prime agricultural land 3. Increase public access to parks and natural areas 4. Promote low impact development and community planning that incorporates conservation	• Net acres of agricultural and natural resource land lost annually to development per new resident • # of/acres of conservation easements (and other methods of preservation) • Acres of high value environmental resources by category • # of new parks • % of residents within x radius of a trail or a park • Acres of state and national parks lands and visitation rates • Parks acreage per capita by geography and park type • Percent of population that reside within 1 mile of a park or open space for rural or ½ mile for urban space • Acres of impervious surface (land cover data)
	Our region's communities have a range of quality housing	1. Increase the supply of affordable housing units in areas with good pedestrian infrastructure and access to transit and public services.	• Average housing cost compared to median family income • Percentage of renter units and owner units affordable to households earning 80% of HUD area median family income

	choices that meet the diverse needs and preferences of all residents	2. Increase the accessibility of safe, healthy, energy efficient, housing units to residents throughout the region. 3. Provide housing mix that provides choices for residents of all ages.	• # of homeless • Units available to LMI based on type of housing • H+T Affordability: Proportion of household income spent on housing and transportation costs • # of % of people living in sub-standard housing • # of rehabilitated units • # of age-restricted or assisted units compared to population • % of single-family and multi-family housing • # of people served by public housing authorities, # of people on waiting lists • Monthly home ownership costs • Monthly rental housing costs • Average cost of newly constructed homes • Compare distance to transit and services of old and new homes and apartments
	Our region efficiently uses, reuses, and conserves its natural resources by managing waste and consumption	1. Increase the use of green construction practices and renewable energy sources 2. Create infrastructure and policies to increase re-use of recyclable waste products and water	• % of municipal energy use that if from renewable sources • # of LEED certified projects • Number/% of homes with access to curbside recycling • Regional Recycling rate (H-GAC to have by end of year) • % of residents within x radius of recycling center, # of recycling centers • # of tons of waste sent to landfills in the region/capita • Total regional energy usage or energy use/capita • Greenhouse gas inventory? • Amount of water obtained from re-use projects
	Our region's communities are strengthened by strong social ties, local gathering places, and residents who participate in social, civic, service, and faith	1. Create new and enhance existing community gathering places and institutions 2. Maximize the accessibility and diversity of community facilities	• Dollars of charitable donations • # of charitable/non-profit organizations by type • Volunteer rate (Volunteering in America – Used in St. Louis)

Section	Goal	Objectives	Metrics
	organizations		

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Prosperity	Our region has a diverse economy and skilled workforces that support businesses, innovation, and entrepreneurship	1. Support a balance of existing businesses while diversifying the economy and preparing for the future 2. Prepare for the international economy while emphasizing local talent and opportunities 3. Align workforce supply with demand 4. Promote investments in entrepreneurship and start-ups	• Dollars of venture capital investment by sector • Industrial diversity score - # of jobs by employment sector • Agricultural production by county • % growth in business establishments • Rate of job growth and total job growth • Metropolitan gross domestic product/capita • Vocational certification vs. top industry sectors mix • Balance between entry and existing workforce • Growth alignment (between job growth and labor force growth) • # of minority/women/small business certified firms • Regional earnings from self-employment compared to national share
	Our region's residents have access to job opportunities that support a good quality of life and financial stability	1. Balance cost of living and personal income 2. Increase proximity of job and housing choices 3. Provide skills training that allows residents to improve their earning capacity	• Local average wage vs. state/national wages – change to median wage • County level cost of living/wage • Poverty rates compared to national average • Per capita income, median household income • % in poverty that are working • Salaries by vocation/occupational wages • % of all households receiving public assistance • Jobs/housing balance (regional or county average) • Unemployment rates by county compared to nation, unemp. by educ. level % managerial, professional, and technical jobs • Employment rate for adults with disabilities (ACS, Census: Used in St. Louis Plan) • Unemployment rate by education level by ethnicity • Distance of average commute
	Our region's transportation and	1. Encourage job growth through capitalizing on increased global	• # of direct international flights from the Houston Airport system

infrastructure promotes effective goods movement and is well-connected to other global destinations	connectivity and goods movement through the region 2. Balance economic benefits of goods movement with community health and quality of life 3. Increase intermodal connections and coordination, including rail, truck, airports, seaports, and other goods movement and information infrastructure	• # of jobs in the region tied to goods movement industry • Dollar amount of economic activity the region's good movement brings in to the state/region • % of regional freight that serves the national economy • % of grade separated crossings • # of residential areas/households within x miles of freight distribution facilities or hazardous vehicle routes • % of clean emissions from freight (emission inventory from rail, airplanes, ships and heavy duty trucks) • # of multi-modal distribution centers • Lane miles of freight designated corridors • Annual tonnage through the region's ports • Peak period travel time, truck, rail • Amount in tons of freight that moves in/out/within/through the region, compared to other major cities in the nation • % of goods remaining in the region (non-pass through) • Cost to businesses of delays faced by commercial vehicles • # of free trade zones
Our region embraces its rich multicultural, historical, and natural assets to ensure its communities retain their unique character	1. Capitalize on the region's reputation as a place of diversity, opportunity, and unique historical, cultural, and natural assets 2. Improve neighborhoods while preserving socioeconomic and cultural diversity 3. Increase knowledge and appreciation of all cultures, with emphasis on sharing with future generations and visitors	• Regional ethnic diversity compared to other regions (Simpson diversity index) • Demographic composition in the region (Age, race, etc.) • # of languages spoken in the region • # of historical markers/landmarks or # of historic districts • % foreign born • # of areas and # of households with poverty or racial concentrations • # of cultural, visual and performing arts organizations, funding for local arts/culture (Urban Institute's Arts and Culture Indicators Project – Used in King County) • # of multicultural and minority arts organizations in the region • # employed in arts/culture organizations and establishments (Urban Institute's Arts and Culture Indicators Project – Used in King County)

			• # of library volumes and circulation (Urban Institute's Arts and Culture Indicators Projects – Used in King County)
	Our region is resilient and adaptive to economic downturns and environmental or natural disasters	1. Provide equitable access to capital and resources for businesses during and after economic or natural occurrences 2. Increase disaster preparedness for residents and businesses 3. Create a built environment that is resilient and adaptive to changes in the natural environment 4. Encourage development in locations that are more resilient to environmental and natural disasters	• Amount of FEMA disaster recovery and SBA disaster recovery received after natural disasters • % of area/acres of development in storm surge areas • % of zero-auto households in hurricane evacuation zones • % of elderly in hurricane evacuation zones • # of communities covered in a hazard mitigation plan and # of mitigation actions identified in regional or local hazard mitigation plans • Amount of disaster recovery enhancement funds received in the region • Amount of severe repetitive flood losses over time • Dollar amount of agricultural losses due to recent drought • # of buyouts for repetitive flood loss properties • Value of ecological services in environmentally sensitive areas • Population in storm surge zones • % of population living within 100-year floodplain • % of population living in hurricane evacuation zones • Vulnerability index? • # of businesses with recovery plans • # of communities participating in FireWise Community program • Economic and environmental service losses from vegetative changes in long term drought conditions of region-see Houston's Regional Forest report. • (# PSAs on disaster preparedness)