

## Local Initiative Project Workshop Summary

The Low Income Vehicle Replacement & Repair Assistance Program (LIRAP) provides a designated portion of funding toward air quality projects in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (HGB) nonattainment area. Counties that participate in vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance programs are eligible to use these funds to establish a Local Initiative Projects (LIP). The amount of LIP funding awarded is based upon the county's participation in the inspection and maintenance programs of each county. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has been appointed to distribute these funds and administer the LIP.

TCEQ has issued the 2010 LIP amendments that declare the available 2010 LIP funding. There continues to be a slight decline in overall LIP funding for the HGB area. Below is a chart that indicates LIP funding for the last three years.

County	2008 LIP Funds	2009 LIP Funds	2010 LIP Funds
<b>Brazoria</b>	\$105,286.89	\$103,186.57	\$102,745.98
<b>Fort Bend</b>	\$131,872.15	\$134,860.75	\$135,850.57
<b>Galveston</b>	\$109,117.69	\$108,494.61	\$107,823.23
<b>Harris</b>	\$1,582,609.88	\$1,553,163.66	\$1,538,884.83
<b>Montgomery</b>	\$142,660.21	\$144,664.92	\$145,972.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,071,546.81</b>	<b>\$2,044,370.51</b>	<b>\$2,031,277.06</b>

TCEQ has returned to the original intent of the LIP program; which is to create air emissions through the enhancement of programs. Therefore, certain projects that were eligible for 2009 LIP funds will not be eligible for 2010 LIP funding. The most notable change for the HGB area is that the replacement of vehicles and equipment will be excluded from the 2010 LIP eligibility.

Though TCEQ contracts with the counties, it will recognize inter-local agreements between the county and other local government entities in order to stretch LIP funds, or create a continual project through several jurisdictions.

A few eligible projects that will be eligible for 2010 LIP funding are:

1) Emission Enforcement Programs

a) *State Inspection Sticker Check*

An Officer will input the state inspection sticker numbers in a database during a normal violation stop. The database is a state-wide database that contains all current state inspection stickers, and the name of the vehicle owner. The Officer would first check if the sticker is fraudulent, and then compare the database information with the vehicle documentation acquired during the stop. LIP funds may be used to pay for the Officer's time, the Database Manager, and equipment needed (portable laptops, software, etc.).

- b) *State Inspection Sticker Task Force*  
A team will use a vehicle that does not pass state inspection. A team member will then take the vehicle for inspection to an inspector. The team member will then try to “barter” a state inspection sticker from the inspector when the vehicle does not pass inspection. LIP funds may be used for supplies and salaries for this program.
  
- 2) Traffic Light Synchronization  
LIP funds may be used for the purchase of equipment, software, and supplies for traffic light synchronization. Several counties and cities listed traffic light synchronization as a Voluntary Mobile Emission Programs (VMEP) strategy in 2009. This is a great opportunity to fund some of the agreed to VMEPS.
  
- 3) Transit New Start and Extension Projects  
LIP funds may be used for salaries, supplies, and maybe non-construction equipment for a transit project that establishes a new route, or extends a current route. Transit projects such as these may also include van service. The main issue will be implementing a reporting system that will track the LIP funding.

Most projects are a dollar for dollar match. This creates a funding to matching ratio where LIP will fund 50% of the project, and the county will need to fund the remaining 50%. The Emission Enforcement Programs are 25 cents to the dollar match. This creates a funding ratio where LIP will fund 80% of the project, and the county will need to fund the remaining 20%. In-kind matching is available in both scenarios.

H-GAC Staff can help coordinate the information, processes, and documents between TCEQ and the counties. H-GAC Staff can also aid in project development, and may be able to “tweak” borderline projects for TCEQ approval. Most importantly, H-GAC can help identify multi-funding possibilities to lessen the county’s matching requirement.

H-GAC’s primary goal is to help the counties in our area use these funds in a way that benefits the counties, the HGB area, and the TCEQ. Please contact J. Ben Finley at 713-993-4556 or at [ben.finley@h-gac.com](mailto:ben.finley@h-gac.com) for further information.