

North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP) Health Impact Assessment

3rd Ward/Midtown/Museum District Recommendations

CONCERN	IMPACTS ON COMMUNITY	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Student Health	<p>Houston Academy of International Studies is exposed on its East to 10 times the Vehicle Miles Travelled/square mile as an average HISD/AISD campus. Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy is exposed on three sides to 7 times the district average of traffic-related air pollution. HAIS: 102,100. YWCP: 70,219. HISD/AISD Average: 10,124.</p> <p>The expansion would move the highway closer to Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy, double the width of the highway in some areas, and bring at least 26 existing school campuses within 500 feet of the freeway.</p> <p>The increased volume of traffic anticipated will introduce more air and noise pollutants into the communities near the highway. These pollutants are linked to poorer student and community health (exacerbating heart disease, respiratory diseases like asthma, and cognitive function), causing more sick days from work and school, reduced academic performance, shorter lifespans, and lower quality of life. Furthermore, a number of traffic-related air pollutants – such as diesel particulate matter, benzene, 1,3 butadiene, and formaldehyde – are known to cause cancer.</p> <p>At 5%, asthma rates at Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy currently exceed the AISD/HISD average of 3.3% by 50%.</p> <p>Children attending schools near high traffic areas are some of the most exposed and vulnerable populations to traffic-related pollution due to their developing brain, lungs, heart, and circulatory systems. They receive even more exposure if they’re active outside during high traffic times.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Request that TxDOT fund the implementation of tree lines and noise/pollution barriers along the freeway edge throughout the project. Further request that TxDOT fund street tree planting and sidewalk repair/construction along streets used by pedestrians within 500 ft of the freeway. – Request that TxDOT locate construction staging areas at least 500 ft from sensitive uses like schools, senior living, residences, and health care facilities. Encourage the use of low and zero-emission equipment and dust control during construction. – Request that TxDOT provide funding for the installation of air monitors at sensitive receptors like schools, parks, and playgrounds during and after project completion. – Request that schools implement “No-Idle Zones” around campus for carpools, school buses, and deliveries. – Request that TxDOT provide funding for the ongoing installation of HEPA (high efficiency) filters within buildings with sensitive occupants (such as schools, senior living, homes, and health care facilities) located within 500 ft of the freeway.
Environmental Justice	<p>The current freeway demarcates a 500 ft barrier between high income, majority white on the west side of SH-288 and low income, majority people of color neighborhoods on the east side of SH-288. The current proposal for the expansion will further entrench the separation between the Museum District/Midtown on the west side of the freeway with 3rd Ward on the east side.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Request that TxDOT provide funding for constructing the bridges across SH-288 in 3rd Ward/Midtown/Museum District in accordance with Complete Streets Principles.
Community Safety	<p>95 pedestrian and bicycle crashes have occurred within a ½ mile of Houston Academy of International Studies since 2010 and 100 within ½ mile of Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy, by far the most in the HIA’s study area. Most of them occurred in the Museum District, 4+ blocks west of the schools. However, a number of them occurred under or adjacent to the freeway. The current NHHIP design does not invest in design features that would protect pedestrians and cyclists traveling parallel to or crossing the freeway.</p> <p>The expansion will construct more impermeable concrete surfaces, which could increase flood risk and the urban heat island effect. Young Women’s College Preparatory Academy is currently ranked among the top 15 percent of areas in Houston that are most likely to experience dangerous urban heat island effects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Request that the Houston-Galveston Area Council provide more funding for transit and active transportation projects; remove the caps on funding for Alternative Mode and Air Quality projects; and, prioritize projects serving disadvantaged communities. – Engage with METRO to support and provide feedback on the METRONext Plan and encourage fellow community members to vote in the upcoming bond elections to authorize funding for the expansions. – Request that TxDOT include parks, green spaces, and tree canopy in future plans to increase permeable surfaces, reduce flooding, and encourage physical activity.



YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK

There is still time to provide further input on the project! The best way to do so is to directly speak to your local officials. Here is a list of people to contact and events to attend for your community. Use the information from this flyer as talking points to frame your concerns.

COMMUNITY LEADERS

Houston Mayor

Sylvester Turner: 713.837.0311 | mayor@houstontx.gov

Harris County Commissioners

Rodney Ellis, Precinct 1: (713) 274-1000

Adrian Garcia, Precinct 2: (713) 755-6220

Lina Hidalgo, County Judge: (713) 274-7000

District D City Council Member

Dwight Boykins: 832.393.3001 | districtd@houstontx.gov
City Hall Annex, 900 Bagby, First Floor, Houston, 77002

At-Large City Council Members

Mike Knox: 832.393.3014 | atlarge1@houstontx.gov

David Robinson: 832.393.3013 | atlarge2@houstontx.gov

Michael Kubosh: 832.393.3005 | atlarge3@houstontx.gov

Amanda Edwards: 832.393.3012 | atlarge4@houstontx.gov

Jack Christie: 832.393.3017 | atlarge5@houstontx.gov

SCHOOL OFFICIALS

Houston ISD Superintendent Dr. Grenita Lathan (Interim):

713.556.6300 | HIISDSuperintendent@HoustonISD.org

Houston ISD Trustees, District IV

Jolanda Jones: jjones57@houstonisd.org

Houston ISD Board President

Diana Dávila: ddavila3@houstonisd.org

State Board of Education, District 4

Mr. Lawrence A. Allen Jr.: 713-203-1355 | sboesupport@tea.texas.gov

OTHER CONTACTS

Harris County Public Health Executive Director, Umair Shah:

(713) 439-6016 | Umair.Shah@phs.hctx.net, @ushahmd (Twitter)

Houston-Galveston Area Council Director of Transportation Planning,

Alan Clark: Alan.Clark@h-gac.com | PublicComments@h-gac.com

METRO Next: <http://www.metronext.org/>

Submit a comment: <https://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/METRONext.aspx>

State Senator, District 6 Carol Alvarado:

512-463-0106 | carol.alvarado@house.texas.gov

State Representative Armando Walle:

512-463-0924 | Armando.Walle@house.texas.gov

State Representative Senfronia Thompson:

512-463-0720 | Senfronia.Thompson@house.texas.gov

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

If you are concerned about being displaced due to the expansion, please contact the following resources:

LONE STAR LEGAL AID

Kimberly Brown: 713-652-0077 | KBrown@lonestarlegal.org

TEXAS HOUSERS

Sophie Dulberg: 346-291-6262 | sophie+i45@texashousing.org

EVENTS

Houston City Council Public Comment Sessions (Every Tuesday 1:30 PM; Schedule: www.houstontx.gov/citysec/calendar.pdf)

2nd floor of City Hall, 901 Bagby, Houston, TX 77002. *Sign up to speak:* 832.393.1100, citysecretary@houstontx.gov, or by coming by the office.

City Council Transportation, Technology, and Infrastructure Committee Meetings (April 4th; May 2nd | Thursdays at 10:00 AM)

City Hall Council Chambers, 901 Bagby, Houston 77002. Email Julia.Reita@houstontx.gov to be added to email list.

Houston-Galveston Area Council Transportation Policy Council (April 5th | 9:30 AM)

TxDOT Houston District Auditorium, 7600 Washington Ave, Houston, TX 77002. Schedule: <http://www.h-gac.com/transportation-policy-council/>

Harris County Commissioner's Court (Tuesday, April 9th, 10:00 AM; Schedule: <https://agenda.harriscountytexas.gov/>)

1001 Preston Street, Suite 934, Houston, TX 77002. Request an appearance: <https://appearancerequest.harriscountytexas.gov/>.

Houston ISD Board Meetings (Thursday, April 11th, 5:00 PM; Sign up to speak: www.houstonisd.org/Page/32478)

Board Auditorium, Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center; 4400 W 18th St, Houston, TX 77092.

Midtown Super Neighborhood #62 Meeting (Thursday, April 11th, 6:00 PM)

Crime Stoppers, 3001 Main St., 77002. Contact Cynthia Aceves-Lewis, President, at info@MidtownSN.org to be added to email list.

Greater Third Ward Super Neighborhood #67 Meeting (Thursday, April 18th, 6:00 PM) 3rd Ward Multi-Service Center, 3611 Ennis St., 77004.

Contact Lynn Henson, Complete Communities Administration Manager, at 832.393.6600 or CC_ThirdWard@houstontx.gov to be added to email list.

Texas Transportation (TX DOT) Commission Meeting (Thursday, April 25, 9:00 AM)

125 East 11th St, Austin, TX 78701. Sign up to speak: 512-305-9509; <https://www.txdot.gov/contact-us/form.html?id=transcom-email>

Air Alliance Houston believes everyone has a right to breathe clean air and where you live, work, learn, and play should not determine your health. Learn more: <http://airalliancehouston.org>. 713.528.3779.

