

# North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP)

## Health Impact Assessment

### 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Recommendations

CONCERN	IMPACTS ON COMMUNITY	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
Student Health	<p>Bruce Elementary and Secondary DAEP are located diagonal to each other across the I-69/I-10 interchange. Both schools are exposed to more than 4 times the Vehicle Miles Travelled/square mile as an average HISD/AISD campus: Bruce: 40,797. Secondary DAEP: 64,512. HISD/AISD Average: 10,124.</p> <p>The expansion design brings the highway to the property line of both Bruce Elementary and Secondary DAEP and within 500 feet of at least 26 existing school campuses.</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>Asthma rates at both Bruce Elementary (7.2%) and Secondary DAEP (5%) already greatly exceed the AISD/HISD average of 3.3%.</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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Request that TxDOT fund the implementation of tree lines along the borders of the lots facing I-45 and along students’ main walking paths to and from school.</li> <li>– 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.</li> <li>– Request that TxDOT provide funding for the installation of air monitors at sensitive receptors like schools, parks, and playgrounds during and after project completion.</li> <li>– Request that schools implement “No-Idle Zones” around campus for carpools, school buses, and deliveries.</li> <li>– Request that TxDOT provide funding for the ongoing installation of HEPA (high efficiency) filters within buildings with sensitive occupants located within 500 ft of the freeway.</li> </ul>
Environmental Justice	<p>The expansion would cause the removal or relocation of families in several public housing units, particularly Clayton Homes and Kelly Village.</p> <p>Poverty rates along the expansion are higher than the Houston average: 65.5% in Bruce neighborhood and 75.5% in DAEP neighborhood, compared with 43.2% in Houston as a whole.</p> <p>The percentage of persons of color is much higher in these neighborhoods than in Houston as a whole: 92.6% in the Bruce neighborhood, 94% in the DAEP neighborhood, compared with 73.7% in Houston.</p> <p>Of the three segments, the affluent Segment 3 (Downtown) has considerable differences in strategies for mitigation than the other two segments; negative impacts of the highway could disproportionately fall on low-income communities of color.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Encourage TxDOT to work with the City of Houston and community organizations to improve the amenities provided along the northern segments of the project to mirror the investment going into Downtown.</li> <li>– Request that TxDOT improve surface street connectivity between 5th Ward and the Central Business District to improve access to job opportunities.</li> </ul>
Community Safety	<p>20% of Bruce Elementary students walk to school, exposing them to the locations with the highest pedestrian and cycling crashes historically in the neighborhood: Jensen Drives and under and next to the freeway.</p> <p>15 pedestrian and bicycle crashes have occurred within a ½ mile of Bruce Elementary since 2010; 35 have occurred within a ½ mile of Secondary DAEP. The NHHIP design will move the freeway closer to both schools and increase the speed of cars traveling down the access road, increasing safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>Both schools are currently ranked among the top 10 percent of areas in Houston that are most likely to experience dangerous urban heat island effects. The expansion will construct more impermeable concrete surfaces, which could increase flood risk and the urban heat island effect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 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.</li> <li>– 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.</li> <li>– Request that TxDOT include parks, green spaces, and tree canopy in future plans to increase permeable surfaces, reduce flooding, and encourage physical activity.</li> </ul>



# 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](mailto: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 B City Council Member

Jerry Davis: 832.393.3009 | [districtb@houstontx.gov](mailto:districtb@houstontx.gov),  
City Hall Annex, 900 Bagby, First Floor, Houston, 77002

### At-Large City Council Members

Mike Knox: 832.393.3014 | [atlarge1@houstontx.gov](mailto:atlarge1@houstontx.gov)  
David Robinson: 832.393.3013 | [atlarge2@houstontx.gov](mailto:atlarge2@houstontx.gov)  
Michael Kubosh: 832.393.3005 | [atlarge3@houstontx.gov](mailto:atlarge3@houstontx.gov)  
Amanda Edwards: 832.393.3012 | [atlarge4@houstontx.gov](mailto:atlarge4@houstontx.gov)  
Jack Christie: 832.393.3017 | [atlarge5@houstontx.gov](mailto:atlarge5@houstontx.gov)

## SCHOOL OFFICIALS

### Houston ISD Superintendent

Dr. Grenita Lathan (Interim): 713.556.6300 | [HISDSuperintendent@HoustonISD.org](mailto:HISDSuperintendent@HoustonISD.org)

### Houston ISD Board President

Diana Dávila: [ddavila3@houstonisd.org](mailto:ddavila3@houstonisd.org)

### Houston ISD Trustees

District I, Elizabeth Santos: [Elizabeth.Santos@houstonisd.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Santos@houstonisd.org)  
District II, Rhonda Skillern-Jones: [rskille2@houstonisd.org](mailto:rskille2@houstonisd.org)

### State Board of Education, District 4

Mr. Lawrence A. Allen Jr.:  
713-203-1355 | [sboesupport@tea.texas.gov](mailto:sboesupport@tea.texas.gov)

## OTHER

**Harris County Public Health** Executive Director, Umair Shah:  
(713) 439-6016 | [Umair.Shah@phs.hctx.net](mailto:Umair.Shah@phs.hctx.net), @ushahmd (Twitter)

**Houston-Galveston Area Council** Director of Transportation Planning,  
Alan Clark: [Alan.Clark@h-gac.com](mailto:Alan.Clark@h-gac.com) | [PublicComments@h-gac.com](mailto: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](mailto:carol.alvarado@house.texas.gov)

**State Representative** Armando Walle:

512-463-0924 | [Armando.Walle@house.texas.gov](mailto:Armando.Walle@house.texas.gov)

**State Representative** Senfronia Thompson:

512-463-0720 | [Senfronia.Thompson@house.texas.gov](mailto: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](mailto:KBrown@lonestarlegal.org)  
[www.lonestarlegal.org](http://www.lonestarlegal.org)

### TEXAS HOUSERS

Sophie Dulberg: 346-291-6262 | [sophie+i45@texashousing.org](mailto:sophie+i45@texashousing.org)  
<https://texashousers.net>

## EVENTS

### **Houston City Council Public Comment Sessions** (Every Tuesday 1:30 PM; Schedule: [www.houstontx.gov/citysec/calendar.pdf](http://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](mailto:citysecretary@houstontx.gov), or by coming by the office on the public level of the City Hall Annex by 1:30 p.m. that Tuesday.

### **Super Neighborhood #55 Meeting** (Wednesday, April 3rd 6:00 PM)

Fifth Ward MSC, 4014 Market Street, Houston, 77020. Contact Joetta Stevenson, SN President, at 713-502-7181 to speak at the meeting.

### **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](mailto: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)

Board Auditorium, Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center; 4400 W 18th St, Houston, TX 77092.  
Sign up to speak: [www.houstonisd.org/Page/32478](http://www.houstonisd.org/Page/32478).

### **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.

