

North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP) Health Impact Assessment

Greater Northside/Northline Recommendations

CONCERN	IMPACTS ON COMMUNITY	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
<p>Student Health</p>	<p>Roosevelt Elementary and Jefferson Elementary are located across 610 from each other on the east side of I-45. Jefferson Elementary is exposed to more than 5 times the Vehicle Miles Travelled/square mile as an average HISD/AISD campus. Jefferson: 55,292. HISD/AISD Average: 10,124.</p> <p>The expansion would double the width of the highway in some areas and add several more lanes, bringing at least 26 existing school campuses within 500 feet of the freeway, including Jefferson and Roosevelt.</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>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 along the borders of the lots facing I-45 and along major streets 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.
<p>Environmental Justice</p>	<p>Poverty rates and representation of people of color are higher in the neighborhood surrounding Roosevelt Elementary than Houston as a whole. The poverty rate is 52% in the Roosevelt neighborhood, compared with 43.2% in Houston. The percentage of persons of color is 94% in the Roosevelt neighborhood, compared with 73.7% in Houston.</p> <p>Of the three segments, the affluent Segment 3 (Downtown) shows 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"> - 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. - Request that TxDOT fund appropriate structure for the deck park proposed to link Woodland Heights and Near Northside, so that it will be able to accommodate trees and other vegetation. Ensure that pedestrian access is safe and inviting to residents wishing to use the park.
<p>Community Safety</p>	<p>13 pedestrian and bicycle crashes have occurred within a ½ mile of Jefferson Elementary since 2010. All of them are located on the two streets students use to walk across the freeway: Link and Cavalcade. Most of the 21 ped/bike crashes near Roosevelt have taken place under or next to the freeway. The NHHIP design will expand the width of the freeway and increase the speed of cars traveling down the access road, increasing safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>The expansion will construct more impermeable concrete surfaces, which could increase flood risk and the urban heat island effect. Jefferson Elementary is currently ranked among the top 9 percent of areas in Houston that are most likely to experience dangerous urban heat island effects. Both schools are located in the floodplain, which crosses the freeway from Little White Oak Bayou along the two streets students use to cross the freeway.</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. - Request that TxDOT comply with the Harris County Flood Control design standard of 500-year flood events, rather than 100-year flood events.



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 H City Council Member

Karla Cisneros: 832.393.3003 | districth@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 | HISDSuperintendent@HoustonISD.org

Houston ISD Board President

Diana Dávila: ddavila3@houstonisd.org

Houston ISD Trustees

District I, Elizabeth Santos: Elizabeth.Santos@houstonisd.org

District II, Rhonda Skillern-Jones: rskille2@houstonisd.org

State Board of Education, District 4

Mr. Lawrence A. Allen Jr.:

713-203-1355 | sboesupport@tea.texas.gov

OTHER

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
www.lonestarlegal.org

TEXAS HOUSERS

Sophie Dulberg: 346-291-6262 | 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)

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 on the public level of the City Hall Annex by 1:30 p.m. that Tuesday.

Super Neighborhood #51 Meeting (Every 4th Thursday, at 6:00 PM)

2101 South St., Houston, TX 77009. Email Jack.valinski@houstontx.gov to be added to email list.

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.Retta@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.

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.

