



CONCERN	IMPACTS ON THE COMMUNITY	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
<p><b>Student Health</b></p>	<p>Freeway traffic next to the nine schools studied in the HIA currently averages seven times higher Vehicle Miles Travelled/ square mile (70,198), compared with the HISD/AISD average of 10,124.</p> <p>Asthma rates at many of the schools along the NHHIP route already greatly exceed the AISD/HISD average of 3.3%. E.g. Bruce El.: 7.2%; Aldine: 4-6%; YWCPA: 5%; Secondary DAEP: 5%.</p> <p>The expansion design would widen the highway width by as much as 50% in some areas and add several more lanes, bringing at least 26 existing school and daycare campuses within 500 feet of the freeway.</p> <p>The increased volume of traffic anticipated will introduce more air and noise pollutants into the nearby communities. <b>These pollutants are linked to poorer health, causing more sick days from work and school, reduced academic performance, shorter lifespans, and lower quality of life.</b> Furthermore, a number of traffic-related air pollutants are known to cause cancer.</p> <p>Children attending schools near high traffic areas are particularly vulnerable to traffic-related pollution due to their developing brains, lungs, hearts, and circulatory systems. They receive even more exposure if they are active outside during high traffic times.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request that TxDOT fund sidewalks and tree lines along the borders of the lots facing I-45 and along major streets within 500 ft of the freeway/students' main walking paths to and from school. Further request that TxDOT fund noise/pollution barriers along the freeway edge.</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>
<p><b>Environmental Justice</b></p>	<p>The expansion would cause the removal or relocation of families in several public housing units, particularly Clayton Homes and Kelly Village in the 5th Ward.</p> <p>Several neighborhoods along Segments 1 (Beltway 8 to I-610) and 2 (I-610 to I-10) have higher poverty rates (up to 75.5%) and a higher percentage of persons of color (up to 94%), compared with the Houston average (43.2% and 73.7%, respectively).</p> <p>The current NHHIP design will further entrench barriers between neighborhoods on either side of the expansion route. E.g. High income, majority white neighborhoods on the west side of SH-288 and low income, majority people of color neighborhoods on the east side; the freeway separates residents of Independence Heights (a food desert) from the closest grocery store: Walmart.</p> <p>More mitigation strategies have been incorporated into the design for the affluent Segment 3 (Downtown) than into the two segments north of I-10; <b>negative impacts could disproportionately fall on low-income communities of color.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage TxDOT to work with the City of Houston and community organizations to reduce the freeway width and improve the amenities provided along the northern segments of the project to mirror the investment going into Downtown.</li> <li>- 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 to the park is safe and inviting.</li> <li>- Request that TxDOT improve surface street connectivity between 5th Ward and the Central Business District to improve access to job opportunities.</li> <li>- Request that TxDOT provide funding for constructing all freeway crossings in accordance with Complete Streets Principles to protect and promote pedestrians and cyclists.</li> <li>- Request that TxDOT retain the current level of freeway access to the Northside and 5th Ward.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Safety</b></p>	<p>A large number of pedestrian/bike crashes have occurred within 1/2 mile of schools along the I-45 since 2010. E.g. YWCPA: 100; HAIS: 95; Aldine: 56. Many of these have occurred under/adjacent to the freeway or on preferred pedestrian routes to school. Furthermore, no school zone has been designated for any of the schools on the Aldine campus. The current NHHIP design will expand the freeway width and increase the speed of cars traveling down the access road, <b>increasing safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists, many of whom are school children.</b></p> <p>Many of the schools along the I-45 are in areas ranked as most prone to dangerous urban heat island effects and/or flooding in Houston. E.g. Jefferson El. is in the top 9% of areas most likely to suffer from urban heat island effects, while the Aldine campus sits in both the 100-year and 500-year FEMA floodplains. 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 and provide feedback on the METRONext Plan.</li> <li>- Request that TxDOT include parks, green spaces, and tree canopy in the NHHIP design to increase permeable surfaces, reduce flooding, and encourage physical activity.</li> <li>- Request that TxDOT comply with the Harris County and City of Houston Flood Control design standard of 500-year flood events, rather than 100-year flood events.</li> </ul>



**YOUR VOICE MATTERS**

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

**City Council Members**

Jerry Davis (District B): 832.393.3009  
[districtb@houstontx.gov](mailto:districtb@houstontx.gov)  
Karla Cisneros (District H): 832.393.3003  
[districth@houstontx.gov](mailto:districth@houstontx.gov)

**Who Is My Council Member?**

[www.houstontx.gov/council/whoismycm.html](http://www.houstontx.gov/council/whoismycm.html)

**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)  
Letitia Plummer: 832.393.3012  
[atlarge4@houstontx.gov](mailto:atlarge4@houstontx.gov)  
Sallie Alcorn: 832.393.3017  
[atlarge5@houstontx.gov](mailto:atlarge5@houstontx.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) or  
[PublicComments@h-gac.com](mailto:PublicComments@h-gac.com)

**State Elected Officials**

Senator, District 6, Carol Alvarado: 512-463-0106  
[carol.alvarado@house.texas.gov](mailto:carol.alvarado@house.texas.gov)  
Senator, District 13, Borris L. Miles: 512-463-0113  
[borris.miles@senate.texas.gov](mailto:borris.miles@senate.texas.gov)  
Senator, District 15, John Whitmire: 512-463-0115  
[john.whitmire@senate.texas.com](mailto:john.whitmire@senate.texas.com)  
State Rep. Garnet F. Coleman: 512-463-0524  
[garnet.coleman@house.texas.gov](mailto:garnet.coleman@house.texas.gov)  
State Rep. Jessica Farrar: 512-463-0620  
[jessica.farrar@house.texas.gov](mailto:jessica.farrar@house.texas.gov)  
State Rep. Christina Morales: 512-463-0732  
[christina.morales@house.texas.gov](mailto:christina.morales@house.texas.gov)  
State Rep. Senfronia Thompson: 512-463-0720  
[senfronia.thompson@house.texas.gov](mailto:senfronia.thompson@house.texas.gov)  
State Rep. Armando Walle: 512-463-0924  
[armando.walle@house.texas.gov](mailto:armando.walle@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 ([www.lonestarlegal.org](http://www.lonestarlegal.org)) Kimberly Brown: 713-652-0077 | [KBrown@lonestarlegal.org](mailto:KBrown@lonestarlegal.org)

TEXAS HOUSERS ([www.texashousers.net](http://www.texashousers.net)) Sophie Dulberg: 346-291-6262 | [sophie+i45@texashousing.org](mailto:sophie+i45@texashousing.org)

Sign up for our mailing list at [www.airalliancehouston.org](http://www.airalliancehouston.org)

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