

Independence Heights

I-45 NHHIP DIRECT COMMUNITY BENEFITS

**Unfortunately, ongoing litigation and Title VI investigations may delay or eliminate the following beneficial measures to which TxDOT has committed.*

Independence Heights is the first African American municipality in Texas, and is in TxDOT's I-45 North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP) area. The project brings significant economic impacts to the Houston area as well as much needed safety improvements to one of the state's most congested highways. Some 92,000 direct jobs are being created with an additional 89,000 indirect jobs generated from this project. The overall statewide economic impact of NHHIP is estimated at \$19.2 billion.

The future of transportation is changing and the infrastructure in the nation's fourth largest city needs to change with it. Parts of the I-45 corridor have not changed since being constructed over 50 years ago. The I-45 improvement project not only brings these highways up to current standards, but also prepares for the future by improving resiliency to weather events and providing safer more efficient travel that could accommodate the transition to electric and self-driving vehicles. And, importantly, it will increase the opportunity for transit and high-occupancy vehicles as a mode choice for those traveling along the I-45 North Houston corridor. Additionally, the neighborhoods in the project area will see many specific benefits beyond the economic and safety improvements.



Flood Control

FLOODING CAUSE CONFIRMED

TxDOT released Hydrological Report confirming flooding of neighborhood caused by culverts since construction of I-610.

FLOODING RISK REDUCED

TxDOT worked with Harris County Flood Control and the City of Houston to develop a drainage plan extending from downtown up Little White Bayou to Independence Heights that improves hydrologic chokepoints and drainage to the west (with more capacity coming from White Oak).

TRAIL SUPPORT

Community has some support for hike-and-bike trail as long as it does not result in additional displacement of residents



Green Space/ Air Quality/ Aesthetics

SMALL ACCESSIBLE PARK

Pocket park near Greater Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church.

IMPROVED AIR QUALITY

During construction will monitor PM2.5, NOx, CO and priority MSAT pollutants.

MINIMIZE POLLUTANTS AND RUN-OFF

Native vegetation buffer along freeway post-construction.



Historical

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY HIGHLIGHTED

Updated Historic Resources Survey Report to include discussion of Independence Heights as first African American town in Texas and document history.

COMMUNITY SIGNAGE

Provide additional funding for Community Gateways (6), Wayfinding Signage in the neighborhood (10 Signs), street sign toppers (50).



Cultural Planning Process

DOCUMENTATION OF HISTORIC ASSETS

TxDOT hired consultant to work on planning process which include windshield survey and documentation of community's historic assets that will be featured on the National Historic Emancipation Trail.



Weatherization Program

MITIGATE DUST AND NOISE IMPACT

For qualifying minority and low-income, single-family residential households, to mitigate dust and noise impacts during construction.



Noise Mitigation

SOUND WALLS

Being provided at property-specific level and offering additional sound walls.

Key Takeaway

TxDOT has fully, completely, and in good faith complied with all legal requirements in planning for and evaluating alternatives and impacts of the North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP). Moreover, TxDOT has committed to many significant actions bringing multiple benefits* to the community.