

Near Northside/ Woodland 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.*

Although initially settled by German and Italian American immigrants more than a century ago, Houston's Near Northside has been predominantly Hispanic for more than 75 years. Woodland Heights is one of Houston's oldest and most historic neighborhoods. When originally platted in 1907, the neighborhood was a 20-minute streetcar ride from downtown Houston along Houston Avenue. Both of these neighborhoods are 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 impact of the 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. 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.



Mobility

I-610 ENTRANCE RAMP

Adds I-610 westbound entrance ramp from Irvington up and over METRO light rail tracks at Fulton.

I-610 COLLECTOR-DISTRIBUTOR

Design of I-610/I-45 interchange moves exits and entrances away from center of the interchange.

ADD FRONTAGE ROADS

Add I-45 and I-610 frontage roads in all directions at interchange.

NEW FRONTAGE ROADS

Construct I-45 northbound and southbound frontage roads between North Street and White Oak Drive/Quitman.

NORTH STREET

Connect to I-45 northbound frontage road.

LOWER MAINLANES

Depress I-45 north and southbound mainlanes between Cottage and North Main St.

POTENTIAL EXIT

Evaluate adding I-45 southbound exit to North Main St.



Flood Control

FLOODING RISK REDUCED

Replace culverts at I-610 and Little White Oak Bayou and remove flooding obstacle.

DETENTION PONDS

Construct new detention ponds along I-45 to hold stormwater during heavy rain events.

MOVE STORMWATER DOWNSTREAM

Add North and South canals to move White Oak Bayou stormwater downstream more quickly.



Aesthetics

BEAUTIFICATION OPPORTUNITY

Structural cap over I-45 mainlanes between Cottage and North Main St. available for greenspace or other beautification.



Bicycle/ Pedestrian

EXTEND TRAIL

Lengthen Little White Oak Bayou pedestrian bicycle trail under I-45 and connect Woodland Park and Moody Park.



Noise Mitigation

SOUND WALLS

Some for specific properties, additional ones offered.

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.