

NHHIP VRA PROGRESS REPORT

September 2, 2023

APPENDIX F

NHHIP CONTRIBUTION TO THE EMANCIPATION TRAIL

North Houston Highway Improvement Project's Contribution



Emancipation Trail

The Emancipation National Historic Trail Study Act, sponsored by U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee and U.S. Senator John Cornyn, was signed into law in 2019. This study evaluates the feasibility of a historic 51-mile trail, one of only two in the nation, celebrating African American heritage in Texas. The Emancipation Trail will encourage local, regional and even national tourism to the area.

TxDOT will collaborate and partner with local agencies and the community to connect and increase access to these historical sites. While stitching together trails, North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP) can be adapted to accommodate the Emancipation Trail within the project limits.

What is proposed in the NHHIP?

The NHHIP connects pedestrians and cyclists across highways and provides key links to access African American history and culture, part of which is to be represented by the Emancipation Trail. The NHHIP provides greater access to historic and cultural African American sites that follow the historic route through Independence Heights, Downtown, and Third Ward.



Antioch Missionary Church in Downtown

Downtown

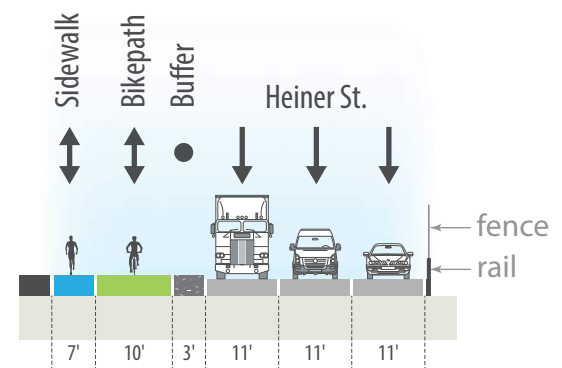
The NHHIP provides new off-street high comfort pedestrian and bicycle connections to downtown's historic and cultural African American sites along the Emancipation Trail. These bike and pedestrian accommodations create convenient, safe access to cultural assets while encouraging multimodal transportation.

1 Heiner St.

TxDOT will build 10-foot two-way bike path and a 5-foot sidewalk along I-45 from Allen Parkway to Cleveland Street to increase connectivity between people and places. This vital north-south high comfort bike connection will close a strategic gap between the historic sites in Midtown and the Buffalo Bayou trail. The Heiner Street bike and pedestrian facilities, built as part of the NHHIP, will provide regional off-street convenient access for bike tourism to the Emancipation sites in the Fourth Ward from the Buffalo Bayou Trail.

HISTORICAL MARKER/NATIONAL REGISTER SITES

Rutherford BH Yates House - Museum	A
African American Library - Gregory School	B
Freeman's Town Historic District	C
Ancient Order of Pilgrims - Headquarter	D
Antioch Missionary Baptist Church	E
Independence Heights Residential Historic District	F
Johnson Charles House	G
Oscar Lindsay House	H
Houston's First Sit-In	I
Emancipation Park	J
Grand Court Order of Calathe	K
Houston Negro Hospital School of Nursing	L

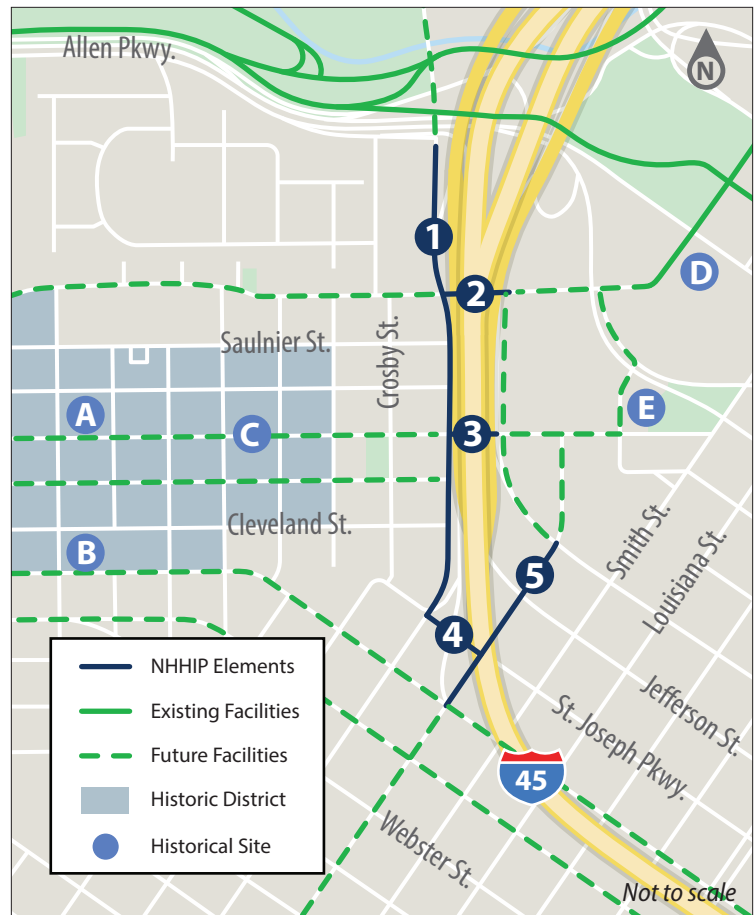
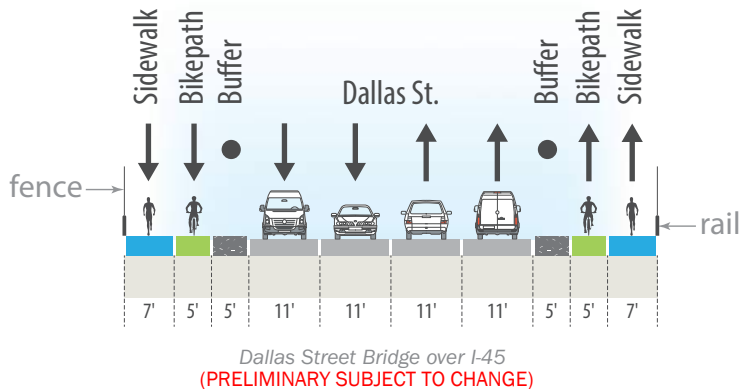


Heiner Street from Allen Parkway to Cleveland Street looking north (PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

2 Dallas St. - Pedestrian and Bike Realm

NHHIP will build a 17-foot pedestrian and bike realm on both sides of the new Dallas Bridge, higher-comfort than the existing single 10-foot sidepath along Dallas Street. This connection over I-45 provides greater pedestrian and bike connectivity across the highway for the community. TxDOT's new bridge will provide access to:

- The Headquarter for the Ancient Order of Pilgrims Texas Historical Site, located at the intersection of West Dallas Street and Bagby Street
- The Kellum-Noble House at the Sam Houston Park, which includes the lives of the slaves that lived in the house.

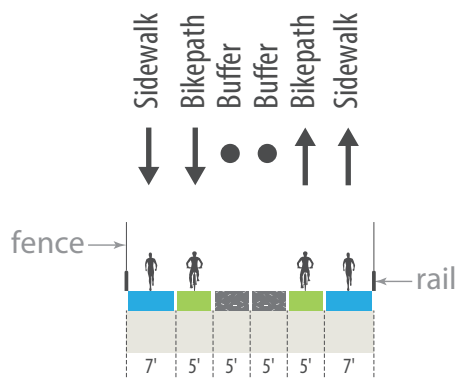


Downtown high-comfort NHHIP connections to historic sites

3 Andrews St. - Pedestrian and Bike Bridge

Responding directly to stakeholder input, the NHHIP would reconnect Andrews Street as a pedestrian/cyclist only crossing. The pedestrian/cyclist only bridge will seamlessly connect Antioch Missionary Baptist Church to other historic sites in Freeman's Town west of I-45 including:

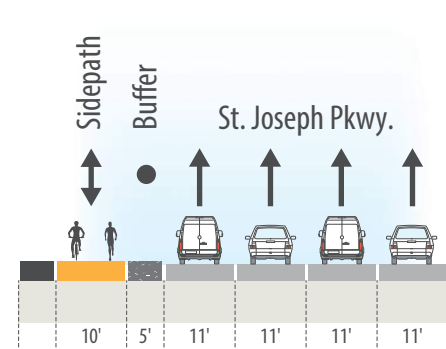
- Freeman's Town Historic District
- The African American Library Gregory School
- The Rutherford BH Yates House - Museum



Andrews Street Bridge from Heiner Street to Pease Street looking eastward
(PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

4 St. Joseph Parkway - Sidepath

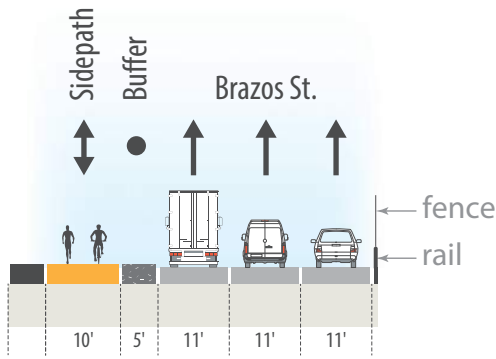
NHHIP will also build a 10-foot sidepath along a detention pond berm to seamlessly connect the sidepath along Heiner Street to the Brazos Street sidepath. This NHHIP segment focuses on interconnecting NHHIP elements 5 and 1 to create a continuous and high comfort multimodal network.



St. Joseph Parkway from Brazos Street to Heiner Street
(PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

5 Brazos St. - Sidepath

NHHIP will also build a 10-foot sidepath on Brazos Street from Pierce Street to Pease Street along the south-east berm of the proposed adjacent detention pond. This will provide a high comfort off-street connection between the City of Houston's buffered bike lanes on Gray Street to the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church.



Brazos Street from Pierce Street to Pease Street looking north eastward
(PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Independence Heights

6 I-610 North at North Main St.

Independence Heights plays a key role as part of the Emancipation Route. There are at least two sites in the National Register as well as the Independence Heights Residential Historic District north of I-610. NHHIP will build a 10-foot sidepath under I-610, this strategic connection will be in place in preparation for a future expansion of the Main Street bikeway, by the City of Houston.

While the NHHIP would not reconstruct the I-610 bridge over North Main Street, the project would add an off-street sidepath along the North Main Street underpass to improve safety and mobility by creating a high comfort, convenient pedestrian/cyclist path under the highway for the community.



I-610 North new NHHIP underpass connection to African-American historic sites

HISTORICAL MARKER/NATIONAL REGISTER SITES

Independence Heights Residential Historic District	F
Johnson Charles House	G
Oscar Lindsay House	H



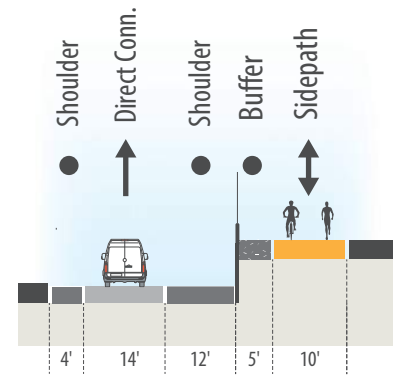
Artistic rendering of sidepath under I-610 North at North Main Street looking north
(PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Third Ward

7 & 8 I-69 at SH 288 Interchange

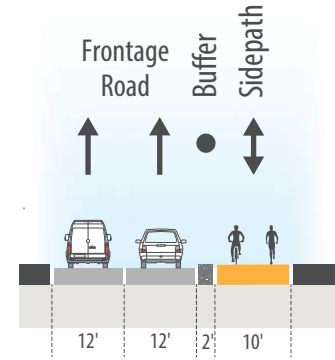
NHHIP will also build a 10-foot sidepath along SH 288 frontage road to Third Ward, with its rich African American history, Emancipation Park and current cultural hub in the Project Row Houses complex. The Third Ward is a key stop along the Emancipation Route. There are at least two Texas Historical Markers and one National Register in this area.

The new off-street pedestrian and bike facilities, built as part of the NHHIP, will improve community multimodal mobility across the I-69/SH 288 interchange by creating a high comfort, off-street convenient path that maintains connectivity across the different historic sites on either side of SH 288.



7 Sidepath along Isabella St. from Alameda Road to Cleburne Road
(PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

HISTORICAL MARKER/NATIONAL REGISTER SITES	
Houston's First Sit-In	I
Emancipation Park	J
Grand Court Order of Calathe	K
Houston Negro Hospital School of Nursing	L



8 SH 288/I-69 Frontage Road along Chartres St. from Cleburne St. to Elgin St.
(PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

A street map of the Third Ward area. A yellow line represents the I-69/SH 288 interchange. A blue line with circles labeled '7' and '8' indicates the NHHIP elements. Green lines represent existing facilities, and dashed green lines represent future facilities. Blue circles with letters 'I', 'J', 'K', and 'L' mark historical sites. The map includes a legend in the bottom-left corner and a north arrow in the top-left corner. The text 'Not to scale' is in the bottom-right corner.

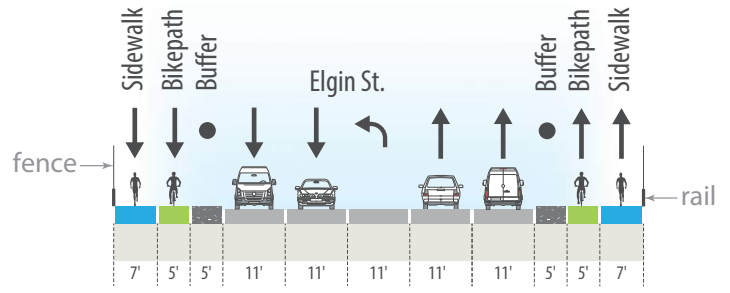
Third Ward new off-street high-comfort NHHIP connections to historic sites

Third Ward

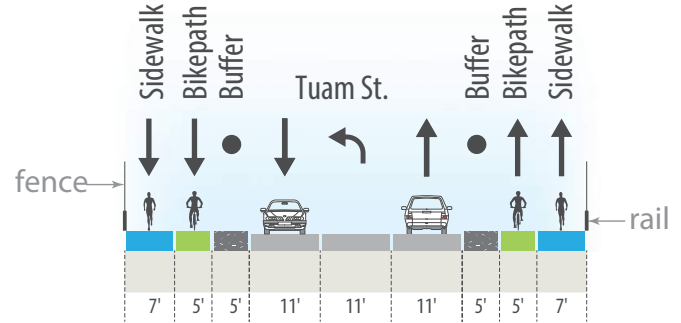
9 10 11 & 12 Local Streets across I-69

The NHHIP improvements on these four streets across I-69 are tailored to each crossing stemming from the collaboration between TxDOT and the City of Houston. These improvements provide high comfort pedestrian and bicyclist facilities for safer mobility for active transportation. These improvements also increase connectivity to Emancipation Park in the Third Ward, which is an important African American community resource.

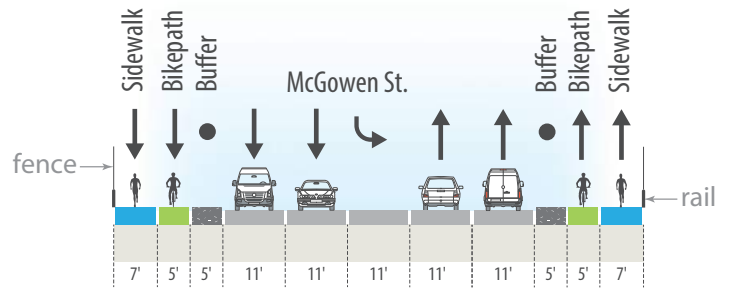
- Although there is no planned bikeway on Elgin currently by the City of Houston, the NHHIP will create a high comfort pedestrian and bicycle accommodations to encourage safe east-west multimodal access to Emancipation Park, a must-see stop along the Emancipation Trail.
- The Tuam St. bikeway by the City of Houston is a future shared the road on-street bikeway, the NHHIP in preparation for that connection will provide a high comfort off-street facility for cyclists and pedestrians as they cross I-69.
- The NHHIP will build the McGowen connection in preparation for the future McGowen bikeway, by the City of Houston.
- Finally, the NHHIP will provide a high comfort connection at I-45 and Gray Street.



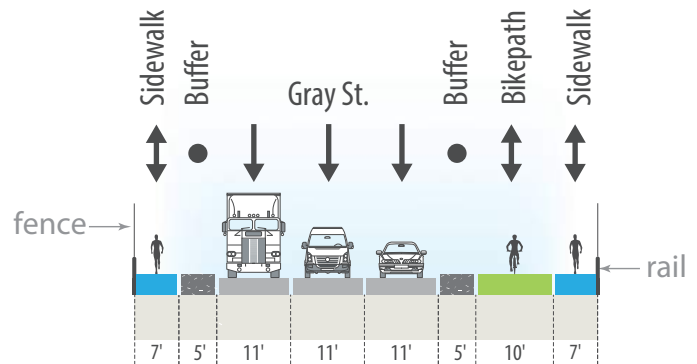
9 Elgin Street Bridge over IH-69
(PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE)



10 Tuam Street Bridge over IH-69
(PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE)



11 McGowen Street Bridge over IH-69
(PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE)



12 Gray Street Bridge over IH-69
(PRELIMINARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

HISTORICAL MARKER/NATIONAL REGISTER SITES

Emancipation Park	J
Grand Court Order of Calathe	K



Local high-comfort ped/ped connections across I-69 to cultural sites