

# **Verbal Comments at Scoping Meeting**

## **Identifying Areas of Concern - Public Engagement Exercise**

### **Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15 and 17, 2011**

#### **Jefferson Davis and Aldine High Schools**

For this exercise, meeting attendees were provided two identical aerial project limit maps displayed on tables where they could view the proposed project area. Project team members were stationed at the tables to discuss the project area, and issues and concerns raised by meeting attendees.

Team members told attendees that if there was a specific area (or areas) about which they wanted the team to be aware, they could provide information by following these steps:

1. Receive two identically numbered stickers; put one sticker on the map identifying a specific area
2. Go to a table with the other sticker, give it to a “note taker” and have them write what was important about that area before leaving the meeting

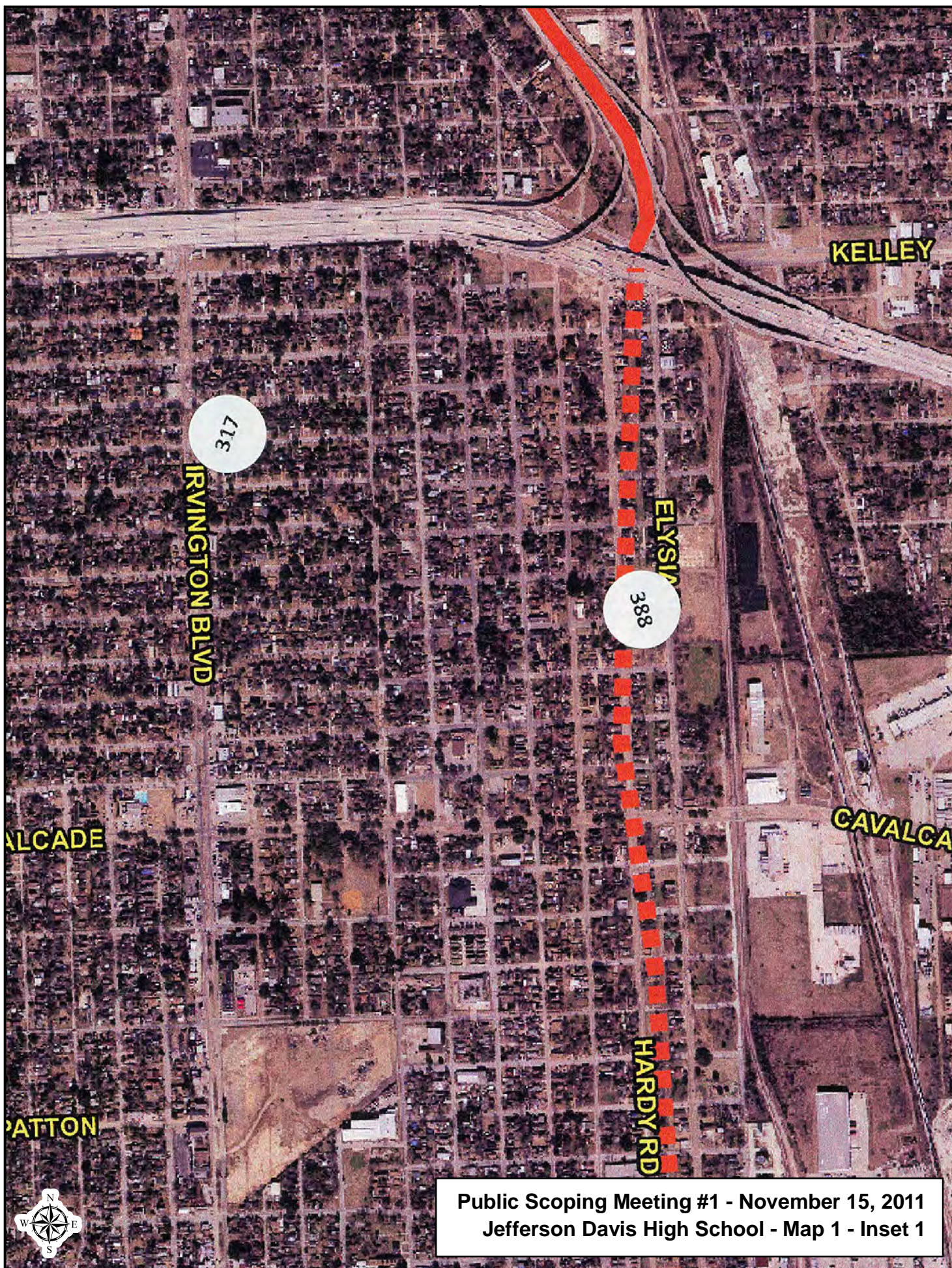
After this information was written down, attendees were advised by the note takers to also fill out a comment form and complete a survey, as each method was a different and valuable way to provide feedback on the project.

The information received from the meeting attendees regarding areas of concern is summarized in this section. The aerial project limit maps, with insets, are small reproductions of the maps provided at the meeting, and include the numbered stickers that correspond with the information provided. Numbered stickers were not given out in numerical order and do not imply any priority of identified areas of concern; information below is presented in numerical order for each inset map.









Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15, 2011  
Jefferson Davis High School - Map 1 - Inset 1



**Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15, 2011**

**Jefferson Davis High School**

**Map 1 Inset 1**

Area of Concern ID Number	Information Provided
317	Lives north of Cavalcade and there is already too much noise as IH 610 is too close. Safety is also a concern, including increased speeds. Air quality is also a problem - concerned that ROW to the east would make the problems worse.
388	Live on Elysian and is worried about property value dropping and not getting the amount of money for their house that they should. Changing quality of life for themselves and others that would live there (future buyers). Very upset.
General Comment	An attendee suggested that the meeting needed more note takers (with computers) and better instructions.





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Jefferson Davis High School - Map 1 - Inset 2



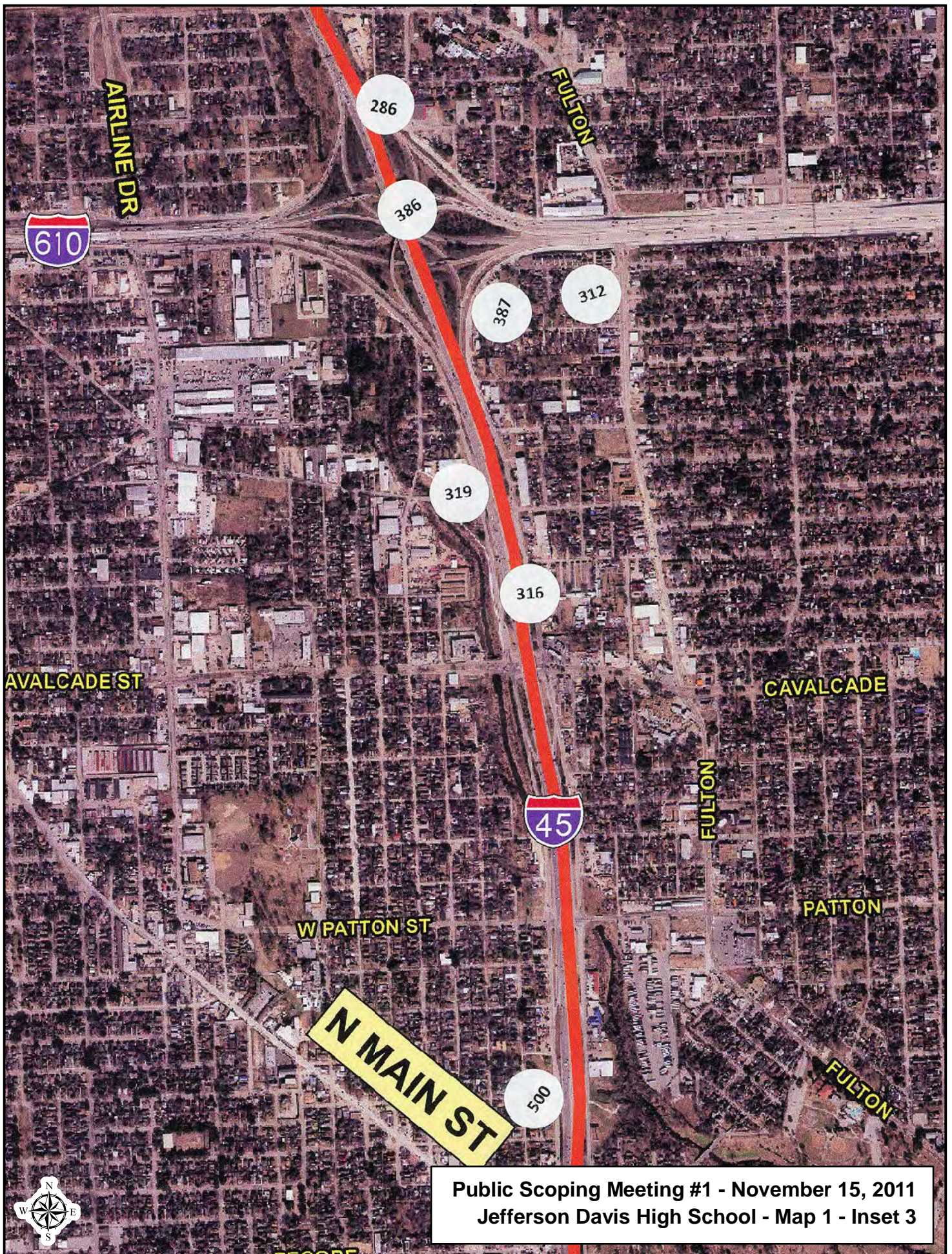
**Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15, 2011**

**Jefferson Davis High School**

**Map 1 Inset 2**

Area of Concern ID Number	Information Provided
237	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.
311	Area of Main and Hogan. Home impact concerns for 308 Hogan Houston TX 77009 at Highway 59 South near George R Brown and IH 45 N intersection and from IH 45 south to IH 45 north where the connectors go down to one lane, the arrows are marked wrong. (it is reversed.) Would like 288 to continue though the city to connect at IH 45 north and I-10.
395	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.







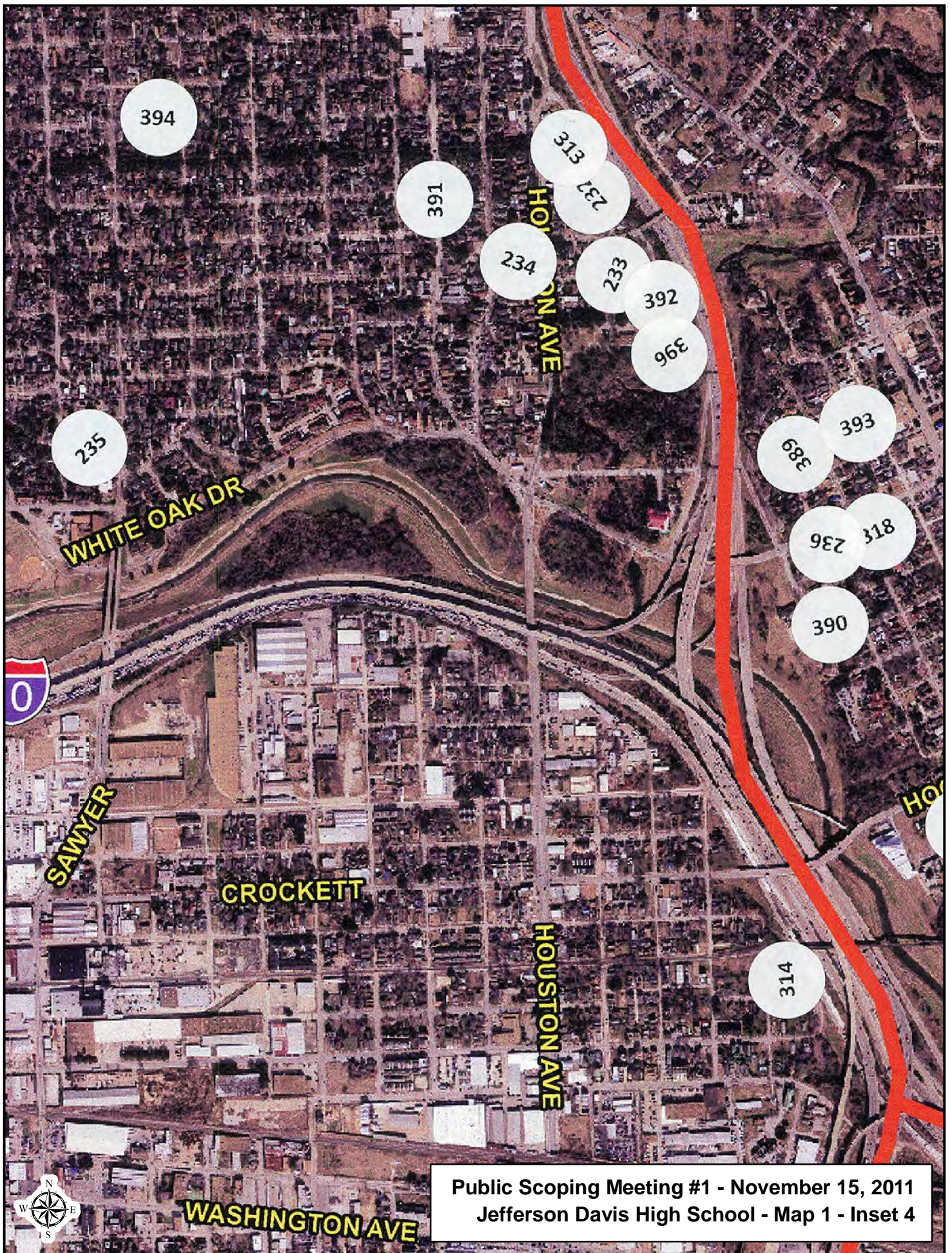
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**Jefferson Davis High School**

**Map 1 Inset 3**

Area of Concern ID Number	Information Provided
286	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.
312	Live in a residence located at IH 45 and IH 610. Concerned that home would be impacted. Address: 5903 Nancy Ann Street. Houston 77009
316	Would like the area with no increased ROW expanded from Cavalcade north to IH 610. This is a residential area with families tied into the community. People use public transportation. Rail would be beneficial.
319	Own the business "Hot Water" located at 352 Link Road. Entire business and business plan is centered on this location. Concerned that widening the roadway will eliminate their business.
386	Regarding the area at IH 610 and IH 45 they are concerned about traffic. The area needs a feeder road from IH 45 to cross IH 610. They own a business in this area
387	Neighborhood cohesion concerns. They have fixed up their home from scratch.
500	Don't encroach further here. Not on neighborhood or on tributary of Little White Oak Bayou.





Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15, 2011  
Jefferson Davis High School - Map 1 - Inset 4



**Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15, 2011**

**Jefferson Davis High School**

**Map 1 Inset 4**

Area of Concern ID Number	Information Provided
232	Concerned about devaluing their homestead due to noise and pollution, visual impacts, air quality, especially with a raised elevated roadway.
233	Noise concerns in that area. It is already very noisy. Noise wall and trees don't help with that much noise. Elevated roadways are a problem, but tunnels are a problem too. Solve it in a way other than destroying neighborhoods. Stop growth.
234	Area of the 3000 block of Houston and north of it. Concerned with impacts to homes if entrance ramp is to be expanded. Will it take homes? Noise is a major concern. Are in favor of noise walls.
235	Concern with expansion is for air quality, and noise. Against just pouring concrete, noise walls don't work; prefer trees and landscaping, and/or and underground solution. Noise and traffic are the concern. Hardy Toll Road was not a good solution (the toll aspect), need above ground rail.
236	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.
313	Between I-10 and North Main, there is located Houston's first city park, Woodland Park. There is also an Historical Neighborhood in this area.
314	Freeway is by their house in this area and it is very noisy now, air pollution a problem now. Support a tunnel and more public transit, not more freeways. Parks above a tunnel would be good.
318	Concerned about impacts to neighborhoods in this area.
389	Concerns between Cavalcade and Quitman. Stay within ROW if turning lanes are needed. The ROW impacts the Hollywood Cemetery (have friends and family are there). Noise and air pollution are a concern. They are retirees. Housing appraisals values are not adequate to survive well. This impacts their quality of life.
390	Near the north side there is a National historic district, including the Thomas St. Clinic, Robert E. Lee Elementary, and a residential area. Concerned about impacts to these.
391	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.



392	Will submit online.
393	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.
394	100% against expanding the ROW between downtown and IH 610, vertically as well as horizontally. Would be better to go underground and also expanding rail transportation. The Hardy Toll Road is underutilized anyway.
396	Owens property next to IH 45. Concerned with loss of property and visual, noise, and air quality impacts, especially if the new roadway is elevated. Does not want a larger footprint. Woodland Park impacts would be a problem. In favor of noise walls but it is already noisy there. Need to mitigate current and future noise.





Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15, 2011  
Jefferson Davis High School - Map 1 - Inset 5



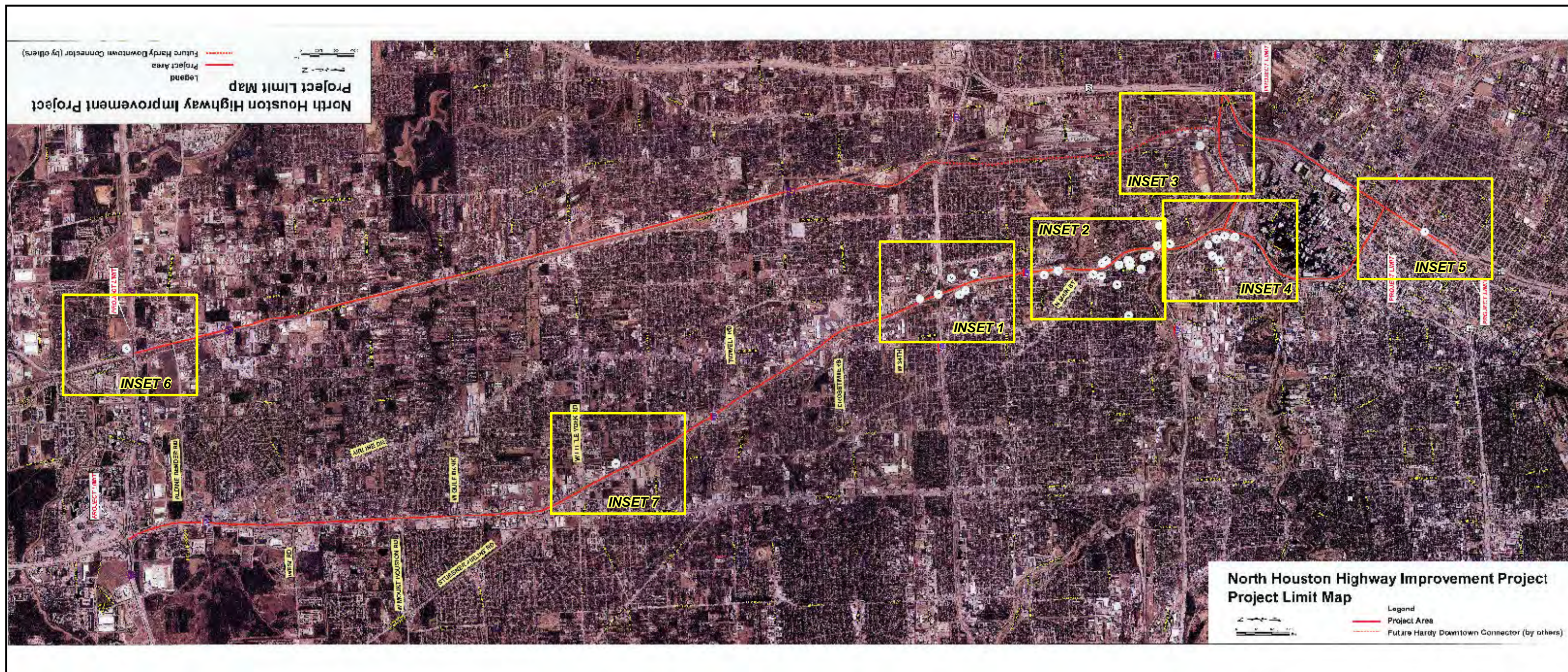
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**Jefferson Davis High School**

**Map 1 Inset 5**

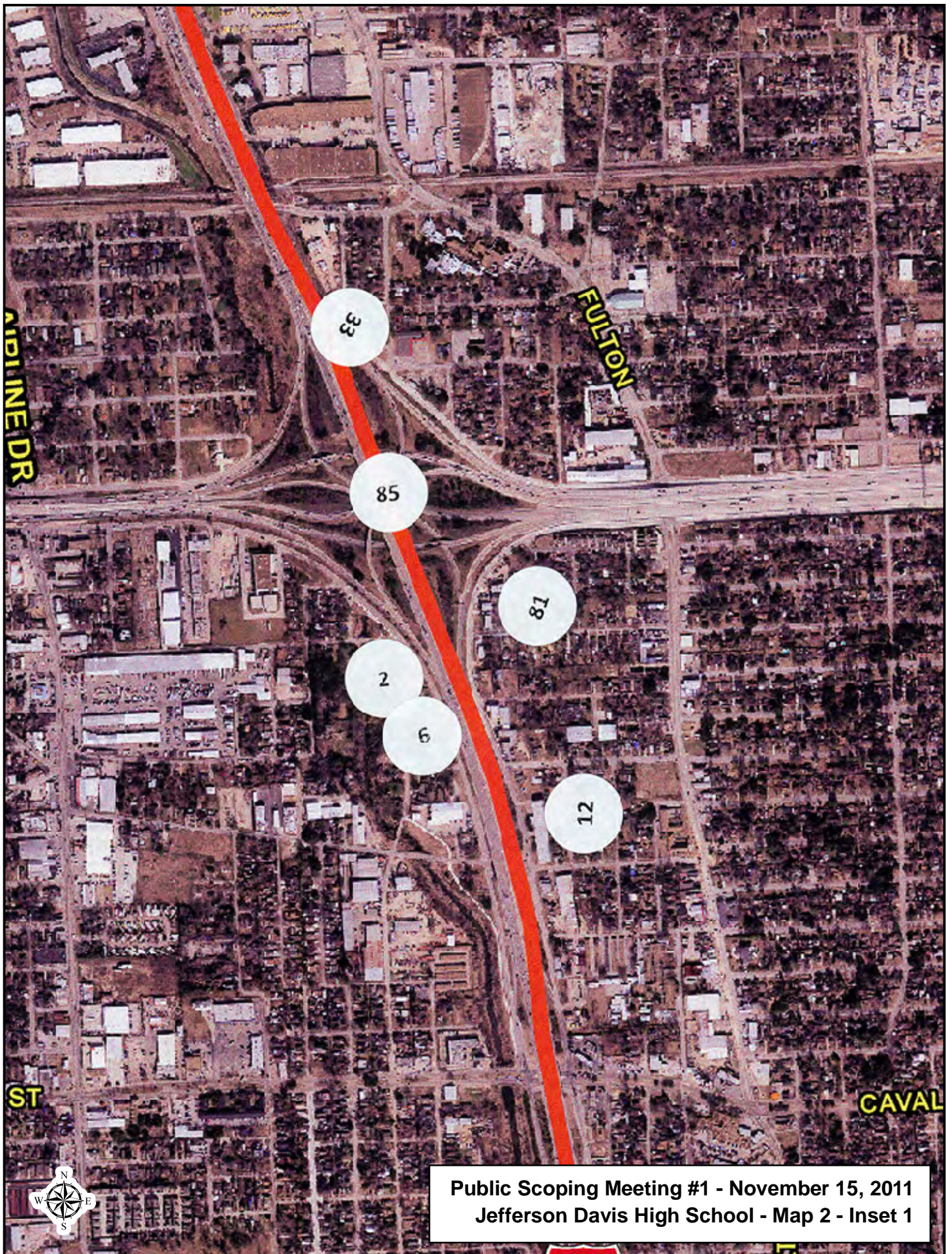
Area of Concern ID Number	Information Provided
315	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.





**Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15, 2011**  
**Jefferson Davis High School - Map 2**





Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15, 2011  
Jefferson Davis High School - Map 2 - Inset 1



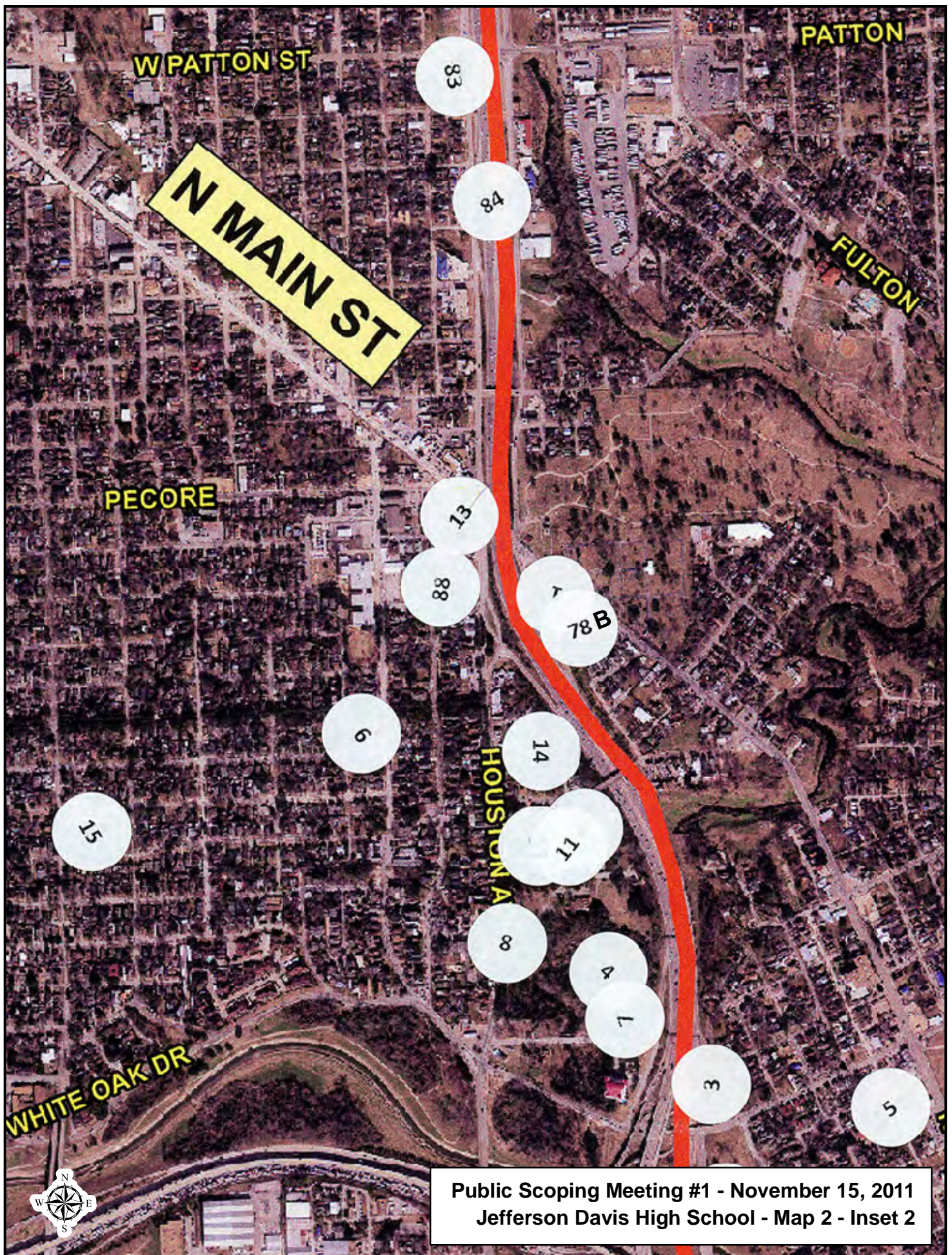
**Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15, 2011**

**Jefferson Davis High School**

**Map 2 Inset 1**

Area of Concern ID Number	Information Provided
2	There is a Texas designated Historical Cemetery in the area named Eichwurzel Cemetery. It is the oldest family plot cemetery in Houston. In 1917 a flood washed out some gravesites. Two families are there, the Sharmans and the Eichwurzels. It is very small. There are only a few graves total, so it is not well known. In the 1950's TxDOT moved IH 45 to the east to avoid it.
6	Texas needs to focus on public transit and not expanding the highway. Need more cooperation between METRO and TxDOT. TxDOT needs to look at more Park & Ride.
12	Lives two blocks off IH 45. Wants to know if houses will be taken, or if the new roadway will be in their backyard. Not good either way. Property value is a big concern.
33	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.
81	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.
85	Re-design this interchange without using the land footprint of an entire small town. See tunnel referenced in Area of Concern ID number 84.





Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15, 2011  
Jefferson Davis High School - Map 2 - Inset 2



**Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15, 2011**

**Jefferson Davis High School**

**Map 2 Inset 2**

Area of Concern ID Number	Information Provided
1	Make sure new roadway is accessible to area businesses located along it. Build it soon- don't wait- sooner you start the sooner you will finish.
3	Live on Quitman and IH 45. Concerned about their plans to do a major remodel on their home and whether it is worth the money to continue. They remodeled once already, now plan to make it two stories and invest a large amount of money doing so.
4	Live in Woodland Heights. Concerned about losing several blocks on the east side of Woodland Heights. Woodland Park and Houston Avenue are especially a concern.
5	Live at Quitman and Main. Concerned about home being displaced. Home was remodeled recently.
6	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.
7	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.
8	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.
9	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.
10	Public transit better than this project. See Europe and their tunnels. Noise and air quality are a concern.
11	Regarding the location at Little White Oak Bayou under IH 45, they need the freeway to flood to save homes. Do not elevate the road. No more freeways. Allen Parkway is better. Need more buses. See Curitiba, Brazil where architect Jamie Lerner designed the City of Dreams.
13	Area of Pecore and Quitman. Do not raise freeway and increase sound and light pollution. Noise in area already very bad because of the basin topography and noise barriers don't help. Want to see the technical details for the traffic modeling and analysis and how that differs from previous data.
14	Area of Cavalcade and south to downtown. There should be no expansion horizontal or vertical. A tunnel is okay. Keep the freeway below grade as it is now, not at or above grade. Consider other alternatives rather than just more freeways. Need managed lanes, rail and bus transit.



15	Suggested to open up Hardy Toll Road as a free highway in addition to IH 45 remaining free. Complete the connector from IH 610 to downtown of the Hardy Toll Road, to equalize traffic along the roadways. Adamantly against toll roads on IH 45. Commuter rail from north to downtown would be good. On IH 45 and IH 610 road conditions are bad now.
78B	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.
83	Lives at Patton and IH 45, concerned that home would be impacted. Noise issues and traffic and flooding on IH 45 and Main Street are a concern.
84	<p>Eliminate southbound IH 45 entrance ramp; it is too dangerous. Use tunnel and parkway combination for entire stretch of IH 45 between IH 610 North, and the IH 45/Highway 59 intersection.</p> <p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will not destroy any more of neighborhoods either side of current IH 45 footprint</li> <li>• Will improve air and sound quality, including at area schools and parks</li> <li>• Will add to pride of Houston as an attractive visionary entry from IAH into downtown.</li> <li>• Tunnel technology can help mitigate flooding problems.</li> </ul>
88	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.





Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15, 2011  
Jefferson Davis High School - Map 2 - Inset 3



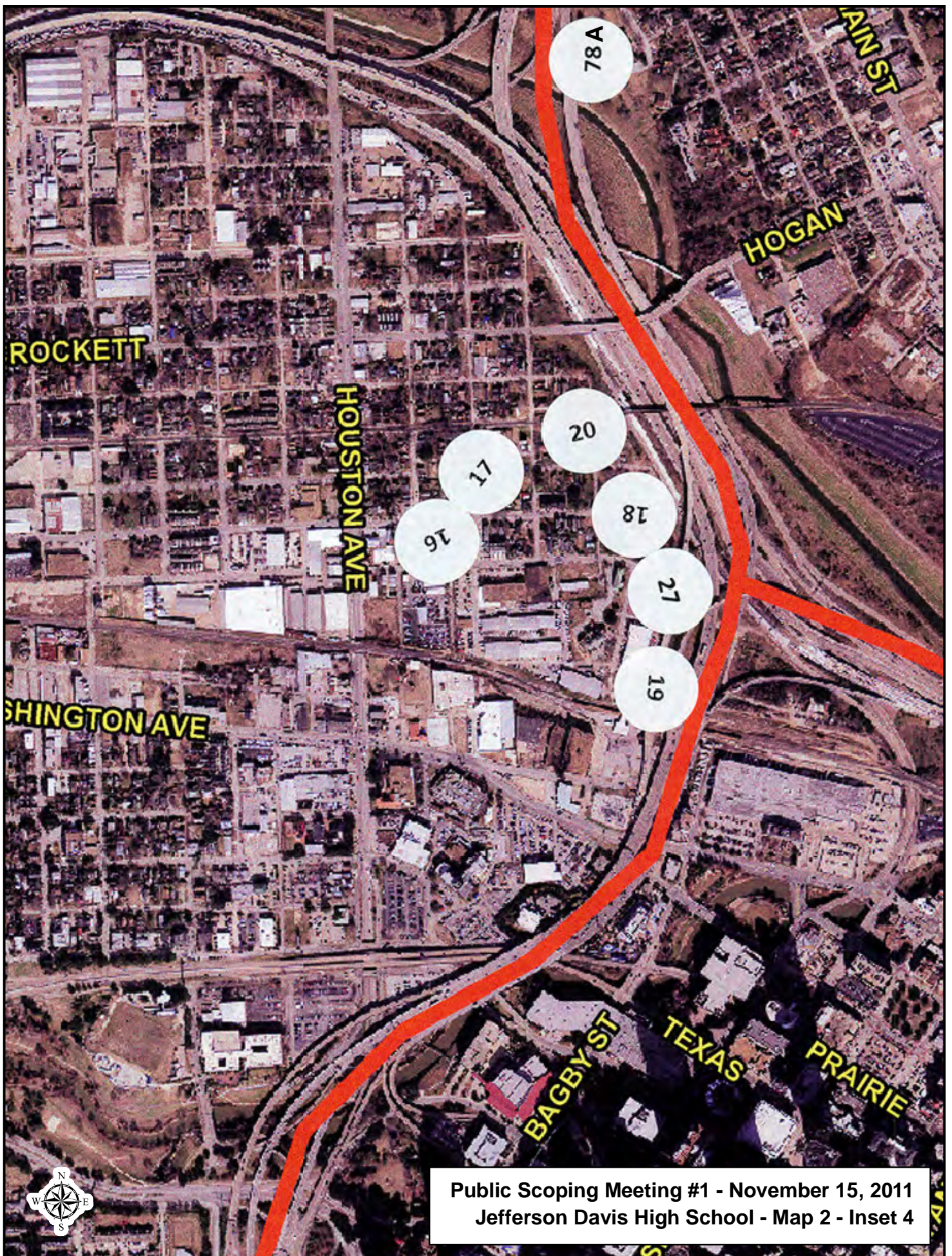
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**Jefferson Davis High School**

**Map 2 Inset 3**

Area of Concern ID Number	Information Provided
80	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.





Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15, 2011  
Jefferson Davis High School - Map 2 - Inset 4



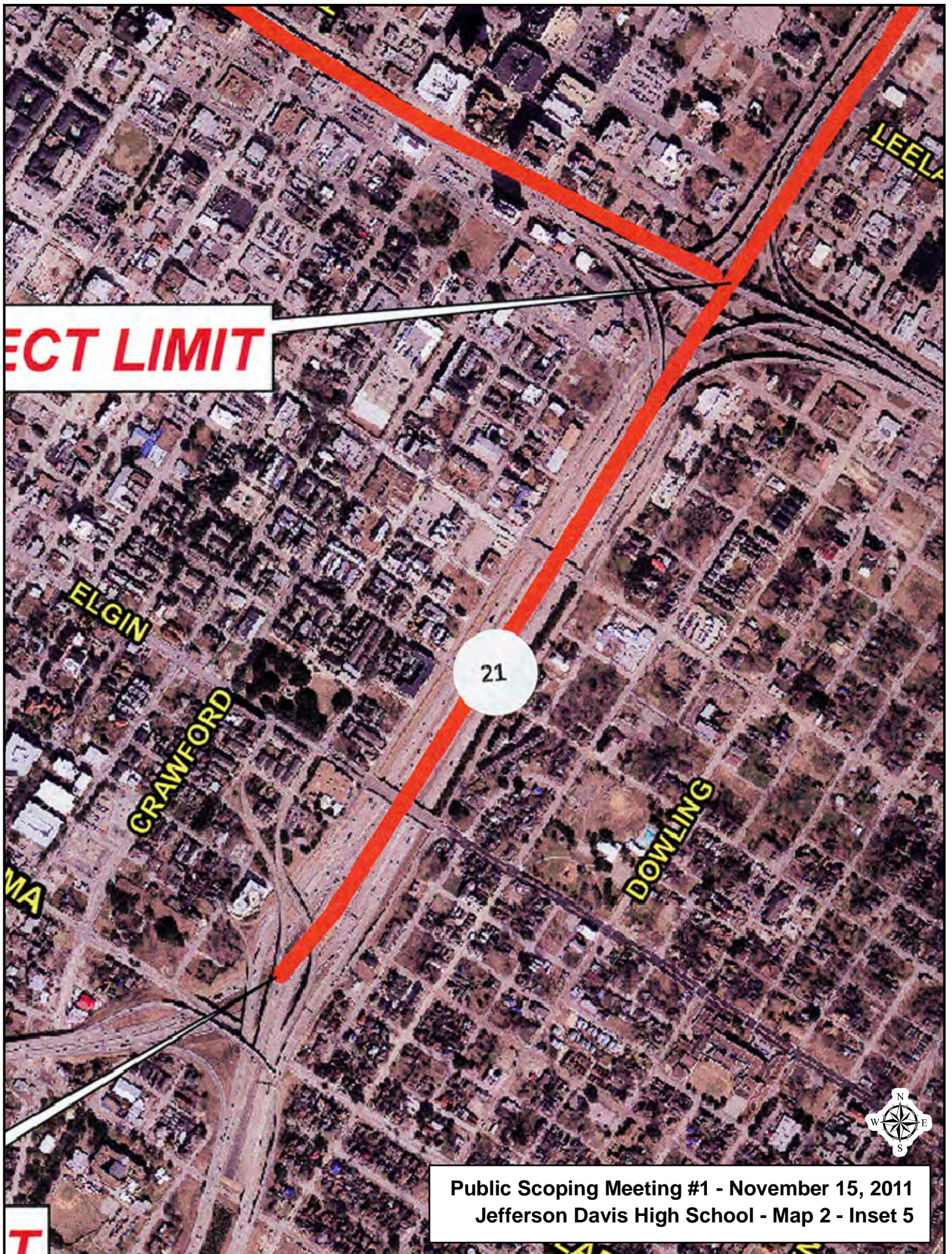
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**Jefferson Davis High School**

**Map 2 Inset 4**

Area of Concern ID Number	Information Provided
16	Area of concern identified by attendee, no further information provided.
17	First Ward Art District has just been designed. Do not expand IH 45. Community impacts will be too much. Want the downtown area quality of life considered as much as the suburbs.
18	There is an historic area from WWI in this area by IH 45.
19	Note that Elder Street Lofts (which is an historic building built on a cemetery) is in this area.
20	Concern is more freeways, more pollution, and more noise. Would like more public transportation. Suggests a tunnel with landscaping and park on top. Lives in the area, suggests a subway, rail system from outside the city to the city would be beneficial.
27	<p>Owens a business and rental homes in the area of 929 Dart Street which is 30 feet from IH 45. Want to know as soon as possible when they would be affected and how to proceed with their planned improvements to the rental homes. Name: Diane Morin 1910 Kane Houston TX 77007 713-862-7526 dianemrin27@gmail.com</p> <p>Also would like the tunnel idea explored for traffic with secondary tunnels under the road to collect water for public use and prevent flooding (manage excess water).</p> <p>Gonzalo Camacho developed the secondary tunnel idea and presented it a few years ago. Currently there is a secondary tunnel along IH 45.</p> <p>How is TxDOT addressing noise and air quality?</p> <p>Thought the whole evening was excellent.</p>
78A	Hogg Park is located here which they use on occasion. There is also a school, Lee Elementary in the area. Concerned about the impact on nature in the area and the reduction in green space. Noise concerns are stifling now in that area. Also concerned about the air quality







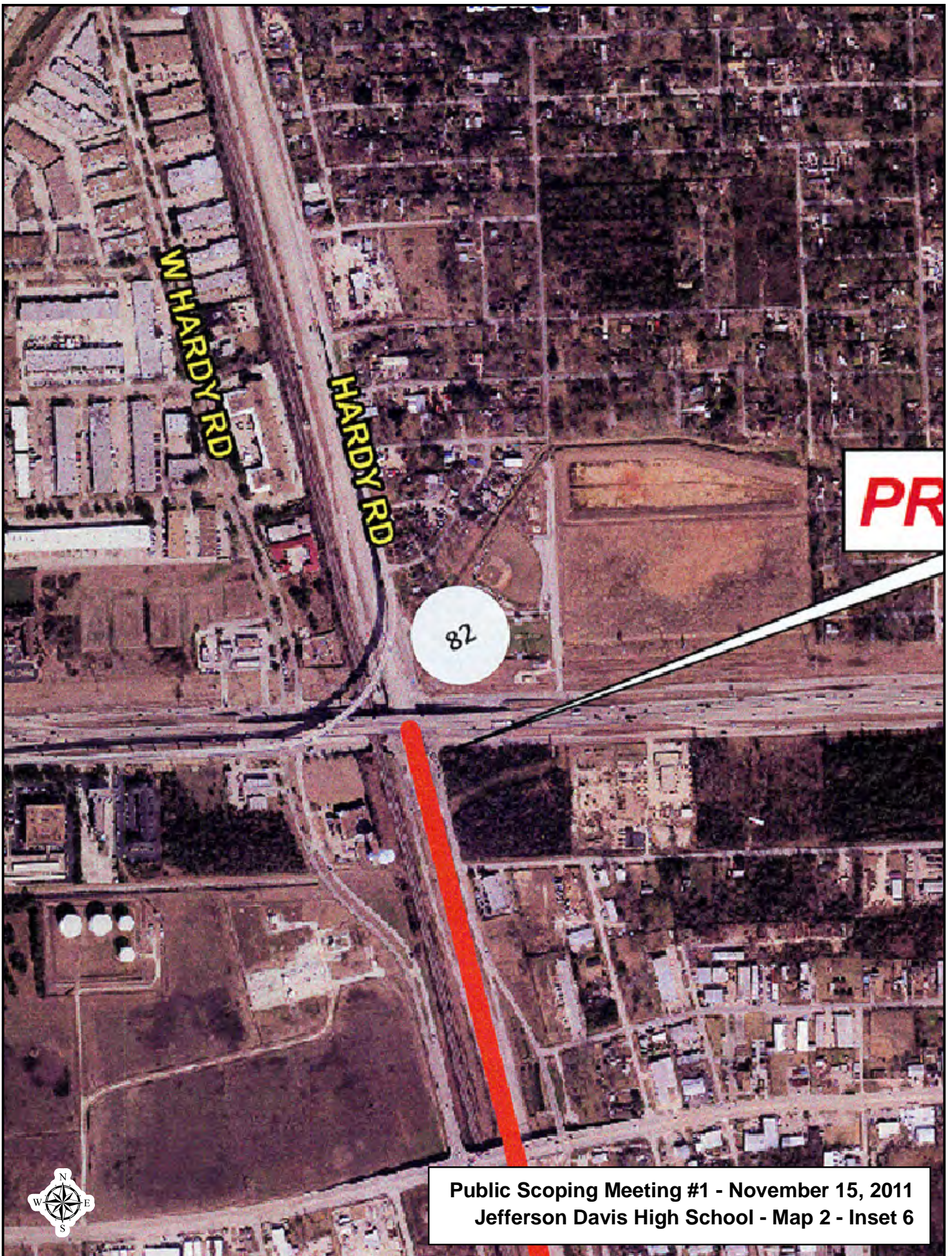
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**Jefferson Davis High School**

**Map 2 Inset 5**

Area of Concern ID Number	Information Provided
21	Does not want any elevated roadways, likes below grade idea better. No more exits in that area. Limit access to the freeway in that area, do not increase access.
80	TxDOT's attitude toward storm water is a problem. They need to mitigate concrete and manage water flow. Currently it violates the MS4 permit.





Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15, 2011  
Jefferson Davis High School - Map 2 - Inset 6



**Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15, 2011**

**Jefferson Davis High School**

**Map 2 Inset 6**

Area of Concern ID Number	Information Provided
82	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.





W LITTLE YORK

N  
TORY

23

W PARKER RD



Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 15, 2011  
Jefferson Davis High School - Map 2 - Inset 7



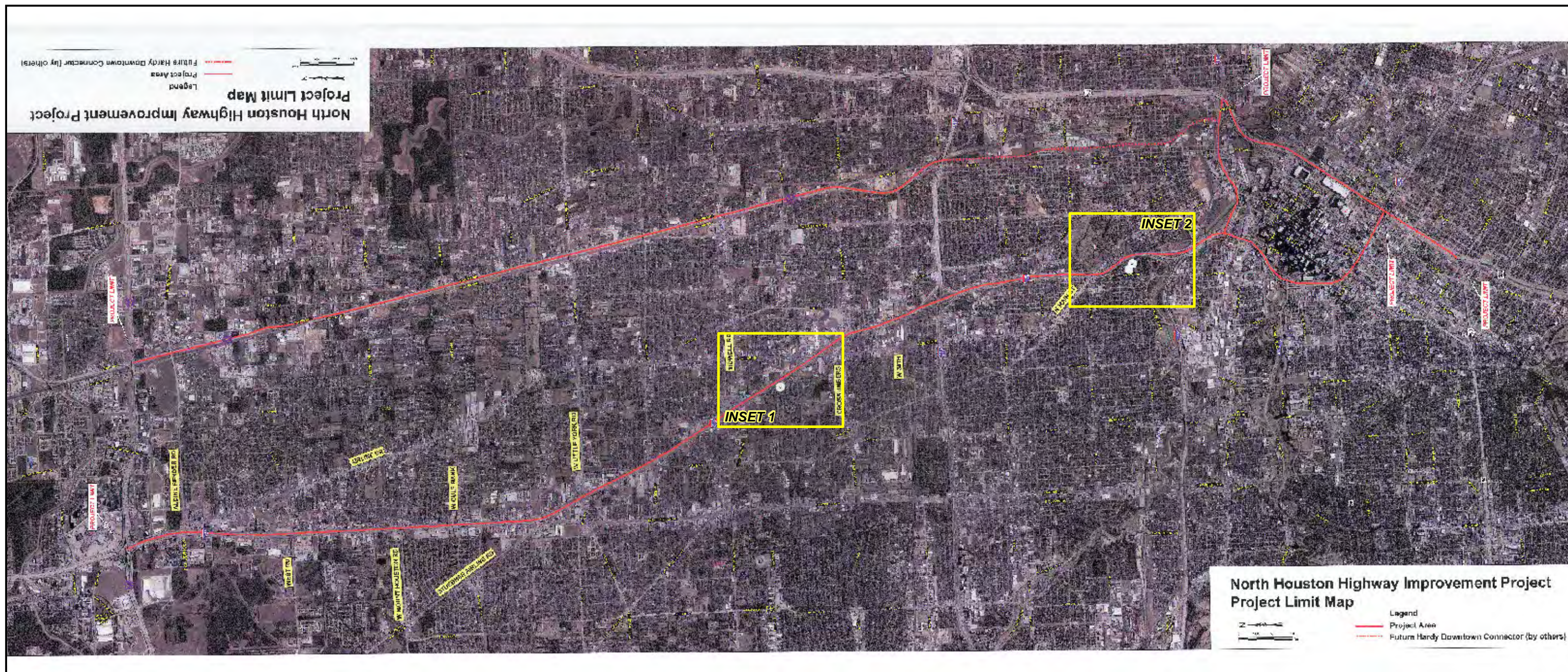
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**Jefferson Davis High School**

**Map 2 Inset 7**

Area of Concern ID Number	Information Provided
23	Area of concern indentified by attendee, no further information provided.





**Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 17, 2011**  
**Aldine High School - Map 1**



**TIDWELL R**

**AIRLINE DR**

89



Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 17, 2011  
Aldine High School - Map 1 - Inset 1



**Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 17, 2011**

**Aldine High School**

**Map 1 Inset 1**

Area of Concern ID Number	Information Provided
89	Area is the feeder road between Tidwell and Airline on the southbound side. This area floods easily as it is close to White Oak Bayou. Concerned if IH 45 is widened because she would be displaced from her home.





Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 17, 2011  
Aldine High School - Map 1 - Inset 2



**Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 17, 2011**

**Aldine High School**

**Map 1 Inset 2**

Area of Concern ID Number	Information Provided
86	<p>Need a bullet commuter train from Conroe and the Woodlands to Galveston. This would provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduction in traffic</li><li>• Convenience for daily commuters</li></ul> <p>If trains had Wi-Fi available with a Starbucks car, newspaper, sports bar, commuters could eat, visit, read email or listen to news before work. Gives drunk drivers another means to travel safely. See <a href="http://www.youtube.com">www.youtube.com</a> with Jamie Lerner an architect in Curitiba, Brazil who built the "City of Dreams".</p>
87	<p>Germantown resident concerned with historical aspect of area and property value and quality of life. This area is eligible as a historic property area with the city of Houston. It had Civil war involvement. Wants TxDOT to consider opening Hardy Toll Road and exhausting all possibilities before expanding the freeway.</p>









Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 17, 2011  
Aldine High School - Map 2 - Inset 1



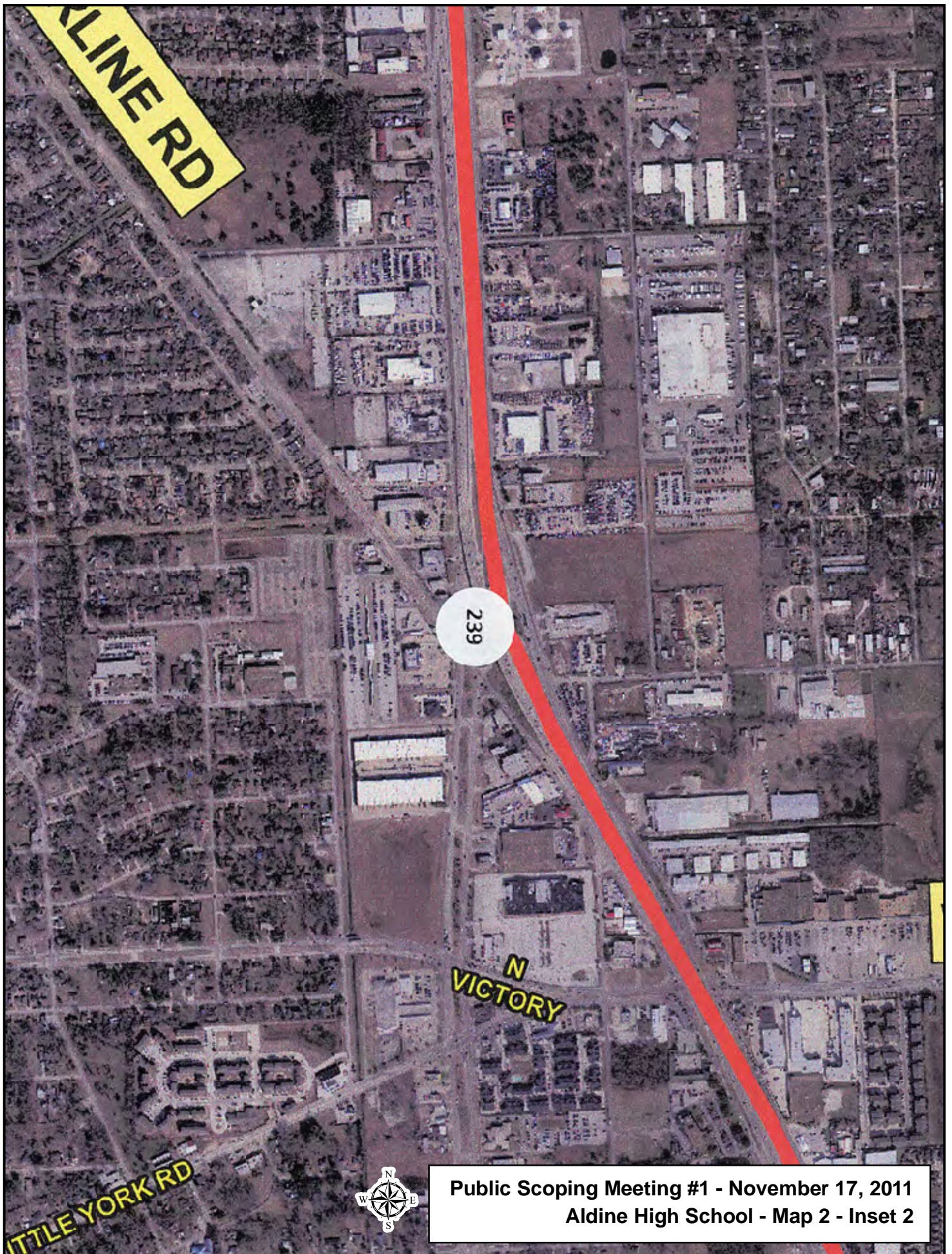
**Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 17, 2011**

**Aldine High School**

**Map 2 Inset 1**

Area of Concern ID Number	Information Provided
310	<p>South Aldine Bender FM 525 floods with the toll roads. The Country gave permits for irregular culverts. Their house was built in the 1950's. The country road was built up to a feeder road in 1975 and Hurricane Allison flooded it twice. It is a constant flooding concern because of the excess concrete in the area. TxDOT has improved the area to the south of their residence but this has not improved their area. IH 45 and Tidwell flood at ever hard rain too.</p>





Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 17, 2011  
Aldine High School - Map 2 - Inset 2



**Public Scoping Meeting #1 - November 17, 2011**

**Aldine High School**

**Map 2 Inset 2**

Area of Concern ID Number	Information Provided
239	Regarding the Sheppard Street Curve on IH 45, it backs up during morning and evening traffic. It has poor traffic flow and needs to be improved. Lives very close to it (0.5 miles north). Hardy feeder roads are in bad shape.