

**MEETING OF THE RTP SUBCOMMITTEE  
HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL**

**TELECONFERENCE PARTICIPATION VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

+1 346-262-0140 United States, Houston (Toll)

Conference ID: 641 945 004#

**March 10, 2021  
1:30PM**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order  
*Roll Call Attendance*
2. Approval of Minutes  
*From meeting of March 10, 2021*
3. Discussion of Requested RTP Amendments:  
*TxDOT staff will provide an update and opportunity for input on vision for the following:*
  - a. IH610E (Ship Channel Bridge replacement)
  - b. IH610S (IH45 to SH228)
  - c. SH35 (Dixie Dr to BS 35C North)
  - d. SH35 (South of SH6 to FM518)
4. Announcements
  - Next TAC Meeting – March 17, 2021 at 9:30AM (Teleconference)
  - Next TPC Meeting – March 26, 2021 at 9:30AM (Teleconference)
  - Next RTP Subcommittee Meeting – April 14, 2021 at 1:30PM (Teleconference)
5. Adjourn

# Regional Transportation Plan Subcommittee

		Primary			Alternate		
	Representing	First Name	Last Name	Organization	First Name	Last Name	Organization
1	Local Government	Monique	Johnson	City of Sugarland	Krystal	Lastrape	City of Sugarland
2	Local Government	Ruthanne	Haut	The Woodlands Township	John	Powers	The Woodlands Township
3	Local Government	Clay	Forister	Brazoria County	Karen	McKinnon	Brazoria County
4	Local Government	Adam	France	City of Conroe	Chris	Bogert	City of Conroe
5	Local Government	Christopher	Sims	City of League City	Chad	Tressler	City of League City
6	Local Government	Ricardo	Villagrand	City of Mont Belvieu	Francisco	Carrillo	City of Mont Belvieu
7	Local Government	Loyd	Smith	Harris County	Bryan	Brown	Harris County
8	Local Government	Nick	Woolery	City of Baytown	Frank	Simoneaux	City of Baytown
9	Local Government	Yancy	Scott	Waller County	Bobby	Pennington	City of Cleveland
10	TxDOT-Houston	Charles	Airiohuodion	TxDOT-Houston	Jeffrey	English	TxDOT-Houston
11	TxDOT-Beaumont	Lisa	Collins	TxDOT-BMT	Scott	Ayres	TxDOT-BMT
12	Transit	Alberto	Lyne	METRO	Priya	Zachariah	METRO
13	Transit	Perri	D'Armond	Fort Bend Transit	Stacy	Slawinski	Fort Bend Transit
14	Transit	Ken	Fickes	Harris County Transit	Vernon	Chambers	Harris County Transit
15	Environmental	Harrison	Humphrey	Air Alliance Houston	Stephanie	Thomas	Public Citizen
16	Planning	Maureen	Crocker	City of Houston	Jennifer	Ostlind	City of Houston
17	Citizens Interests	Jonathan	Brooks	LINK Houston	Bakeyah	Nelson	Air Alliance Houston
18	Business Interests	Elijah	Williams	The Energy Corridor District	Irma	Sanchez	Westchase District
19	Port	Bruce	Mann	Port Houston	Rohit	Saxena	Port Houston
20	Port	Ro ger	Rees	Port Galveston	Brett	Milutin	Port Galveston
21	Active Transportation	Janis	Scott	LINK Houston	Paulette	Wagner	OST/South Union
22	Toll Roads	John	Tyler	HCTRA - Toll Road	<b>Vacant</b>		
23	Airports	Bill	Zrioka	Houston Airport System	David	Leslie	Houston Airport System

**MEETING OF THE RTP SUBCOMMITTEE  
HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL  
TELECONFERENCE PARTICIPATION VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**February 10, 2021**

**1:30PM**

**Minutes**

**Member Attendance:**

<b>Primary Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Alternate</b>	<b>Present</b>
Maureen Crocker, Chair	Yes	Jennifer Ostlind	Yes
Perri D'Armond, Vice Chair	No	Stacy Slawinski	No
Monique Johnson	No	Krystal Lastrape	Yes
Ruthanne Haut	Yes	John Powers	No
Clay Forister	Yes	Karen McKinnon	No
Adam France	Yes	Chris Bogert	No
Christopher Sims	Yes	Chad Tressler	No
Ricardo Villagrand	No	Francisco Carrillo	No
Loyd Smith	Yes	Bryan Brown	No
Nick Woolery	Yes	Frank Simoneaux	No
Yancy Scott	Yes	Bobby Pennington	No
Charles Airiohuodion	Yes	Jeffrey English	Yes
Lisa Collins	Yes	Scott Ayres	Yes
Alberto Lyne	No	Priya Zachariah	Yes
Ken Fickes	No	Vernon Chambers	Yes
Harrison Humphrey	Yes	Stephanie Thomas	No
Jonathan Brooks	Yes	Bakeyah Nelson	No
Elijah Williams	Yes	Irma Sanchez	No
Bruce Mann	Yes	Rohit Saxena	No
Roger Rees	No	Brett Milutin	No
Janis Scott	No	Paulette Wagner	No
John Tyler	Yes	VACANT	-
Bill Zrioka	Yes	David Leslie	No

**Others Present:**

Andrew Mao, Adam Beckom, Michelle Canton, David Balmos, Jim Dickinson, Diane Domagas, Elizabeth Whitton, Carrie Evans, David Fink, Ben Finley, Stephan Gage, Patrick Gant, Shixin Gao, Thomas Gray, Donte Green, Veronica Green, Sandra Holliday, Allie Isbell, James Koch, Ayo Jibowu, Sharon Ju, Megan Kennison, Neely Kim, Justin Kuzila, Vishu Lingala, Patrick Mandapaka, Deborah Mayfield, Carlene Mullins, Karen Owen, Jamila Owens, Frank Pagliei, Patrick Gant, Craig Raborn, Alan Rodenstein, Sean Middleton, Sue Theiss, Chris Van Slyke, Kathryn Vo, Veronica Waller

**Staff Participating:**

Mike Burns

1. Call to Order

Maureen C called the meeting to order at 1:32PM

Mike B read a statement of how the meeting would be conducted via remote participation and the ground rules for any discussion.

Mike B conducted the roll call for attendance and confirmed a quorum was present.

Maureen C confirmed a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Minutes

Bruce M made a motion, seconded by Vernon C, to accept the minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discussion of Requested RTP Amendments:

- a. IH 10E
- b. IH610W
- c. SH288
- d. SH36A
- e. SH6
- f. SH99
- g. SL8

Maureen C asked about the schedule for the requested amendments.

Mike B summarized the anticipated schedule and noted the summarizing of projects would be completed at the March meeting. The subcommittee would be asked to recommend the TAC and TPC approve the amendments at the March meeting in anticipate of TAC and TPC action in April.

Maureen asked if the public comments and fiscal constraint could be summarized at the March meeting prior to recommending approval.

Mike B noted he will discuss providing summaries of the public comments and fiscal constraint with staff.

Jonathan B asked if the subcommittee recommendation could include a notation that the approval would not eliminate the need for on-going coordination.

James K clarified that the request is not for funding the construction, rather to include the amendments in the RTP to continue developing the design of the projects.

Maureen C noted that the amendments could be advanced from the planning stage and a needs identification and into a call for projects sooner than is currently being requested.

James K responded that since the RTP is a plan and a living document that projects should be documented and then be developed through a public process.

Priya Z requested that the METRONext recommendations be considered as part of the requested TxDOT amendments.

James K agreed and supported inclusion of METRONext projects as part of their long-range plan and then introduced Patrick Gant to summarize the 610W Loop Express Lanes.

Patrick G summarized the 4 mile project, including a background and history of the corridor from early 2000s to present and noting on-going coordination with METRO and the Uptown Management District to develop the dedicated bus lane project, know as the Silver Line, along 610W in the early 2010s. He noted that the corridor is one of the top most congested highways by the Texas Transportation Institute, he noted the use of the corridor as the only north-south connection over Buffalo Bayou after the Hurricane Harvey storm event, and also noted public support of a separate Express Lane project at a

December 2015 public meeting. He summarized the details of the project, which included four elevated Express Lane one level above the existing main lanes and in the center of 610W with the dedicated bus lanes on the west side of the corridor. The Express Lanes would add capacity to the congested corridor in a manner that managed access through restrictions on the access points along the corridor, and he provided renderings of the potential elevated segmented bridge structures, which would help buildability. He then described various connectivity scenarios for the Express Lanes, including the Galleria, Northwest Transit Center, and other transit services along area roadways.

Priya Z asked for clarification on the terminology and use of the Express Lanes for both private vehicles and public buses.

Patrick G responded that the dedicated bus lanes for the Silver Line is a separate facility, but there could be opportunities for regional buses to use the Express Lanes to connect to an access point along Westheimer Rd for transfer options.

Lloyd S asked if there were plans for intermediate exit between I-10 and I-69, and also asked if there would be a connection with I-10 Inner Katy project.

Patrick G responded that the access points are being evaluated and there could be other exits between I-10 and I-69 by working with H-GAC on an origin/destination analysis. And noted a high percentage of users of the 610W Loop have the Galleria area as a destination with traffic passing through the area being equivalent to about one to one and a half lanes of demand along the corridor. He also noted that with connectivity improvements to the I-10 corridor, there could be a higher demand for the Express Lanes to improve regional traffic flows between I-10 and I-69.

Lloyd S asked about the impact of the project on the IH-610W/IH-69 interchange.

Patrick G responded that the intersection is one of the highest volume interchanges in the country and the Express Lanes could channel demand away and reduce congestion levels in the interchange.

James K added that the restricted access would improve reliability of this area of the network, and future noted field changes during construction of the interchange to facilitate the passthrough of the Express Lanes.

Carlene M asked if the Express Lanes would extend from IH-10 and SH290 to IH-45.

James K noted that the intent is to connect with the IH-45 corridor as part of a separate project.

Maureen C noted that the City of Houston's concern would be that the amendments propose the implementation of portions of a larger concept of elevated segments of highway that were not contemplated in the previous update of the RTP and has not been discussed publicly.

Jonathan B mentioned that the project could be setting a precedent to facilitate driving anywhere at any cost or are we trying to provide alternatives to traveling reliably, such as the Silver Line that doesn't require the parking which is more beneficial. Electric vehicles should be available for air quality benefit, so air quality impacts are not a great concern. Walking and biking facilities would offer other beneficial mode accommodation that would have less impacts and align with City of Houston goals. Access to the Uptown area should be through investments that promote behavior change and accommodate other more beneficial modes like public transit, walking, biking, and carpooling. Some level of congestion is a healthy outcome as it means there is high use.

James K responded that the project is trying to accommodate demand of today and electric vehicles could help improve air quality. The REAL plan provides mobility around the region and between multi-modal centers to provide mode choice.

Harrison H mentioned that adding more lanes miles is not the solution and is not a fan of using mobility data for justifying the project.

Bruce M mentioned that it seems the intent is to include the project to advance the planning and offered a motion to support.

Maureen C mentioned that a recommendation would be made after reviewing all amendments.

Mike B confirmed that a recommendation may be requested at the March meeting.

James K mentioned the presentation was completed and is anticipating the presentation of the 610S and SH35 would be discussed at the March meeting.

Maureen C asked about the status of the 610S PEL and why the 610W project was not at the PEL stage.

James K responded that the initial review of 610S was related to structural issues and was determined to need to include other considerations covered by a PEL process due to costs of rehabilitation. The Inner Katy and West Loop were recently rebuilt and would not require reconstruction and study through a PEL process.

Lloyd S asked about the SH 6 and SH99 project descriptions.

James K responded that SH99 included widening and also experience a lot of crashes that required safety improvements. SH 6 includes potential elevating the facility and other intersection improvements.

Lloyd S asked about SH99 design review due to tolling.

James K responded that it was a regionally significant project, so it is being reviewed by TxDOT and funded by the toll authority for SH99.

Bruce M asked about 610 Sydney Sherman Bridge was still part of the 610/I-10 study.

James K responded and confirmed it was part of that study.

Maureen C asked for clarity on using a PEL or NEPA process for the 610W and Inner Katy projects.

James K responded that the 610W Loop project is more of a feasibility study and the I-10 Inner Katy study is in conjunction with the METRO BRT project and using a combination of both NEPA and PEL processes.

#### 4. Announcements

- Next TAC Meeting – February 17, 2021 at 9:30AM (Teleconference)
- Next TPC Meeting – February 26, 2021 at 9:30AM (Teleconference)
- Next RTP Subcommittee Meeting – March 10, 2021 at 1:30PM (Teleconference)

Maureen C mentioned the future meeting dates and times for TPC, TAC, and RTP Subcommittee

#### 5. Adjourn

Maureen C declared the meeting adjourned at 2:52PM.

Minutes submitted by: Mike Burns



# SH 35 Corridor

From I-610 to Future SH 99 (Grand Parkway)

# I-610 South Loop Feasibility Study

From SH 288 to I-45 (Gulf Freeway)










## H-GAC RTP Subcommittee Briefing

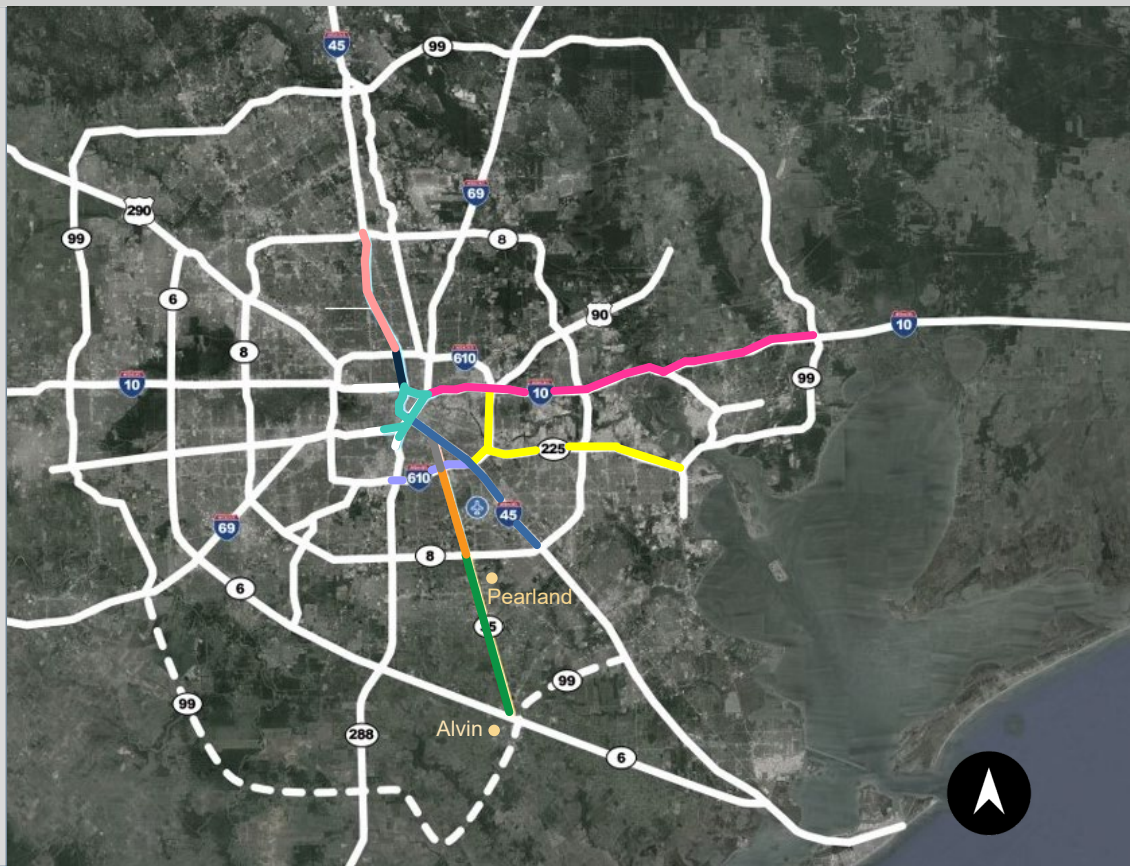
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March 10, 2021

# Planning Studies Influencing SH 35 Corridor & I-610 South Loop Study



-  I-45 NHHIP Segment 1  
(BW 8 to I-610)
-  I-45 NHHIP Segment 2  
(I-610 to I-10)
-  I-45 NHHIP Segment 3  
(Scott St. to Quitman St.)
-  I-610 South Loop Feasibility Study  
(SH 288 to West of I-45)
-  I-45S PEL  
(I-69 to BW 8)
-  SH 35 PS&E  
(I-45S to I-610 South Loop)
-  SH 35 S&E  
(I-610 South Loop to Future SH 99)
-  SH 225/ I-610 PEL  
(East of I-45S to SH 146)
-  IH 10 PEL  
(I-69 to Future SH 99)





# SH 35

From I-610 to Future SH 99  
(Grand Parkway)

# SH 35 Corridor: Regional Significance



Missing link in the regional system

Freeway to replace current arterial first approved for planning in 1964

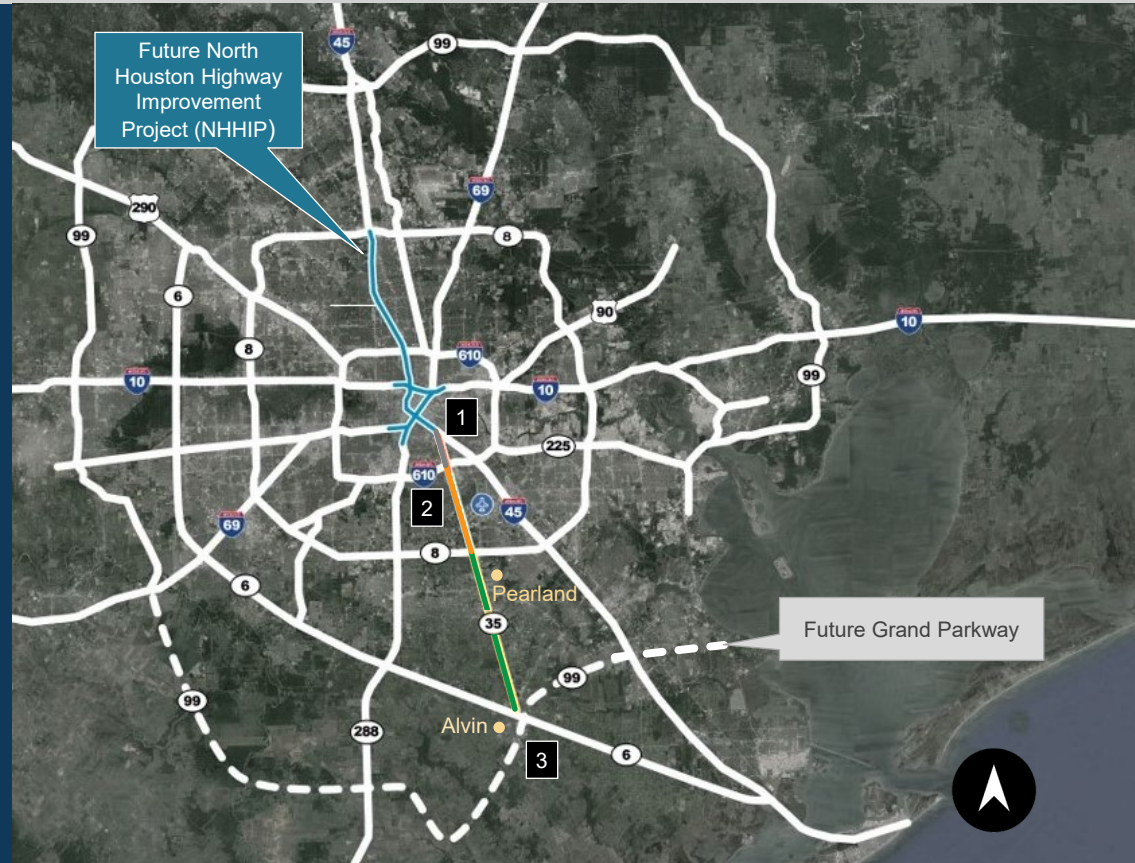
Existing SH 35:

- 4-lane divided arterial with heavy driveway access
- Over 40 traffic signals between I-610 and future SH 99
- Inefficient system access for Pearland and Alvin

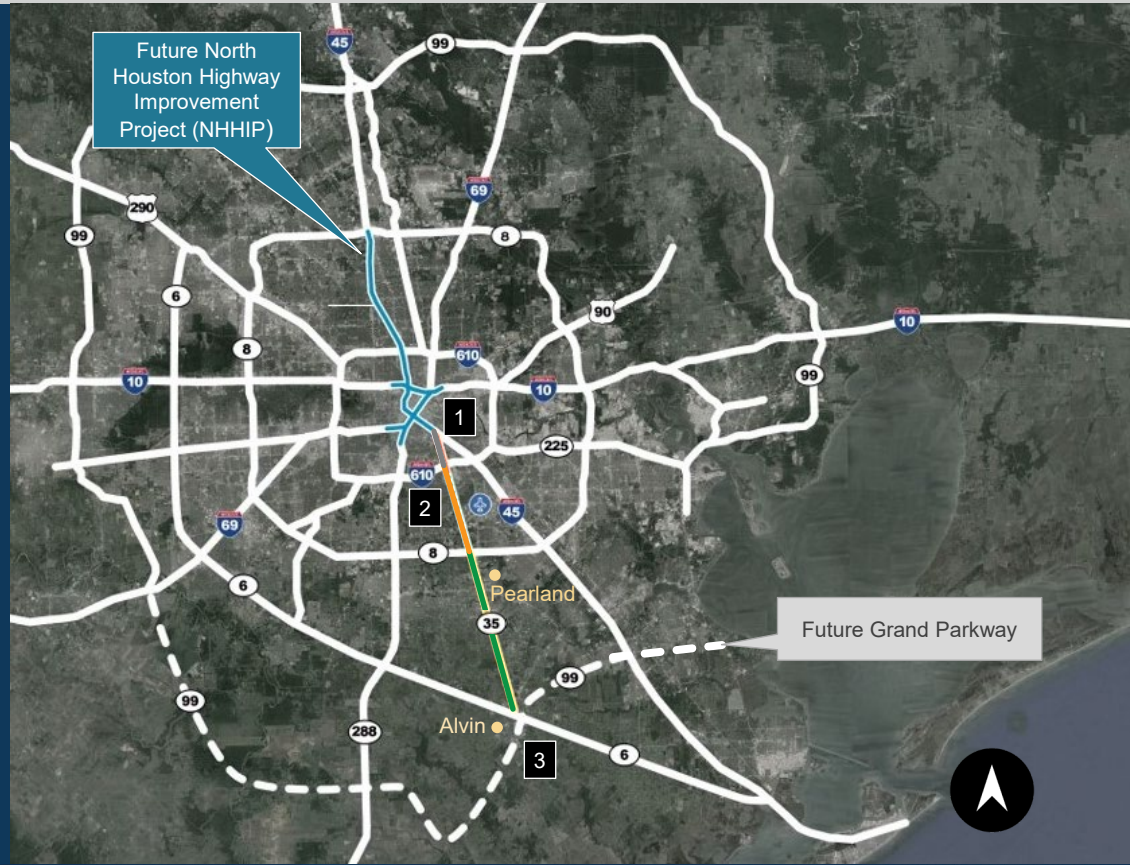
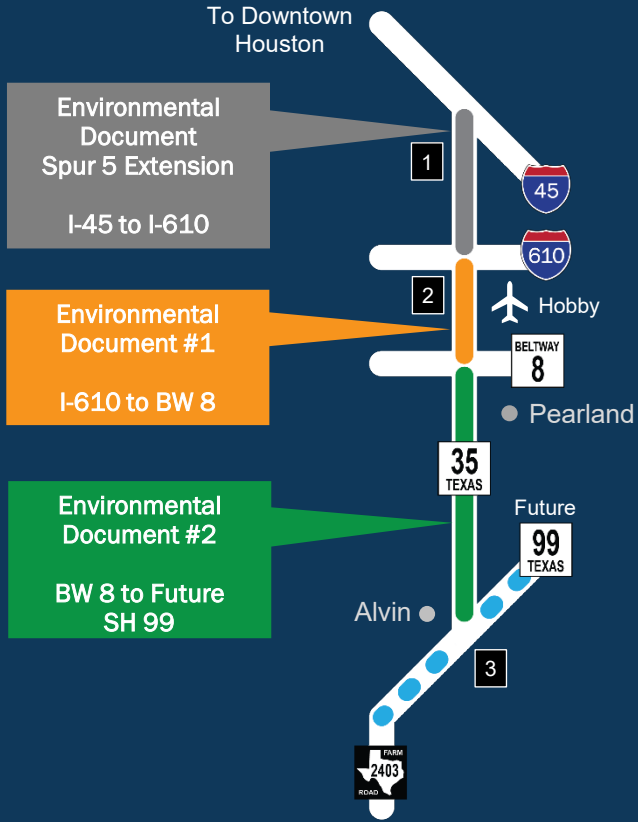
1 Connection to the existing Spur 5 built in 1980s and future North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP)(I-45)

2 Connection to BW 8 (current hurricane evacuation route)

3 Connection to the existing SH 35 bypass built in Alvin in 1970s; future SH 99 will overlap/connect to this bypass

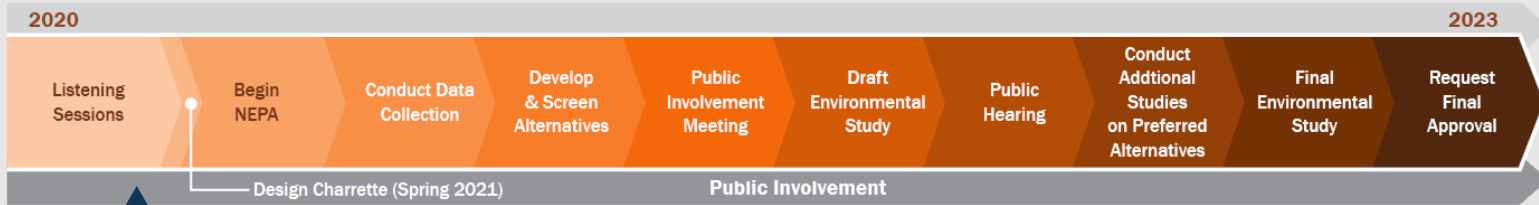


# SH 35 Corridor: Stages of Project Development



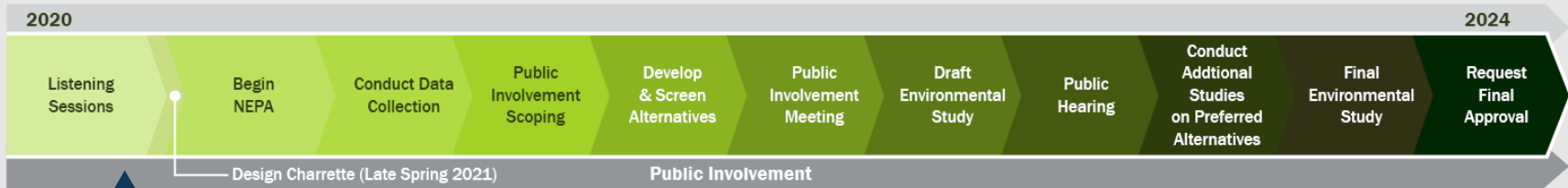


## Environmental Document 1 - SH 35: I-610 to Beltway 8



**We are here**

## Environmental Document 2 - SH 35: Beltway 8 to SH 99



**We are here**

# SH 35 Corridor: Summary of Agency Coordination to Date



**GOAL:** Conduct pre-NEPA Listening Sessions with agencies and municipalities to gather current needs and start regular coordination during project development.

Municipality/ Agency	Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Municipality/Agency Attendees	Key Takeaways
City of Pearland	10/22/2020	Listening Session #1 (in-person and virtual)	Trent Epperson, Matt Buchanan, Martin Griggs, John McDonald, Ryan McKinnis, Robert Upton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public poor perception of previous SH 35 project (stopped 2016)</li> <li>High-value development in past 10 years constrains corridor</li> <li>COP priority: complete SH 35 from north to BW8/SHT</li> <li>Review peak traffic and population projection data</li> <li>Vet FM 518 one-way pair concept for public support</li> </ul>
	12/8/2020	Traffic data coordination	Ryan McKinnis	
	Pending (April 2021)	Design charette for FM 518		
Harris County Toll Road Authority	1/8/2021	Listening Session #1 (virtual)	John Tyler, Doug Emery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access to Sam Houston Tollway (SHT) from SH 35</li> <li>Phasing of SH 35/SHT interchange could shift demand</li> <li>Clear Creek drainage along Sam Houston Tollway</li> </ul>
City of Alvin	1/12/2021	Listening Session #1 (in-person and virtual)	Mayor Paul Horn; Todd Arendell, Larry Buehler, Josh Dearing, Junru Roland, Michelle Segovia, Tom Stansel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project will have positive impact on Alvin; badly needed</li> <li>Substantial recent and planned residential and commercial development in area</li> <li>Heavy traffic patterns on SH 288 and I-45 give SH 35 credence</li> <li>Willing to preserve right of way for the corridor</li> </ul>

# SH 35 Corridor: Summary of Agency Coordination to Date (cont'd)



**GOAL:** Conduct pre-NEPA Listening Sessions with agencies and municipalities to gather current needs and start regular coordination during project development.

Municipality/ Agency	Meeting Date	Meeting Type	Municipality/Agency Attendees	Key Takeaways
City of Houston	1/13/2021	Listening Session #1 (virtual)	Councilmembers David Robinson, Robert Gallegos, Carolyn Evans-Shabazz; Donald Buaku, Maureen Crocker, Veronica Davis, Daniel Santamaria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City considering Wayside Drive Extension across Mykawa</li> <li>• Desire to shift truck traffic off Broadway and existing SH 35/Telephone onto new SH 35</li> <li>• Concerns about SH 35 ramps ending Dixie; end SH 35 mainlanes at I-610 for this phase?</li> <li>• Coordinate project with METRO Southeast Line</li> <li>• Public involvement plans follow Title VI</li> </ul>
	2/12/2021	Listening Session #1 Follow Up: Wayside Drive Extension concept (City-led)	Melissa Beeler, Donald Buaku, Johana Clark, Veronica Davis, Adam Eaton, David Fields, Ian Hlavacek, Khang Nguyen, Lad Paresh	
	Pending (April 2021)	Design charrette		
Harris County Flood Control District	2/24/2021	Listening Session #1 (virtual)	Matt Zeve, Scott Elmer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HCFCD preparing to deliver Clear Creek Federal Flood Risk Reduction Project as a design-build project; working through scope revisions with USACE HQ</li> <li>• Houston Parks Board property acquisitions in Clear Creek have development restrictions</li> <li>• HCFCD developing Saltwater Ditch Project to reduce flooding in Sims Bayou floodplain</li> </ul>

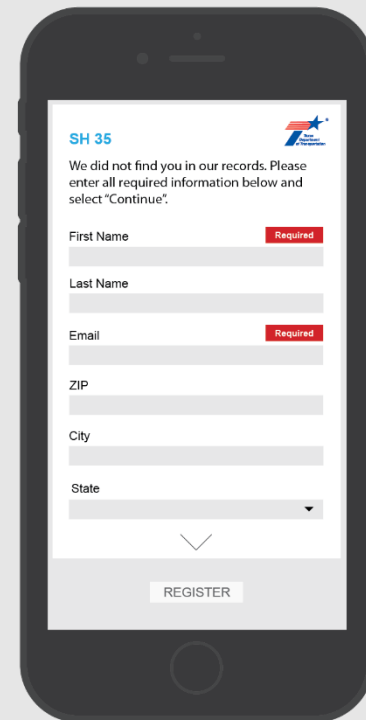
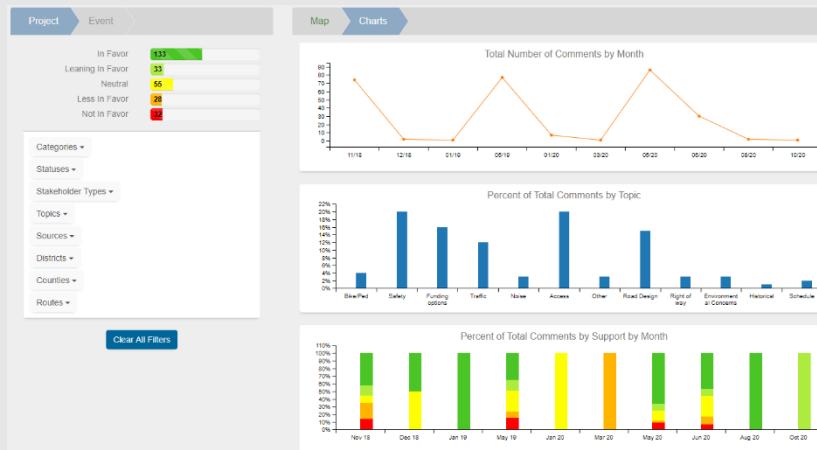
# Public Involvement Management Application (PIMA)

## Modernizing Public Engagement



### Online Comment Management and Engagement Tool

- Continuously capture, categorize, and evaluate public feedback
- Anticipate and pre-empt potential issues
- Adjust outreach strategies to engage under-represented
- Efficiently comply with NEPA
- Accessibility compliance



# **I-610 South Loop Feasibility Study**

## **SH 288 to I-45 (Gulf Freeway)**



# I-610 South Loop: Study Overview



## Study Location

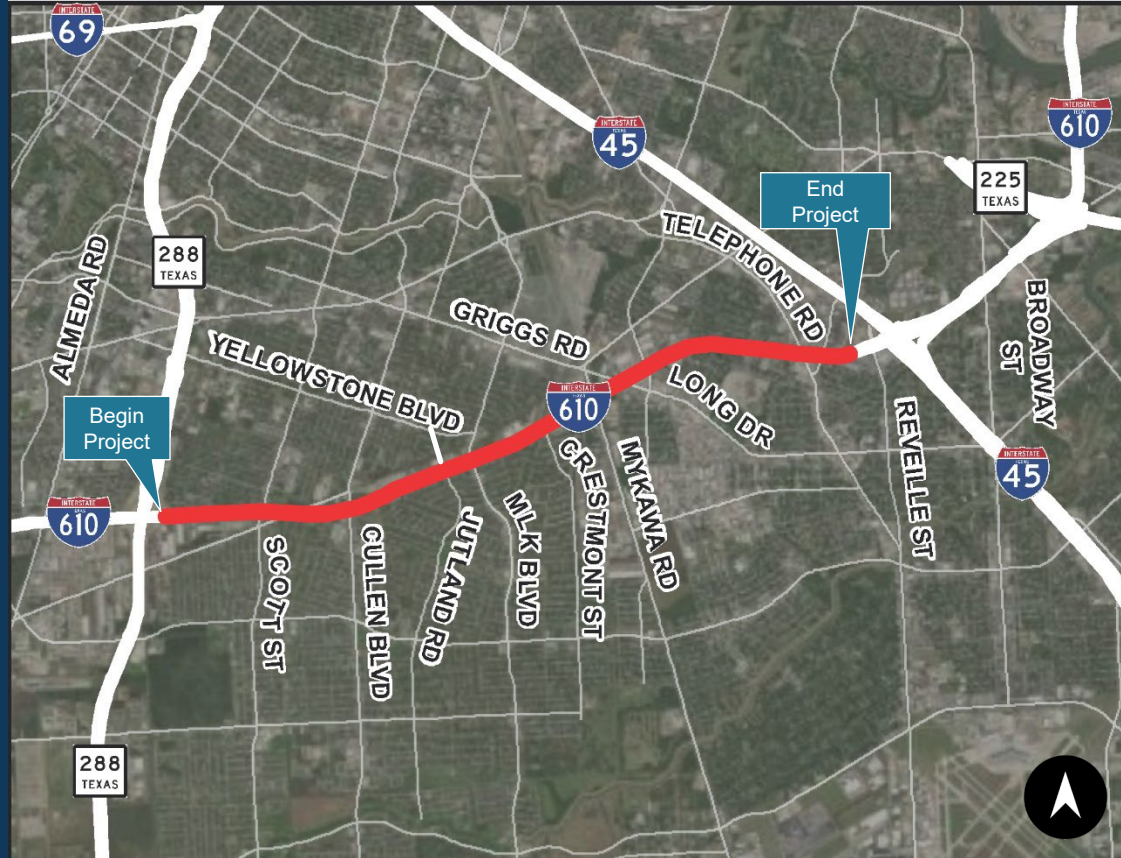
- I-610 (South Loop) Houston, Texas
- Harris County

## Study Limits

- Study Begins East of SH 288 and ends West of I-45 South
- Length of study is approximately 6 miles

## Purpose for Study

- Address Congestion
- Address Safety Concerns
- Determine Future Needs
- Improve Access/Connectivity
- Address Design Deficiencies
- Provide Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations



# I-610 South Loop: History of the Study Corridor



## Construction and Development of I-610 South Loop

- A loop was initially envisioned around Houston in the early 1940s
- Formally named Loop 137 with sporadic construction in the 1950s
- With the Federal Highway Act of 1956, Loop 137 eventually was renamed to I-610. Construction of the South Loop portion began in the late 1960s and was completed in the early 1970s.
- **This segment of I-610 between SH 288 and I-45 has not undergone any major reconstruction or added capacity since the original construction**

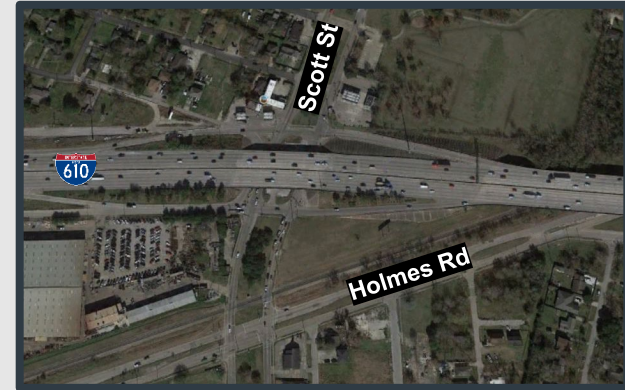
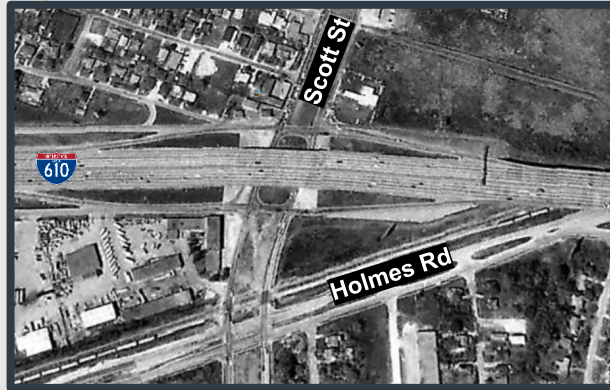
1944



1978



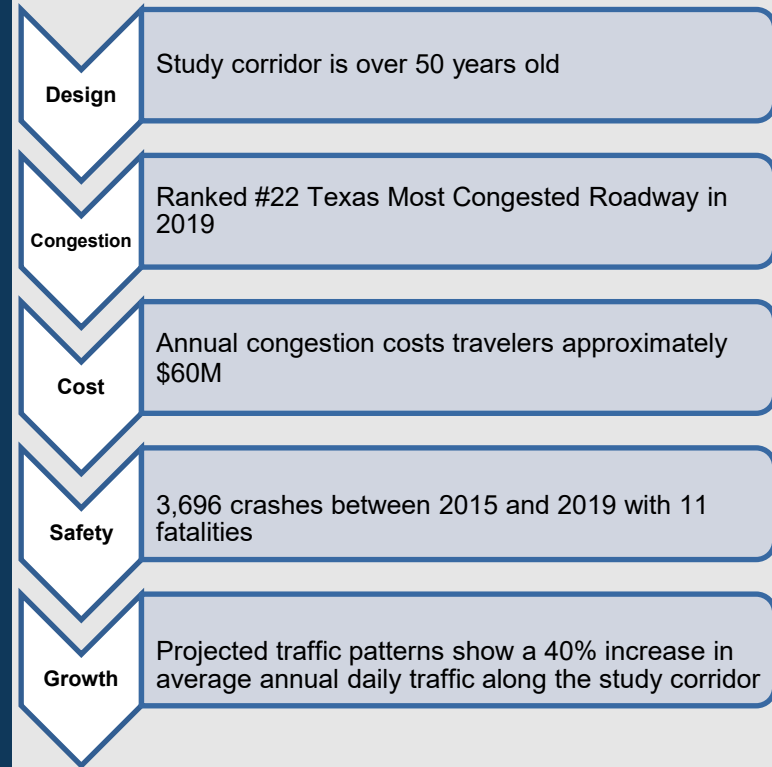
2019



# I-610 South Loop: Corridor Challenges

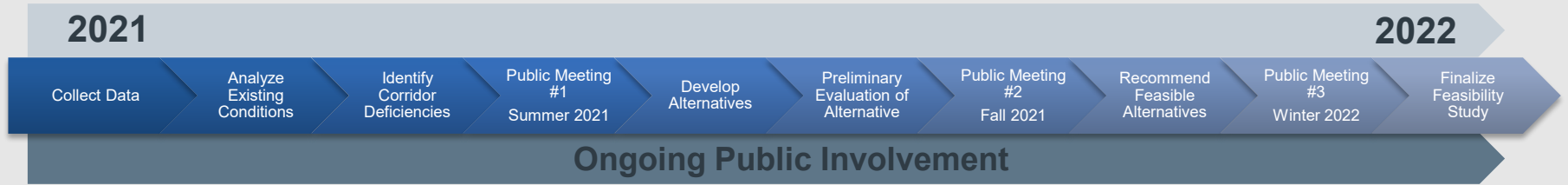


- I-610 is a freight corridor, hurricane evacuation route, and hazmat route
- Study corridor is over 50 years old and does not meet current TxDOT design standards
  - Vertical clearances do not meet the minimum vertical clearance
  - Frontage roads are not continuous in some areas
  - Lack of U-Turn Lanes throughout corridor area
  - Lack of Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
- In 2019, the study area was ranked #22 among the top 100 congested freeways in Texas
- The annual hours of delay per mile is 315,513, resulting in \$60M of congestion costs annually
- Crash rate is above the statewide average
- Projected traffic volumes anticipated to increase by 40%



\*Source: Texas A&M Transportation Institute's 2019 & 2020 Summary Reports

# I-610 South Loop: Study Timeline



  
**We are here**

# I-610 South Loop: Public Engagement Plan



*Goal: Provide an open and transparent exchange of information and ideas between the public, stakeholders, and transportation decision makers.*

## Meetings

- Listening sessions with elected officials and agencies
- Stakeholder meetings (individual and group)
- Community-based focus group meetings
- Meetings with advocacy groups
- Public meetings

## Community Outreach

- Identify and engage the different community groups throughout the corridor to understand their needs
- Emphasis on low income, minority, and non-English speaking households

## Multilingual Outreach Tools

- Online Surveys
- E-blasts
- Media
- Flyers/newsletters





# 2045 Regional Transportation Plan Amendment



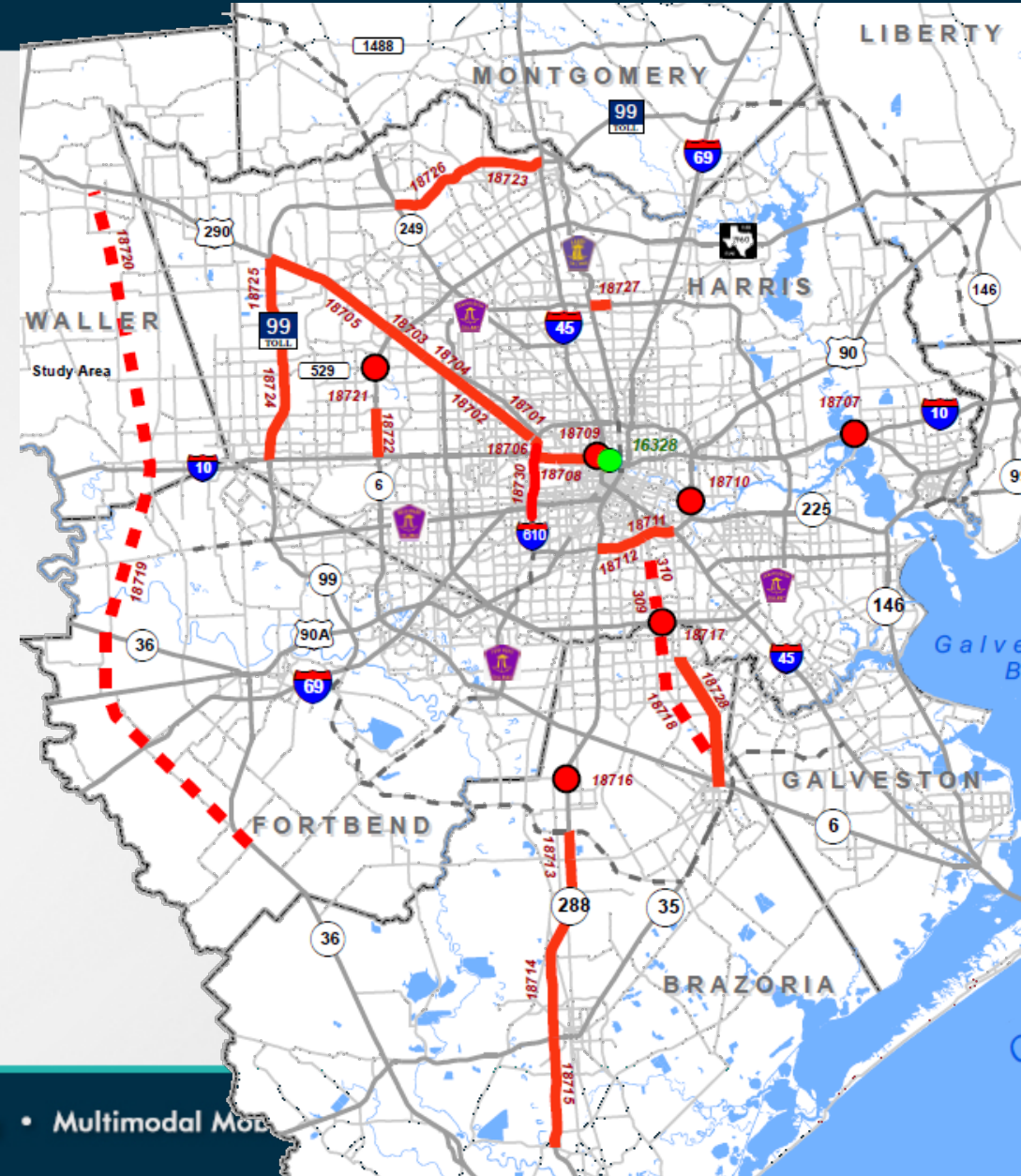
Vishu Lingala  
March 10, 2021

# Requested Major Amendments

## ■ TxDOT Houston

- NHHIP SEG 3
- IH 610W Express lanes
- IH 10W (Inner Katy)
- Hempstead Highway
- Highway 36A
- SH 35, SH 288, and SH 99
- SH 6 (Intersection Improvements and Corridor Study)
- IH 10E (at San Jacinto)
- IH 610 E (Ship Channel)

*\*Alignment of SH 35 and Highway 36 A projects is not yet finalized. Alignment shown in the map is used for modeling purposes only.*



# 2045 Regional Transportation Plan Fiscal Constraint

	WITHOUT AMENDMENTS	WITH AMENDMENTS
Estimated Revenue	\$147 B	\$147 B
Estimated Expenditures	\$132 B	\$141 B
Estimated Balance	\$15 B	\$6 B

Highway	Toll Roads (mi)	Fiscal Year
Hempstead Highway (Managed lanes)	(24)	2032
IH 10 W (Managed Lanes)	6.2	2026
SH 99 (Toll)	26	2026



# Draft Timeline

- ✓ **August 2020:** TxDOT presentation
- ✓ **August - October 2020:** Coordination with local agencies
- **November 2020:** Draft Amendments list
- **December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020:** Public meeting round 1 6:00 – 7:00 PM
- **March 2021:** Final RTP projects list and conformity document preview
- **March 2021:** Public comment period from March 26 to April 28, 2021
- **April 2021:** Virtual Public meetings round 2 – April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM
- **April 2021:** TAC/TPC information (public comment summary)
- **May 2021:** Approval of Conformity document, RTP and TIP amendments
- **August 2021:** Anticipated Federal Approval