

Letters & Other Correspondence



MAYOR PRO-TEM ED GONZALEZ
Council Member, District H

March 26, 2013

Alan Clark
MPO Director
Houston Galveston Area Council
alan.clark@h-gac.com

Re: Greater East End Management District

Mr. Clark –

The Greater East End Management District has recently received a high ranking for two applications for federal funding administered through the Houston Galveston Area Council, totaling close to 5.2 million dollars. These projects are part of an overall plan that has already started to transform the District; the proposed projects focus on connectivity, build on earlier projects, and work to help pedestrians and cyclists achieve access to transit. These projects are important also for the following reasons:

- The projects supplement METRO's investment of \$525M in the East End Light Rail; there are no major parking lots along the stops, so the way to get people to ride this line is to build good sidewalks and bike trails.
- The projects will focus on the population in the neighborhood. Over thirty percent of the people in this neighborhood use transit, walk or bike to get to work or school; improvements in the pedestrian and cycling realm to get people to transit helps to make a productive community.
- These projects build onto others that have already been constructed, and are consistent with the East End Mobility Plan; when finished, they will help all travelers move around, including those in cars and buses.

I strongly support the projects under the Pedestrian Bicycle Projects and the Livable Centers. The Bike /Ped project will improve facilities across rail lines and improve safety at rail crossings. The Livable Centers Projects will provide intersection improvements to increase the safety and improve capacity for multimodal travel, as well as improving connectivity between the redeveloping EaDo and East End communities.

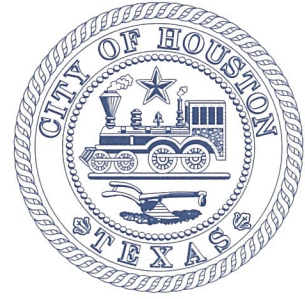
I believe that these improvements are consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan, and are particularly important to this area.

Sincerely,

Mayor Pro-Tem Ed Gonzalez
Council Member, District H

Melissa Noriega

Houston City Council At-Large Position 3



April 4, 2013

Alan Clark
Director of Transportation Planning
Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons, Suite 120
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Mr. Clark:

This letter is in support of the Greater East End Management District's (GEEMD) two applications for close to \$5.5 million in supplementary funding. This funding will improve the bicycle and pedestrian environments adjacent to METRO'S \$525 million investment in the East End Rail Line and improve capacity and connectivity between the redeveloping East Downtown (EaDo) and East End communities.

As the East End Rail nears completion, the EaDo and East End communities see areas of opportunities for improving bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The establishment of shared use paths on Caylor Street and 65th Street and development of rail crossing improvements on Leeland and McKinney at the Union Pacific Rail Line would provide the cycling and pedestrian community safety to and from transit stops, school and work.

The communities have also expressed their views on the importance of intersection enhancements, improved accessibility and connectivity to bicycle and pedestrian trails, and improved safety measures while increasing capacity for multi-modal travel. With the addition of several sidewalks in the Second Ward neighborhood, to the reconfiguration of the Navigation, St, Emanuel and Franklin intersection and traffic signal installation to the intersection improvements at Navigation and Canal and Navigation Boulevard and Jensen Drive, the thirty four percent of the people in these neighborhoods (my constituents) who are transit dependent or bike and walk to school and work will be able to use all modes of transit safely.

The Greater East End Management District is committed to fulfilling the community's vision.

Let's provide Greater East End Management District the opportunity to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa Noriega".

Melissa Noriega,
Houston City Council, At-Large Position 3

GENE GREEN

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DEMOCRATIC SENIOR WHIP

April 2, 2013

APR 04 2013

Mr. Alan Clark
MPO Director
Houston Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons Ln, Suite 120
Houston, Texas 77027-6478

Dear Mr. Clark:

On behalf of the 29th Congressional District of Texas, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the proposals being submitted to the Houston Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) by the Greater East End Management District. The Pedestrian Bicycle Projects and Livable Centers Projects will improve connectivity, build on earlier developments, and help pedestrians and cyclists gain access to transit.

The proposed projects will address some of the shortcomings in transportation and strengthen efforts to build more coordinated and connected transit system. The Pedestrian Bicycle Projects focus on improving pedestrian and bicycle facilities across rail line and increasing safety at rail crossings. The Livable Centers Projects will enhance intersections to make them safer, improve the capacity for multi-modal travel and increase connectivity. Thirty-four percent of residents in the East End use transit, walk or bike to get to work and school. Improvements in pedestrians and cycling facilities will increase transit access and safety and help make a more productive community.

METRO has invested \$525 million in the East End Light Rail. Since there are no major parking lots along the stops, future passengers will need sidewalks and bike trails to access the line. These proposed projects build on others that have already been constructed and are consistent with the East End Mobility Plan. When finished, they will make it easier for all area residents – including those in cars and buses – to travel.

Again, I would like to reiterate my support for the Greater East End Management District's proposals. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to improving our great city. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,



Gene Green
Member of Congress



March 11, 2013

Houston Galveston Area Council
Transportation Policy Council
3555 Timmons Ln.
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear HGAC Review Panel:

The Second Ward Super Neighborhood #63 (SWSN) has approved and is in support of the two applications submitted by the Greater East End Management District for pedestrian bicycle and livable centers projects to the Transportation Policy Council.

Second Ward is currently undergoing significant changes. We support sustainable communities as our neighborhood seeks improvements that will increase safe and improve capacity for multi-modal travel. The projects included in this plan are a roundabout at the intersection of Navigation Blvd and Jensen Dr.; intersection improvements at Navigation and Canal; reconfiguring the intersection of Navigation/St. Emanuel/ Franklin; and adding numerous sidewalks in Second Ward.

The pedestrian bicycle projects focus on improving ped/bike facilities across rail lines and improving safety at rail crossing. These projects are requested for shared use paths on Caylor St. and 65th St and rail crossing improvement on Leeland and McKinney St. at Union Pacific Rail Line.

Your approval and financial support of these applications is greatly appreciated. Should you have additional questions, I may be reached at 713.894.6692.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gloria Moreno".

Gloria Moreno, President
Second Ward Super Neighborhood #63



City Council Member, District I

APR 02 2013

March 25, 2013

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Mr. Alan Clark
MPO Director
Houston-Galveston Area Council
P.O. Box 22777
Houston, Texas 77027

Dear Mr. Clark:

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of the Greater East End Management District's (GEEMD) applications for two federal grants administered by the Houston-Galveston Area Council, totaling nearly \$5.5M.

I am pleased that the GEEMD has worked to serve the needs of the community, specifically District I. These grants would allow the GEEMD to move forward with projects that will improve transit connectivity for pedestrians and cyclist. The GEEMD has proven it is dedicated to the betterment of transportation in the East End.

I support their efforts and urge you to give their applications your utmost consideration.

Thank you for your time and attention. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

James G. Rodriguez
District I





APR 09 2013

SYLVIA R. GARCIA

STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 6

March 28, 2013

Alan Clark
MPO Director, Houston-Galveston Area Council
P.O. Box 22777
Houston, Texas 77227-2777

Dear Mr. Clark,

I am pleased to support the Greater East End District's two grant applications for the improved connectivity of mass transit with pedestrians and cyclists and am encouraged that they are not starting from scratch, but will be using these resources to build onto earlier projects.

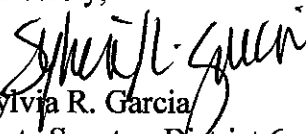
Currently, 34% of the residents in the East End rely on transit to go to work, school, church and shop for groceries. By improving the aging pedestrian and bicycle transit options, this area will not only be more productive, but safer for those who depend on bicycles and sidewalks to reach the transit system.

While METRO recently invested \$525 million into building the East End light rail system, no major parking lots were constructed along the route, making further improvements to bicycle lanes and sidewalks necessary to protect transit riders as they depart the trains for their ultimate destinations in the East End and to improve both access and safety for commuters as they travel to the area businesses and homes.

Having the privilege of recently being elected as the State Senator for District 6, I have had the benefit of speaking with many of the area's residents personally and have repeatedly been told that reliable, safe access to mass transit is a concern felt by many. The \$5.5 million requested by the Greater East End District directly addresses this concern and is money well spent, as it focuses on connectivity and building onto existing projects, rather than beginning anew.

Thank you for your consideration of my support for these worthwhile and beneficial transit grant applications. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (512) 463-0106 or by email at sylvia.garcia@senate.state.tx.us

Sincerely,


Sylvia R. Garcia
State Senator, District 6

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