

# Pre-Submitting Meeting: Livable Centers Cycle 7 Call for Sponsors



## LIVABLE CENTERS

### LIVE, WORK, PLAY

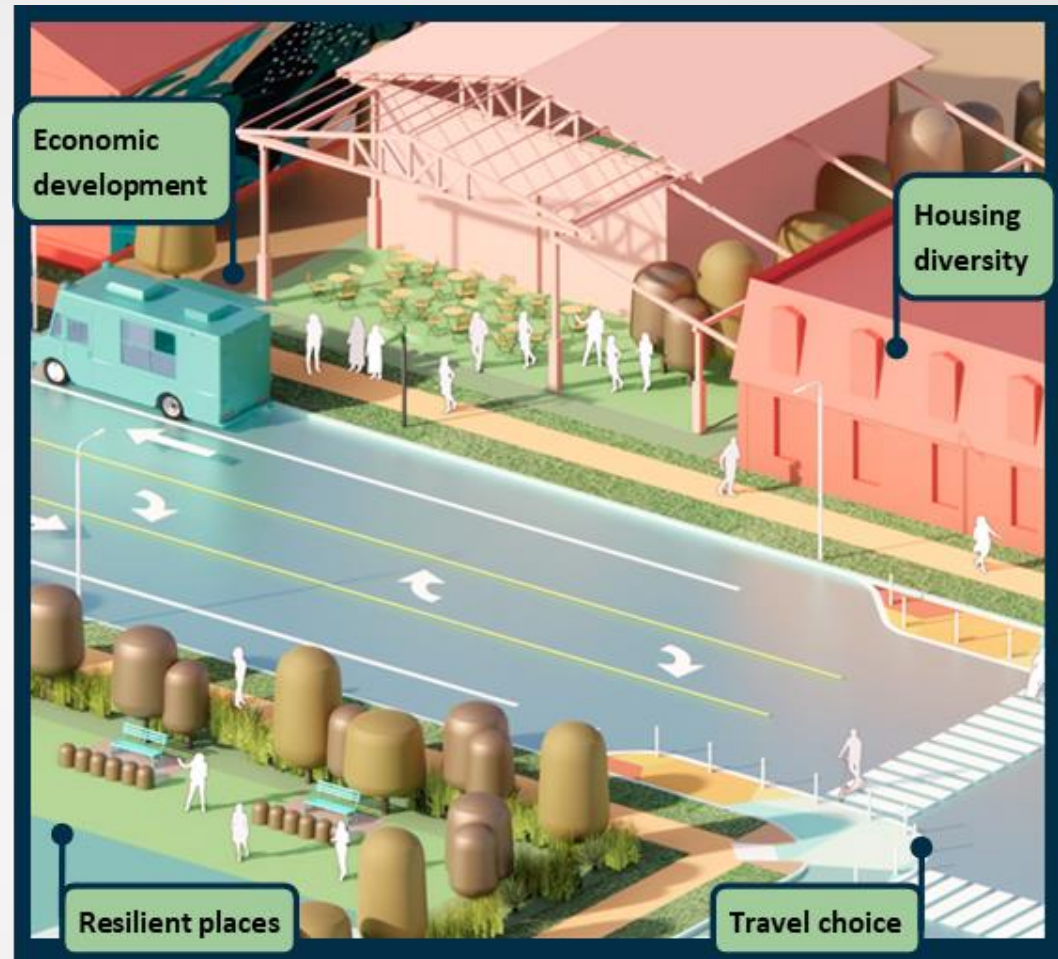
# Online Meeting & Etiquette Tips

- Meeting is being recorded. Recording will be made available on website.
- Slides will be made available on website.
- Place any questions in the chat box.
- Please keep yourself muted.
- For those in person, please keep your questions until the end of presentation.

# Livable Centers Goals

A future where people can live, work, and play with less reliance on their car.

1. Create multi-modal travel choices
2. Create resilient quality places
3. Promote safe and equitable infrastructure
4. Promote economic development and housing diversity



# Livable Centers Land-Use & Transportation Studies

- Adhere to reduction of vehicle miles traveled and improved air quality
- We work with local communities to reimagine auto-focused infrastructure, policies, and programs
- Each study is unique to the municipality we are working with. Each set of recommendations that come from the study process are tailored to the needs and desires of the community.

# Livable Centers Study Components

Existing  
conditions

Market analysis

Community  
engagement  
events

Steering  
committee

Agency  
meetings

Concept/Design  
developments

Implementation  
Plan

Program  
tracker

# Livable Centers Cycle 7 Call for Study Sponsors

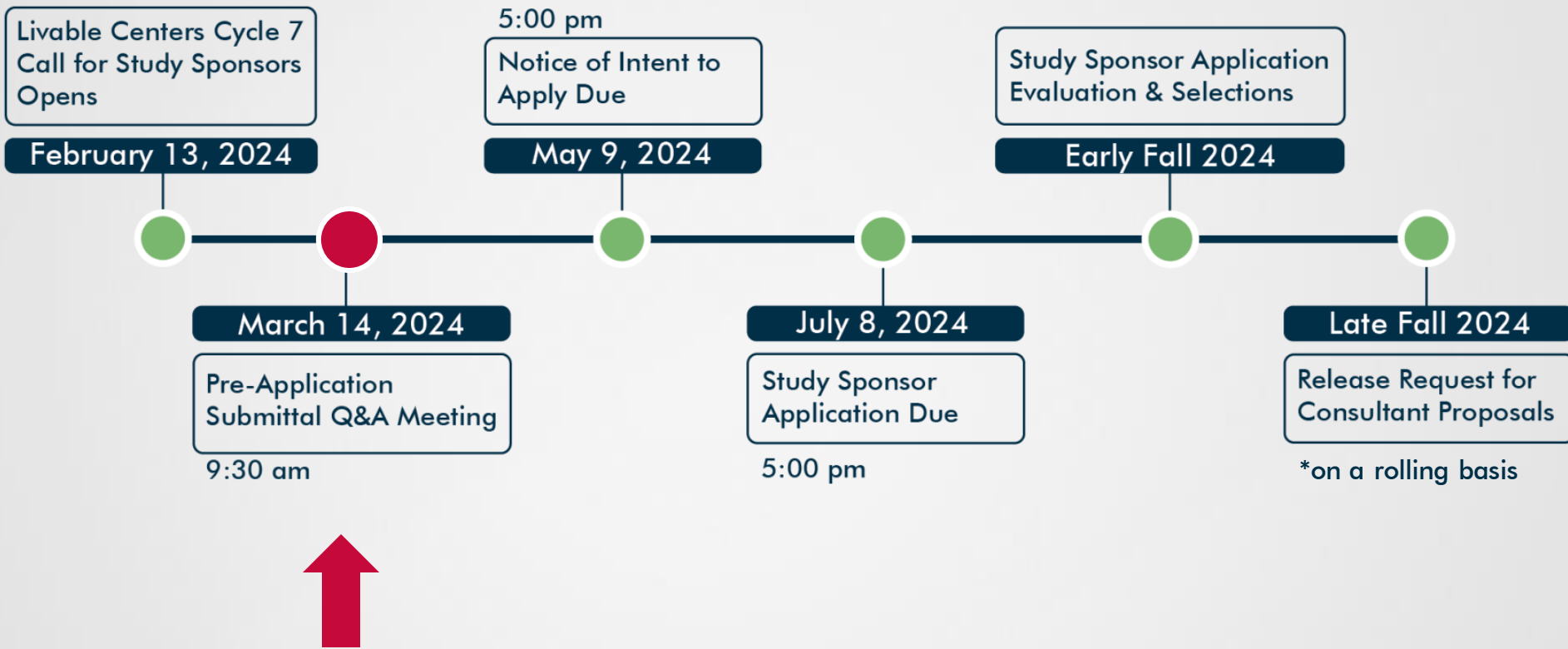


## FY 2025-2028 Funding

- **\$2,484,283** Transportation Planning Funds
- Approximately **8** studies
- \$200,000-\$300,000 average study cost

# Cycle 7 Key Dates

*\*Dates are subject to change.*



# Eligibility

Partners are limited to:

- Local governments, management districts, municipal utility districts, Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ), and other entities that can:
  - **Receive** federal transportation funding and
  - **Implement** transportation projects.
- Must be located within:
  - H-GAC's **eight-county TMA**: Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller counties.
- If not the primary owner of the streets and sidewalks:
  - **Letter of support** from the owning agency



# Livable Centers Study Types

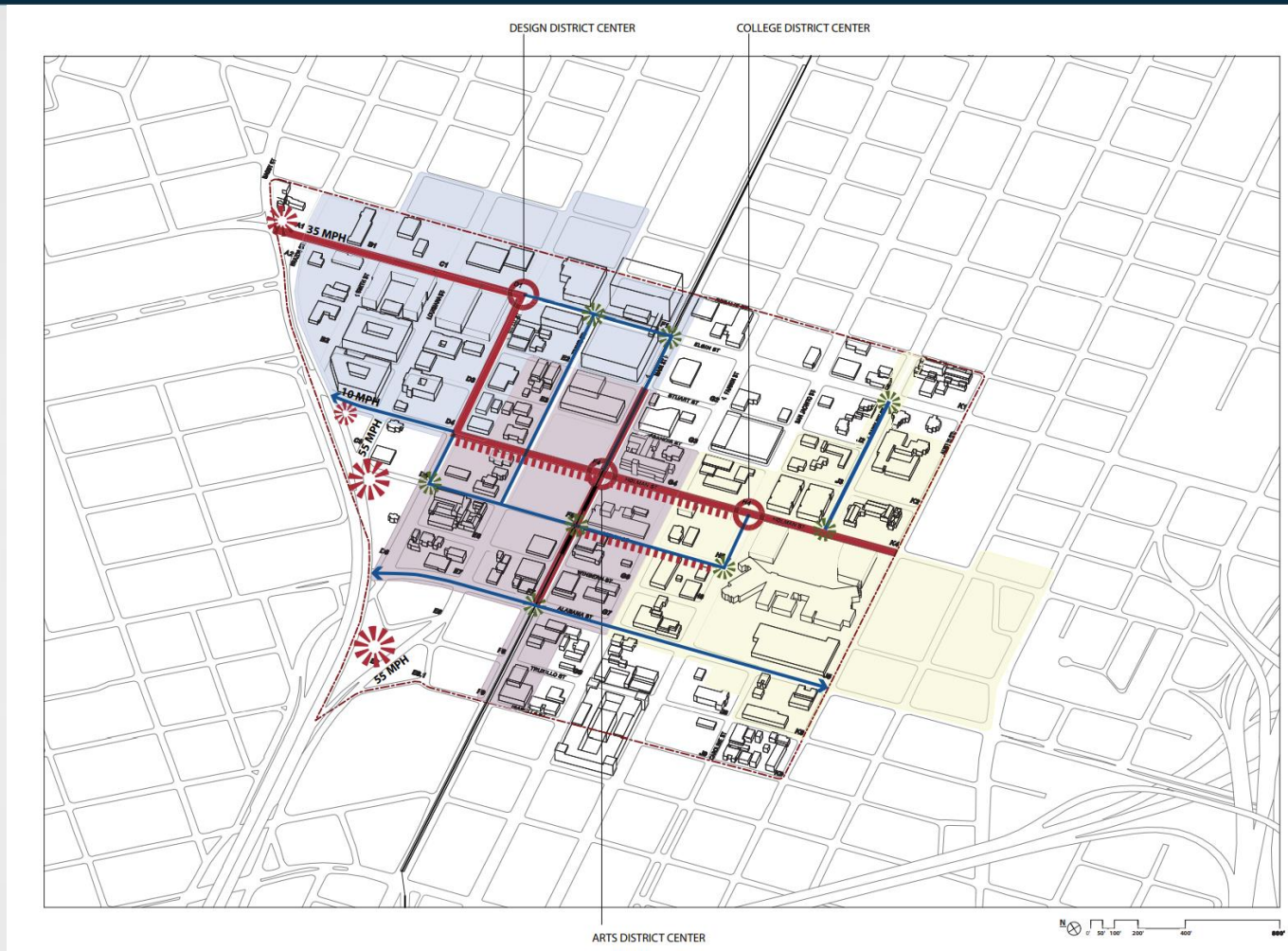
## Livable Centers Studies (LC)

- Small area plans and **fulfill all four Livable Centers Program goals** which include creating multi-modal travel choices, resilient quality places, and equitable infrastructure investments while promoting economic generators and housing diversity with complementary transportation planning. Programmatic goals are evaluated on a **community-wide scale**.

## Focused Livable Center Studies (FLC)

- Targeted, **community-node studies** that **must meet two Livable Centers Program goals**, to create multi-modal travel choices, resilient quality places, and **one additional Livable Centers goal** that best fits the needs of the study sponsor. Goals include evaluation of equitable infrastructure, promotion of economic generators, or housing choice.

# Livable Centers Study Types



## Midtown Livable Center Study, 2010

# Evaluation Criteria

## Livable Centers Studies (LC)

<b>Criteria 1: Description/Scope</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Criteria 2: Capacity to Implement</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Criteria 3: Fulfilling Program Goals</b>	<b>60%</b>
Goal 1: Create multi-modal travel choices	30%
Goal 2: Create resilient quality places	10%
Goal 3: Promote equitable infrastructure	10%
Goal 4: Promote economic development and housing	10%

## Focused Livable Center Studies (FLC)

<b>Criteria 1: Description/Scope</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Criteria 2: Capacity to Implement</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Criteria 3: Fulfilling Program Goals <i>Required</i></b>	<b>40%</b>
Goal 1: Create multi-modal travel choices	30%
Goal 2: Create resilient quality places	10%
<b>Focused Criteria: <i>Choose one</i></b>	<b>20%</b>
Goal 3: Promote equitable infrastructure	20%
<b>OR</b>	
Goal 4: Promote economic development	20%
<b>OR</b>	
Goal 5: Promote diversity in housing	20%

# Downloadable Application Guide

713-627-3200

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## Livable Centers Call for Planning Study Partners

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### 2024 Livable Centers Call for Planning Study Partners Call

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) has released the call for proposals from local governments and other eligible study sponsors to conduct Livable Centers planning studies during the fiscal years 2025-2028. The proposed studies should be in Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, or Waller counties.

### Livable Centers Study Types

Livable Center studies, which are focused on land-use and transportation, aim to reduce vehicle miles traveled and improve air quality. They encourage a complementary mix of land uses designed to facilitate walkability, connectivity, and accessibility via various transportation modes.

Study types will include:

- **Livable Centers Studies** - Serve as small area plans and fulfill all four Livable Centers Program goals which include creating multi-modal travel choices, resilient quality places, and equitable infrastructure investments while promoting economic generators and housing choice with complementary transportation planning at a neighborhood or district level.
- **Focused Livable Centers Studies** - Targets small areas such as a community-node or destination and must meet two Livable Centers Program goals to create multi-modal travel choices, resilient quality places, and one additional Livable Centers goal that best fits the needs of the study sponsor.

Livable Centers Implementation can take many forms, including on-the-ground projects, policies, and programs. Ultimately, Livable Centers are places where people can live, work, and play with less reliance on their cars.

### Livable Centers Study Funding Requirements

Sponsoring agencies must demonstrate their financial commitment to the contribution fund level required for the proposed study. Based on the Livable Centers Need Index (LCNI) for the proposed study area, sponsor's cash contribution requirements will be defined by a percentage of the total study cost, not to exceed 20% of total study cost.

Details regarding match may be found in the Application Guidance Document.



#### Livable Centers

##### Livable Centers Call for Planning Study Partners

Facilitating Housing Toolbox for Livable Centers

Livable Centers Workshops

Livable Centers Implementation

Livable Centers Planning Studies

Livable Centers RFP Notification

Livable Centers Tools

Active Transportation Funding Sources

#### Economic Development Policies & Programs Tools

#### Economic Development Incentive Tools

#### Increase Capacity for Economic Development

#### Contact Information

Would you like to contact us about this topic? Please contact:

# Project Description

Description should provide insights on:

- Proposed study area location
- Need, purpose, and the desired outcomes
- ***Impact on vulnerable populations***
- ***How study sponsor envisions vulnerable populations and community-based organizations (CBOs) being involved in study throughout the project's lifecycle***
- Local significance and potential for the study to serve as a model for others in the region

**20% of total score**

# Capacity to Implement

Statement should describe:

- Staff and/or departments of the sponsoring agency that will be involved
- Level of support from key sponsor officials
- Sponsor's commitment to be an active sponsor throughout the study
- Sponsor's high-level plan for implementation after the completion of study
- Level of support from the local community and potential project partners

**20% of total score**

# Fulfilling Program Goals

## Livable Centers Studies (LC)

<b>Fulfilling Program Goals</b>	<b>60%</b>
Goal 1: Create multi-modal travel choices	30%
Goal 2: Create resilient quality places	10%
Goal 3: Promote equitable infrastructure	10%
Goal 4: Promote economic development and housing	10%

## Focused Livable Center Studies (FLC)

<b>Fulfilling Program Goals Required</b>	<b>40%</b>
Goal 1: Create multi-modal travel choices	30%
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Goal 4: Promote economic development	20%
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Goal 5: Promote diversity in housing	20%

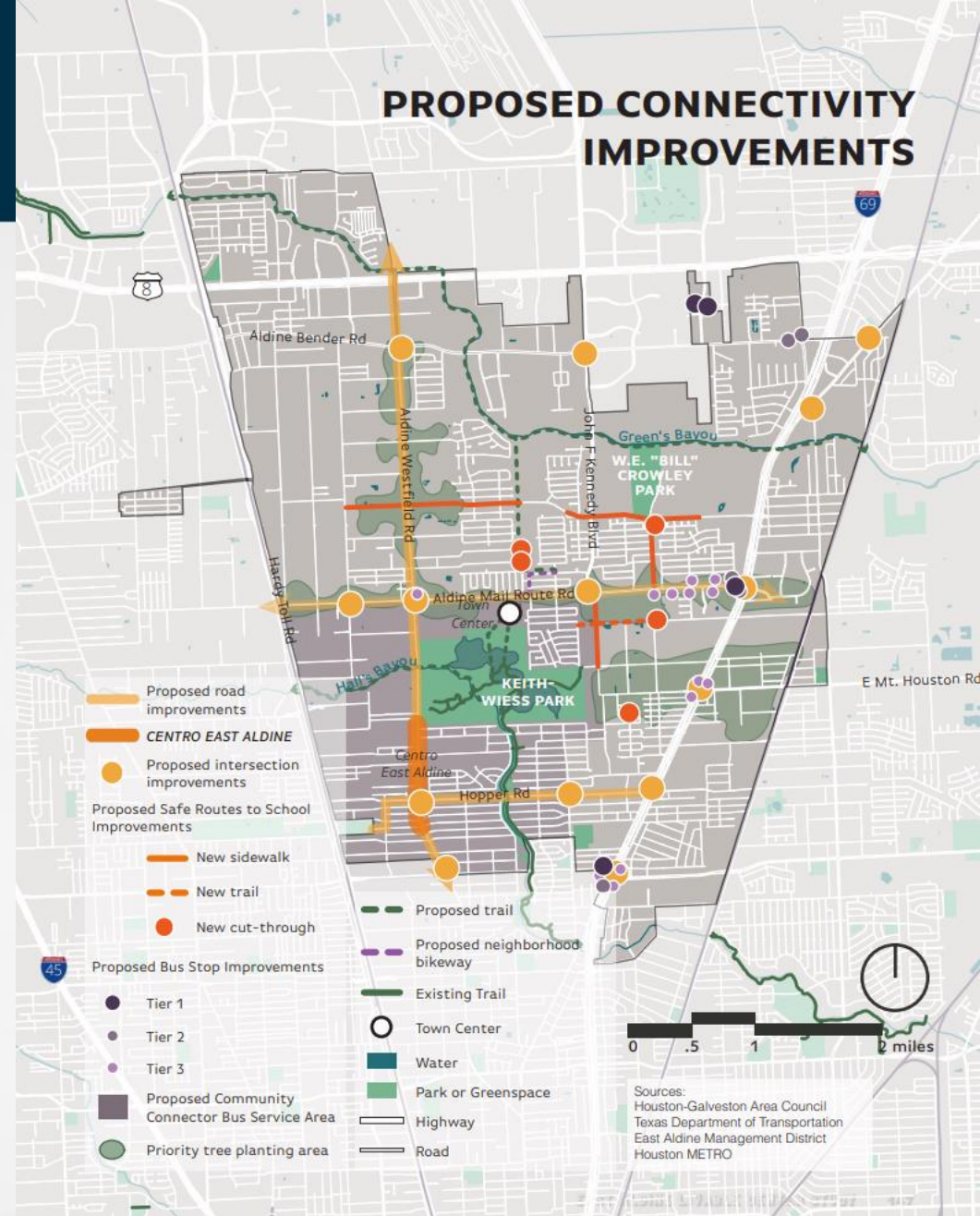
**60% of total score**

# Multi-modality

## East Aldine Livable Centers Study, 2021

### Concept 3: Connected & Complete

- Improve connectivity within the study area
- Improve pedestrian/bicyclist safety
- Strengthen transit accessibility
- Potential for air quality improvements
- Integrate green space and preserves natural resources\*\*





# Resilient & Quality Places

## East Aldine Livable Centers Study, 2021

### Concept 2

- Incorporates resiliency elements
- Incentivize housing for multigenerational families in non-flood areas using relevant green infrastructure and missing middle typologies, including courtyard apartment, bungalow court, townhouse, and live/work.

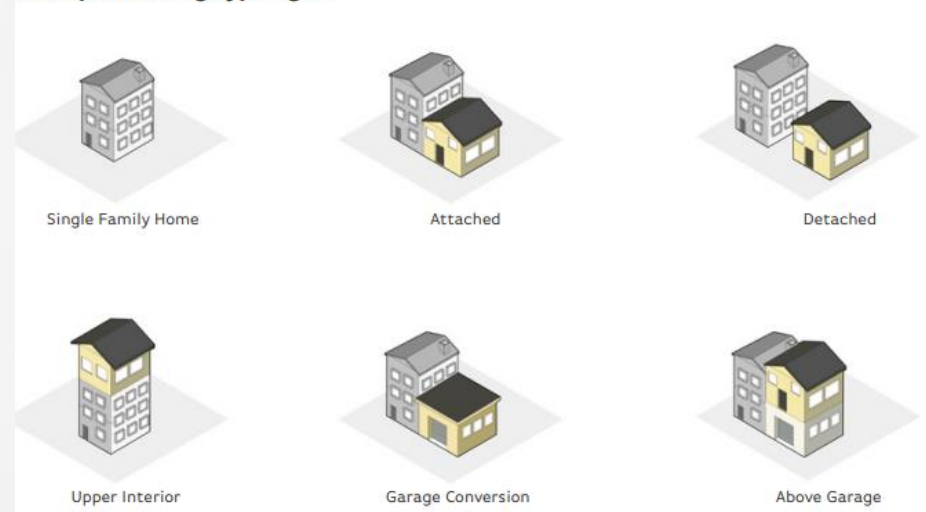
### Recommendation 2.1:

Ensure that East Aldine's multi-generational community has safe, affordable, and stable homes.

### Recommendation 2.2:

Create physical and social infrastructure and systems that keep residents safe and minimize negative impacts during extreme weather events

#### Example housing typologies



# Safe & Equitable Infrastructure

Infrastructure that considers the fair distribution of benefits and burdens, ensuring that all members of a community, regardless of socioeconomic status or background, have equal access to essential services or infrastructure. Examples include:

- Last mile connection system planning
- Safe routes to school & wayfinding plans
- Transit access location and connectivity
- Park access location and connectivity
- Advanced concept plans
  - Visual cross sections & renderings

# Safe & Equitable Infrastructure

## South Houston Livable Centers Study, 2023

### **SRTS**

- Improve connectivity and infrastructure for pedestrians
- Reduce negative impacts of barriers for pedestrians/bicyclists

### Safe Routes to School

Safe Routes to School is an initiative that promotes walking and biking to school by improving pedestrian and bike infrastructure. This recommendation builds on the streets recommendation; these routes should be prioritized for street and intersection safety within a mile radius of each school that South Houston students attend. Pasadena ISD does not provide bus service to students within one mile of a school, so parents have to drop off their children, or students have to walk to school.

Designing a safe route to school on a street with parking availability benefits parents that can park further away from school to avoid traffic and walk with their child to school as well as students living close enough to the safe route to school to use it to walk to school. Safe routes to school have increased safety components like 6-foot-wide sidewalks, improved intersections with wider crosswalks, updated ADA curb ramps, and pedestrian signals or flashing beacons. On streets that have a lot of student foot traffic before and after school, it may also be appropriate to construct wider sidewalks than would otherwise be built.

Georgia Street and Illinois Street are identified as examples of safe routes to school (see 150 and 167), but there are many more routes that should also be focused on.

#### First-priority improvements:

- Improve popular, priority signalizations not on the baseline safe routes to school routes.
- Construct at least one safe route(s) to each school.

#### Second-priority improvements:

- Construct a secondary set of defined routes to each school.

#### Third-priority improvements:

- Complete a sidewalk/crossing network within 1/4-mile walk of each school.
- Complete a sidewalk/crossing network within 1/2-mile walk of each school.

#### Livability Principles Supported

- Provide more transportation choices
- Value Communities and Neighborhoods
- Support Existing Communities



# Safe & Equitable Infrastructure

## [Healthy Pasadena Livable Centers, 2023](#)

### HCA Medical Campus Redevelopment Opportunity

- Connection with the local community and uphold values of health, wellbeing, and safety
- Immediate strategies prioritize enhancing connectivity, access, and green open spaces
- Encourage a destination for health and wellness
- Promote access between the public right-of-way and adjacent land use for non-vehicular traffic



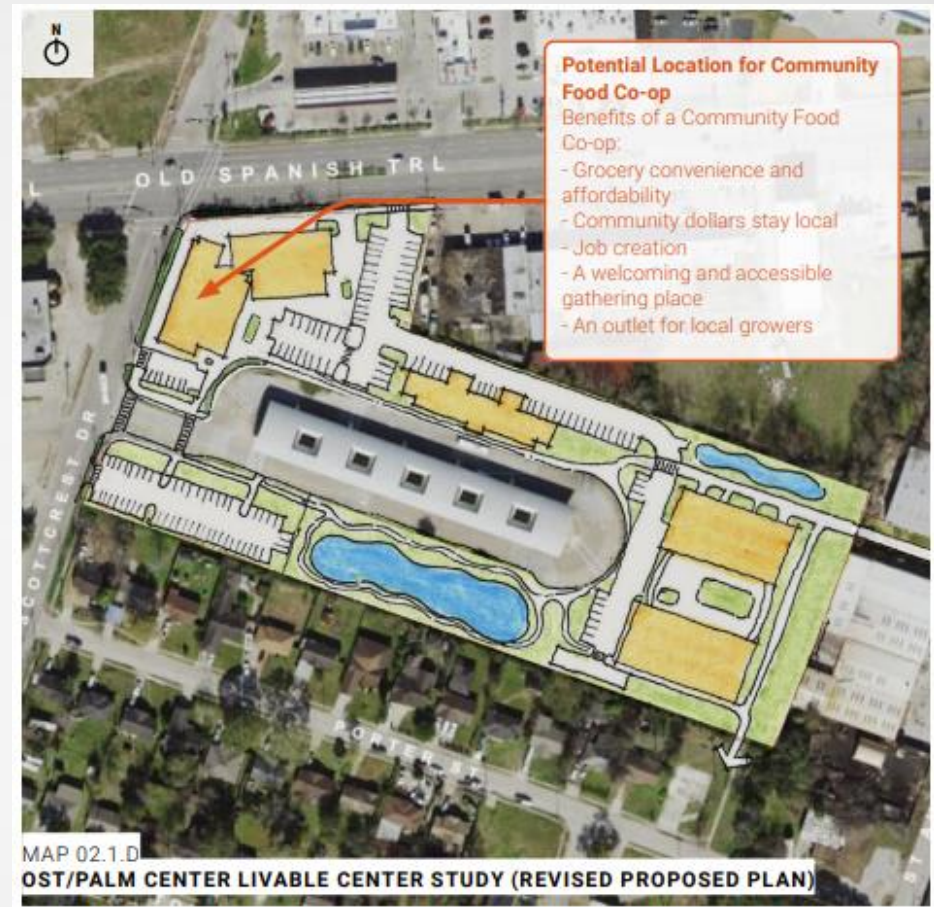
# Economic Development

## OST/Palm Centers Livable Centers Study, 2022

### **TOD: Mobility Hub**

- Serve as a catalyst for investment/development
- Promote development which emphasize design considerations for pedestrian, transit, and non-vehicular access and connectivity

Co-ops “promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of all people, including women, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, are becoming a major factor of economic and social development and contribute to the eradication of poverty.”  
United Nations Resolution 64/136



# Economic Development



## Fulshear Livable Center Study, 2019

- Serve as a catalyst for investment/development
- Increase walkability/bikeability of a 1/2-mile radius of an activity center



# Economic Development



*Rendering of Proposed Downtown Core*

# Diversity in Housing

## Kashmere Gardens Livable Centers, 2017

- Serve as catalyst for development
- Increase range of housing options

**Goal 1:** Ensure community benefits from new investments guided by proposed strategic development.

**Goal 2:** Increase high-quality housing options for residents of all income levels.

- 
- The map displays a grid of streets including Hunting Bayou, Cavalcade, W 610, W 59, W 58, W 57, W 56, W 55, W 54, W 53, W 52, W 51, W 50, W 49, W 48, W 47, W 46, W 45, W 44, W 43, W 42, W 41, W 40, W 39, W 38, W 37, W 36, W 35, W 34, W 33, W 32, W 31, W 30, W 29, W 28, W 27, W 26, W 25, W 24, W 23, W 22, W 21, W 20, W 19, W 18, W 17, W 16, W 15, W 14, W 13, W 12, W 11, W 10, W 9, W 8, W 7, W 6, W 5, W 4, W 3, W 2, W 1, W 0, W -1, W -2, W -3, W -4, W -5, W -6, W -7, W -8, W -9, W -10, W -11, W -12, W -13, W -14, W -15, W -16, W -17, W -18, W -19, W -20, W -21, W -22, W -23, W -24, W -25, W -26, W -27, W -28, W -29, W -30, W -31, W -32, W -33, W -34, W -35, W -36, W -37, W -38, W -39, W -40, W -41, W -42, W -43, W -44, W -45, W -46, W -47, W -48, W -49, W -50, W -51, W -52, W -53, W -54, W -55, W -56, W -57, W -58, W -59, W -60, W -61, W -62, W -63, W -64, W -65, W -66, W -67, W -68, W -69, W -70, W -71, W -72, W -73, W -74, W -75, W -76, W -77, W -78, W -79, W -80, W -81, W -82, W -83, W -84, W -85, W -86, W -87, W -88, W -89, W -90, W -91, W -92, W -93, W -94, W -95, W -96, W -97, W -98, W -99, W -100. The map also shows parks such as Tuffly Park, Brewster Park, Barbara Jordan Family Park, Boyce Dorian Park, and Finnegan Park. Strategic development areas are indicated by colored circles and lines: red circles for large properties at highway exits, orange circles for mixed-use development at key intersections, yellow circles for affordable housing, green circles for vacant lots, and yellow lines for transit corridors.
- Redevelop large properties at highway exits as commercial areas to generate jobs and revenue
  - Encourage mixed-use infill development at key intersections to build on existing community assets
  - Preserve and add to the stock of high quality affordable housing in neighborhood areas
  - Strategically cultivate vacant lots as open space buffers and recreational opportunities
  - Enhance existing transit corridors with multimodal improvements and infill development
  - Enhance local corridors through infill development and multifamily housing.



# How to Apply

1. Complete the Online Application Portal registration form.
2. Complete a Notice of Intent to Apply form within the Online Application Portal.
3. Complete a Livable Centers Call for Planning Study Partners Application form within the Online Application Portal.

If you wish to submit multiple applications, you will only need to complete the registration form once. Each application will require a Notice of Intent to Apply and Application form.

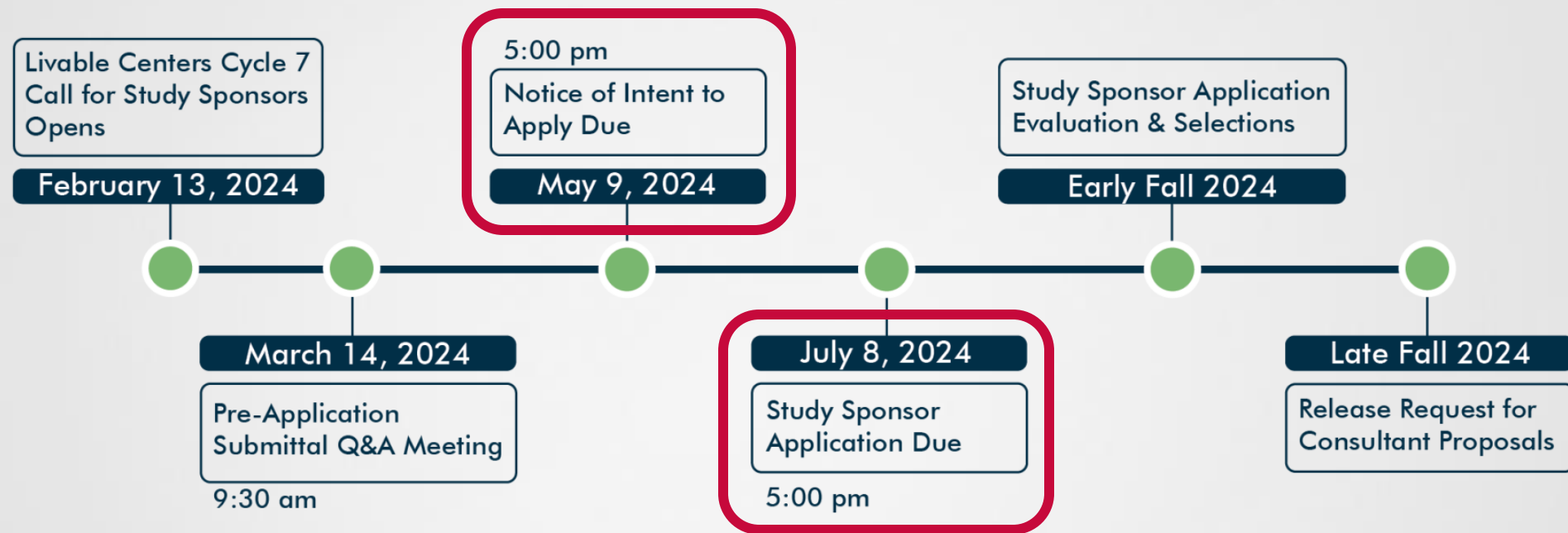
**Registration Form**

**Online Application Portal**

<https://www.h-gac.com/livable-centers/call-for-planning-study-partners>

# Cycle 7 Key Dates

*\*Dates are subject to change.*



<https://www.h-gac.com/livable-centers/call-for-planning-study-partners>

# Contribution Requirements

## ***Demonstrate financial commitment***

- Based on Sponsor estimate
- Required for Intent to Apply
- May be modified for Application

## ***Livable Centers Need Index (LCNI)***

- Equitable distribution of funds
- Need determined by LCN
- Measures:
  - Households without cars, single parent households, elderly population, school age population, presence of schools, income levels, English proficiency, housing tenure, access to transit, presence of sidewalks or trails, unemployment rate, education level, population density

## **Cash Contribution**

- LCNI score above 75: 0% cash contribution
- LCNI score 75-50: 10% cash contribution
- LCNI score below 50: 20% cash contribution

# ACE User Guide

How to:

- Draw proposed study boundary
- Determine LCNI
- Export shapefile
- Snapshot of study area

Access by: Application Guidance Document

Note: Does not require Geographic Information System (GIS) experience

## Livable Centers Application Data Assistance: ACE Planning Tool

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# Livable Centers Need Index (LCNI)



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## About Livable Centers

Livable Centers are places where people can live, work, and play with less reliance on their cars. They encourage a complementary mix of land uses designed to be walkable, connected, and accessible by multiple modes of transportation, including bus, bike, foot, or vehicle (multi-modal).

## Quick Links

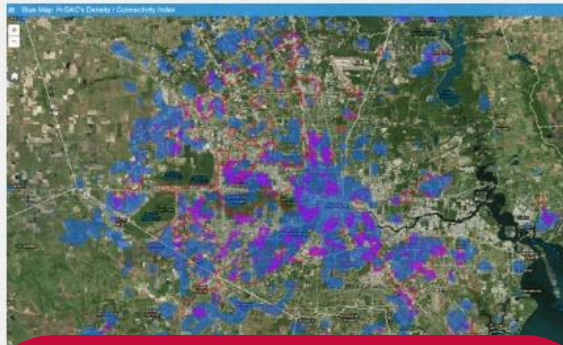
<a href="#">Livable Centers Call for Planning Study Partners</a>	<a href="#">Livable Centers Workshops</a>	<a href="#">Livable Centers Implementation</a>
<a href="#">Publications</a>	<a href="#">Livable Centers Planning Studies</a>	<a href="#">Livable Centers RFP Notification</a>
<a href="#">Livable Centers on Mobility NOW</a>	<a href="#">Livable Centers Tools</a>	<a href="#">Active Transportation Funding Sources</a>

# Livable Centers Need Index (LCNI)

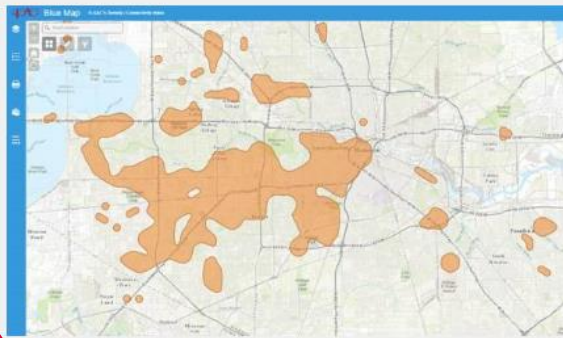
## ACE: H-GAC's Activity-Connectivity Explorer

The Activity-Connectivity Explorer (Summary Viewer or Advanced Viewer) is a mapping application to identify existing activity center(s) based on density and connectivity index using a hexagonal grid system. There are six indicators to measure density and connectivity: Household, Household Population, Jobs, Activity Population, Job/Household Balance, and Number of Intersections. In the Activity-Connectivity Explorer tool, users can find Livable Centers study area boundaries and the types of recommendations made in each study.

ACE - Summary Viewer



ACE - Advanced Viewer



# Location Analysis Tool

The screenshot displays the 'Location Analysis Tool' web application. The browser address bar shows 'datalab.h-gac.com/ace/'. The application header includes the 'h-gac' logo, 'REGIONAL DATA LAB', and 'ACE Activity-Connectivity Explorer'. A search bar is present with the text 'Find address or place'. The main interface features a map of the Houston area with various layers overlaid. A 'Layer List' panel is open on the left, listing 18 layers with checkboxes. A red box highlights the first six layers: 'FRA Public Railroad Crossing', 'Ped-Bike Destinations (Zoom-In)', 'METRO Transit Facilities (Zoom-In)', 'TxDOT Roadway Inventory', 'Businesses with more than 100 employees (2022)', and 'H-GAC 2045 RTP Projects'. A red arrow points to the 'Sustainability' icon in the bottom toolbar. The bottom right corner shows 'POWERED BY esri' and 'Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA, EPA, USDA, NPS'.

Layer List

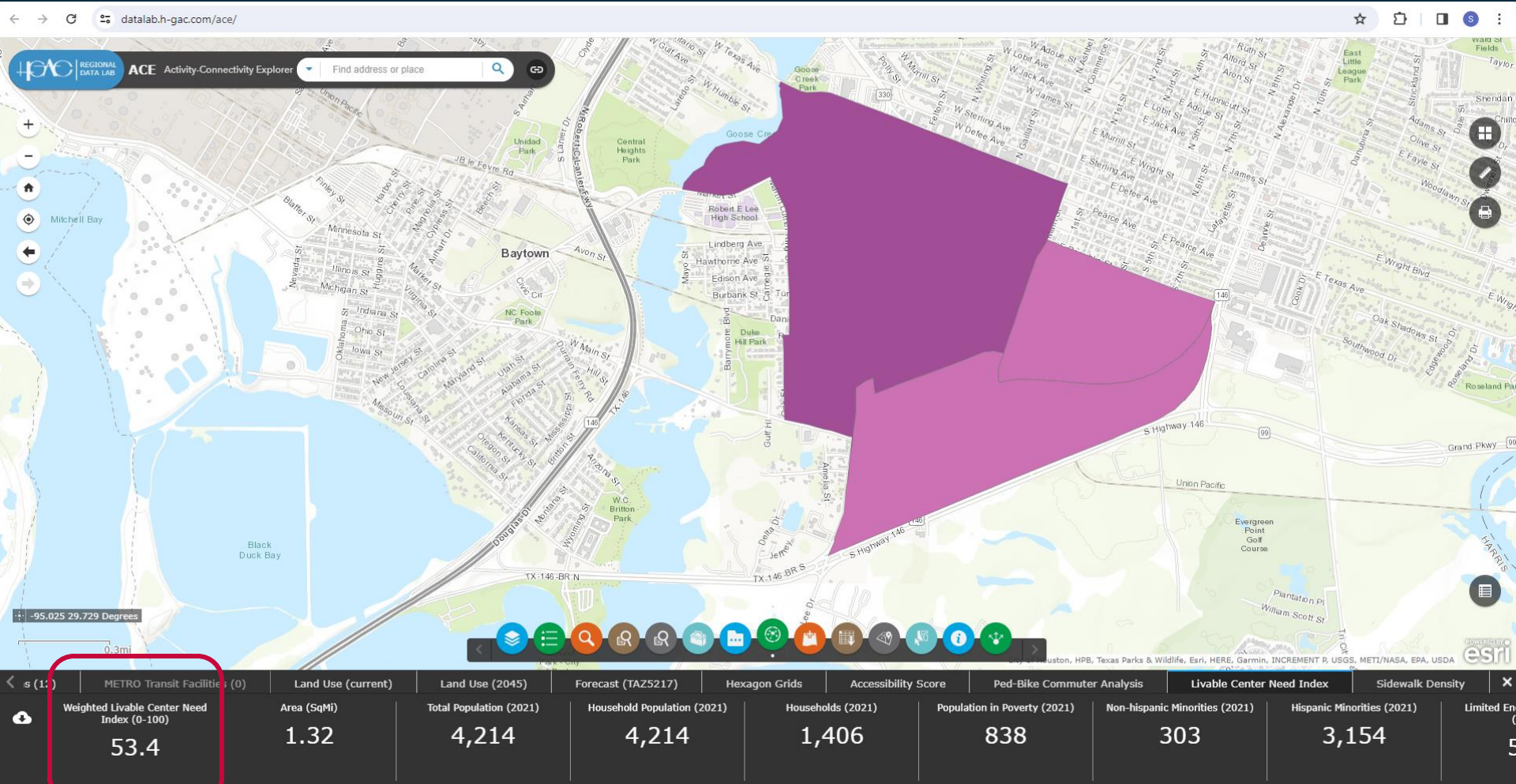
- FRA Public Railroad Crossing
- Ped-Bike Destinations (Zoom-In)
- METRO Transit Facilities (Zoom-In)
- TxDOT Roadway Inventory
- Businesses with more than 100 employees (2022)
- H-GAC 2045 RTP Projects
- H-GAC Regional Bikeways
- H-GAC Sidewalk Inventory
- Streets
- Regional Public Transit
- METRO Moving Forward Projects (2022)
- METRO Transit Facilities (Detail)
- Livable Centers
- 2020 Census Urban Area
- ACE Layers
- Accessibility Score
- Ped-Bike Commuter Analysis

# Draw Study Area Boundary

The screenshot displays the ACE (Activity-Connectivity Explorer) web application interface. At the top, the URL is [datalab.h-gac.com/ace/](http://datalab.h-gac.com/ace/). The main map area shows a street grid in Baytown, Texas, with a grey-shaded rectangular study area boundary drawn over a portion of the city. The interface includes a search bar with the text "Find address or place", navigation controls (home, back, forward, zoom in/out), and a bottom toolbar with various analysis tools. The "Liveable Center Need Index" tool is highlighted with a red box. The bottom toolbar also includes options for "Locate Incident", "Start Over", and "Buffer Distance" (set to 0 Miles).



# LCNI Score



# Contribution Requirements

Calculate level of need for their study area online through the Livable Centers Activity-Connectivity Explorer (ACE), [here](#)

Note: Cash contribution will go to the Regional Strategic Transportation Fund.

## **Cash Contribution**

- LCNI score above 75:  
0% cash contribution
- LCNI score 75-50:  
10% cash contribution
- LCNI score below 50:  
20% cash contribution

# Estimating Study Cost Example

## Proposed Funding Contributions

All fields are required unless noted otherwise.

1. What is the proposed Livable Centers Study's total cost?

**\$200,000**

2. What is the proposed Livable Centers Study's Livable Centers Need Index Score?

**53**

3. What is the proposed Livable Centers Study's local contribution?

**\$20,000**

4. What is the proposed Livable Centers Study's federal match? (H-GAC Contribution)

**\$200,000**

5. Please provide any additional funds. (Optional)

**10% match**

# Supplemental Documentation Required

## Mandatory Letters of Support:

- Texas House of Representatives
  - If the study area encompasses multiple Texas House Districts, a letter is required from each Representative
- Sponsor Agency and other study partners
  - If the sponsoring agency is not the primary owner of the streets or sidewalks for study in the project area, include a letter of support from the owning agency. Application will not be considered eligible if this requirement is not met.
- Local Sponsor Matching Fund Commitment (if required)
  - Letter from the chief elected official or chief executive of the sponsoring entity that has the authority to commit to the local cash contribution.

## Optional Letter(s) of Support

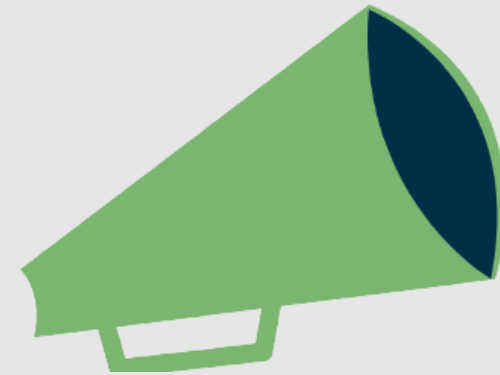
- Community or neighborhood groups, partner agencies, local businesses, or other stakeholders are strongly encouraged.

# Application Tips

- Start early! Submit early!
- Don't forget to submit the NOI. Applications will not be accepted without NOI. Late applications will not be accepted.
- Become familiar with the Livable Centers website and tools.
- Use application guide to maximize your chances of scoring as many points as possible.
- Office Hours: Beginning March 18, 2024 goes until week of NOI submission
  - Every Monday and Tuesday, 2pm-5pm, 30 mins
  - Sign up through the NOI submission form or email directly
  - Come prepared with as much of your narrative as possible

# LIVABLE CENTERS

## CALL FOR STUDY SPONSORS



Sarai Osorio

Principal Planner

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