

Transportation Policy Council
February 24, 2023
Public Comments

Dear HGAC TPC,

Happy Friday, and thank you for the opportunity to email in my comments on the future of Houston-Galveston Area infrastructure projects.

I kindly request that you remove all support for the I-45 highway expansion, and please put our valuable resources towards more sustainable, inclusive and diverse mobility options. The city of Houston does not need more highway lanes, and should focus on BRT options, connected bike networks, and extended tram lines. Already in 2023 we have seen two bicyclist deaths on Houston streets, and were [close to a third just yesterday](#) if not for the incredible work done by first responders. We must act to prevent future pedestrian/biker deaths and expanding highways will not do that. Adding a shoulder lane or adjusting curvature for safety will only result in incremental reductions of crashes and deaths. A substantial reduction in road deaths is TxDOT's only hope to achieve its "[Road to Zero](#)" plan by 2050. Providing other choices of transportation would reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMTs), prevent crashes, and more effectively enhance safety for non-car users of the road.

Please be bold, brave leaders. Let's think of transit solutions that don't involve the same infrastructure we've been building since the 1940s.

Best,

Joseph

Joseph Panzarella
District E Resident
Jpanzarella638@gmail.com