

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE April 7, 2026

TO City Manager Kimberly Bizzor Tolbert

SUBJECT **Request for City Staff Collaboration with NCTCOG on Jefferson & Houston Viaducts Realignment**

The Jefferson and Houston Viaducts are critical transportation corridors connecting Oak Cliff and downtown Dallas. Oak Cliff residents have been working diligently with NCTCOG and the city's Transportation & Public Works Department for nearly two years on the Oak Farms Transportation Corridors Study. After several rounds of public meetings, neighbors indicated a strong preference for converting Houston St. Viaduct into a streetcar, pedestrian, and bike greenway with no cars. At the same time, Jefferson St. Viaduct would be converted into two-way car traffic with two lanes in each direction. This change would allow excess roadway by the Oak Farms site to come down, potentially opening up space for development, parkland, and/or access into the Trinity River trails. While there are questions about the feasibility of saving some of these off ramps for a park facility, there is overwhelming consensus and support for the viaducts' proposed lane changes and for reconnecting the street grid on the Oak Cliff side.

We were surprised when we first discovered that the Convention & Event Services team planned to demolish part of Jefferson Viaduct and reroute traffic both temporarily and long-term. We have concerns about the [options presented to the Transportation Committee](#) on March 23, 2026. We need to find the right balance that maintains both car connectivity as well as safe and convenient access for pedestrians, cyclists, and streetcar and DART bus riders. We also need to ensure continued access in the interim if the Jefferson Viaduct is taken offline during construction.

We were alarmed to hear that staff has allegedly not been working closely with NCTCOG and Halff Associates, who have done a fantastic job with the Oak Farms Transportation Corridors Study. We therefore request that Convention & Event Center Department and the Transportation & Public Works Department meet with Director Michael Morris and the Halff team as soon as possible to ensure the convention center plan supports the agreed-to plans for the viaducts and broader connectivity for Oak Cliff and downtown.

Before the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee meeting on April 20, 2026 we ask that both departments co-host a virtual public community meeting in coordination with our offices to ensure our residents understand the alternatives being considered and weigh in on this infrastructure change that will impact their lives for decades to come. We ask

that staff come ready with the following information for Options 1a, Option 6a, and any other option under consideration:

- Traffic count data
- Estimated cost
- Estimated time difference in travel for cars and cyclists
- Impacts on DART bus routes

Thank you for your leadership and working to ensure that we use this opportunity to strengthen connection between Oak Cliff and downtown.



Chad West
Councilmember
District 1



Maxie Johnson
Councilmember
District 4

c: *Honorable Mayor & City Council
Tammy Palomino, City Attorney
Billerae Johnson, City Secretary
Dev Rastogi, Assistant City Manager
Robin Bentley, Assistant City Manager
Ahmad Goree, Chief of Staff to the City Manager
Dr. Ghassan Khankarli, Director of Transportation & Public Works
Rosa Fleming, Director of Convention & Event Services*