

LISTENING SESSION

North Houston Highway Improvement Project



Houston-Galveston
Area Council

JOIN US TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Thursday, October 22, 2020

5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.

PROJECT WEBSITE

h-gac.com/north-houston-highway-improvement-project

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

<https://zoom.us/j/99767476602?pwd=QXo5eE5lS1NLUXVjMONTSVFUWFcudz09>
Meeting ID: 997 6747 6602
Passcode: 746148

Tele-Conference Call In Information

US Toll-free 877-853-5247 or 888-788-0099
Meeting ID: 997 6747 6602
Participant ID: Press #
Passcode: 746148

What is the North Houston Highway Improvement Project?

The North Houston Highway Improvement Project aims to make improvements to the I-45 North corridor from Beltway 8 North to and around downtown Houston that support important connectivity for residents and businesses within the Houston-Galveston region and to destinations within and beyond the state of Texas. The project will also make critical updates to portions of the I-45 North corridor between Beltway 8 North and downtown Houston that do not meet current design, health, and safety standards. This regional project has the potential to transform mobility and traffic congestion in one of the fastest-growing areas of the country.

What Brought Us Here Today?

The North Houston Highway Improvement Project will cost an estimated \$7 billion. Of that \$7 billion, \$4.5 billion is allocated over the next 10 years for improvements to I-45 in portions that run through Harris County in the city of Houston. In response to public feedback, the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Transportation Policy Council in July 2019 approved \$151 million in project funds to address community concerns and make improvements in the neighborhoods that will be impacted by the project. The conditions for this funding included performing an in-depth assessment to fully understand the mobility challenges and needs of these communities and creating a deliberation process that includes strong public engagement.

In July 2020, the Transportation Policy Council established a work group to develop a memorandum of understanding between the key cooperating entities on the project that will showcase their commitment

to ongoing discussions regarding the project's design, opportunities for increased transit, and mitigating community impacts. The work group has held five meetings over the past three months that were open to the public and welcomed public comments. The memorandum of understanding is now in the final stage of development. On Oct. 22, we will hold a listening session where members of the work group can hear from the public regarding the memorandum of understanding. This meeting will take place in the evening outside of normal business hours to ensure as many in the community as possible can hear the memorandum in its latest form and comment on it.

Why is the Listening Session Important?

The North Houston Highway Improvement Project has the potential to be one of our region's most transformative infrastructural improvement projects. The memorandum of understanding outlines the project's key cooperating entities' commitment to work together to create a project that truly addresses the mobility needs of our region and is beneficial to all. Your feedback is essential to ensuring its final version is effective, meaningful, and properly addresses to set up the framework for future planning process. Opportunities for public comment will continue to be available at the work group and Transportation Policy Council meetings.

Memorandum of Understanding Partners

The key cooperating partners in the memorandum of understanding are the City of Houston, Harris County, the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, the Texas Department of Transportation, and the Transportation Policy Council.

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AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Overview of Draft Memorandum of Understanding
3. Public Comments
4. Adjourn

The meeting will be conducted in English with a sign language interpreter and a Spanish translator available. Requests for other language interpreters or special communication needs may be made at least two working days prior to the meeting. Requests from persons needing special accommodations should call 713-993-2437 for assistance.