



**ADRIAN  
GARCIA**  
PRECINCT 2 COMMISSIONER

August 7, 2019

***AGENDA ITEM***

Commissioners Court  
1001 Preston, 9th Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Court Members:

Please consider the following item for the August 13, 2019 Commissioners Court agenda.

Harris County Precinct Two requests approval of a Resolution relating to the realignment of Interstate 45 and Interstate 69.

Your consideration and approval of this request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Adrian Garcia  
Commissioner

Enclosure

19 AUG -7 PM 4:40  
HARRIS COUNTY  
BUDGET MANAGEMENT  
DEPARTMENT

## **Harris County Commissioner's Court**

### **Resolution on I-45 North Houston Highway Improvement Project**

Whereas: The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) builds most of our highways, and

Whereas: Highway accidents cause numerous fatalities and serious injuries of people driving, biking, and walking every year, and

Whereas: Highway construction disproportionately negatively impacts low-income communities of color and benefits people beyond where the highway is constructed, and

Whereas: Highway construction and increased use of highways increase air toxicity, and

Whereas: TxDOT's proposed North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP) represents a once-in-generations opportunity to improve the region's image and mobility, while mitigating past impacts, and

Whereas: Concerned Harris County residents and organizations have made known their efforts to work with TxDOT to improve the proposed NHHIP, as well as their concerns that the current design does not adequately acknowledge or provide mitigation for adverse impacts of the proposed design on their communities, and

Whereas: Transportation infrastructure influences access to economic opportunity and quality of life, including health and wellness in Harris County, and

Whereas: Every major infrastructure project using taxpayer dollars should be seen as an opportunity to improve the quality of life in the surrounding neighborhoods, rather than simply mitigating negative impacts: now, therefore

Be it resolved that Harris County Commissioner's Court believes that all regionally significant transportation projects undertaken by local, state, and federal entities in Harris County must meet the following benchmarks:

- Present, in writing, a justified projection of the reduction of single-occupancy vehicles that will travel through the corridor over the course of the next decade.
- Enhance walking and biking connections between and within existing communities.
- Improve safety for people in vehicles, walking, and biking, on the facility and on connecting streets.
- Reduce historic flooding patterns and aggressively mitigate new flooding impacts.
- Prioritize use of existing right-of-way and limit right-of-way acquisition in order to mitigate the potential threat of displacing residents and business owners by encouraging the Texas Department of Texas to commit in writing that their properties will be compensated at fair market value and to help renters with rental relocation assistance.

- Preserve existing businesses and community resources while enhancing growth and economic development opportunities within neighborhoods adjacent to the project.
- Protect and enhance parks, open spaces, and air quality as critical to physical and mental well-being of individuals, families, and communities.
- Meet the standards that Harris County Flood Control District has set forth and follow the requirements of ATLAS 14 in order to build more resilient storm water infrastructure.
- Encourage an engineering design for an innovative multi-modal transportation system by incorporating local and regional transportation plans
- Mitigate the damage to our air quality and alleviate noise pollution as much as possible.

Be it further resolved that Harris County Commissioner's Court instructs all branches of Harris County Government to work tirelessly to ensure that all of the foregoing benchmarks are realized in the NHHIP.

Be it further resolved that Harris County Commissioner's Court instructs Harris County Flood Control to ensure that TxDOT follows the development standards of Harris County Texas for Flood Plain Management as amended after Hurricane Harvey and effective as of January 1, 2018.

Be it further resolved that Harris County Engineering Department evaluate the NHHIP design and determine whether the proposed design will reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles on our roadways, enhance connectivity, improve safety, traffic and mobility in our region.

Be it further resolved that Harris County Commissioner's Court instructs Harris County Toll Road Authority to host a public meeting in conjunction with TxDOT to answer questions and update the community on the Hardy Toll Road Expansion Project and the NHHIP.

Finally, Harris County Commissioners Court instructs Flood Control and the Engineering Department to report back to Commissioners Court with preliminary findings on the aforementioned items in three months' time from approval of this resolution.