

August 18, 2017

Quincy Allen, P.E.
District Engineer,
Texas Department of Transportation, Houston District
P.O. Box 1386
Houston, Texas 77251

Re: North Houston Highway Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Allen,

Thank you for extending the public comments deadline on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed North Houston Highway Improvement Project, Houston District (NHHIP). As you are aware, the proposed project is located in our districts and we have heard from a number of concerned organizations and residents in our district about this project.

The proposed NHHIP project is of significant importance to this region and will have an impact on the economic vitality of this region. It will also have a significant impact on the adjacent communities, especially those that are abutting the subject project. The DEIS clearly states that the proposed project will have a "disproportionate impact on low-income and disadvantaged communities". TxDOT should identify solutions to reduce such impacts on adjoining communities and also mitigate them. It is our understanding that TxDOT had held multiple community meetings as requested and has made some changes based on previous comments. However, there are still some major concerns that have not been addressed, which are outlined in the attached letter from a coalition of Houston neighborhood, civic, parks, transportation and historic preservation groups. Addressing the comments outlined in the letter is important to ensure the project improves the quality of life of the residents of this region.

We strongly encourage you to engage the community and these organizations to address their comments and concerns prior to the publication of the Final Environmental Impact Statement. We would appreciate receiving a copy of TxDOT's response to the attached letter as well as its community engagement plan after the public comment period.

Respectfully,
Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis
Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee
State Senator Sylvia Garcia
State Senator Boris Miles
State Representative Harold Dutton
State Representative Jessica Farrar
State Representative Jarvis Johnson
Houston City Council Member Dwight Boykins
Houston City Council Member Jack Christie
Houston City Council Member Ellen Cohen