

Texas Cities Manifesto

Concerned citizens and groups from Houston and Dallas are banding together to improve our cities. Simply put, Houston wants to help Dallas cement its status as the second greatest city in the great state of Texas, and Dallas seeks to help Houston cement its status as the second greatest city in the great state of Texas. Both cities want to help other Texas cities strive to be the second greatest city in the great state of Texas, and so hereby invite them to band together with us.

The Texas Department of Transportation builds most of our highways and many of our state's roads. TxDOT's work is guided by its vision and its mission:

Vision: *A forward-thinking leader delivering mobility, enabling economic opportunity, and enhancing quality of life for all Texans*

Mission: *Through collaboration and leadership, we deliver a safe, reliable, and integrated transportation system that enables the movement of people and goods.*

Houston and Dallas possess two of the most unsafe highway systems in the nation. TxDOT's highways have destroyed neighborhoods, created congestion, increased the toxicity of our air, and crippled economic growth in large central core sections of our two cities. We need a new approach to transportation infrastructure.

The leading cities of the 21st century will be places where residents enjoy:

- a healthy environment,
- a wide variety of transportation options, including mass transit
- living in complete communities,
- housing options with affordability according to their earning power, and
- prosperity because of safe access to economic opportunity.

We love our cities, and believe transportation infrastructure will continue to have a singular influence on the quality of life, including the health and wellness in the cities we call home. We believe all transportation projects undertaken by local, state and federal entities in our cities must meet the following criteria.

- Enhance connections between and within our various communities.
- Reduce our cities' appallingly high motor vehicle severe injury and death rates.
- Enhance the ability of residents to safely walk between neighborhoods and ride bicycles throughout the city.
- Reduce the flooding which poses an existential threat to Houston's short and long term prosperity.
- Preserve and enhance growth and economic development opportunities within the neighborhoods touched by highways

- Improve and enhance parks and other open spaces so critical to physical and mental well-being.
- Improve public health by improving air quality.

TxDOT serves rural areas, towns and large cities. When it comes to larger cities, interpreting TxDOT's Mission and Vision means different design and evaluation criteria must be deployed. We understand that different parts of our great state may have needs different from those of Dallas and Houston and other urbanized cities. We invite other cities from across the state to join us in our goal of making our cities wonderful places of abundant opportunity and excellent quality of life.