

Houston City Council Member At-Large, Position 5

March 19, 2024

Representative Sheila Jackson Lee 2314 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Jackson Lee,

I am pleased to support the East Downtown and Greater Southeast Management Districts' request for FY25 Community Project Funding that, if funded, will install pedestrian lighting and other public safety elements along the Columbia Tap Trail. The nearly four-mile shared-use path connects residents of diverse communities in east and southeast Houston to universities, schools, restaurants, offices, and sports stadiums.

In the past few years, my office has been contacted multiple times regarding criminal activity along the trail. The proposed project helps address these concerns, necessary for ensuring continued economic growth in the historically under-resourced areas of Houston adjacent to downtown, while illuminating the path for people to walk, ride, and roll at all times of the day.

With the funding, nearly 200 solar pedestrian lights will be placed approximately every 75 to 100 feet for the length of trail that currently lacks lighting. Other elements to be installed include call boxes and signage such as location markers for emergency management purposes.

The joint application and collaboration between East Downtown and Greater Southeast Management Districts creates community cohesion and ensures project consistency. I look forward to working with your office and both entities to create a safe and comfortable environment for everyone who uses the Columbia Tap Trail.

Warm regards,

Sallie Olm

Sallie Alcorn