



CITY OF HOUSTON

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December 16, 2014

Ms. Laurie L. Christensen
President
Oak Forest Homeowners Association

RE: Public Comments Northwest Sub-regional Mobility Study

Dear Ms. Christensen:

Thank you for your public comment submission on behalf of the Oak Forest Homeowners Association for the Northwest Sub-regional Mobility Study. The purpose of this letter is to address comments raised in your public comment submission, and provide better insight of final recommendations resulting from this study. Please note all comments received are processed and saved to our public record to ensure a transparent and collective review of public comments. As highlighted by the Northwest Sub-regional Mobility Report and Mayor Parker's recent Complete Streets Executive Order, study recommendations are intended to strike a balance between the regional mobility needs of the City and local needs of the community. Corridor recommendations highlight those priority elements identified by the project team and community that include pedestrian, bicycle, parking and transit facility considerations.

Please note, below responses are organized in the order in which they were received.

- **Boulevard vs. Avenue Designation:** The designation of a boulevard vs. an avenue does not dictate the number of vehicular lanes associated with a corridor. Instead, projected vehicular traffic demands are used to determine whether or not a corridor maintains a sufficient number of lanes. Please visit Chapter 4.1 Travel Demand Forecasting and Appendix D: Travel Demand Model Results, for more information. Speeds along the corridor are also not determined by an avenue vs. boulevard designation, and is often influenced by the general design or feel of the corridor. However, the project team understands concerns raised by the public regarding existing definitions as previously provided in Appendix B: Thoroughfare Types. Given public concern, associated definitions have been modified to properly reflect the intent of this report.
- **Minor Collectors:** Minor Collector is a new classification of the MTFP added in 2013. The provided recommendation is not intended to change the current function of the street, but instead intended to reflect the existing character of the street. Provided speed limits reflect the context. The City does not anticipate changing current speed limits as designated on area corridors.

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- **Antoine Drive:** Projected travel demands indicate a need to expand Antoine Drive from a four-lane to six-lane Major Thoroughfare on the City's Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan. However, given recent improvements, future investments slated for the corridor, and feedback received during the final public comment period, the provided 6-lane designation does not adequately meet community needs along all segments of the corridor. Working jointly with the Northwest Management District, the project team successfully modified draft recommendations to include a four-lane recommendation, in line with the community's developmental vision of the corridor, between Houston N. Rosslyn and SH 249. A six-lane designation from US 290 to Houston N. Rosslyn and SH 249 to Beltway 8 is also recommended for those segments of the corridor providing regional access to area highways. A shared use path, which is a separated off-street bicycle facility, is recommended in parallel to Antoine Drive to better ensure safe and efficient bicycle and pedestrian movement along the corridor.
- **Shift in Approach from Vehicles to People:** The project team recognizes the importance of shifting mobility considerations from just the movement of vehicles to the movement of people. Chapter V. Changing Mobility Considerations was added to the Northwest Mobility study to specifically address this changing paradigm within the City of Houston.

Thank you again for your comments on behalf of the Oak Forest Homeowners Association. We thank you and organization for your cooperation throughout this process as the project team works to finalize recommendations that best serve both regional and local transportation needs. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 713-837-7950 or via email at Amar.Mohite@houstontx.gov

Sincerely,

Amar Mohite
Division Manager

PW:AM/ah

cc: Michael Kramer, Assistant Director Planning & Development
Khang N, Assistant Director Public Works & Engineering