



---

## MEDIA ALERT

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2016

**CONTACT:** Estella Espinosa

Work: (832) 395-7022

Cell: (832) 465-4782

### **Groundbreaking Scheduled for White Oak BayouPathTransit Link The Final of Six Connections Funded by \$30 Million USDOT TIGER Project**

*Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Projects  
Providing Connectivity Across Houston Trails With Multiple Local Partners*

Mayor Sylvester Turner will join the Buffalo Bayou Partnership, the Houston Parks Board and the Houston Parks and Recreation Department for a groundbreaking celebration of the White Oak Bayou Path Connections to Residential Neighborhoods and Buffalo Bayou Path. This event marks the start of construction of the final of six projects that were funded through a Houston USDOT TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant. When this project is completed, it will be possible to travel the path along White Oak Bayou Greenway from far northwest Houston to Buffalo Bayou and downtown Houston. The groundbreaking event on the White Oak Bayou Path Project will take place behind the UH-Downtown Jesse H. Jones Student Life Center, 150 Girard Street, at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 27, 2016.

**WHO:** City of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner  
Sheila Jackson Lee, U.S. Representative, 18<sup>th</sup> District of Texas  
Al Green, U.S. Representative, 9<sup>th</sup> District of Texas  
Rodney Ellis, Texas Senator, District 13  
Karla Cisneros, Council Member, District H  
Collin Cox, Chair, Buffalo Bayou Partnership  
Beth White, President and CEO, Houston Parks Board  
Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks and Recreation Department

**WHAT:** Groundbreaking for construction of trail connections

**WHEN:** Monday, June 27, 2016  
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**WHERE:** White Oak Bayou at University of Houston-Downtown  
Behind Jesse H. Jones Student Life Center  
150 Girard Street  
Houston, TX 77007

The White Oak Bayou Path Connections Project #3 consists of three segments of concrete trail along White Oak Bayou near downtown Houston. One segment connects into the Leonel Castillo Community Center from the Heritage West (aka White Oak Bayou Greenway) Trail on the east side of the bayou. Another segment of new concrete trail runs from the Heritage West Trail to the intersection of Main Street and Wood Street. The third segment will connect the existing lower paved water's edge near the University of Houston Downtown campus to both the Heritage West Trail along White Oak Bayou and the north bank Buffalo Bayou trail, thereby creating a continuous, off-street bike and pedestrian route from the Buffalo Bayou Path to White Oak Bayou Greenway.

The \$30 million six-part TIGER project was funded through a \$15 million USDOT TIGER grant combined with local matching funds from multiple partners. Originally awarded in 2012, the Houston Regional Bike/Pedestrian Connections to Transit project is a joint project between the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, the Houston Parks Board, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, University of Houston, Downtown Redevelopment Authority (TIRZ #3), and the Greater East End Management District.

The six separate TIGER projects will eliminate major gaps on primary off-street bicycle/pedestrian transportation routes and in the city's bike grid. The six Houston Regional Bike/Pedestrian Connections to Transit projects include:

- 1) White Oak Bayou Path: Alabonson Road/Antoine Drive Link (0.8-mile commuter extension of shared-use path)  
Partner: Houston Parks Board  
Opened: July 9, 2015
- 2) White Oak Bayou Path: 11<sup>th</sup> Street to Heights Bike Trail and Stude Park Links (1.4-mile gap closures and bridge construction project)  
Partner: Houston Parks Board  
Opened: May 2, 2015
- 3) White Oak Bayou Path: Connections to Residential Neighborhoods and Buffalo Bayou Path (gap closure project and connections to shared-use path)  
Partners: Houston Parks Board and Downtown Redevelopment Authority (TIRZ #3)  
Project Start: July 2016
- 4) Buffalo Bayou Path: Smith Street/Travis Street Link (0.3-mile gap closure project)  
Partners: Buffalo Bayou Partnership and Downtown Redevelopment Authority (TIRZ #3)  
Opened: March 31, 2016
- 5) East Downtown Connections: Transit/Residential/Commercial Connections (8.6-mile gap closures and key connections project)  
Partner: Greater East End Management District  
Opening: July 30, 2016
- 6) Brays Bayou Path: MLK/Old Spanish Trail Link (1.6-mile gap closure project and 0.6-mile alternative transit path)  
Partners: Houston Parks Board and University of Houston  
Project Start: January 19, 2016

**About the Houston Parks and Recreation Department**

*The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,851 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit [www.houstonparks.org](http://www.houstonparks.org).*

**About the Houston Parks Board**

*A nonprofit 501(c)(3) dedicated to providing access to quality parks and greenspace for all people, Houston Parks Board creates, improves, protects, and advocates for parkland in the Greater Houston region. Since 1976, the organization has utilized public-private partnerships and its extensive philanthropic, government and community relationships to improve parks large and small. Houston Parks Board is currently leading the transformational \$220 million Bayou Greenways 2020 project to create a 150-mile network of connected parks and trails along Houston's major waterways. For more information, visit [www.houstonparksboard.org](http://www.houstonparksboard.org).*

**About the Buffalo Bayou Partnership**

*Created in 1986, Buffalo Bayou Partnership is the 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization transforming and revitalizing Buffalo Bayou, Houston's most significant natural resource. For more information, visit [www.buffalobayou.org](http://www.buffalobayou.org).*