



February 24, 2026

Office of Commissioner Rodney Ellis
1001 Preston, 9th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002

Re: De Soto Street Pedestrian Improvements Support

Dear Commissioner Ellis,

I support the Near Northwest Management District's request for Partnership Program funding to advance design of the De Soto Street Pedestrian Improvements Project.

De Soto Street serves as a critical neighborhood corridor, yet today it does not function as a safe or reliable pedestrian route. Gaps in sidewalks, limited ADA accessibility, insufficient lighting, and challenging roadway crossings create daily barriers for residents who rely on walking and transit to reach schools, parks, employment centers, and bus stops. Advancing a comprehensive design effort is an essential first step toward transforming this corridor into infrastructure that safely serves the surrounding community.

The proposed planning and engineering work will establish a clear, coordinated framework for continuous sidewalks, improved crossings, drainage and curb enhancements, and intersection safety upgrades. By completing design now, the project will be positioned for efficient implementation and future construction funding, ensuring that public dollars can be deployed strategically and without delay.

This initiative is particularly impactful because it aligns with broader investments in the area, including Precinct One's planned multimodal bridge crossing at De Soto over White Oak Bayou. Coordinated infrastructure improvements on both sides of the bayou will help eliminate long-standing physical barriers and strengthen connectivity between neighborhoods that have historically lacked safe pedestrian options.

Thank you for your consideration,

COUNCIL MEMBER SALLIE ALCORN, AT-LARGE 5