



QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

Proposed Expansion of the Downtown Entertainment Zone

OCTOBER 25, 2023



OVERALL GOAL OF EXPANDING THE DOWNTOWN ENTERTAINMENT ZONE

- Create one set of regulations for the entire Downtown Central Business District
- Allow businesses with a TABC Food & Beverage certificate to sell alcohol within 300 feet of a school, church or public hospital
- Remove existing restriction that only allows three (3) alcohol serving business along a single block face within 300 feet of a school, church, or public hospital. Removing this restriction will promote economic growth in the Downtown Central Business District



ENTERTAINMENT ZONE OVERVIEW

- Chapter 3, §3-2 of the City of Houston Code of Ordinances, makes it unlawful to sell alcoholic beverages within 300 feet of a church, school, or public hospital
- An Entertainment Zone is a mixed land use area consisting of at least 10 acres, or 10 city blocks that has been designated by City Council as an “Entertainment Zone” because it is characterized by high density mixed land uses and special development interests such as a TIRZ, enterprise zone, etc.
- Within an Entertainment Zone, an establishment is authorized to sell alcohol without regard to the 300-foot distance requirement if the establishment has a TABC Food & Beverage Certificate.

ENTERTAINMENT ZONE OVERVIEW

- Existing Entertainment Zones
 - Downtown Entertainment Zone
 - Midtown Entertainment Zone
- Existing Downtown Entertainment Zone
 - Religious Buildings/Places of Worship:
 - Islamic Da'Wah Center
 - Christ Church Cathedral
 - Holy Cross Catholic Church
 - No Schools
 - No Public Hospitals

REQUIREMENTS FOR SELLING ALCOHOL WITHIN THE PROPOSED EXPANDED DOWNTOWN ENTERTAINMENT ZONE

- An establishment can serve alcohol within 300 feet of a church, school, or public hospital **only if** the establishment obtains a Food & Beverage Certificate (FB) from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC)
- There are no limitation on how many establishments can be located within 300 feet of a church, school, or public hospital if the establishments obtain a Food & Beverage Certificate (FB) from the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC)



EXPANDED DOWNTOWN ENTERTAINMENT ZONE

- Entertainment Zone proposed to be expanded to match the Central Business District boundaries
- Creates one set of rules for business that sell alcohol in Downtown
- Aligns with Downtown District's vision to make Downtown a vibrant place to live, dine, visit, play, enjoy the arts, worship, and more

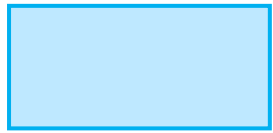




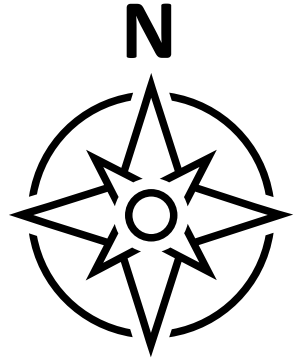
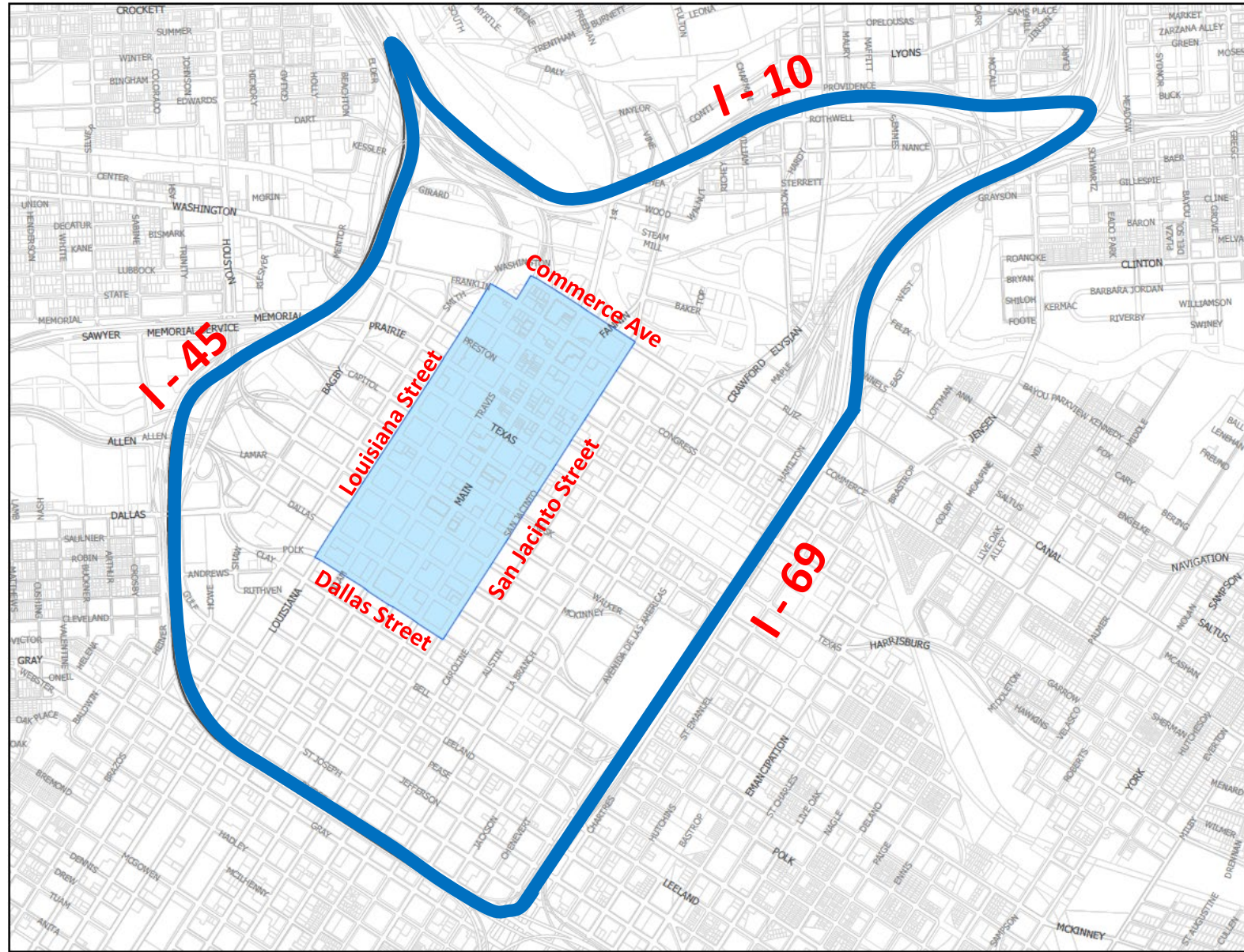
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Mayor's Office of Economic Development and ARA engaged with affected stakeholders working with the Downtown Management District including:
 - Central Houston Board
 - Key businesses, churches and schools
 - Houston First Corporation
 - Building Managers for residential properties working with Central Houston Board

CURRENT
DOWNTOWN
ENTERTAINMENT
ZONE



PROPOSED EXPANDED
DOWNTOWN
ENTERTAINMENT
ZONE





Questions?