



SCHOOL ZONE FOR HIGH SCHOOLS HB NO 1263

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR



PURPOSE

together we create a strong foundation
for Houston to thrive

5 TO THRIVE VALUES

integrity | teamwork | ownership | communication | respect



SCHOOL ZONES FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

By Rep. Thompson of Harris County

H.B. No.1263

An Act

relating to the ability of a local authority to designate school crossing zones and school crosswalks at high school campuses located in certain municipalities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 542.203, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

(d) A local authority's standards, policies, orders, ordinances, regulations, or other measures that designate a school crossing zone or school crosswalk **must include a high school campus** that is located in a municipality with a population of two million or more.

(e) On request of an administrator of a high school campus described by Subsection (d), a local authority shall determine the components, including any engineering report, necessary to designate a school crossing zone or school crosswalk at the campus and shall make the designation. This subsection does not apply to a high school campus undergoing major expansion or new construction that requires the preparation of a traffic impact analysis as part of the permitting process.

SECTION 2. **Not later than September 1, 2023**, a local authority described by Section 5402.203 (d), Transportation Code, as added by this Act, shall: (1) update all applicable school zone standards, policies, orders, ordinance, and regulations to comply with section; and (2) post the updates described by Subdivision (1) of this section on a publicly accessible Internet website with clear instructions describing the process by which a designation request may be made under Section 542.203 e), Transportation Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023

POLICY CHANGES

Eligibility for school zone

- **Previous Eligibility**
 - School zone can be installed for elementary or middle/junior high schools
- **New Eligibility**
 - School zone can be installed for elementary, middle/junior and **high schools**

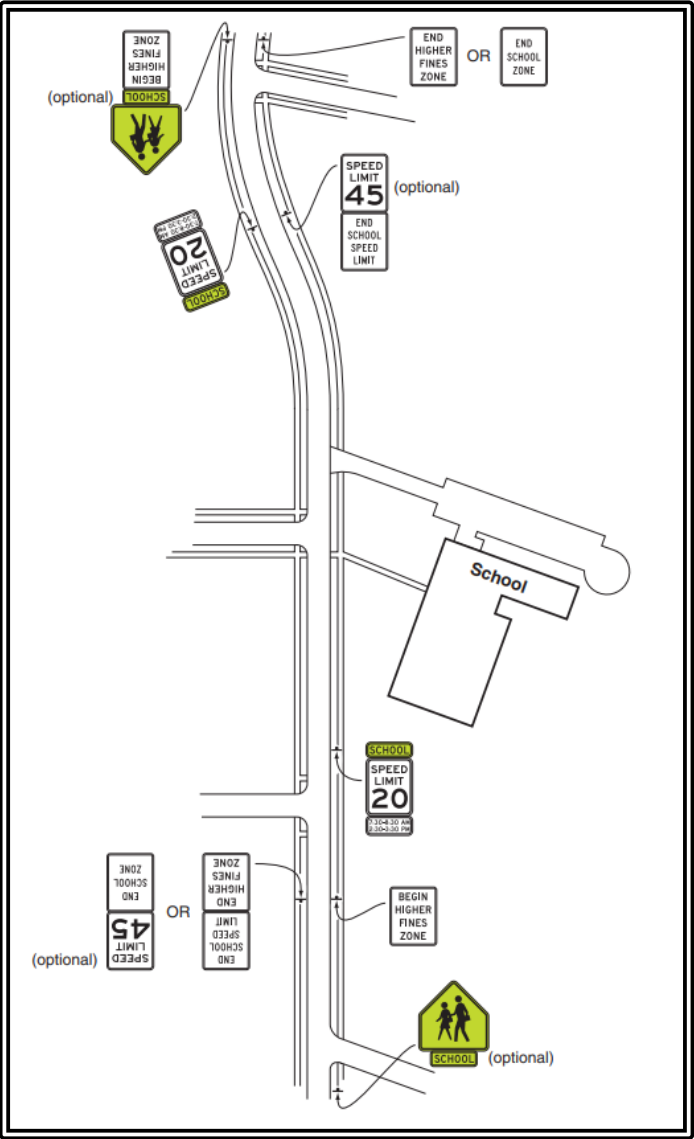


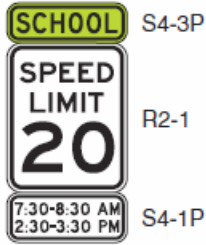
Diagram of School Zone

POLICY CHANGES

Establishment of school zone

- **Previous Criteria**
 - Signs only - local streets
 - Flashing beacons and signs - major thoroughfares and streets with 5,000 vehicles per day or more
- **New Criteria**
 - Signs only - all streets
 - Flashing beacons – based on request and evaluation

School Speed Limit Assembly



POLICY CHANGES

Application and Ordinance Approval Timeline

- **Previous Timeline**
 - No school zone application deadline
 - Ordinance is updated and submitted to Council as needed
- **New Annual Timeline**
 - Effective for applications received after September 1
 - School zone application must be submitted by April 15
 - Ordinance is updated and approved by Council in July
 - Sign installation is completed in August

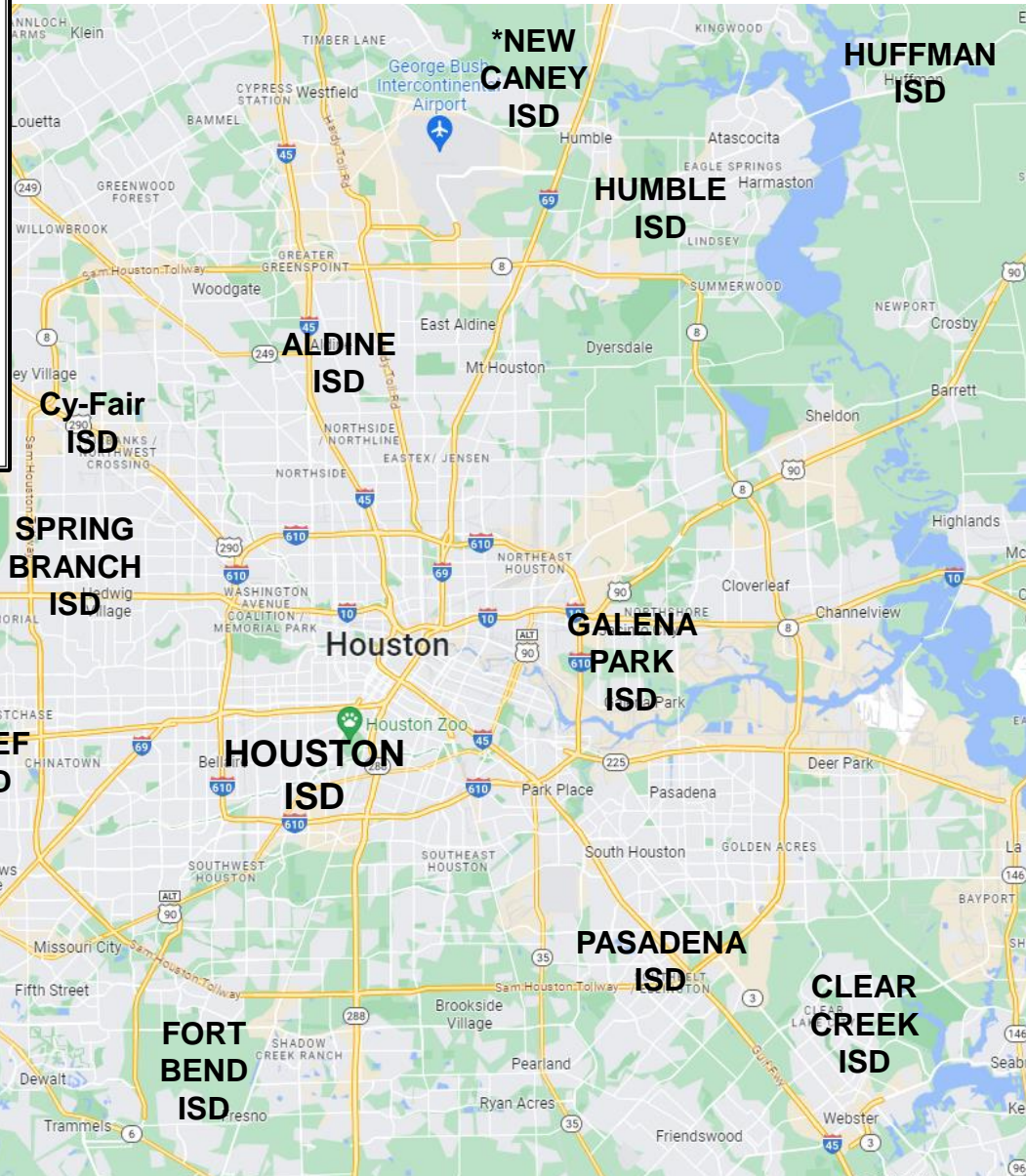
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND NEXT STEPS

- ❖ **Revised school zone policy and application**
 - Posted September 1, 2023
 - <https://www.houstonpublicworks.org/multi-modal-safety-and-design>
- ❖ **Processed 38 new applications and updated the school zone ordinance**
- ❖ **Submitting updated ordinance to City Council for approval**
 - September 2023
- ❖ **Prepare work orders and schedule sign installation**
 - Installation of school zone signs for 38 schools will take about 11 months

DISTRICTS WITHIN THE CITY OF HOUSTON

current program

- **562 schools** comprised of **12 school districts** and **165 private schools**
- **1700 school speed zones** with
 - 7000 reduced speed limit signs
 - 1400 flashing school beacons



- ## School Districts
- Aldine
 - Alief
 - Clear Creek
 - Cy-Fair
 - Fort Bend
 - Galena Park
 - Houston
 - Huffman
 - Humble
 - Katy
 - Pasadena
 - Spring Branch
 - *New Caney (pending installation of school zone in this district)



SPEED LIMIT EVALUATION

JUDITH BURGOS – GRADUATE ENGINEER



SELECTION FOR SPEED EVALUATION

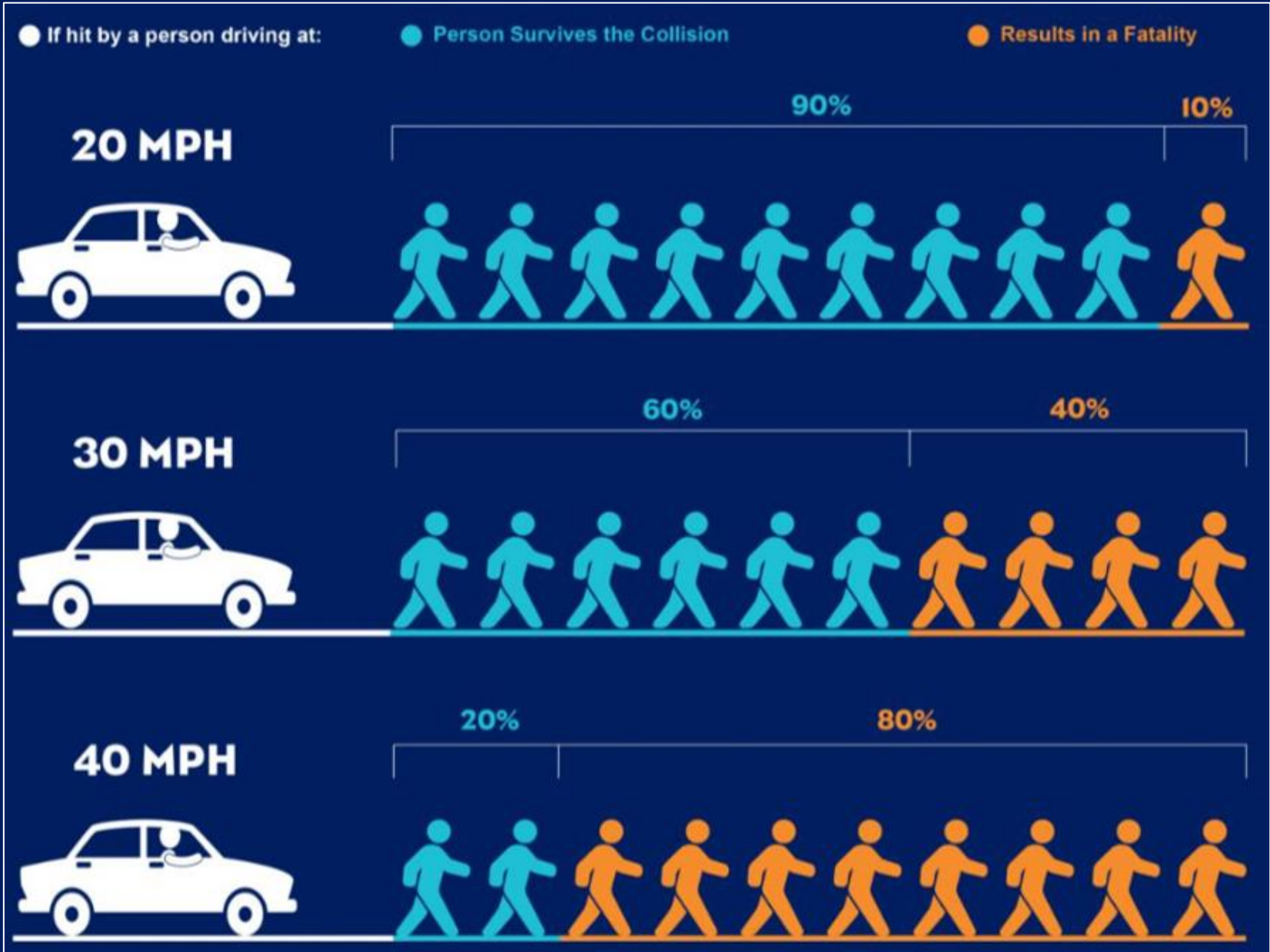
Reactive Approach

Current Method
By Request
Citizens and public agencies

Proactive Approach

New Method
Top roadway segments in the High Injury Network
Pedestrian and Bike Improvement Projects
Roadway Improvements
Metro – Buses, Rail
Request by public agencies

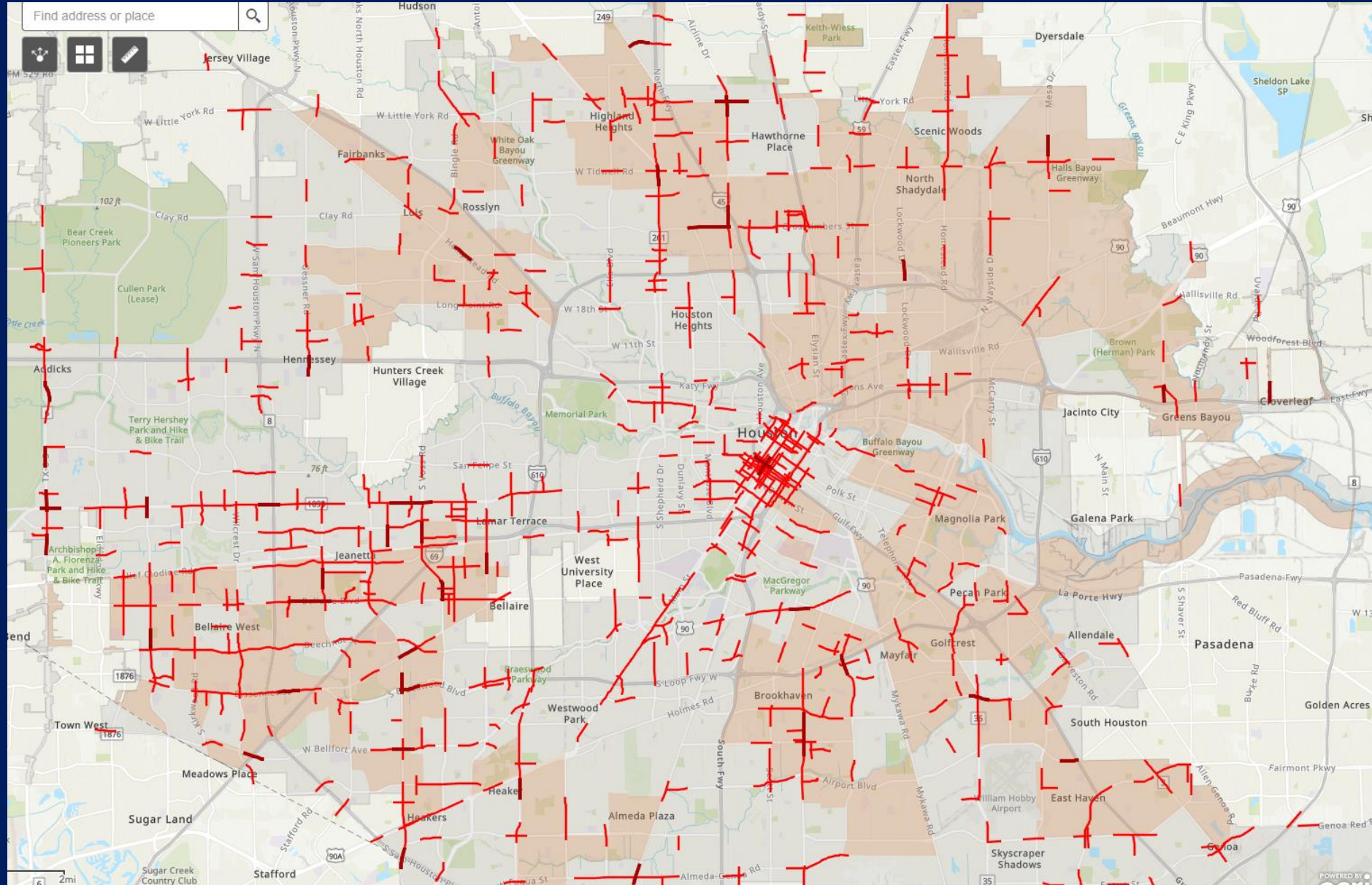
VEHICULAR SPEED AND FATALITY



HIGHER SPEEDS
RESULTS IN
FATALITIES AND
MAJOR INJURIES

HOUSTON HIGH INJURY NETWORK

Represent 6% of Houston streets which accounts for 60% of traffic death and serious injuries



EVALUATION CRITERIA

Previous Criteria

- Crash data
- Traffic volume and speed

Additional Criteria

- Roadway context
 - Medians
 - Bike lanes
 - Sidewalks
 - Parks, trails
 - School zone
 - On-street parking

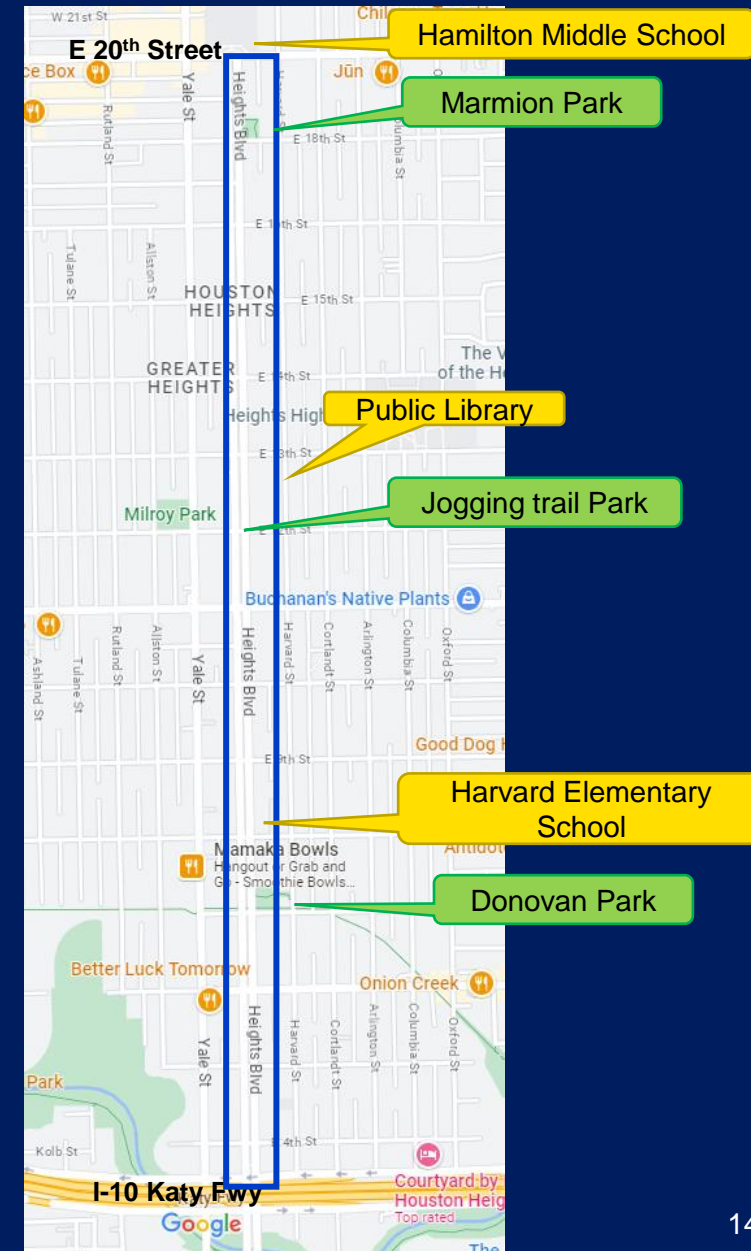
HEIGHTS BLVD, I-10 TO E 20TH ST

Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements



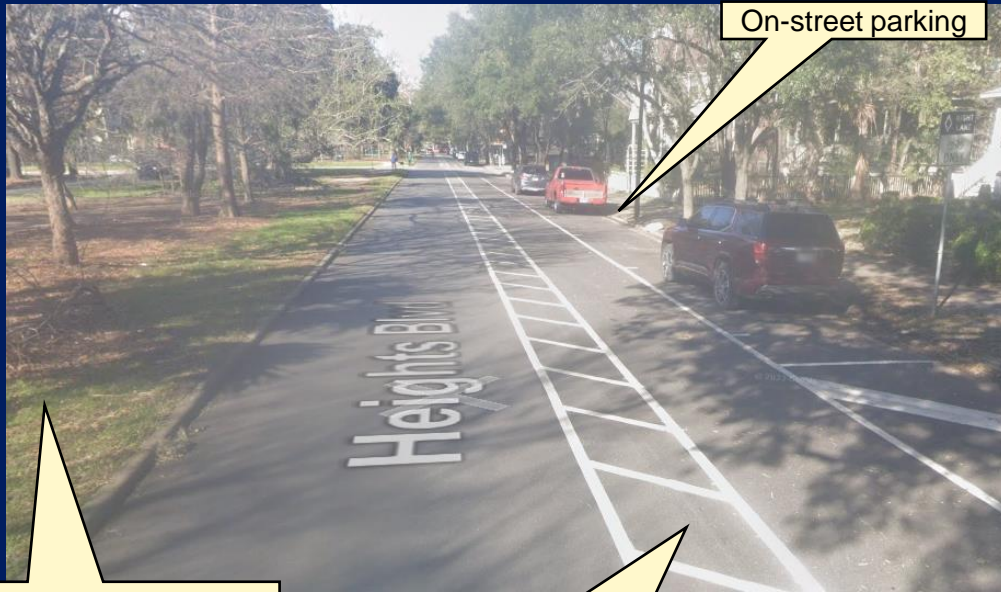
Roadway Context

- Posted speed of 35mph
- School zone (20mph)
- Parks
- High level of pedestrian activity
- Bike lanes



HEIGHTS BLVD, I-10 TO E 20TH ST

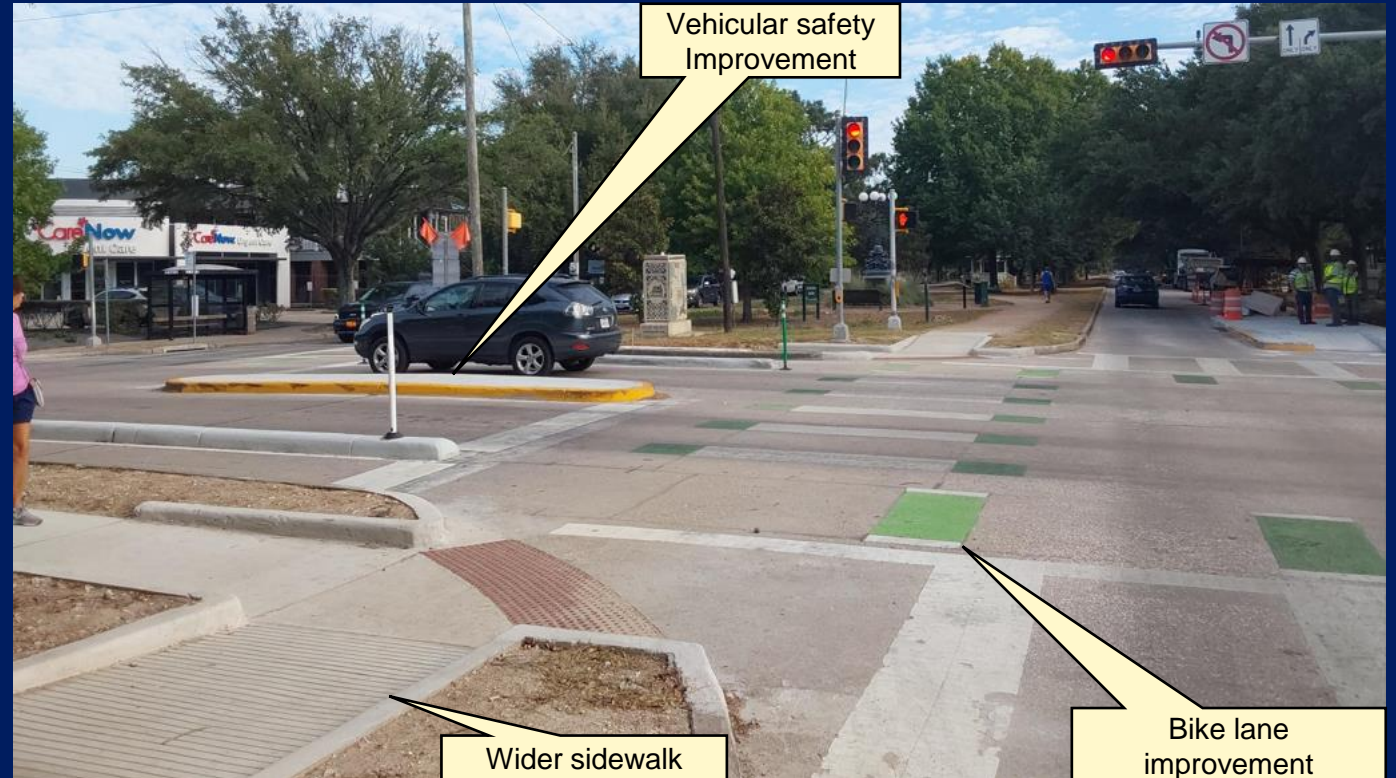
✓ Recommend Speed Reduction from 35mph to 30mph



On-street parking

Walking trail & park

Buffered bike lane



Vehicular safety improvement

Wider sidewalk

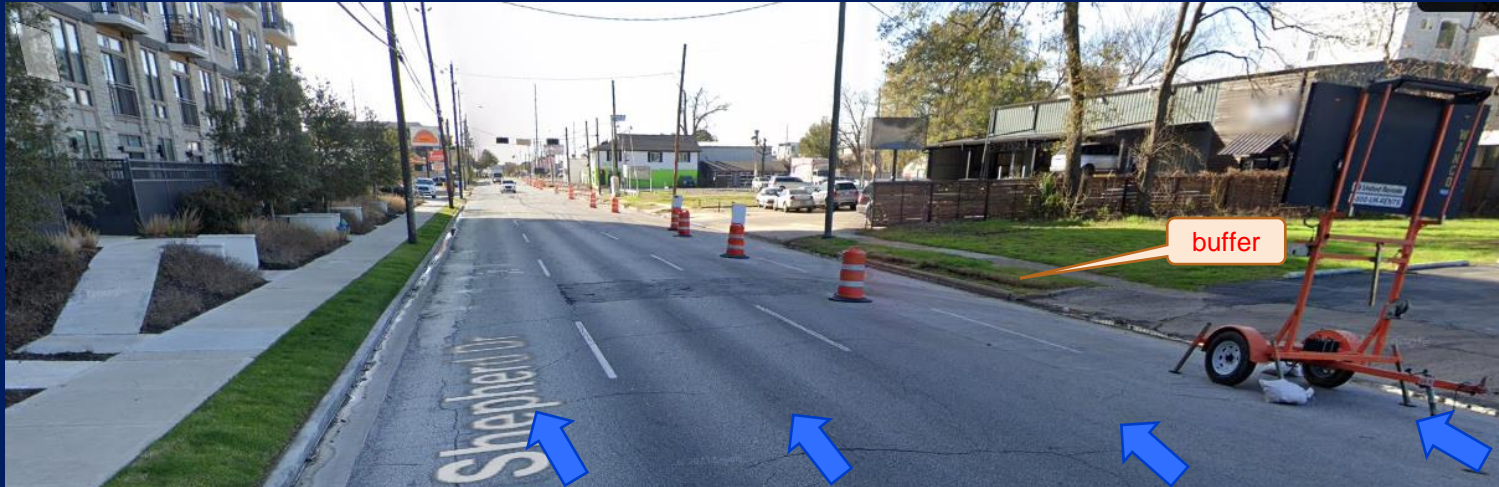
Bike lane improvement

Percentile Speeds (mph)	90%	85%	50%	15%	10%	Posted Speed	Average (Mean)	Minimum (mph)	Maximum (mph)
	36.0	35.0	31.0	25.5	24.0	35	30.5	12.0	65.5
Speeds Exceeded	25mph	35mph	45mph	55mph	65mph	75mph			
	6838	1621	40	10	1	1			
	87.9%	20.8%	0.5%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%			

Speed study shows between 30 - 35 mph

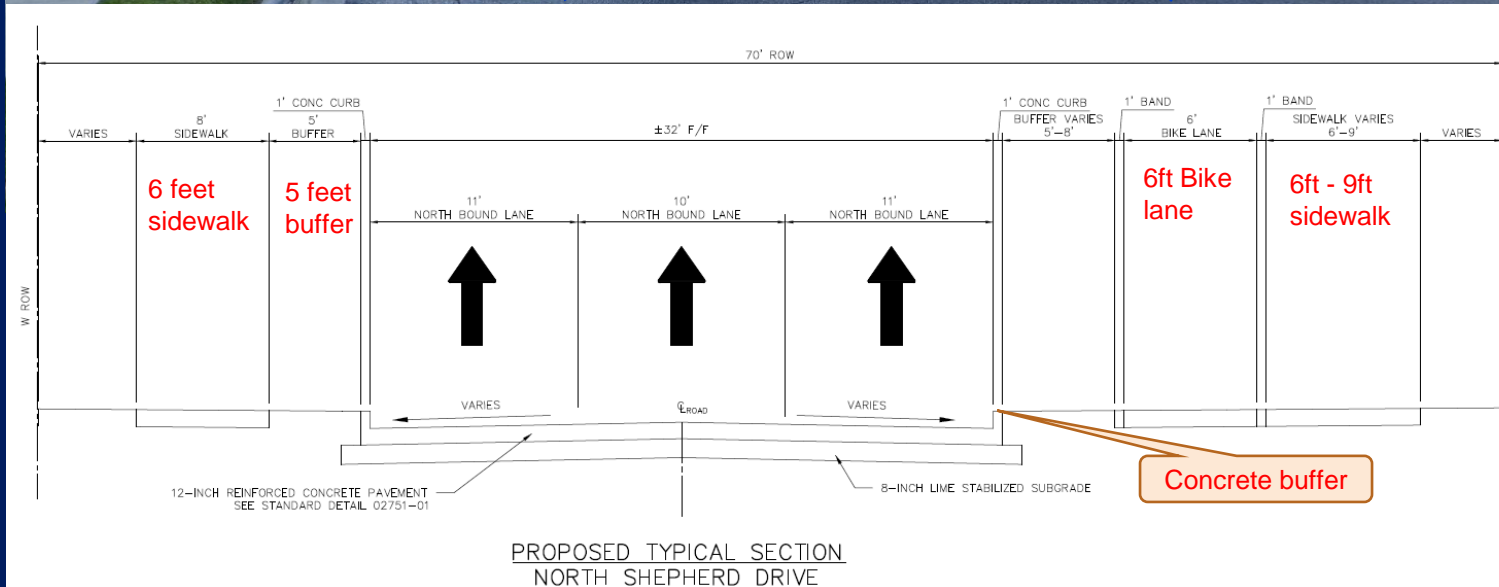
SHEPHERD DR

Vision Zero - Roadway Improvements



Current conditions

- Posted speed 35mph
- Narrow sidewalk
- No presence of Bike Lanes
- Transit route



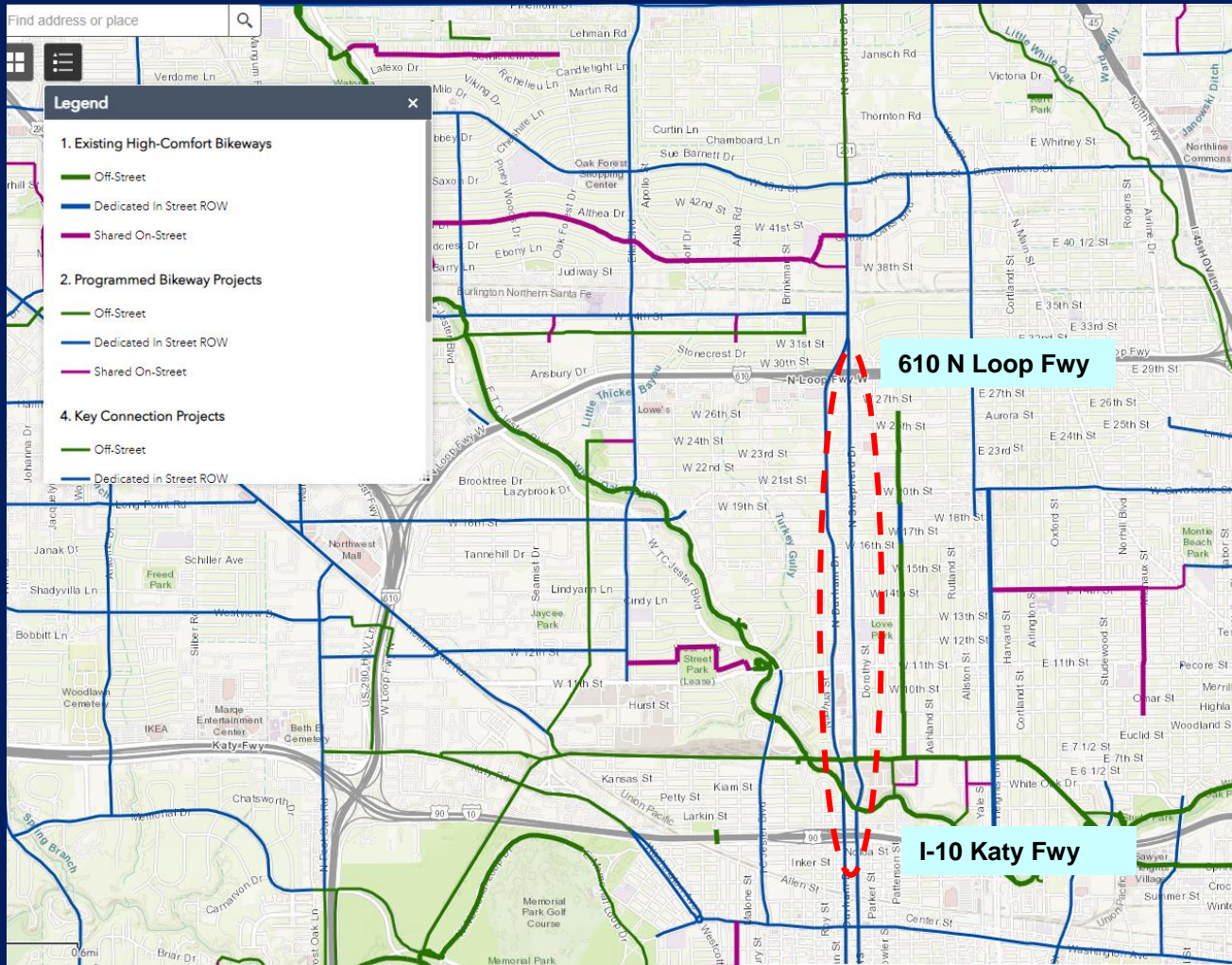
Future conditions

- Wider sidewalk
- Protected bike lane
- Reduction of vehicular lanes from 4 lanes to 3 lanes
- Recommend 30 mph

SHEPHERD DR

Segment from 610 N Loop Fwy – I-10 Katy Fwy

Houston Bike Plan



Roadway Improvements

- Bicycle connectivity
- Dedicated transit lane

Thank you!



HoustonPublicWorks.org



@HouPublicWorks