

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #3



GUNDA CORPORATION

Engineers, Planners & Managers

**DRAFT MEETING NOTES
KINGWOOD AREA MOBILITY STUDY
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING # 3**

Date: May 27, 2014

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Kingwood Community Center, Kingwood, TX

STEERING COMMITTEE:

Stan Sarman, Chair

Charlie Dromgoole, Member

Carol Sutton, Member

Philip Ivy, Member

CONFERENCE CALL ON MAY 30, 2014

Stan Sarman, Chair

Mark Micheletti, Member

Corinn Price, Member

Jeff Nielsen, Member

Brian Manning, Member

OBSERVERS:

Council Member Dave Martin

Allie Smart, Chief of Staff

Residents

Cynthia Calvert, Tribune

Nate Brown, The Observer

GUNDA TEAM:

Ramesh Gunda

Raghu Veturi

Michael Blasdel

Allie Norman

Tara Rabinek

MEETING MINUTES:

1. Steering Committee Chair Stan Sarman opened the meeting with an overview the project and thanked all the steering committee members for working on this project.
2. Ramesh gave a brief recap of previous steering committee meetings and stakeholder meeting # 1.
3. The GUNDA team presented data and public input received through various sources such as Survey, E-mail, Kingwood.com, and Handwritten Notes.
4. The GUNDA team then presented the Improvement Tool Box based on the input obtained from residents.

5. There was a hands-on exercise to obtain input from Steering Committee Members on what they would like to see analyzed from Improvement Tool Box.
6. Online survey to be open until June 30, 2014.
7. A discussion about presenting improvements in a visual format so everybody can see the proposed improvements. Potentially a fly-through of the corridor with and without improvements.

HANDS-ON EXERCISE:

The following items were discussed during the exercise session.

1. Alternate Parallel Road extending Russell Palmer Road to the south to Hamblen Road. There could be some potential flooding issues.
2. Green Oak Drive is planned/scheduled for future expansion
3. Grade Separation of North Park Drive @ US 59 with overpass on the Railroad
 - a. Investigate possible wetlands area in ditch between 494 & railroad crossing.
4. Right turn lanes are needed at the following intersections:
 - a. Kingwood Drive & Woodland Hills Drive – Eastbound Right Turn Lane
 - b. Northpark Drive & West Lake Houston Parkway – Eastbound Right Turn Lane
 - c. Kingwood Drive & Trailwood Village Drive – Eastbound Right Turn Lane
 - d. Northpark Drive EB & Hidden Pines Drive – Eastbound Right Turn Lane
5. The intersections of Kingwood Drive & LP 494 and Northpark Drive & LP 494 have some major issues.
6. In general, review the need for extending existing turn lanes to provide more storage capacity for turning vehicles.
7. Review Sorters Road for potential widening to four lanes, lot of trucks using this roadway currently.
8. Look at median crossovers on Kingwood Drive west of Woodland Hills Drive and remove unnecessary median openings.
9. Signal synchronization was discussed several times. Especially the intersections of Kingwood Drive & Woodland Grove and Kingwood Drive & Trailwood Village Drive.
10. Repaving of some of the area along Kingwood and Northpark are required.

11. Look into benefits of adding right-turn lanes for village entrances.
12. Review sight-distance issues & possible need for cutbacks.

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:

At the end of the presentation and hands-on exercise, the citizens were allowed to make a comment. The comments are as follows:

1. Another stakeholder meeting with more steering committee meetings are required to obtain more public input.
2. Consider road signs/message boards for upcoming meetings.
3. Review the existing width of Kingwood Drive and look at the possible outside expansion.
4. Please share kingwoodmobilit@gundacorp.com e-mails with everybody.
5. Review the radiuses at driveways for commercial establishments.
6. How many people are there in the Steering Committee? Chairman Stan Sarman responded.
7. Citizens asked about the schedule and process to which Steering Committee members, Council Member Martin and GUNDA team responded.

NEXTSTEPS:

- Next Steering Committee Meeting # 4 on September 23, 2014 at 6:00 PM
- Upcoming Stakeholder Meeting # 2 on October 14, 2014 at 5:30 pm

NOTES FROM CONFERENCE CALL ON MAY 30, 2014

A follow-up conference call was organized for Steering Committee members unable to attend the meeting on May 27, 2014. The following items were discussed during the conference call:

1. GUNDA team presented the findings, input and feedback received from citizens as of May 26, 2014.
2. Does the survey include a question about sacrificing trees for safety? GUNDA team responded by saying not directly, but citizens have opportunity to express their safety concern in another question.

3. Look for opportunities to not remove tree when not needed.
4. Review alternative access connections, such as connection from Kingwood Drive to Huffman on the east and connection from Woodland Hills to FM 1960.
5. Widen Hamblen Road to four lanes and connect Woodland Hills to Hamblen Road. This also requires some improvements to the intersection of US 59 & Hamblen Road.
6. Kingwood Drive & Kingwood Place (west of US 59) is not cycling properly. People have to wait 3 to 4 cycles during 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm to cross the intersection of US 59 & Kingwood Drive. This intersection is expected to have a lot more traffic as there are new developments coming in.
7. Another conference call with Steering Committee members is needed before September 23, 2014 to discuss the improvement options. This meeting will prepare members to address citizens' concerns during the meeting.
8. Steering Committee members will provide GUNDA team with their mark-ups on improvement tool box and options to analyze.

Attachments

Sign-In Sheet

Agenda

Copy of Presentation

TIRZ 10
LAKE HOUSTON/KINGWOOD AREA MOBILITY PLAN
Steering Committee Meeting #3

Date: May 27, 2014
Time: 6:00 PM

Draft Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Additional Data Collected since last meeting
3. Findings from Stakeholder Meeting # 1
4. Website
 - a. <http://gundacorp.com/kingwood-mobility>
5. Comments/Survey Discussion
 - a. Kingwood Mobility E-mail
 - b. Kingwood.com Emails
 - c. Survey Monkey Results
 - d. Comments received at Stakeholder Meeting # 1
 - e. Most Common Comments
6. Additional Data Requests
 - a. Turning Movement Counts
 - b. Speed
 - c. Sight Distance
 - d. Travel Times
7. Areas of Concern
8. Improvement Tool Box
9. Hands-On Exercise
10. Next Steps
 - a. Alternatives Evaluation
 - b. Next Steering Committee Meeting Date: September 15, 2014 (Tentative)
 - c. Next Stakeholder Meeting Date: October 13, 2014 (Tentative)
11. Questions



GUNDA CORPORATION

Engineers, Planners & Managers

Kingwood Area Mobility Plan Steering Committee Meeting #3

GUNDA Project No. 14004-01

Date: May 27, 2014

Location: Kingwood Community Center

SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME	FIRM/AGENCY	E-MAIL	TELEPHONE
Cynthia Calvert	Tribune Newspapers		
FRED BULLOUGH	RESIDENT	fpmmb@kingwoodcable.com	281-358-5169
Nick [unclear]	Observer		
James Alexander	Resident	talayan509@aol.com	281-358-9300
Tom DeBoise	Resident	twdeboise@aol.com	713-515-3142
GREG BATES	Resident	GREG.G.BATES@EXXONMOBIL.COM	281-768-0211
Robert Robinson	Tracy Res d	hub2239@suddenlink.net	281-395-5889
Les Brones	Resident	les.brones@kbr.com	281-361-2016
Michael O'Day	KWOPV	modjodo70707@comcast.net	281-398-6852
Dr. "Duke" Atkins	HPD	Donald.Atkins@HoustonPolice.org	281-913-4508
Sara Foley	Resident	sjfoley@cebridge.net	281-360-4044

Kingwood Area Mobility Study

Lake Houston Redevelopment Authority
(TIRZ #10)



Steering Committee Meeting #3
Date: May 27, 2014




Introductions/Remarks

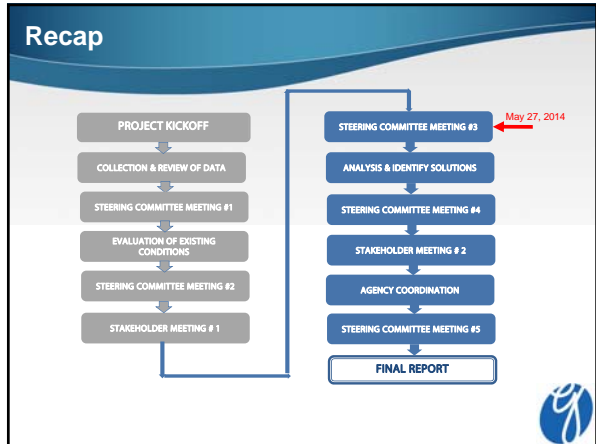
- Steering Committee
- Project/Consultant Team



GOALS & MOE'S

<p>GOALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obtain community input ▪ Improve mobility – short and long term ▪ Maintain same or better quality of life ▪ Identify funding sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educate public regarding funding sources ▪ Plan for future ▪ Safety ▪ Possible transit for aging population ▪ Pedestrian facilities as part of Street Improvements ▪ Public transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trolley system – not typical METRO bus ▪ Quick fixes 	<p>MOE'S</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Less congestion ▪ Decrease delay/travel time ▪ Pedestrian safety/bicycle safety ▪ Vehicular safety ▪ Cost effectiveness ▪ Schedule ▪ Regulatory impacts ▪ Environmental impacts including Tree Impacts
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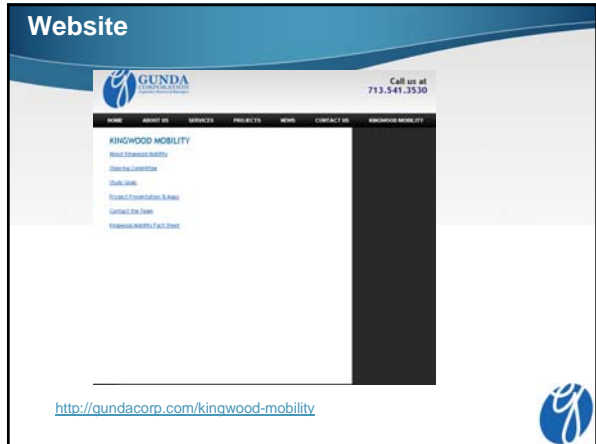


Additional Data

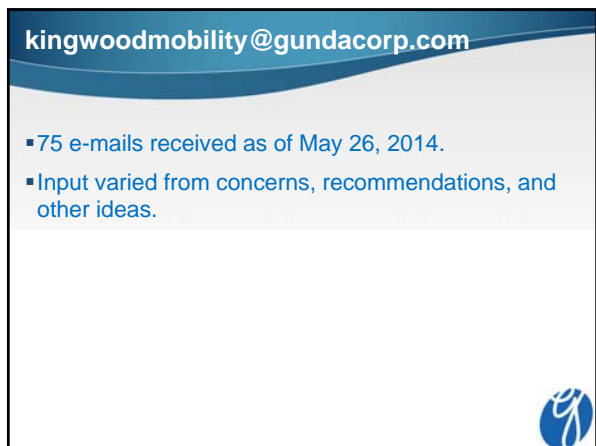
- ◆ Signal Reliability
 - Requested from COH
- ◆ Union Pacific Railroad
 - 20 Trains per day (Average)
 - No defined schedule
 - Length of the train varies
 - 60 mph for freight trains, 70 mph for passenger trains

Findings from Stakeholder Meeting #1

- 75 Citizen Comments received so far to Kingwood Mobility
- 766 responded to Survey
- Handwritten notes provided during May 13, 2014 meeting
- 231 responded to kingwood.com Survey

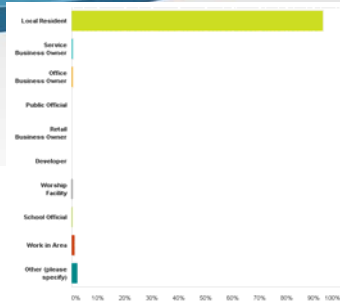






Survey

- 766 responded as of May 26, 2014
- Survey is still active
- 94% responded are local residents



Question 1: Which category best describes your interest?

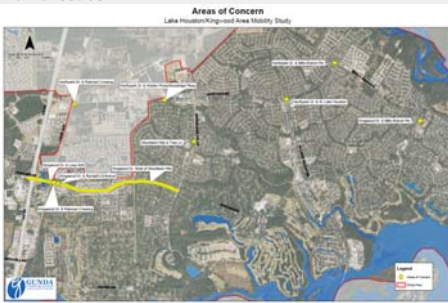


Question 2

Which locations or intersections in Kingwood do you think have the most traffic issues?

716 responses

- Kir
- Kir
- Kir
- Kir
- Nc
- Nc
- Nc
- Kir
- W
- Kir
- Nc



Question 3

What transportation-related issues in the Kingwood area concern you the most?

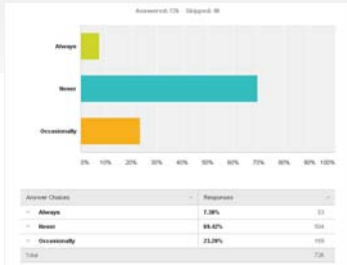
649 answered; 117 skipped

- Congestion
- Travel Time
- Signal Outage
- Rail Road
- Safety
- Limited Access to Community



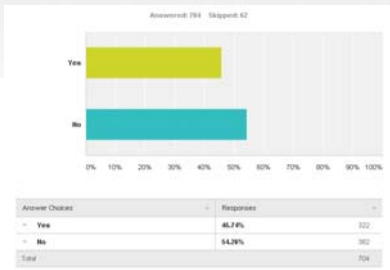
Question 4

Other than for recreation, do you or your employees/students walk to work/school in Kingwood?



Question 5

Would you walk if it was more convenient?



Question 6

What areas of Kingwood do you walk along or across? What is your destination?

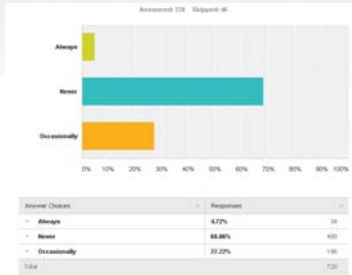
598 answered; 168 skipped

- None
- Only on Greenbelts
- West Lake Houston Parkway
- Are you Kidding? Are you from Texas?



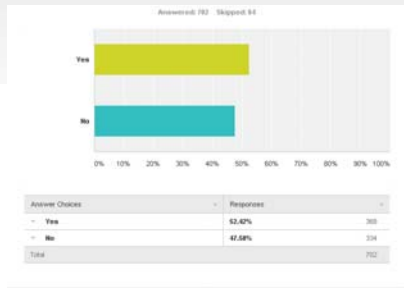
Question 7

Other than for recreation, do you or your employees/students bicycle to work/school in Kingwood?



Question 8

Would you bicycle in Kingwood if it was more convenient?



Question 9

Where do you start and end your bike ride?

481 answered; 285 skipped

- None
- Greenbelts
- Local neighborhoods
- House



Question 10

What do you think should be done to roadways in the Kingwood area to improve mobility?

702 answered; 64 skipped

- Traffic signal synchronization
- Overpass/Underpass at Rail Road Gates
- Do Not Cut Trees
- Widen Kingwood and Northpark
- Traffic Signal at Northpark & Woodridge/Hidden Pines
- No Widening



Question 11

Are there any traffic-related safety concerns in Kingwood? Do you have any suggestions for these issues?

512 answered; 254 skipped

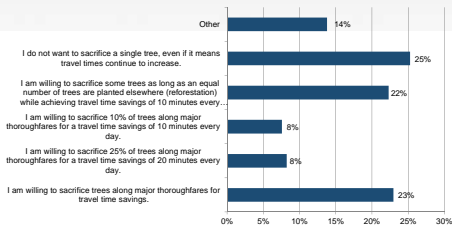
- Longer turn lanes
- Coordinate with Union Pacific to adjust Railroad timings
- Traffic Signals at:
 - Northpark @ Hidden Pines/Woodridge
 - Northpark @ Mills Branch
 - Kingwood @ Mills Branch
- Safety Issues
 - Sight Distance Issues
 - Woodland Hills @ Tree Lane



Question 12

Are you willing to sacrifice trees for relief of traffic congestion? Please select one:

754 answered; 12 skipped



Question 13

Do you have any other general comments on the information presented at the Stakeholder Meeting?

323 answered; 443 skipped

- Mobility Issues are common sense; removing trees is not the solution
- Study Mills Branch Road, several safety issues
- Study Hamblen for potential cut-through traffic issues
- Do not build bridge to Huffman
- Please don't let a few people with loud comments keep us from improving our streets
- Impossible to adequately review, assimilate and come to conclusions at that time.



Question 14

Did we cover all areas of mobility concerns? If not, please give us the areas you would like to see studied.

220 answered; 546 skipped

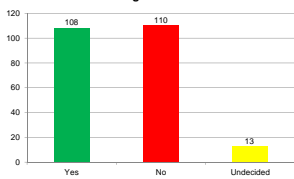
- Study Kingwood High School and Kingwood Park High School- Benefit from HPD Assistance
- Widen Kingwood Drive to 3 lanes from Woodland Hills Dr. to US 59. We need more alternative modes of transportation other than autos.
- North Park and Woodridge a real problem as the community expands without a traffic light
- Forest Cove- people drive through to avoid traffic.



Kingwood.com Survey

- Focused on one question with an option to comment:
- Do you support adding additional lanes to Kingwood Drive?
 - ♦ 231 responses as of May 26, 2014:

Do you support adding additional lanes to Kingwood Drive?



Source: Kingwood.com Survey



Improvement Tool Box

Intelligent Transportation Systems

- CCTV
- Dynamic Message Signs
- Change Lane Message Signs
- Reversible Lanes
- Rail Monitoring

Improvement Tool Box

Innovative Intersection Improvements

- Roundabouts
- Diverging Diamond Interchanges
- Michigan Left-Turns
- Super Streets

ROUNDABOUTS
Traffic Circles, Modern Roundabouts

DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE
To improve efficiency of turning movements

MICHIGAN LEFT-TURNS
Right Turn Followed by U-Turn

SUPER STREETS
Reduce Travel Times and Improve Safety

Improvement Tool Box

Transit opportunities

- Bus
- Trolley

TRANSIT OPPORTUNITIES

TRAVEL DEMAND MANAGEMENT
Bus, Carpool, Van Pool, Congestion Pricing

Travel Demand Management
To Improve Reliability
To Create Effective Choices

- Commuter Travel "Getting to Work"
- Tourism, Special Events, Emergencies, Shopping, etc.

Travel Demand Management

- Bus
- Carpool
- Vanpool
- Congestion Pricing

Improvement Tool Box

Capacity Improvements

- Widening
- Direct Connectors/Grade Separations

WIDENING
Add Lanes






Improvement Tool Box


Alternative Corridor Improvements

- More Connectivity Bridges
- Alternative access



Hands-On Exercise

Mark-ups on Maps and Exhibits



Next Steps

- Analysis and Alternatives Evaluation
- Next Steering Committee Meeting Date:
 - ▶ September 23, 2014 @ 6:00 PM
- Next Stakeholder Meeting Date:
 - ▶ October 14, 2014 @ 5:30 PM



Questions?