

Office of Rep. Al Green (TX-09)
Members’ Day Hearing Statement
April 12, 2021

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April 12, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
United States House of Representatives
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Members' Day Hearing Statement

Dear Chairman DeFazio:

Thank you for receiving the attached information and providing me with the opportunity to testify before the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for Members' Day Hearing. Attached you will find a list of projects that I desire to submit as of Monday, April 12, 2021. I request you to consider these projects as you work to reauthorize surface transportation programs.

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact my Chief of Staff, Niha Razi, at 202-760-1809 or niha.razi@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



AL GREEN
Member of Congress

MISSOURI CITY/BELT WAY 8 TRANSIT FACILITY

- **REQUESTING ENTITY:**
 - Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO)
- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
 - METRO requests funding for the first phase of a project to provide a new commuter bus service between the Texas Medical Center (TMC) and Missouri City.
 - A new facility will be located near US 90A and BW8, which will include a bus platform for both regional express and local buses, as well as parking for commuters.
 - The facility will eventually house a multi-story parking garage to support increased travel demand, capable of accommodating approximately 2,000 vehicles.
 - The facility will also have an end of line connection for the proposed METRORapid West Houston BRT Corridor line and the Gessner bus line.
 - The Gessner bus line is part of the BOOST Network, a program to improve speed, reliability, and access for 16 high-ridership, frequent bus routes.
- **WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT:**
 - This project will connect Missouri City with TMC and Downtown Houston through METRO's regional express network.
 - The project will allow METRO to provide more service over its current levels.
 - The project will also improve connections between Fort Bend County and TMC and Downtown Houston.
 - This project will serve fast-growing portions of Harris County and Missouri City.
- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:** This project was a component of the transit plan in our area that was the basis for a 2019 \$3.5 billion bond referendum. That referendum passed with almost 70 percent of the vote. The communities served by the specific project had even wider margins in favor than other areas.
- **TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$50M.**
- **FUNDS REQUESTED: \$5M.**
- **OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING:** Local funding sources will be used as matching funds if necessary.
- **TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION:** Completion of this specific project will be about 3-4 years. The full "express service" corridor will take a few more years to complete.

WESTCHASE DISTRICT

- **REQUESTING ENTITY:**
 - Westchase District
- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
 - The Westchase district is proposing the complete reconstruction of Meadowglen Lane from Woodland Park Drive to Rogerdale Road.
 - The district wants to upgrade the storm water system (drainage), the sewer system, and existing water lines. The project will also provide dedicated bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities. These facilities either do not currently exist and/or are in substandard condition.
 - The project will right-size the travel lanes to current standards, improving safety, while providing safe and accessible routes for bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit users. The project will provide drainage improvements consistent with post-Hurricane Harvey standards.
- **WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT:**
 - The project is meant to benefit residents of the Westchase district:
 - District residents are above the regional average in terms of population density, percent minority households, households below the poverty line, households without cars, and households with limited English proficiency.
 - The proposed changes to the roads in the District will improve transportation access and options for residents and improve multimodal safety in the region.
 - The proposed changes to the storm water system, sewer system, and water lines will improve flood management in the future.
- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:**
 - Outreach efforts have been conducted to get community input on the project.
 - There have been several community driven focus group meetings in which residents, employers, and developers have given their opinions
 - This project is also part of the West Houston Mobility study, which was an H-GAC funded effort.
 - This project also had a public input process throughout January-April 2015
 - This process included a visioning workshop, an alternatives workshop, and an open house.
 - The project is identified in the Houston-Galveston Area Council 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – this is the long-range federal transportation document for the region.
 - The project is supported by local and statewide elected officials and letters of support are on file.
- **TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$2.35M**
- **FUNDS REQUESTED: \$4M**
- **OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING:** The District has funding available in its current capital improvement program to cover all costs outside of the federal request being made.
- **TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION:** Construction can break ground 8 months from funding approval. Construction completion will take approximately 18 months from that date.

SHARPSTOWN TRAIL (PHASE 1)

- **REQUESTING ENTITY:**
 - Houston Parks Board
- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
 - The Houston Parks Board wants to build the Sharpstown Trail, a roughly 3-mile trail that could connect the Sharpstown neighborhood to the Westchase Trails in the north and Brays Bayou Greenway in the south.
 - This project proposal is for Phase 1 of the trail's construction, from Sands Point Drive to Beechnut Street – 1.82 miles.
- **WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT:**
 - The project would turn an underutilized green space into a convenient path to neighborhoods, schools, and businesses.
 - The project will serve approximately 14,000 people within a 10-minute walk
 - 66% are low income
 - 60% Hispanic
- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:**
 - The Sharpstown Trail project is community driven: members of the Sharpstown Civic Association have been advocating for the trail's construction for several years.
 - Multiple community meetings have been held throughout the trail's design process.
- **TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$2.8M**
- **FUNDS REQUESTED: \$1M**
- **OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING: \$1.8M match**
- **TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION:** Construction estimated to be completed by the end of 2022.

SHARPSTOWN TRAIL (PHASE 2)

- **REQUESTING ENTITY:**
 - Houston Parks Board
- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
 - The Houston Parks Board wants to build the Sharpstown Trail, a roughly 3-mile trail that could connect the Sharpstown neighborhood to the Westchase Trails in the north and Brays Bayou Greenway in the south.
 - This project proposal is for Phase 2 of the trail's construction, which would build .83 miles of the trail.
- **WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT:**
 - Together with phase 1 of the trail, this project would turn an underutilized green space into a convenient path to neighborhoods, schools, and businesses.
 - The project will serve approximately 14,000 people within a 10-minute walk
 - 66% are low income
 - 60% Hispanic
- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:**
 - The Sharpstown Trail project is community driven: members of the Sharpstown Civic Association have been advocating for the trail's construction for several years.
 - Multiple community meetings have been held throughout the trail's design process.
- **TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$1.75M**
- **FUNDS REQUESTED: \$1.4M**
- **OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING: \$350,000 match**
- **TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION: Construction estimated to take around 5 years.**

BRAYS BAYOU GREENWAY TRAIL (PHASE 1)

- **REQUESTING ENTITY:**
 - Houston Parks Board
- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
 - The Houston Parks Board wants to expand the Brays Bayou Greenway Trail.
 - This project proposal is for Phase 1 of the trail's construction, which will fill in a .5-mile gap in the Brays Bayou Greenway Trail and connect the Braeburn Glen neighborhood's north and south sides.
- **WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT:**
 - This project would turn an underutilized green space into a convenient path to neighborhoods, schools, and businesses.
 - The project will serve approximately 6,300 people within a 10-minute walk
 - Per capita income of the residents is \$14,124
 - 71% Hispanic
 - 20.7% Black alone
- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:**
 - The Trail's Phase 1 design has been vetted by the community, including the Braeburn Glen Civic Association (the community which this trail runs through) and the Council Member's CIP meetings.
 - Multiple community meetings have been held throughout the trail's design process.
- **TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$1.4M**
- **FUNDS REQUESTED: \$1M**
- **OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING: \$400,000 match**
- **TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION:** Construction estimated to be completed by the end of 2022.

BRAYS BAYOU GREENWAY TRAIL (PHASE 2)

- **REQUESTING ENTITY:**
 - Houston Parks Board
- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
 - The Houston Parks Board wants to expand the Brays Bayou Greenway Trail.
 - This project proposal is for Phase 2 of the trail, which will create a 7-mile trail along Brays Bayou from I69 to Eldridge Road.
 - This trail will connect residential neighborhoods including Alief and the West Houston/West Oaks communities with the rest of the Brays Bayou Greenway Trail.
- **WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT:**
 - This project would turn an underutilized green space into a convenient path to neighborhoods, schools, and businesses.
 - The project will serve approximately 50,488 people within a 10-minute walk
 - Per capita income of the residents is \$18,083
 - 56.2% Hispanic
 - 22.7% Black alone
 - 13.9% Asian alone
- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:**
 - The Trail's Phase 2 design has been vetted by community and civic groups, including the Alief Super Neighborhood, the West Oaks Super Neighborhood, Brays Village HOA, Royal Oaks HOA, Shadowlakes HOA, and both Council Members' CIP meetings.
 - Brays Village HOA provided the land needed for the trail to the Houston Parks Board for \$1
 - Shadowlakes HOA and MUD 359 are providing funds to add additional connections through their community that will tie into the Brays Bayou Greenway Trail Phase 2.
 - Multiple community meetings have been held throughout the trail's design process.
- **TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$11M**
- **FUNDS REQUESTED: \$5M**
- **OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING: \$5.9M match**
- **TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION:** Construction estimated to be completed by the end of **2023**.

HILL AT SIMS

- **REQUESTING ENTITY:**
 - Houston Parks Board
- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
 - The Houston Parks Board wants to turn the Hill at Sims, a 100-acre regional detention basin, into a public park.
 - Harris County Flood Control District owns the basin and the adjacent 150 acre property along Scott Street.
 - Together, these properties could form a new regional park in the Sunnyside/South Acres/Crestmont Park area of Houston.
 - The site is within walking distance of multiple schools, parks, churches, and neighborhoods.
 - The project will include a side path along Scott Street, and a trail around the detention basins, additional nature trails, water access, and trail amenities.
 - This project would connect the neighborhood to the Sims Bayou Greenway to the north.
- **WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT:**
 - The project will serve approximately 1,773 people within a 10-minute walk
 - 36% are low income, 22% are medium income
 - 78% of the residents are African American
- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:**
 - Multiple community meetings about the project have been held throughout the planning process and will continue during the design process.
- **TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$1.4M**
- **FUNDS REQUESTED: \$1M**
- **OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING: \$400,000 match**
- **TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION: End of 2022.**

MUSTANG BAYOU FLOOD CONTROL (UPPER BAYOU SECTION)

- **REQUESTING ENTITY:**
 - Fort Bend County, TX
- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
 - Fort Bend County hopes to build a flood control project for Mustang Bayou.
 - Currently, the Bayou is poorly drained; this project will provide drainage and flood control to a low-income area in the County.
 - The Mustang Bayou Flood Control Project is divided into three sections – this proposal is for the Upper Bayou section.
 - The project's three sections each address a section of the Mustang Bayou with a long history of flash flooding.
- **WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT:**
 - An estimated 43% of properties in Fort Bend County are at risk of flooding.
 - The area has long been a target of hurricanes, tropical storms, and heavy rains.
 - The project will dramatically improve the safety and economy of the region, since flooding along the Bayou has been very damaging to local neighborhoods and businesses.
- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:**
 - The community around the Mustang Bayou brought the issue of poor drainage and flood control to the Fort Bend County board, urging the board to prioritize the issue to prevent loss of life and improve residents' quality of life.
- **TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$23,640,000.**
- **FUNDS REQUESTED: \$23,640,000.**
- **OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING: Unspecified.**
- **TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION: Unspecified.**

MUSTANG BAYOU FLOOD CONTROL (Middle Bayou Section)

- **REQUESTING ENTITY:**
 - Fort Bend County, TX
- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
 - Fort Bend County hopes to build a flood control project for Mustang Bayou.
 - Currently, the Bayou is poorly drained; this project will provide drainage and flood control to a low-income area in the County.
 - The Mustang Bayou Flood Control Project is divided into three sections – this proposal is for the Middle Bayou section.
- **WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT:**
 - An estimated 43% of properties in Fort Bend County are at risk of flooding.
 - The area has long been a target of hurricanes, tropical storms, and heavy rains.
 - The project will dramatically improve the safety and economy of the region, since flooding along the Bayou has been very damaging to local neighborhoods and businesses.
- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:**
 - The community around the Mustang Bayou brought the issue of poor drainage and flood control to the Fort Bend County board, urging the board to prioritize the issue to prevent loss of life and improve residents' quality of life.
- **TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$16,092,000.**
- **FUNDS REQUESTED: \$16,092,000.**
- **OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING:** Unspecified.
- **TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION:** Unspecified.

MUSTANG BAYOU FLOOD CONTROL (Lower Bayou Section)

- **REQUESTING ENTITY:**
 - Fort Bend County, TX
- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
 - Fort Bend County hopes to build a flood control project for Mustang Bayou.
 - Currently, the Bayou is poorly drained; this project will provide drainage and flood control to a low-income area in the County.
 - The Mustang Bayou Flood Control Project is divided into three sections – this proposal is for the Lower Bayou section.
- **WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT:**
 - An estimated 43% of properties in Fort Bend County are at risk of flooding.
 - The area has long been a target of hurricanes, tropical storms, and heavy rains.
 - The project will dramatically improve the safety and economy of the region, since flooding along the Bayou has been very damaging to local neighborhoods and businesses.
- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:**
 - The community around the Mustang Bayou brought the issue of poor drainage and flood control to the Fort Bend County board, urging the board to prioritize the issue to prevent loss of life and improve residents' quality of life.
- **TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$12,492,000.**
- **FUNDS REQUESTED: \$12,492,000.**
- **OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING:** Unspecified.
- **TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION:** Unspecified.

LEGACY COMMUNITY HEALTH TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT PROGRAM

- **REQUESTING ENTITY:**
 - Legacy Community Health of Houston
- **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
 - Legacy Community Health hopes to expand its transportation support program for patients (the program currently serves four clinics).
 - This program gives rides to medical appointments and healthy food access sites, such as pantries, grocery stores, and WIC offices.
 - With the financial support of \$50,000, LCH can scale its transportation services to support additional clinic sites to serve patients.
- **WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT:**
 - By providing this support, LCH could help address deep-rooted health disparities in the 9th district and evaluate the impact of access to healthy food and medical care on long-term health outcomes.
 - These include healthy birth weight, gestational diabetes, maternal mortality, and chronic disease prevention.
- **COMMUNITY SUPPORT:** Not specified.
- **TOTAL ESTIMATED COST: \$50,000.**
- **FUNDS REQUESTED: \$50,000.**
- **OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING:** Unspecified.
- **TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION:** Unspecified.