

18: Little White Oak Bayou Greenway

Vías Verdes de Little White Oak Bayou

Description:

Little White Oak Bayou parallels I-45 from Acres Home to Downtown. It was straightened and channelized at the time that the freeway was originally built. The culverts where the bayou crosses under I-45 (twice) and under I-610 all restrict the water flow. The bayou is generally in a very narrow strip of land, with homes and businesses built close to the banks. Little White Oak Bayou has flooded repeatedly. There have been no significant flood control projects in the watershed.

We Heard:

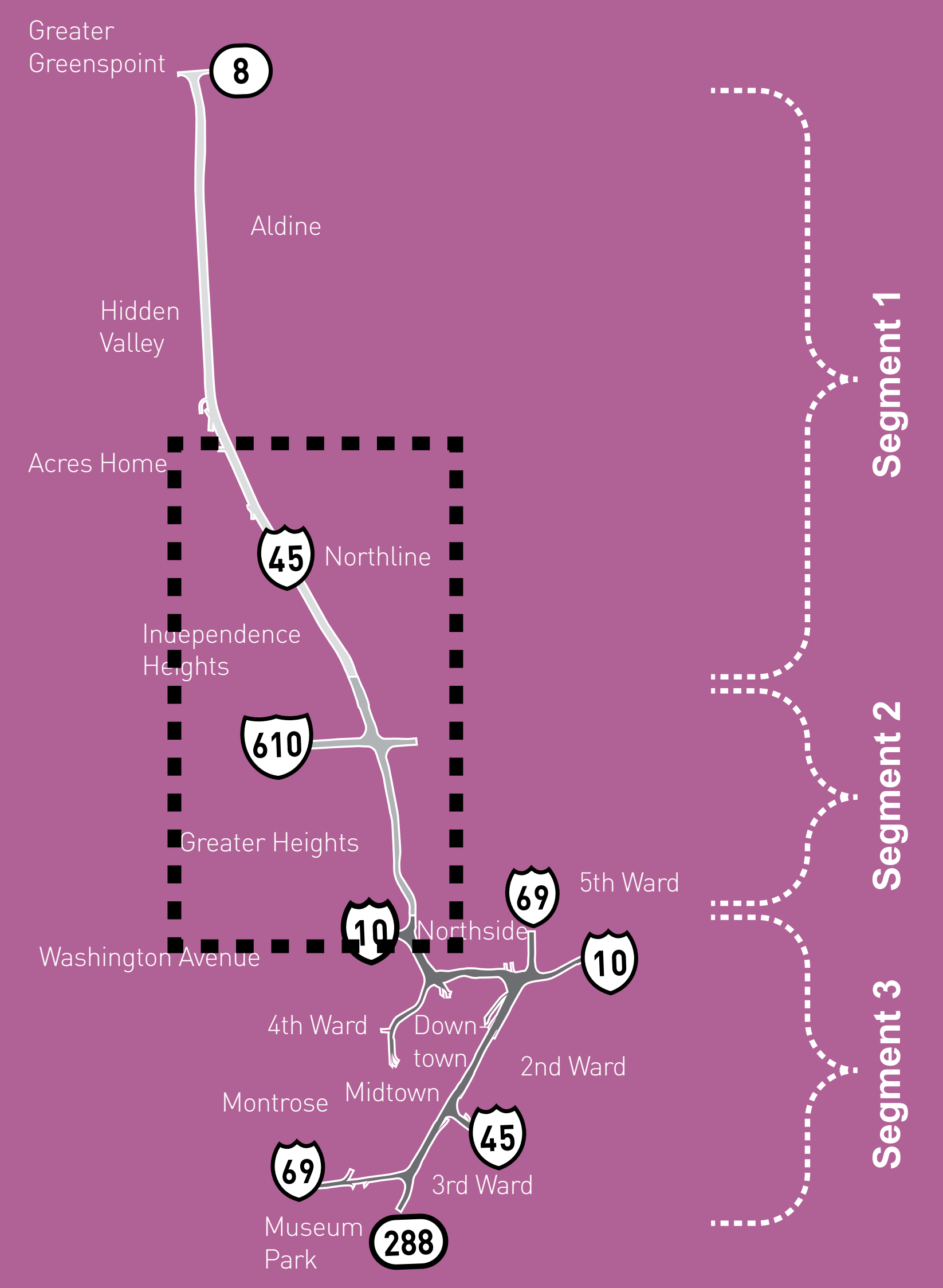
The project design should safely accommodate pedestrian and bicycle traffic adjacent to and crossing the freeway, and especially along the waterways.

Also Addresses:

Property

Connections

Key:



TxDOT Proposal

TxDOT proposes to mitigate the impacts of widening the highway by building multiple detention ponds along Little White Oak. TxDOT also proposes to open the existing culvert where the bayou crosses the freeway at Woodland Park.

PROS

- The Woodland Park bridge allows a greenway connection between Woodland Heights and the Near North Side
- Reduced risk of the highway flooding

CONS

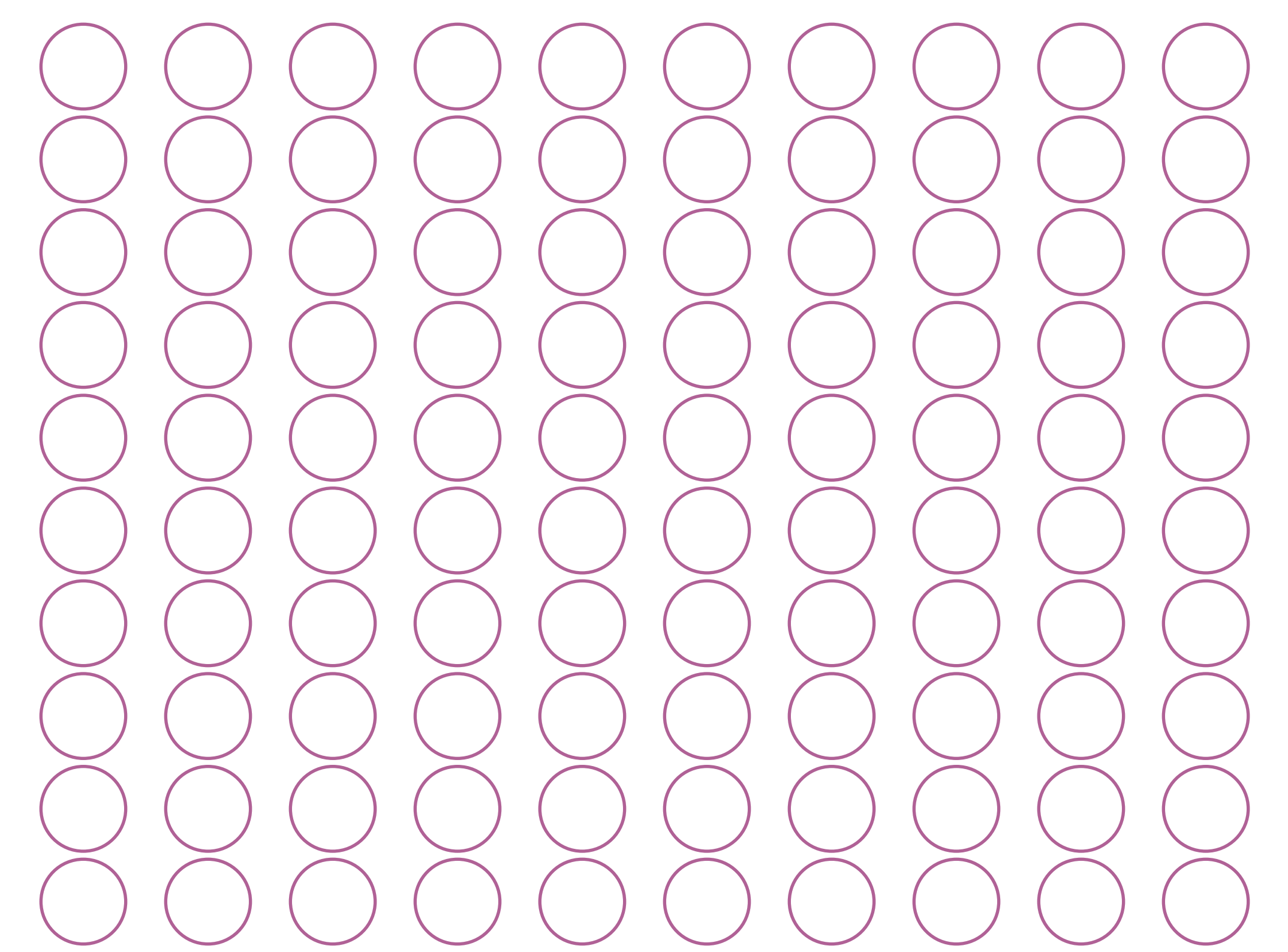
- The freeway is designed not to increase flooding, but is not designed to reduce flooding
- No property acquisition beyond what is required for the freeway



Give us your input.

Put your #18 sticker on the alternative you prefer.

TxDOT Proposal



Alternative 18.1 - Bayou Greenway

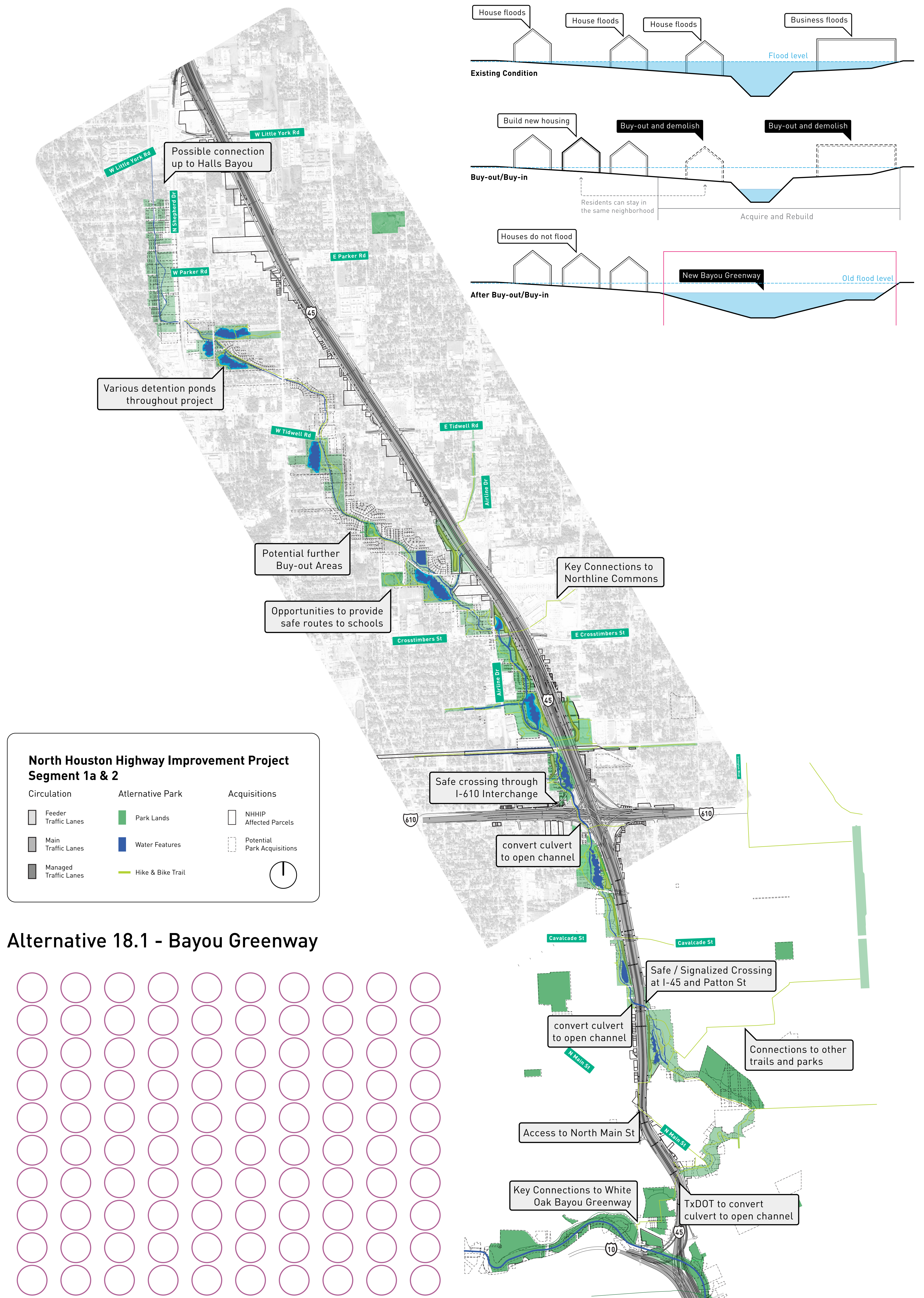
The flood bonds approved by voters in 2018, included funding for Little White Oak Bayou. Harris County Flood Control District has started a study of the watershed. The I-45 project offers an opportunity to integrate flood control, transportation, and parks projects. TxDOT is acquiring land for right-of-way. If that is combined with land acquired for flood control, the bayou could be rebuilt with a wider channel, detention, and a better defined floodplain. The freeway reconstruction could also replace all the culverts with bridges; this is possible only as part of a larger flood control project, since simply removing the culverts would only move flooding downstream. With this, the risk of flooding in the surrounding neighborhoods could be significantly reduced. The Houston Parks Board has proposed that this wider space around the bayou, and the new open space under the bridges, could then become a new bayou greenway, with open space, parks, and hike-and-bike trails linking the surrounding neighborhoods to each other and to Downtown. However, this would require the purchase and demolition of homes and businesses along the channel. This means it is vital to coordinate it with a housing program to ensure that displaced residents can remain in their neighborhoods.

PROS

- Reduce flood risk in neighborhoods along Little White Oak Bayou
- Connect multiple communities through hike and bike trails
- Provide neighborhood residents access to recreational and ecological amenities
- Provide access to Downtown Houston and the extensive Bayou Greenways network
- Provide high-comfort bicycle facilities and safe pedestrian/bike connections under the freeway
- Residents with homes that flood frequently, can buy-out of their current property and buy-in to another, providing them the option to stay in their neighborhood

CONS

- Requires acquisition of some homes and businesses in the current floodplain
- Funding is not yet secured



Alternative 18.1 - Bayou Greenway

