Overview & Objectives

- Why update the plan?
- Scope and schedule
- Case for action
- Community feedback
- Draft vision and goals
- Next steps
Why Are We Updating The City’s Bike Plan?

- Over 20 years since plan update
- Complete Streets Executive Order
- Rebuild Houston
- Bayou Greenways
- Significant benefits
Development of the Plan is a Partnership

Lead Agency

Funding Partners

Multiple Departments
- Planning & Development
- Public Works & Engineering
- Parks and Recreation

Supported by: Bicycle Advisory Committee
Bicycle Advisory Committee

- 25 community leaders
  - Diverse cross section of Houston
    - Responsible for implementation
    - Bicycle riding community
    - Geographic areas
- Serve as sounding board
- Guide development of the plan
- Review/feedback on details
- Promote participation
What is the Bike Plan Scope & Schedule?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing Conditions and Opportunities</td>
<td>May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defining Goals</td>
<td>July 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle Toolbox</td>
<td>Aug 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing Draft Plan</td>
<td>Nov 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Outreach on the Plan</td>
<td>Feb 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalize Plan</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Case for Action

The Houston Bike Plan is a transformative opportunity to...

1. Provide a safer, more comfortable environment for the growing number of people riding bicycles in Houston
2. Provide affordable access to opportunities
3. Improve community health and wellness
4. Compete with peer cities who are setting the bar
5. Benefit everyone, not just people who bike
Better Serve Growing Ridership

Significant increase in cycling activity and interest

Source: Houston METRO Bicycle Boarding Data
Safety is Critical - Goal Zero

- In 2014, the City of Houston and BikeHouston partnered to launch the Goal Zero Campaign
- Campaign focuses on safety education for drivers and bicyclists
- Partnership has supported the development of the City’s Bicycle Master Plan
Who is Our Design Rider?

- People in the Interested & Concerned category typically most attracted to bicycle facilities with higher comfort levels.
- Current network introduces enough gaps and high stress locations to limit frequent bicycle use to Strong & Fearless riders.

Source: Dill & McNeil: Four Types Of Cyclists?.2012. Portland State University
Defining Bicycle Level of Comfort

Existing Bicycle Facilities Assessed on Four Levels of Comfort

Level of Comfort assessment based on:

- Bicycle facility width
- Adjacent traffic volumes & speeds
- Separation from vehicle traffic
- Intersections & crossings

Source: Mineta Transportation Institute: *Low-Stress Bicycling and Network Connectivity* (2015); Team Analysis
Existing Network – All Facilities

- ~500 centerline miles of existing bike facilities
- Riders experience broad range of comfort on most trips
Existing Network – LOC1-2

- Level of Comfort (LOC) 1-2
- ~250 miles
- Mostly off-street facilities and neighborhood bikeways

LEGEND
- High Comfort Shared-Use Paths
- Shared-Use Paths
- Separated Bike Lane
- Bike Lanes
- Low Comfort Bike Lanes
- Neighborhood Bikeways
- Shared Lanes/Signed Bike Routes
- Shared Sidewalks
- Outside COH
- City of Houston

Bike Facilities Houston
(Level of Comfort 1 & 2; Map excludes medium-low and lowest comfort facilities)
Competitive with Peers Cities

Source: Alliance for Biking & Walking’s 2014 Benchmarking Report for Bicycling and Walking in the United States
Existing Plans

- 1993 COH Comprehensive Bicycle Plan
- 2010 Ensemble HCC Livable Centers
- 2010 Fourth Ward Livable Center
- 2010 Northside Livable Center
- 2010 Upper Kirby Livable Center
- 2011 Clear Lake Bike Ped Study
- 2011 Fifth Ward Bike Ped Study
- 2011 Downtown/EaDo Livable Center
- 2011 Energy Corridor Livable Center
- 2011 West Houston Trails Master Plan
- 2012 Airline Livable Center (Harris County)
- 2012 East End Mobility Study
- 2012 Independence Heights Northline Livable Center
- 2012 Washington Avenue Livable Center
- 2013 Inner West Loop Mobility Study
- 2014 METRO Bike & Ride Access and Implementation Plan
- 2014 TMC Mobility Study
- 2015 Heights-Northside Mobility Study
- 2015 Northwest Mobility Study
- 2015 West Houston Mobility Stud
- 2015 Energy Corridor Master Plan
- 2015 Strollin’ & Rollin’ Southeast Houston
- 2015 Houston Park Master Plan
- Health/Built Environment Plans: CTI & Healthy Living Matters
- Other Management District and Neighborhood Plans
Community Feedback

- **Building awareness**
  - 24+ events
  - 3,888 email sign-ups

- **5 Public Meetings**
  - 237 attendees
  - 258 goal cards
  - 35 comment cards

- **800+ map comments**
Community Feedback

- Leverage stakeholders
  - Newsletters/email blasts
  - Coordination at events
  - Social Media
  - Meeting in box
- Online Participation
  - 2,895 online surveys
  - 387 map ideas
  - 130 comments on vision & goals
What Have We Heard?

- **Cultural Shift** - Increase safety education and enforcement of laws
- **Infrastructure/Design** - Improved facilities and end of trip amenities
- **Access/Connectivity** - Safe access and continuous connectivity
- **Maintenance** - Better maintenance of existing facilities
- **Health/Wellness** - Ability to live a healthy lifestyle and environmental benefits
Draft Vision and Goals

**Vision**

By 2026, the City of Houston will be a Safer, More Accessible, Gold Level Bike-Friendly City

**Goals**

1. To provide a **safer bicycle network** for people of all ages and abilities through improved facilities, education, and enforcement
2. To create a highly **accessible, citywide network** of comfortable bike facilities that connects neighborhoods to transit, jobs, and activity centers, including schools, universities, parks, and libraries
3. To **exceed average ridership** levels in peer cities by implementing policies and programs that enable more people to ride bicycles and encourage healthy, active transportation choices
4. To **develop and sustain** a high-quality bicycle network, including both bikeways and end-of-trip facilities
Next Steps: Bicycle Toolbox Development

- **Projects**
  - Bayou Greenways
  - On Street Dedicated Bikeways
  - Neighborhood Bikeways

- **Policies**
  - Context Sensitive Design
  - Bike Parking
  - Bike/Transit Integration

- **Programs**
  - Bikeshare
  - Bicycle Safety Training
  - Sunday Streets
Next Steps: Bike Plan Map and Recommendations

Existing Bike Map
Based on facility type

New Bike Map
Based on level of comfort
Next Steps: Draft Plan

From Plan to Action

1. Finalize Recommendations:
   - Policies
   - Programs
   - Projects

2. Prioritization of projects (short term/long term)

3. Implementation and funding strategies

4. Pilot projects which may include:
   - New on-street facilities
   - Neighborhood bikeways
   - Intersection treatments

Lamar Street
www.HoustonBikePlan.org
Bikeways@houstontx.gov
832-395-2700
@HoustonBikePlan
Houston Bikeways Program