

Good morning Chairman Nichols and members of the Committee. My name is Katherine Summerlin. I represent the City of Houston and I am testifying **against** HB 1263.

- We are very disappointed that we are here today testifying against a bill related to 1 school that has received a number of safety treatments and has been approved for funds to address Mesa Rd., but, here we are. I want to underscore the seriousness with which the City of Houston views transportation safety.
- On August, 2019 Mayor Sylvester Turner signed the Vision Zero Executive Order committing to end traffic deaths and serious injuries on Houston streets by 2030. In November 2020, the City of Houston produced its first Vision Zero Action Plan, which outlines goals, principles, and a practical approach to addressing deaths and serious injuries of vulnerable road users. The Vision Zero Action Plan embeds federal principles from the USDOT's National Roadway Safety Strategy ("NRSS"). We track fatalities and serious injuries with a tool called "The High Injury Network", which identifies the worst roads for pedestrians; we prioritize these streets FIRST for roadway improvements.
- In 2021 when the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was passed, the City of Houston viewed the BIL as an opportunity to leverage funds to address transportation safety and inequities in specific areas of Houston. In 2022, Houston Public Works and the Planning and Development Department applied for five BIL federal grants which included criteria prioritizing mobility safety, environmental justice, community resilience, among others. We included our Vision Zero Plan, High Injury Network, Resilient Houston, and Climate Action Plans in all applications for BIL funding, which has seen 3 of 5 applications being awarded its full federal request.
- Limiting the City's ability to do its job of protecting residents renders us liable for their harm, conflicts with our home rule authority, and is in direct contravention with the Texas Engineering Practice Act Section 1001.053.
- We are committed to ensuring safety around schools through our Vision Zero program. The Texas Constitution is already 90,000 words - We don't need what we already do codified into law.