



PRELIMINARY REPORT

2012-01 Kirby Drive

APPLICANT: Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO)

KEY MAP: 472 D, H, M, R, V, Z

LAMBERT: 5350 to 5353

JURISDICTION: Houston, Harris County

DISTRICT/PRECINCT: Dist. D, K/ Pcnt. 1

PROPOSAL:

Reclassify the existing and proposed alignment of major thoroughfare Kirby Drive between Fannin and the City of Houston ETJ from a designated 100-foot Major Thoroughfare (T-4-100) to 120-foot Principal Thoroughfare (P-4-120)

APPLICANTS JUSTIFICATION & HISTORY:

METRO is currently in the process of drafting its 2040 METRO Vision Long Range to identify where future High Capacity Transit would be needed. Robust growth and heavy congestion on SH 288 have led METRO to recognize the need for high capacity transit in the south to Brazoria County. As METRO looks to extend the existing METRORail system, the need to preserve corridors for future rail service is of high importance in order to reduce property impacts and project costs.

As a parallel roadway to SH 288, Kirby Drive is a potential corridor for high capacity transit service. Based on preliminary studies, Kirby Drive has been identified as a viable high capacity transit alignment in the corridor. In order to maintain the option it is important to preserve sufficient right-of-way.

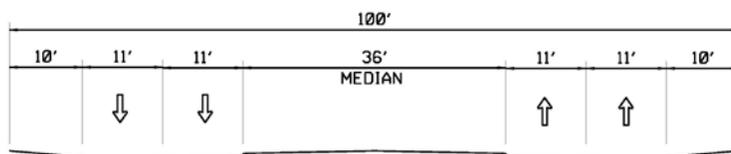
City of Houston's Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan (MTFP) currently classifies Kirby Drive from Reed Road to the Houston City Limits as a Major Thoroughfare with four lanes and 100 feet of right-of-way (T-4-100). This dimension is based on a cross-section of four lanes of traffic (two in each direction), a center median to allow for left turn lanes, and space on each side of the roadway for sidewalks and underground utilities. A one hundred foot right-of-way width is sufficient for this configuration and would provide the opportunity to add lanes in each direction for a six lane roadway as demand warrants.

Kirby Drive is currently designated within the City of Houston as a Principal Thoroughfare between Shepherd Drive and IH 610 South;. Kirby (aka Anagnost) is designated a Major Thoroughfare between IH 610 South inside City of Houston's corporate limits. A small section designated as a Major Thoroughfare lies from those corporate limits to Beltway 8 belonging in the ETJ. Kirby Drive aligns with Allen Parkway (approximately 2.1) which is also designated as a Principal Thoroughfare between Shepherd Drive and the Central Business District. Kirby is approximately a 12.5 mile long major roadway within City of Houston's limits and ETJ . It is planned to be extended further south into Brazoria County to align with existing Kirby Drive in the City of Pearland. The overall length within the ETJ should therefore be designated as a Principal Thoroughfare.

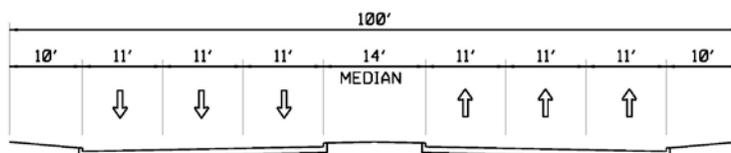
The preferred right-of-way width needed to accommodate light rail is 120 feet. This width can safely and functionally contain a two-way rail guideway, four lanes of traffic, left turn lanes and space behind the curbs for sidewalks and utilities. There is also space for a boarding station within the 120 feet. Cross-sections of the proposed right-of-way modifications are shown in cross section exhibit.



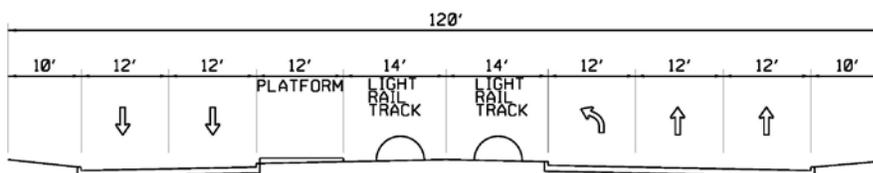
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MTFP TYPICAL 4-LANE CROSS SECTION



MTFP TYPICAL 6-LANE CROSS SECTION



PROPOSED LRT TYPICAL CROSS SECTION

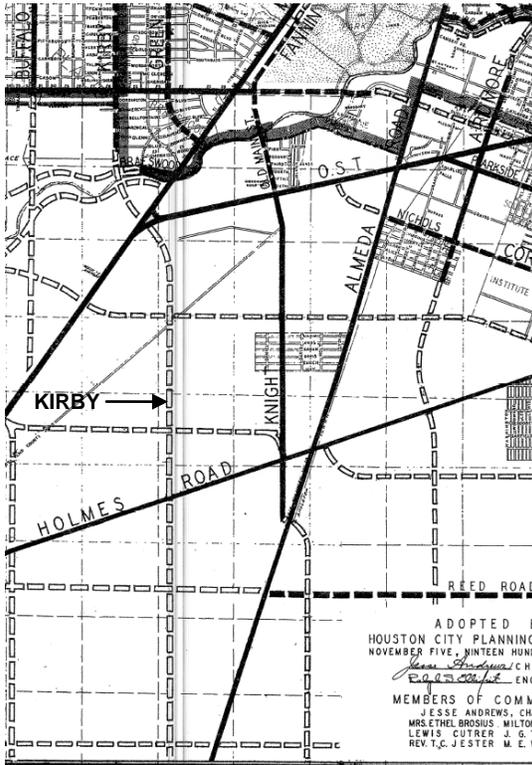
Principal thoroughfares are streets that are designed to carry high volumes of traffic and connect major generators of traffic, such as employment centers, commercial & industrial centers, major residential communities and other activity centers. They are designed to provide higher degree of mobility and typically run for longer distances, providing connections to freeways and other thoroughfares. Kirby Drive with Allen Parkway extends from the Central Business District connecting Upper Kirby District, US 59, Rice Village, West University Place, Reliant Park, IH 610, Beltway 8 and City of Pearland. It also connects a number of existing residential communities in City of Houston and Brazoria County.

Kirby Drive has been designated as a major thoroughfare on the MTFP since 1942. The alignment extended due south of Holmes Road. In 1957 the Kirby Drive is realigned to terminate at proposed South Freeway south of Holmes Road and west of Almeda Road. Later in 1964 when the proposed South Freeway was realigned to its current location, Kirby Drive was realigned to be extended to Almeda Road south of Airport Boulevard.

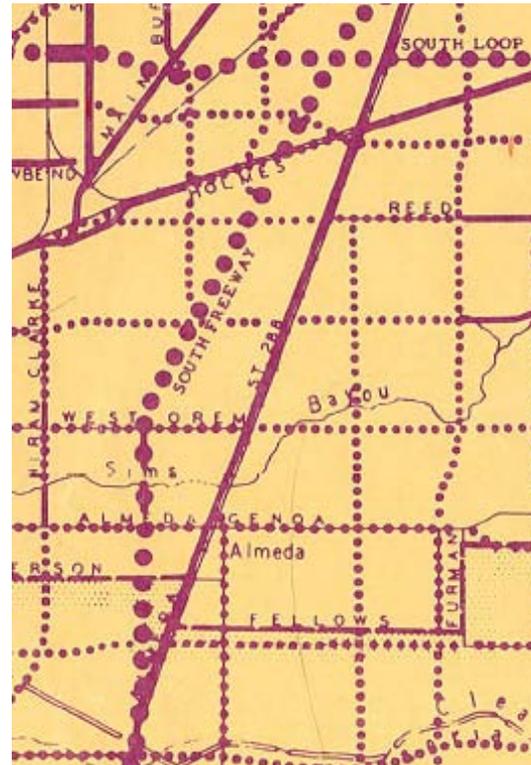
The 1966 MTFP map identifies the termination of Fannin Drive at Almeda and the extension of Kirby Drive south of Almeda. The map also indicates sufficient width ROW for Kirby Drive north of Reed Road. South of Fuqua/Almeda-Genoa the proposed Kirby Drive aligns with Karalas Lane and Woods Lane. In 1986 Fannin Drive is realigned to extend to Reed Road in its current alignment. In 1993 Kirby Drive, south of Almeda-Genoa was realigned to extend along Anagnost in its current alignment. In 1997 Anderson Road west of Kirby/Anagnost is designated as a major collector street. Recently in 2008 Kirby Drive between Holmes Road and Airport was realigned along Reed Road to negate the need for an overpass of the Union Pacific railroad.



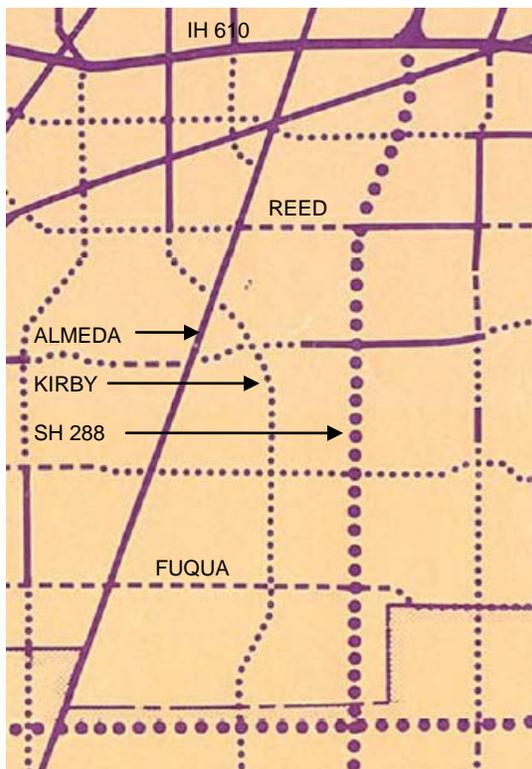
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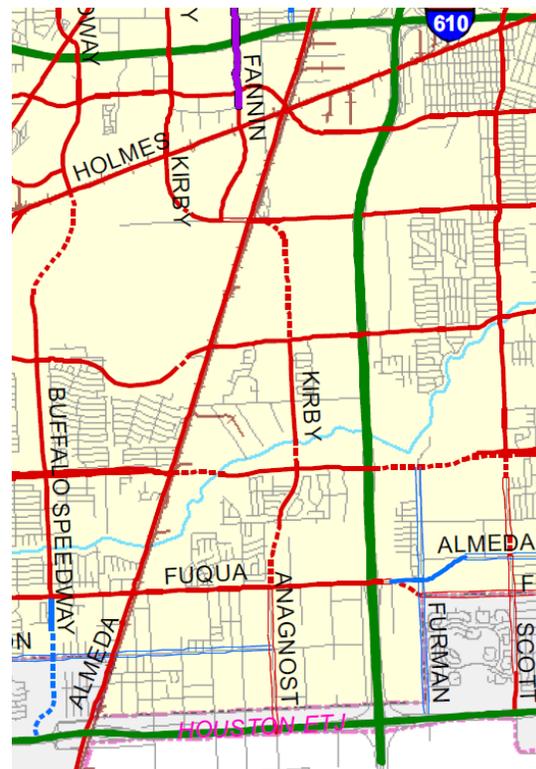
1942 Major Street Plan



1957 MTFP



1966 MTFP

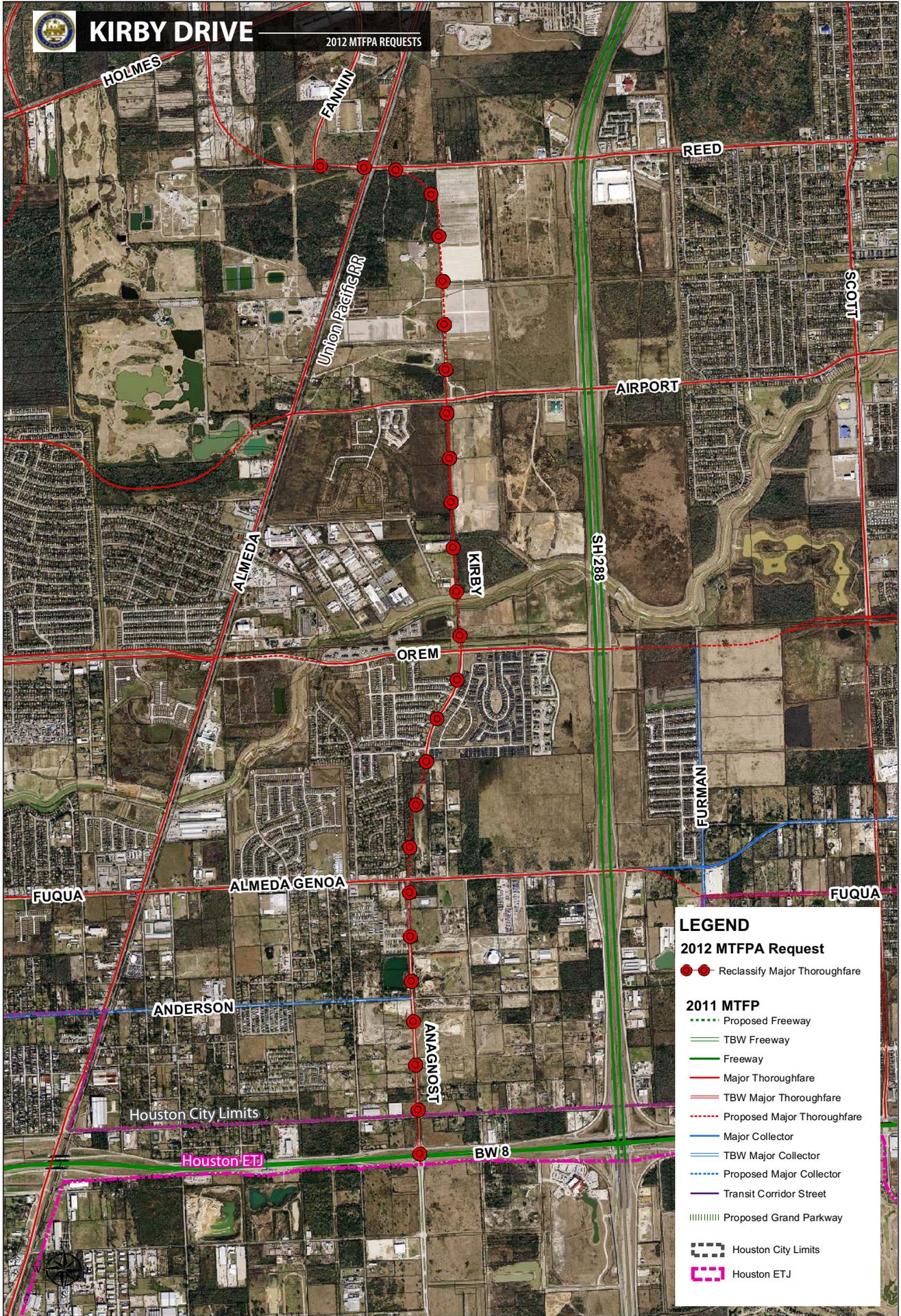


2011 MTFP



KIRBY DRIVE

2012 MTFPA REQUESTS



LEGEND

2012 MTFPA Request

- Reclassify Major Thoroughfare

2011 MTFP

- Proposed Freeway
- TBW Freeway
- Freeway
- Major Thoroughfare
- TBW Major Thoroughfare
- Proposed Major Thoroughfare
- Major Collector
- TBW Major Collector
- Proposed Major Collector
- Transit Corridor Street
- Proposed Grand Parkway

Houston City Limits

Houston ETJ

