



PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report

Accomplishments and activities of the
Planning and Development Department



Under new leadership

Patrick Walsh, P.E. was named Director of the Planning and Development Department with the retirement of Marlene Gafrick. Walsh brings 18 years of experience in community development, planning, engineering, and municipal infrastructure management to the position. Mr. Walsh received a Bachelors of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University and a Masters of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. Walsh is a native Houstonian.



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New Addressing Ordinance

An addressing ordinance was adopted by the City to codify property addressing and street naming regulations. The amendments will centralize property addressing and street naming database services within the Department. Centralizing these services will reduce addressing errors and provide real time addressing information to emergency responders.



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Complete Streets

Mayor Annise Parker signed an Executive Order to implement a Complete Streets and Transportation Plan which encourages safe, accessible and convenient use of our streets by motorists, public transit riders, pedestrians, people of all abilities and bicyclists.



Scenic City Silver Certification

The City achieved this five-year certification by Scenic Texas based on a thorough review of infrastructure programs for public roadways and public spaces, in particular:

Strong standards to enhance the visual character of its streetscapes including sign regulation and landscaping

Emphasis on establishing and protecting parks, trails and open spaces

Clearly-stated unity of design standards

Firm prohibition on the conversion of existing non-electronic billboards to digital format



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HoustonPlatTracker.org

3 new services were added to increase efficiency for customers and staff by allowing for on-line application submittal and payment and on-line review.

**Recordation,
Extension of Approval, and
Name Changes.**



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Development Update

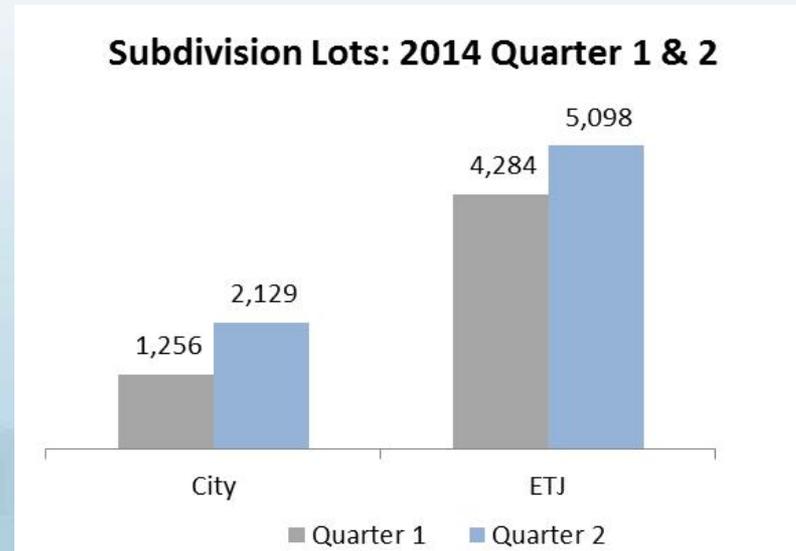
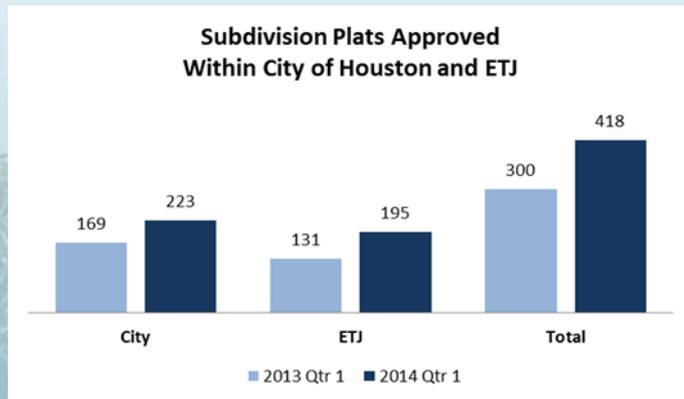
Development activity was up slightly, 19% for subdivision plats and 24% for site plans.

Plats Reviewed 2,722

Plats Recorded 1,281

Development plats 838

Site plans reviewed 20,077



Transportation Planning

58 Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan amendments were reviewed, many with data and information from the ongoing mobility planning process

The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant done in partnership with the Houston-Galveston Area Council was completed.



Ongoing Projects/Studies include:

- Bike Master Plan
- Heights-Northside Mobility Study
- Houston-Northwest Mobility Study
- Downtown & Midtown Thoroughfare Analysis
- Greater West Houston Subregional Planning Study

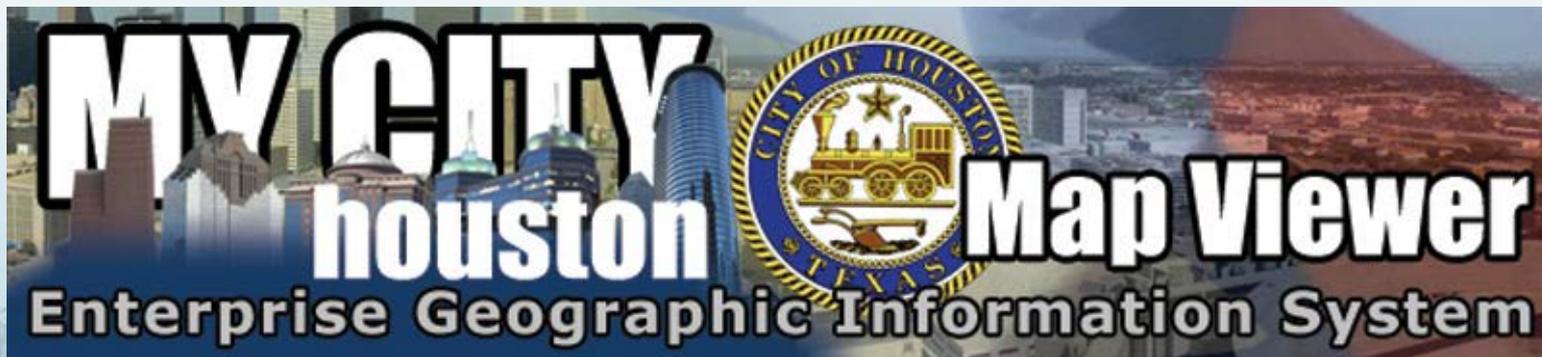


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Geographic Information Services

GIS created over 8,000 addresses and 1,669 new roads.

GIS Completed 333 map and data requests.



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Neighborhood Tools

28 Minimum Lot Size Area Applications reviewed

95 Minimum Lot Size Block Applications reviewed

35 Minimum Building Line Block Applications reviewed

10 new Prohibited Yard Parking areas established



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Minimum Lot size Area and Block / Minimum Building Line

-  Major Streets
-  Freeways
-  Building Line
-  Lot Size
-  Houston City Limit

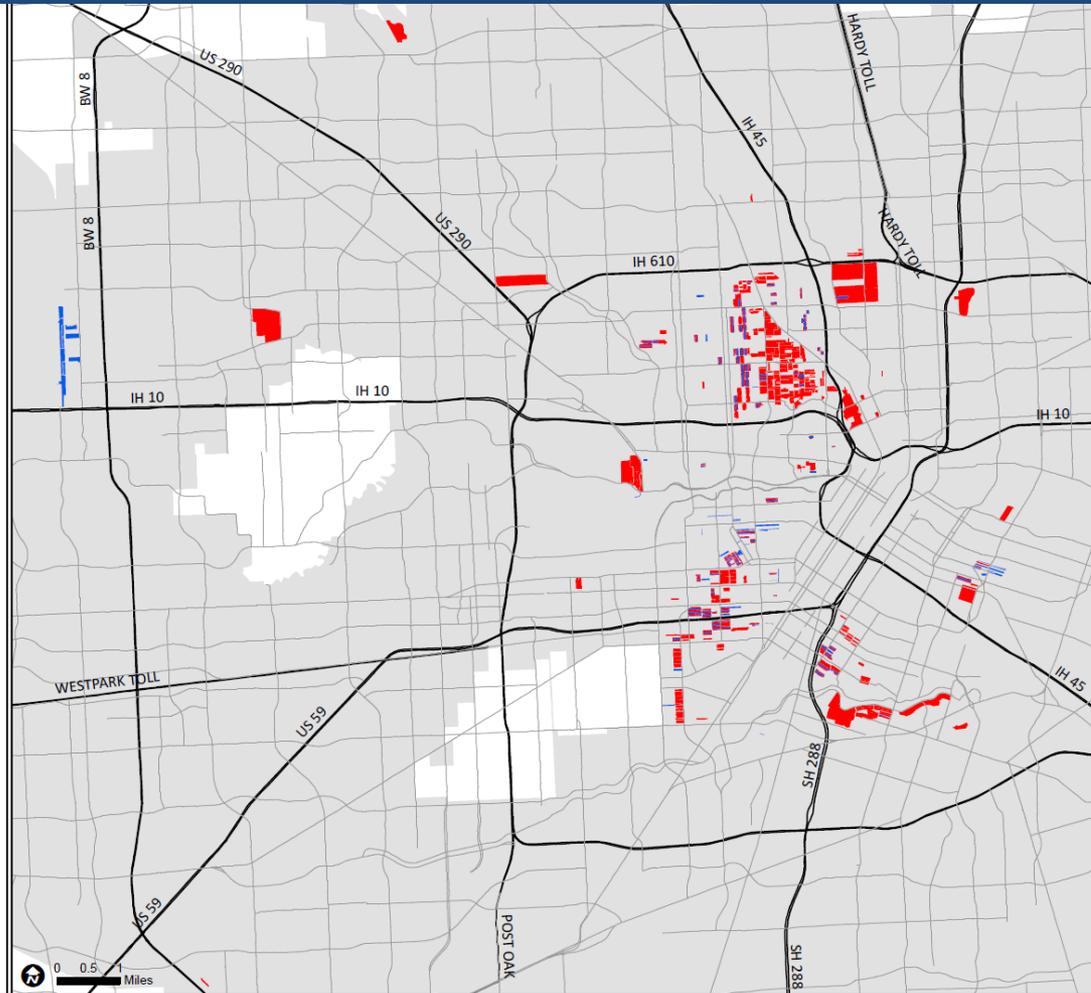
Source: City of Houston GIS Database

Date: April 2014

This map is made available for reference purposes only and should not be substituted for a survey product. The City of Houston will not accept liability of any kind in conjunction with its use.



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Historic Preservation

2 historic districts were recognized: Starkweather & High First Ward for a total 22 districts.

Staff and the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission (HAHC) reviewed 19 Landmarks or Protected Landmark applications. There are 390 total historic properties: 272 Historic Landmarks & 118 Protected Historic Landmarks

Staff and the HAHC reviewed 375 certificate of appropriateness agenda items



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High First Ward & Starkweather Historic District Architecture



Strategic Partnership Agreements (SPAs)/ Annexation and Management Districts

Conducted two rounds of limited purpose annexations of 17 utility districts

There are 333 SPAs with 233 utility districts that generated a total of over \$283 million representing 6.9% of all sales taxes collected

Completed a full purpose annexation (Sicom tract) adding 5 acres to the full purpose city boundary

3 new management districts: Fort Bend County Municipal Management District No. 1, Generation Park and Waller County Improvement District No. 1



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Houston Planning Commission



Pictured left to right: (top row) Planning Director Patrick Walsh, P.E.; Eileen Subinsky; Raymond Anderson, P.E.; Shaukat Zakaria; Jim Jard; Clay Forister, P.E.; Lisa Clark; Truman C. Edminster, III; Keiji Asakura; Mark Sikes; Mark J. Mooney, P.E.; (bottom row) Marty Stein; Algenita Davis; Vice Chair Sonny Garza; Chair Mark Kilkenny; Linda Porras-Pirtle and Paul R. Nelson. Not pictured are: Susan Alleman, Kenneth J. Bohan, Fernando L. Brave, Antoine Bryant and Blake Tartt III



Houston Archaeological & Historical Commission



Pictured left to right: (back row) Mayor's Assistant for Cultural Affairs Minnette Boesel, Rob D. Hellyer, Anna Mod, Charles Stava, Edie Archer, David Bucek. (front row) Jorge Garcia-Herreros, Planning Director Patrick Walsh, P.E.: Chairman R. Maverick Welsh III and Debra Blacklock-Sloan. Not pictured are Douglas Elliot, John Cosgrove, Romulo Tim Cisneros, Ann Collum and Paul Homeyer.



Tower Commission



Pictured left to right: Rodney Louis Jones, John R. Melcher, Chair Rob Todd, Christy B. Smidt, and Dr. Shin-Shem Steven Pei. Not pictured is Antonio M. Salinas and Ignacio Osorio.



Thank You



www.HoustonPlanning.com; 713.837.7701

