

Lower Westheimer Corridor Study
#1 Public Meeting Summary
2016/06/06

0. Before Meeting

After signing in, attendees wrote down briefly two things that they love about Lower Westheimer and two things that would make Lower Westheimer better. The responses were placed into two boards accordingly.

1. Opening Statement

Speaker: Mayor Pro Tem Ellen Cohen, Houston City Council

Welcomed and thanked attendees for participating. Explained importance of Lower Westheimer corridor. Mentioned that the project is not funded.

2. Welcoming Remarks and Project Purpose

Speaker: Patrick Walsh, P.E., Director, Planning and Development Department

Introduced Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) members. Explained the study purpose, role of SAC, and partnership between P&D and PWE. Mentioned that the project is not funded.

3. Process and Corridor Overview

Speaker: Matthew Seubert, Planning and Development Department

The Lower Westheimer corridor study is an enhanced pre-engineering study. The study will consider the area's unique historical, cultural and community significance. Comments from community and stakeholder are essential to the study. To enhance community and stakeholder engagement, there will be three public meetings (June 2016, August 2016 and October 2016) during the design process. There will be a Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting before each public meeting. The conceptual recommendation will support community interests and will be provided to PWE.

Lower Westheimer corridor study limit is from Shepherd to Main on Westheimer/Elgin. CIP N-100034 is for the area from Montrose to Main on Westheimer/Elgin.

4. Existing Conditions (Constraints/Opportunities)

Speaker: Michael Ereti, Gunda Corporation

Existing conditions information about Lower Westheimer was provided in nine topic areas: (1) safety, (2) land use, (3) mobility/access, (4) on-street parking, (5) transit, (6) built form, (7) limited right-of-way, (8) operations, and (9) pedestrian experience.

5. Public Engagement and Next Steps

Speaker: Mathew Seubert, Planning and Development Department

Project contact information was given, including web (lowerwestheimerstudy.org), email (Mobility.Planning@houstontx.gov), and individual contacts (Matthew Seubert and Jing Chen).

Comments and concerns from the previous SAC meeting were presented to the public. Two questions were asked: (1) What do you love along the corridor? and, (2) What is the character of the corridor? In general, the SAC loves and values the Lower Westheimer area for its diversity, neighborhood feel, walkability, lots of restaurants and businesses, and historical character.

Attendees were asked to use the sticky note exercise displayed at the door, survey and comment cards that were spread at the meeting, comment card, or to visit the study website (lowerwestheimerstudy.org) to express their comments and concerns about Lower Westheimer. Updates and related information can also be found on the website.

The survey is anticipated to be completed by June 15. The project team will summarize results of survey and sticky note exercise and post summaries on the website. The public is welcome to attend the next public meeting (date TBD).

Questions were asked by the attendees. These will be summarized separately.

6. Open House

The meeting room was arranged into six information stands where attendees could ask detailed questions of the project team: (1) public interaction/survey/sticky note exercise, (2) land use/built form, (3) multi-modal, (4) mobility/access, (5) crash experience, and (6) parking/right-of-way.