



CITY OF HOUSTON

Planning & Development
Department

Interoffice

Correspondence

To: Mayor Sylvester Turner

From: Patrick Walsh, P.E.
Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P Walsh".

Date: April 19, 2018

Subject: **2017 ANNUAL REPORT:
HOUSTON COMPLETE STREETS AND
TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

INTRODUCTION

The 2017 Houston Complete Streets and Transportation Plan (HCSTP) Annual Report is required by Executive Order (E.O.) 1-15, commonly referred to as the Complete Streets Executive Order. This Report provides the Mayor with an update on implementation of the HCSTP. The Report reviews work completed in the past year, documents measurements of success, and lays out next steps for the upcoming year and beyond. The Planning and Development Department (P&D) developed this Report in close collaboration with Houston Public Works (HPW).

2017 PROGRESS

P&D and HPW began implementing the HCSTP immediately after the E.O. was issued in November 2013. Since then, the City and its partners have made substantial progress towards accomplishing the E.O.'s objectives. Significant 2017 accomplishments relating to E.O. implementation include the following:

1. Bicycle Master Plan: On March 22, 2017, Houston City Council adopted the updated [Bicycle Master Plan](#). This adoption is the first update of the Plan since 1993 and was led by P&D with assistance from HPW, Parks, and other partners. The Plan identifies projects that will create a city-wide bicycle network to serve a broad spectrum of people who bike at all skill levels, provide more transportation choices, and build on efforts such as the Bayou Greenways Initiative to create a well-connected city-wide bicycle system of both on and off-street facilities. In addition to the adoption, Chapter 33 of the City's Code of Ordinances was updated to mandate a biennial amendment and review process and a standing Bicycle Advisory Committee. The updated Bicycle Master Plan will be a component plan of the HCSTP and fulfills the E.O. requirement for a bikeway plan.

Following adoption of the Plan, P&D and HPW developed an annual process for prioritizing bike lane projects for implementation using funds approved in the annual Capital Improvements Plan. P&D and HPW developed a draft list of bike projects for initial implementation efforts and expects to vet this list with the community in early 2018.

2. Lower Westheimer Enhanced Pre-Engineering Study: HPW and P&D began work on a pilot enhanced pre-engineering study for the Lower Westheimer corridor. This is Houston's first

enhanced pre-engineering process, which is designed for unique streets that merit an advanced level of design sensitivity due to their historic, cultural, or community significance. As part of this process, the City collaborates with departments, elected officials, property owners, residents, business owners, and community stakeholders to develop a preferred design that enhances the character of the corridor, while improving mobility and safety. The Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the Lower Westheimer study is an example of enhanced community engagement involving community leaders. HPW and P&D will complete the [Lower Westheimer study](#) in early 2018.

3. Livable Center Studies: P&D and HPW staff represent the City in studies led by H-GAC and other non-City entities. H-GAC's [Livable Centers Program](#) works with local communities to identify specific recommendations, such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, that can help create Livable Centers. Livable Centers, with concentrations of residential and employment land uses, support more trips by foot, bicycle, transit, or carpool. The Westchase District Livable Centers Study and the Spring Branch Livable Centers Study began in 2017 and will be completed in 2018. The Planning Department will lead a Livable Centers study of southwest Houston between Almeda Road and US 90A beginning in 2018.
4. Sub-regional Mobility Studies: P&D and HPW in partnership with H-GAC are implementing Phase II of the City Mobility Planning (CMP) to study areas within the City of Houston & its Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). The purpose of the sub-regional mobility studies is to identify short, medium and long term projects intended to promote better mobility, and to consider and develop a multi-modal classification for streets within the study area. The Southeast Sub-regional Mobility Study began in early 2018 and is expected to be completed within a year.
5. Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan: P&D further incorporated the context-sensitive approach identified in the E.O. into the City's annual process for amending the Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan ([MTFP](#)). In 2017, P&D processed 54 amendments to the MTFP, 33 of which were within the COH City Limits, with the remainder in the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). These amendments were developed using the complete streets philosophy identified in the E.O.
6. Bike Share Expansion: P&D sponsored an application in the 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Call for Projects and was awarded a \$3.7 million grant to purchase 71 bike stations, 568 bicycles, and 2 transport vehicles for the City's bike share program known as Houston BCycle. Prior to the grant, Houston BCycle operated 33 bike stations and 225 bicycles throughout the downtown area and adjacent neighborhoods. Installation of the new bike stations began in January 2017 with the installment of the Crawford Island Station at Discovery Green Park. Eighteen bike stations were installed by early 2018 in the downtown area, Heights, Third Ward, Greater East End, Near Northside, Montrose, Museum District and Hermann Park. Stations have also been added at Houston Community College-Central and Rice University campuses increasing the bike share network to 51 stations. Three additional stations were purchased as replacement stations due to damage from Hurricane Harvey. Station installments planned for 2018 include Texas Medical Center, University of Houston-Main, University of Houston-Downtown, Texas Southern University and other surrounding neighborhoods. Installations of all stations are expected to be complete by fall of 2018. Houston Bike Share is the local match sponsor and operator of the bike share program.

7. **METRONext:** The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County kicked off METRONext in 2017 with a series of public meetings and events to gather public feedback in developing an updated regional transit plan. The regional transit plan will build on past successes and explore potential investments in various transit modes that will connect more people to more places. P&D and HPW are working closely with METRO to ensure City interests are reflected in the plan.

2017: MEASURING SUCCESS

The E.O. requires that the City measure its success in implementing the HCSTP, providing systemwide totals within City limits detailing efforts that support fulfillment of the Plan. The E.O. stipulates that Fiscal Year 2014 serves as a baseline for improvements implemented. Additional indicators may be developed and included in future reports. The HCSTP Framework, currently in development, will include suggestions for additional indicators to measure progress towards the goal of implementing complete streets as defined in the E.O.

| Indicator | FY 2014 | FY 2015 | FY 2016 | FY 2017 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Linear miles of new/reconstructed sidewalks | 78.6 | 51.6 | 60 | 57 |
| Linear miles of new/restriped on-street bicycle facilities | 60.1 | 87 | 34 | 14 |
| New/reconstructed curb ramps | 1,710 | 1,116 | 1,772 | 1,368 |
| Linear miles of new/reconstructed streets (lane miles) | 32.35 | 70 | 98 | 92 |
| Linear miles of overlaid streets (lane miles) | 128.73 | 222 | 223 | 198 |
| New/reconstructed transit stops with shelters | 52 | 40 | 200 | 102 |
| Transit stops added to system | 29 | * | 154 | 33 |

*Note: METRO's new bus network, implemented in 2015, resulted in a significant change to the number of stops in the system, as stops were added, relocated, discontinued and/or removed.

NEXT STEPS: 2018 AND BEYOND

Next steps for completing the HCSTP component plans and other items mandated by the E.O. include:

| Task | Lead |
|--|-------------|
| Publish HCSTP Framework, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context Report • Multi-Modal Classification Plan (MMC) | P&D |
| Publish HCSTP Database and Map | P&D |
| Complete Context and MMC for ReBuild Houston 5+5 projects | P&D, HPW |
| CIP Process Manual update | HPW |
| Transit Plan (long term plan - METRONext) | METRO |
| Pedestrian Plan | P&D, HPW |

Task

Master Parking Plan

Rail Plan

Lead

ARA, HPW

HPW, Gulf Coast Rail
District

PW/JO:wy

cc: Andy Icken, Chief Development Officer, Mayor's
Carol Ellinger Haddock, P.E., Director, Houston Public Works