



CITY OF HOUSTON

Planning and Development

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May 25, 2018

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed Amendments to the 2017 Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan (MTFP)

The City of Houston Planning Commission will hold a **public hearing on Thursday, July 26, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. in the City Hall Annex Chambers, Public Level, 900 Bagby Street, Houston, Texas, 77002**. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to allow interested citizens to be heard concerning proposed changes to the 2017 Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan (MTFP). The MTFP identifies right-of-way needs and proposes roadway alignments within the city limits of Houston and its Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). The MTFP does not initiate the timing of right-of-way acquisition or construction activities related to the roadways.

Information on each proposed amendment will be available for public review at an **open house to be held on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the United Way Community Resource Center, 50 Waugh Drive, Houston, Texas, 77007**. The applicants and Planning and Development Department (P&D) personnel will be available at the open house to answer questions.

This notification package - which includes this letter, information about the specific amendments which may be of interest to the respective property owner, and some frequently asked questions - has been mailed to property owners and registered civic associations adjacent to roadways included in the amendment request.

In addition to making comments at the Public Hearing, **written comments may be submitted using the online comment form until the comment deadline of July 6, 2018**. All comments, whether written or in-person, will be considered by the Planning Commission before a final decision is made on each amendment request. Additionally, the Commission will weigh information provided by P&D and other government transportation agencies in the Houston region.

Four weeks after the public hearing, on August 23, 2018, staff will present recommendations to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will vote on each amendment and forward its recommendations to City Council by September 1, 2018. Once an ordinance for the amendments has been adopted by City Council, a new MTFP will be published by the City.

More information about the MTFP and proposed amendments are available on the Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan webpage at www.houstonplanning.com. The information, as well as the online comment form, can be found http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/transportation/18_MTFPRequests.html. You may contact the Planning & Development Department at 832-393-6660 or email wu.ying@houstontx.gov.



2018 Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan (MTFP) Amendments

Frequently Asked Questions

Q What is a Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan (MTFP) Amendment?

A The City of Houston's MTFP was first adopted by City Council in 1942. It is a long range plan that provides for a system of thoroughfares and collectors to support overall mobility. It does not deal with timing of right-of-way acquisition or road construction. The Plan is updated through an annual amendment process. Amendments generally delete, add or modify a portion of a planned Thoroughfare or Collector. The Plan will continue to be modified in order to meet Houston's growing transportation needs.

Q What is an alternative?

A When the City receives an application to amend the MTFP, staff evaluates the proposed request and studies the adjoining area's major roadway network. The Planning Department (P&D) may identify and evaluate other options in the area, other than the one submitted by the applicant. Such options will be presented as alternatives at the Open House so that all interested parties are aware of options being considered by P&D and Planning Commission.

Q I received a letter from the City. Why? What does this have to do with me?

A If you have received a notice in the mail from the City, it means that our records show you own property that may be located close to or that may be impacted by a proposed amendment to the MTFP. Please read the enclosed report to learn more about the proposed amendment that may impact you and your property.

Q My property is located in the County, not within the City limits. Why is the City dealing with issues in the County?

A The MTFP covers not just the major road network within the City limits, but also within the City's Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). This allows transportation needs to be addressed on a regional basis.

Q I am concerned about a proposed amendment. What can I do?

A First, you can find out more about the amendment request in the following ways:

- Read the report that was included in the mail out; see other helpful links on our website (*see below*)
- Go online to review the application
 - ↳ www.houstontx.gov/planning/transportation/18_MTFPRequests.html
- Attend the **public open house** to meet with the applicant, talk to City staff & fill out a comment form:
 - ↳ **Wednesday, June 13th, 5:30-7:30 p.m., United Way Community Resource Center, 50 Waugh Drive, Houston, TX 77002**
(*see map on reverse*)
- Contact the Planning Department staff and/or the applicant

Then, if you would like to make your concerns known to the City you can:

- Write an email, letter or fax to the City expressing your concerns
- Attend the **public hearing** and speak directly to the Planning Commission
 - ↳ **Thurs. July 26th, 2:30 p.m., City Hall Annex Chambers, 900 Bagby, Houston, TX 77002** (*see map on reverse*)

Q What is going to happen at the public open house on June 13th? (*see map on reverse*)

A There will be map displays and information about each amendment request. You can walk around and view the information and learn more about the amendment requests that are of interest to you. You will also be able to have one-on-one conversation with the applicants and P&D staff. Also, you can learn more about what will happen at the public hearing and how you can best express your concerns to the Planning Commission.

Q What is going to happen at the public hearing on July 26th? (*see map on reverse*)

A The Planning Commission holds a public hearing to provide an opportunity for concerned citizens to make their views known publicly. Comments submitted by July 6th, using the online comment form on the website (refer to instructions above to locate the link on the website), will also be taken into account by the Planning Commission in making a decision on amendment requests. Additionally, the Commission will weigh information provided by the P&D staff and other government agencies concerned about transportation in our region.

Q Who decides what to do?

A Four weeks after the public hearing, P&D will present its recommendations to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission will vote on each amendment and forward its recommendations to City Council by September 1, 2018. Once an ordinance for the amendments has been adopted by City Council, a new MTFP will be published by the City and made available as a reference to other agencies and the public throughout the year.

City of Houston - Planning & Development Department

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1562 Houston Texas, 77251-1562

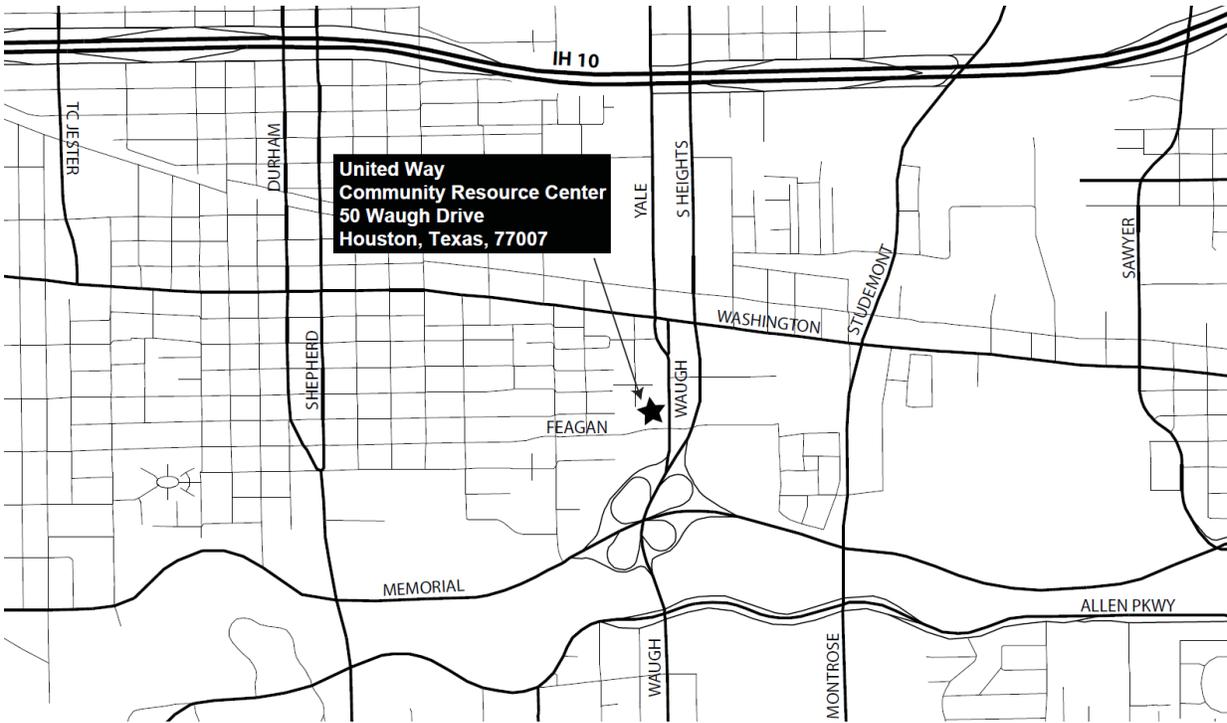
Physical address: 611 Walker, Houston Texas, 77002

Phone: 832.393.6660

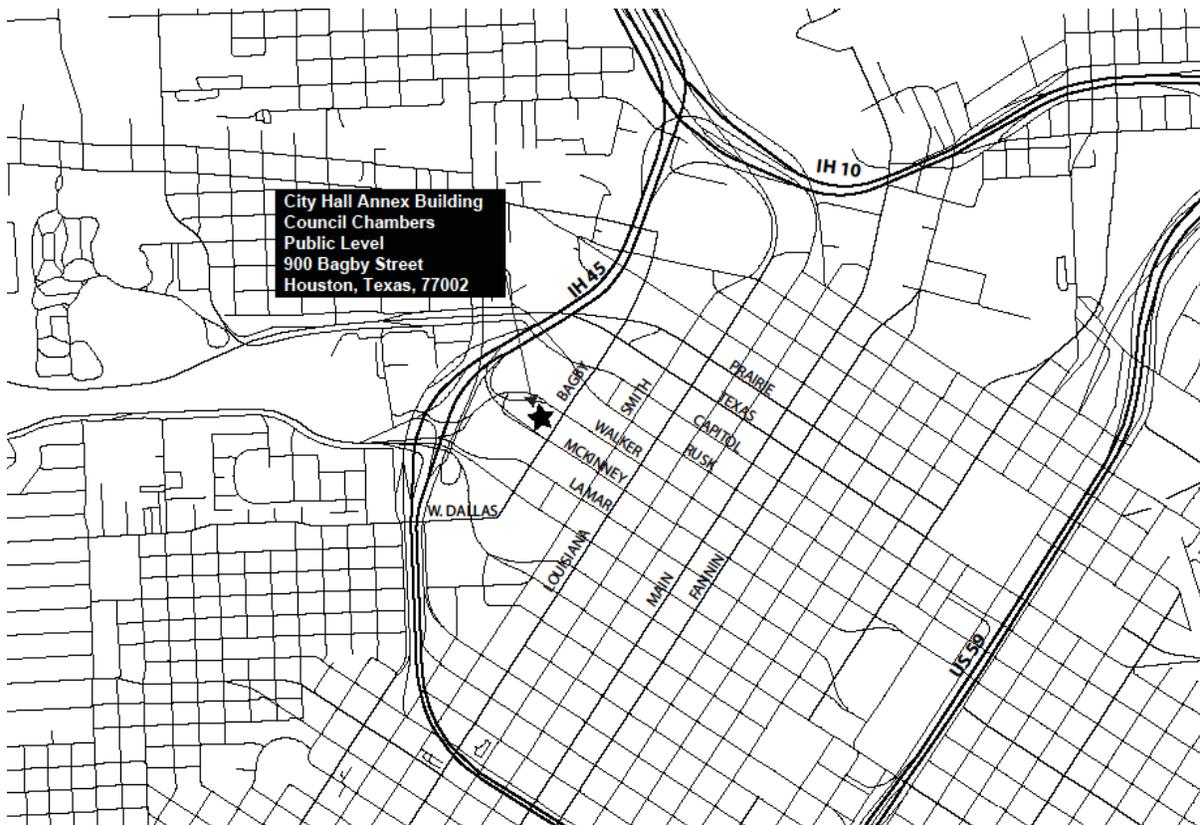
Fax: 832.393.6661

Email: mobility.planning@houstontx.gov

**Map of Public Open House Location,
Wednesday, June 13, 2018 (5:30 - 7:30 p.m.)**



**Map of Public Hearing Location,
Thursday, July 26, 2018 (2:30 p.m.)**



PRELIMINARY REPORT

D: Hillcroft Avenue

APPLICANT: Super Neighborhood 31, Southwest Houston 2000, Maplewood South/North, Maplewood, Westbury and the Brays Oaks Management District

LAMBERT: 5154, 5153

JURISDICTION: City of Houston

PRECINCT: Harris County Pct. 3

DISTRICT: C

PROPOSAL:

SN 31 et. al. is requesting to reclassify Major Thoroughfare Hillcroft Avenue (P-6-140/100) between Bissonnet and Willowbend from P-6 to P-4 from the Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan (MTFP).

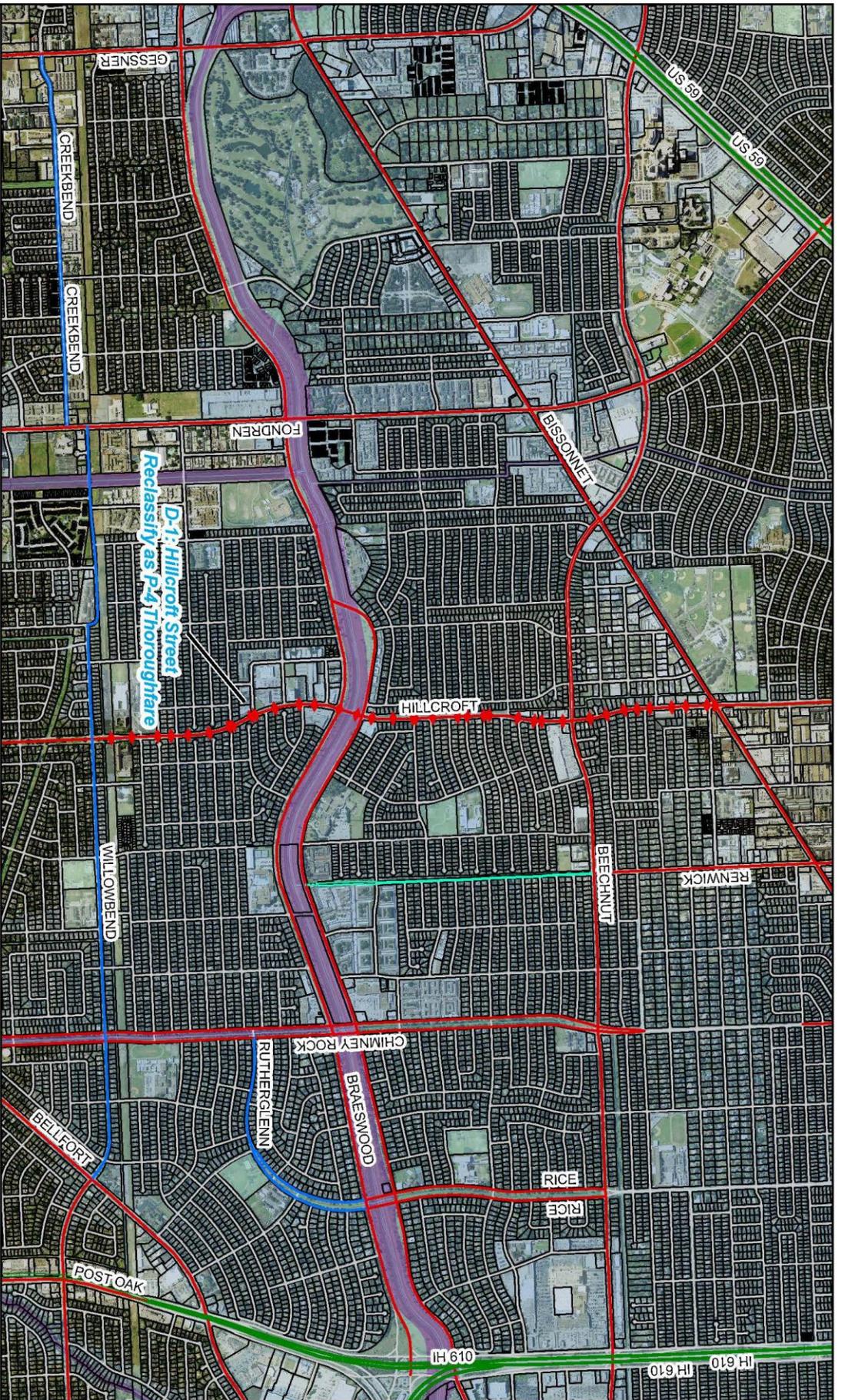
APPLICANT'S JUSTIFICATION and HISTORY:

Citizens living along Hillcroft are requesting the reclassification of Hillcroft Avenue between Willowbend Blvd. and Bissonnet St. from a six-lane principal thoroughfare (P-6-140/100) to a four-lane principal thoroughfare (P-4-14/100). Hillcroft Avenue was added to the MTFP in 1955 and this section is presently a four-lane roadway. Hillcroft Avenue is part of a larger principal thoroughfare corridor which stretches from Fort Bend County to FM 1960 in northern Harris County, and stretches for a total of 29.7 miles. Throughout the corridor, the ROW varies and the number of lanes also varies between four and six.

This section of Hillcroft Avenue passes through a predominately single-family residential area. Average daily traffic (ADT) along Hillcroft between Willowbend Blvd. and Bissonnet ranged from 17,000 to 22,220 in about 2015, and from 17,000 to 22,000 in 2017. The subdivisions bordering this section of Hillcroft were developed from 1950 to 1964. They include Maplewood South/North, Meyerland, Robindell, Maplewood and Braeburn Terrace, which contain about 5300 homes. Single family residential properties make up 77 % of the plats in this section. The residents of this area provide civic leadership for Houston, including the leaders of Southwest Houston 2000, Brays Bayou Association, Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy and Friend of Levitt Pavilion.

The commercial centers along this section of Hillcroft support local residents. There are not any large regional commercial centers along this stretch. The area also includes three large churches and two schools which would be financially harmed if the roads were widened and traffic increases required a police presence for vehicles entering and leaving these facilities. The surrounding area is almost entirely built out as single-family houses. The area will not see any major increase in population or employment. Replacing beautiful esplanades landscaped by the residents with more concrete will increase flooding and increase traffic hazards and noise. Residents strongly believe that a four lane principal thoroughfare classification is more appropriate than a six-lane principal thoroughfare classification, given the single-family residential context of the surrounding community. Residents have strongly expressed support to keep Hillcroft south of Bissonnet at four lanes. In 2016, over 900 residents contacted the Houston Public Works requesting that Hillcroft remain a four-lane road from Bissonnet to Beechnut for a CIP project. More than 1850 residents signed an online petition to keep Hillcroft as four lanes through Westbury, Meyerland, Maplewood and other affected neighborhoods.

The Brays Oaks Management District has recently received a grant from TxDOT for A Livable Center Study for this area. This area should remain as a vibrant thriving community that residents want to live in. In 2017 a similar request was approved to change the MTFP classification from P-6 to P-4 for the section of Hillcroft between Willowbend and South Main, which is also predominately residential. This request would extend the P-4 classification to the residential communities which border Hillcroft north of Willowbend. HPW has already agreed to rebuild the section of Hillcroft between Beechnut and Bissonnet as a four-lane road in the current CIP.



D-1: Hillcroft Street | 2018 Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan Amendment Request

2018 MTFP Amendment

- Add
- Realign
- Remove
- Street Class
- ROW Width
- No. Lanes

2017 MTFP

- Freeway
- Major Thoroughfare
- Major Collector
- Minor Collector
- Transit Corridor Street
- Local Street
- Railroad
- Waterway
- Park

