CITY OF HOUSTON

Sylvester Turner
Mayor

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Sent Via Email: Ken.Clark@co.galveston.tx.us
Mr. Ken Clark
County Commissioner
Transportation Policy Council
Houston Galveston Area Council
174 Calder Drive, Suite 112
League City, TX 77573

Re: North Houston Highway Improvement Project

Dear Chairman:

This letter serves as confirmation that I support the $100M request from TxDOT for funding Segment 2 of the North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP).

The NHHIP is a potentially transformative project with significant, lasting improvements for the region, including favorable impacts on traffic congestion, neighborhood connectivity and more. If designed and constructed properly, I believe this will be a good project for the City of Houston. However, as TxDOT continues to evaluate some requests for improvement, the project remains fluid. Numerous concerns raised by the City and by affected communities remain unresolved, including flooding, air quality, multi-modal connectivity, and the amount of land acquired for right-of-way. It is imperative that TxDOT continue to listen and address these concerns as early in the design process as possible.

To ensure the best possible project for the City of Houston, I asked the Planning Department to lead a Facilitation Group to elevate these concerns and recommend ways to improve this project. The City shares many of these concerns and intends to work diligently with TxDOT to resolve them. I support the additional community planning efforts that H-GAC and TxDOT are proposing and will instruct the Planning Department to coordinate with this initiative.

Even with this funding request, ample time remains to work through these concerns and deliver a project that reflects the wants and needs of neighboring communities. There are future decision points at which the Transportation Policy Council will again evaluate the project for funding, including a major definitive funding decision next spring. It is my expectation that TxDOT will resolve many of the pressing outstanding issues before then. It is TxDOT's responsibility to design a project with positive impacts for the community, the City of Houston, and the greater region. We will, without hesitation, not support the funding decision in the Spring if these items are not accomplished.

Sincerely,

Sylvester Turner
Mayor

ST/mhwb

Enclosure

Council Members: Brenda Stardig Jerry Davis Ellen R. Cohen Dwight A. Boykins Dave Martin Steve Le Greg Travis Karla Cisneros Robert Gallegos Mike Laster Martha Castex-Tatum Mike Knox David W. Robinson Michael Kubosh Amanda Edwards Jack Christie
Controller: Chris B. Brown