

# The Proposed Framework for Houston's **General Plan**

Presented by

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Houston City Council - Quality of Life Committee  
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# Background

- Need for a general plan discussed for many years
- Many voices across the community continue to advocate for a general plan
- Currently no plan articulating overall City vision



# Framework Process

- Mayor directed the **Planning & Development Department** to start process in Fall 2013
- Project consultant: **Peter J. Park**



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Peter J. Park  
City Planning and Design



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# Framework Process

- Internal meetings with multiple City departments
- External meetings with major institutions and organizations



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# Framework Process

- **Seven Focus Groups**
  - Communication/Public Engagement Experts
  - Neighborhoods/Community Groups
  - Development/Business Professionals
  - Management Districts/TIRZs
  - Arts & Culture
  - Young Professionals
  - City Planning Staff



Multi-Department Workshop on Planning



# Key Findings

- Support for a **citywide vision** and coordinated strategy
- **Strategic regional vision** necessary for Houston to fully realize global opportunity and potential
- Projected growth provides opportunities but requires **new and better approaches**
- Need for **continuity across changes** in City leadership and key staff



# Benefits

- Ensure City efforts are **coordinated** – both internally and externally
- Increase **collaboration** across City departments
- Maximize **effectiveness** of City efforts by enabling a **proactive approach** to solving problems
- Accelerate **quality policymaking** at every level
- Increase **citizen engagement**
- Create **consistency** across changes in City leadership



# Project Advisory Group (PAG)

Ed Gonzalez

*City Council*

David W. Robinson

*City Council*

Stephen Costello

*City Council*

Ellen Cohen

*City Council*

Mark Kilkenny

*Planning Commission*

Keiji Asakura

*Planning Commission*

Antoine Bryant

*Planning Commission*

Ann Taylor

Barron Wallace

Bob Eury

Bob Harvey

Carol Abel Lewis

David Hawes

Don Glenn

Edwin Friedrichs

Greg Erwin

Guy Hagstette

Ian Rosenberg

Joe Webb

Joshua Sanders

Mary Lou Henry

Matt Thibodeaux

Mike McEnany

Peter H. Brown

Rogene Calvert

Steve Spillette

Theola Petteway



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# City Leadership Advisory Group (CLAG)

Patrick Walsh *Planning*

Brian Crimmins *Planning*

Jennifer Ostlind *Planning*

Lynn Henson *Planning*

Tina Paez *ARA*

Christopher Newport *ARA*

Maria Irshad *ARA*

Mario Diaz *Aviation*

Terry Garrison *HFD*

Cynthia Vargas *HFD*

Heather Gallagher *HFD*

Scott Minnix *GSD*

Richard Vella *GSD*

Stephen Williams *Health*

Carra Moroni *Health*

Michelle Caruso *Health*

Neal Rackleff *HCD*

Alfred Henson *HCD*

Mary Itz *HCD*

Charles Thompson *IT*

Jackie Smith *IT*

David Feldman *Legal*

Omar Izfar *Legal*

Deborah McAbee *Legal*

Rhea Brown Lawson *Library*

Roosevelt Weeks *Library*

Naomi Brandenburg *Library*

C.A. McClelland *HPD*

Larry Yium *HPD*

Katy Tipton *Neighborhoods*

Mark Cueva *Neighborhoods*

Landon Taylor *Neighborhoods*

Joe Turner *Parks*

Yuhayna McCoy *Parks*

Renissa Garza Montalvo *Parks*

Daniel Krueger *PWE*

Mark Loethen *PWE*

Paresh Lad *PWE*

Andy Icken *Mayor's Office*

James Koski *Mayor's Office*

Laura Spanjian *Mayor's Office*

Gwen Tillotson *Mayor's Office*

Jesus Davila *Mayor's Office*

Lisa Lin *Mayor's Office*



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# The Houston General Plan will...

- Build on information in existing plans, studies, policies, practices, and regulations
- Rely on results of past community engagement and visioning exercises
- Provide guidance for future plans, studies, policies, and regulations



# The Houston General Plan will...

- Be led by the Planning & Development Department
- Engage City Departments, related agencies and organizations
- Be a communication tool to engage citizens
- Be overseen by the Houston Planning Commission
- Brought to City Council in 2015



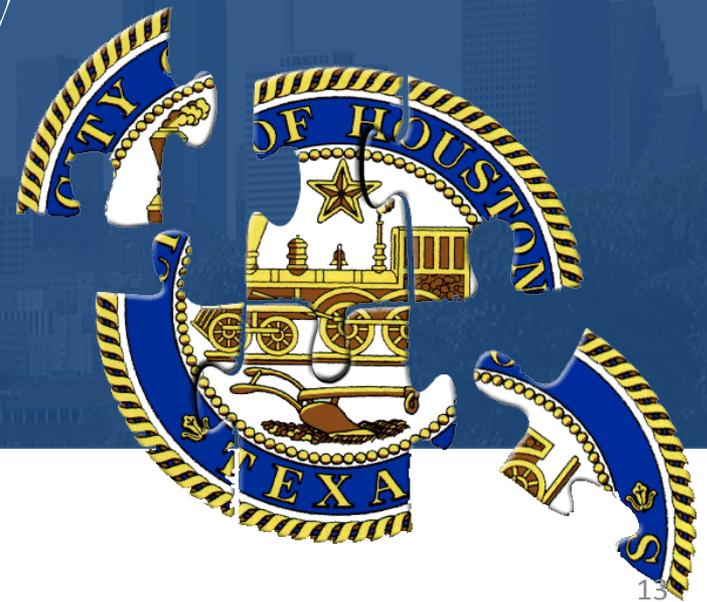
# Laying the Groundwork

- Identify partners and stakeholders
- Utilize existing information (plans, studies, policies, and regulations) from the City and other organizations in the City and ETJ
- Inventory and analysis of existing conditions, major projects, trends and forecasts
- Evaluate/document existing plans, policies, and practices
- Identify gaps and opportunities



# Major Components

- Vision Statement
- Interactive Website of Plans, Policies & Projects
- Performance Indicators
- Neighborhood Enhancement Strategy
- Growth & Development Strategy
- Implementation Strategy



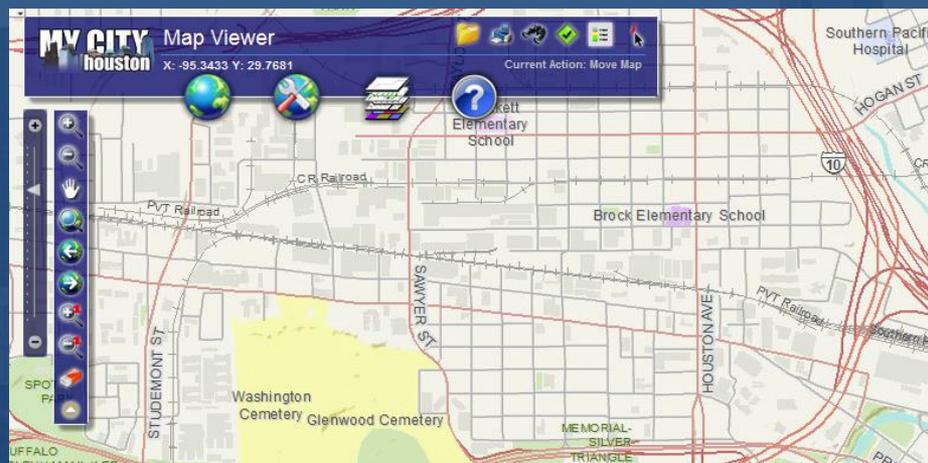
# Vision Statement

- Expect the vision statement to include aspects of:
  - Jobs and sustainable development
  - Fiscal responsibility
  - Infrastructure
  - Public safety
  - Quality of Life
- Vision statement will be presented to the public for comment and confirmation



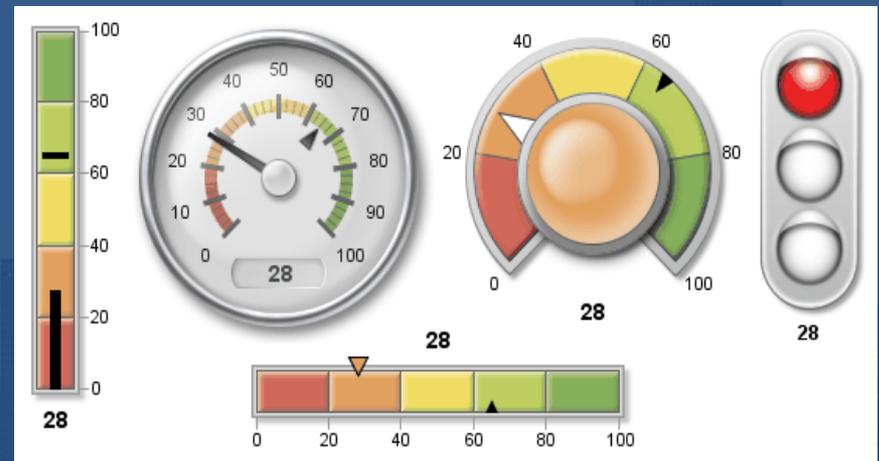
# Interactive Website

- Simple, easy to use website
- An information resource for plans, policies and projects
  - Interactive maps
  - Customizable search engines
  - Engagement platform and monitoring tool (future)



# Performance Indicators

- Simple, easy to understand
- Measuring progress on implementing the vision statement
- Performance Indicators may include:
  - Delivery of City services
  - Fiscal Conditions
  - Public Safety
  - Health/Environment
  - Economic Opportunity
  - Parks and Amenities
  - Education, Arts and Culture
  - Affordability
  - Built Environment/Infrastructure



# Neighborhood Enhancement Strategy

- Clearly document strategies related to **Neighborhood Enhancement** in one location
- Examples include:
  - Neighborhood character preservation tools
  - Reduction of blight and substandard living conditions
  - Cleanup and beautification projects



# Growth & Development Strategy

- Clearly document strategies related to **Growth and Development** in one location
- Examples include:
  - Development regulations
  - Capital projects
  - 380 Agreements
  - TIRZ/Management Districts



# Implementation Strategy

- Document strategies from existing plans in one location
- Create consensus on next steps to accelerate implementation
- Create consistency and ties plans together
- Near, mid, and long-term actions
- Identify current gaps and new efforts for City to pursue



# Implementation Strategy

- Sources used to build Implementation Strategy include, but are not limited to:
  - Rebuild Houston
  - TIRZs/Management Districts
  - Library Master Plan
  - Parks Master Plan
  - Mobility Studies



# The General Plan



# Leadership Structure

- Planning & Development Department
- Technical Working Group
  - City departments
  - Outside agencies and organizations
- Houston Planning Commission
  - General Plan Subcommittee
- City Council



# Next Steps

- Planning & Development Department begins work:
  - Inventory and analysis of existing conditions, major projects, trends and forecasts
  - Evaluate/document existing plans, policies, and practices
- Project Request for Proposal (RFP)
- Identify Funding Needs and Project Partners
  - Project expected to exceed 12,600 hours
  - Estimated funding needs: \$500-600K
  - Determine in-house capacity



# Next Steps

- Aggressive, but realistic project schedule
- Fits in with existing timetables and scheduling
  - Capital Improvement Plan
  - Budget FY 2016
- Additional updates to City Council and Planning Commission as project moves forward



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