HOUSTON INTERACTIVE

Every year, the City of Houston uses technology to better serve and communicate with citizens. Our City's website—Houstontx.gov—was recently updated to include interactive features that promote connectivity with customers while improving navigation features and accessibility. Although there are many valuable City webpages, the following webpages are highlighted for public-facing, interactive features.

Office of Emergency Management Website

Houston Office of Emergency Management (OEM) houstonoem.org is the go-to website for City residents and departments to help them prepare for, cope with, and recover from the effects of natural and man-made disasters. The OEM website includes information on how to sign up for Emergency alerts, how to prepare for emergencies, a link to Houston Recover houstonrecovers.org, updates on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) houstonemergency.org/COVID19/, OEM plans and programs including Healthcare Emergency Plans houstonoem.org/about-us/#plans-and-programs, as well as a guide to disaster preparedness and updates on live events. The OEM website is accessible in many languages.

Website Address: houstonoem.org

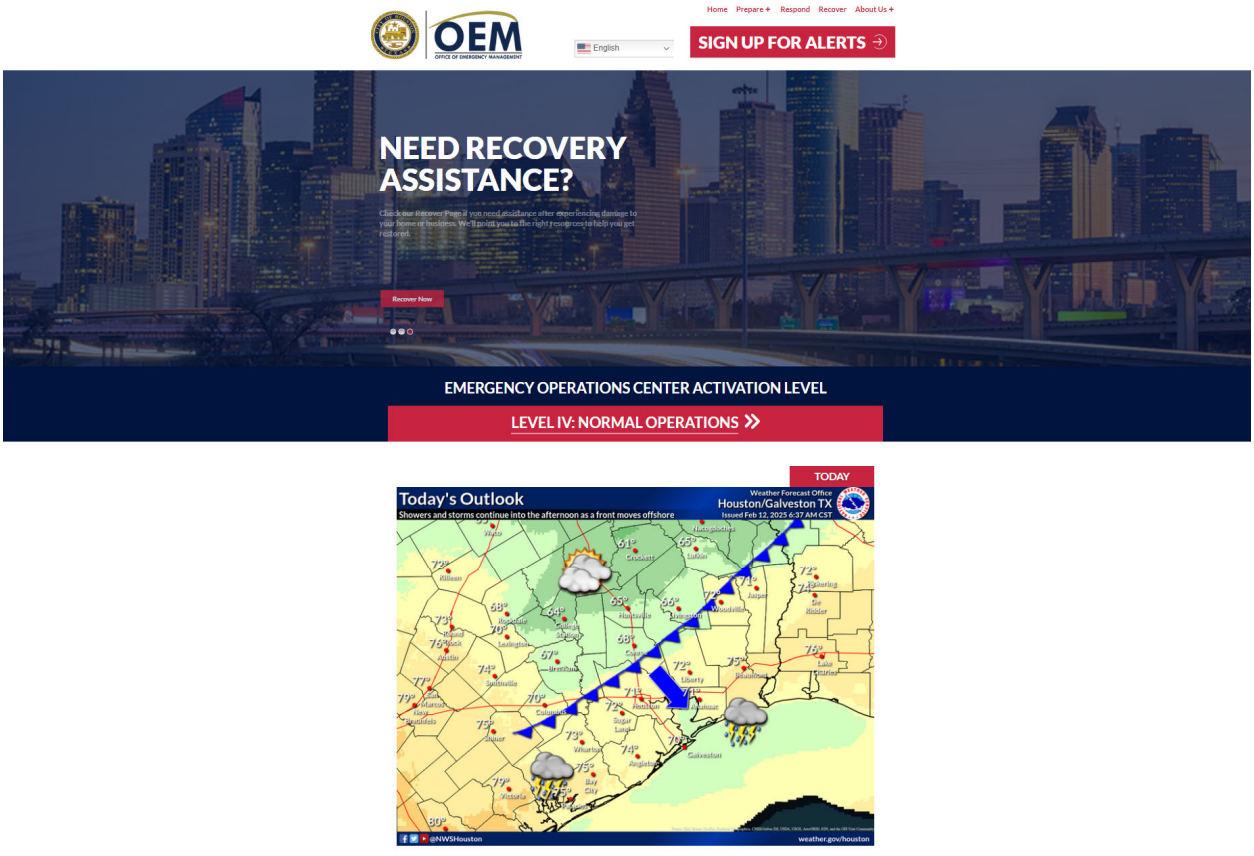


Figure 1 – Office of Emergency Management Homepage

American Rescue Plan Act

Signed on March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is a $1.9 trillion measure designed to address the continued impact of COVID-19 on the economy, public health, state and local governments, individuals, and businesses.

The American Rescue Plan will deliver $350 billion for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and replace lost revenue for governments.

Congress has allocated Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to tens of thousands of eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments, including $45.6 billion for cities.

The Act states that funding can be used to:

- Respond to public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts,
- Provide premium pay to workers performing essential work during COVID-19 public health emergency,
- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to COVID-19 public health emergency,
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.
- Additional funding for the Houston Airport System, Emergency Rental Relief, stimulus checks, and tax credits are also part of the ARPA.

Like most state and local governments across the nation, the City of Houston faced record revenue loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic; this lost revenue would have funded critical services for many Houstonians. Fortunately, the City of Houston received $607.8 million in Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF) from the ARPA Funds for the provision of government services due to revenue losses during the COVID-19 public health emergency, to maintain and sustain critical services. Additional priority projects that address homelessness, behavioral health, and solid waste are being considered.

Website Address: houstontx.gov/arpa/

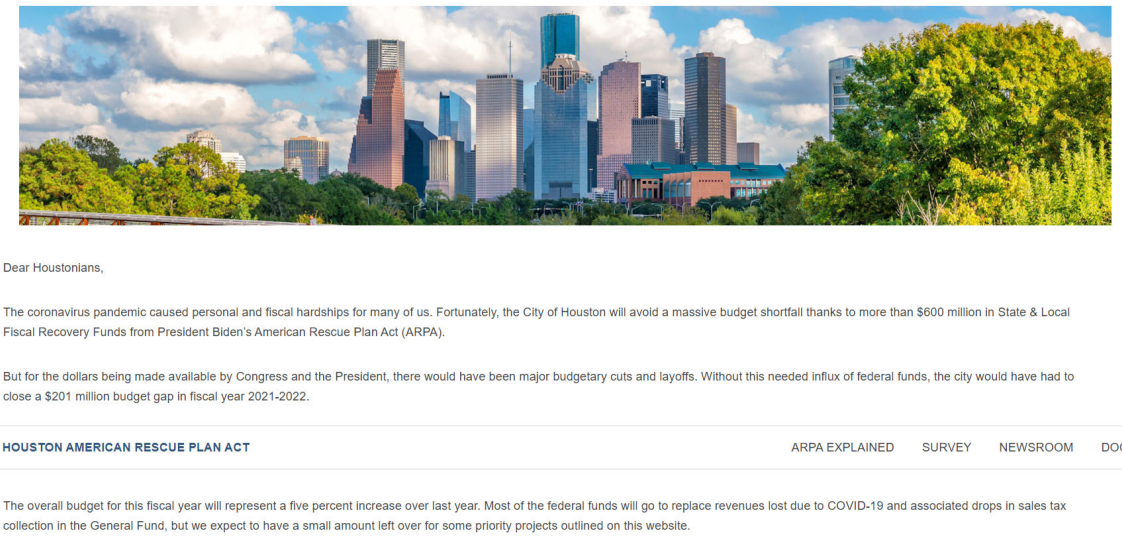


Figure 2 – American Rescue Plan Act Documents page

Houston Recovers

Following the devastation from Hurricane Harvey, the City of Houston created a webpage to help Houstonians affected by flooding. Houston Recovers is a focal point for information on debris cleanup, repair permits, mold prevention, mosquito control, flood risk reduction, housing assistance, donations, volunteer opportunities, business recovery resources and much more. The City teamed up with local and non-profit entities to give citizens a powerful resource during difficult times. The *Harvey by the Numbers* section provides interactive maps that illustrate the catastrophic impact of Hurricane Harvey on Greater Houston. This webpage also includes links to local, state, and federal resources for those impacted by the February 2021 Winter Storm. Visit Houston Recovers to find out more.

Website Address: HoustonRecovers.org

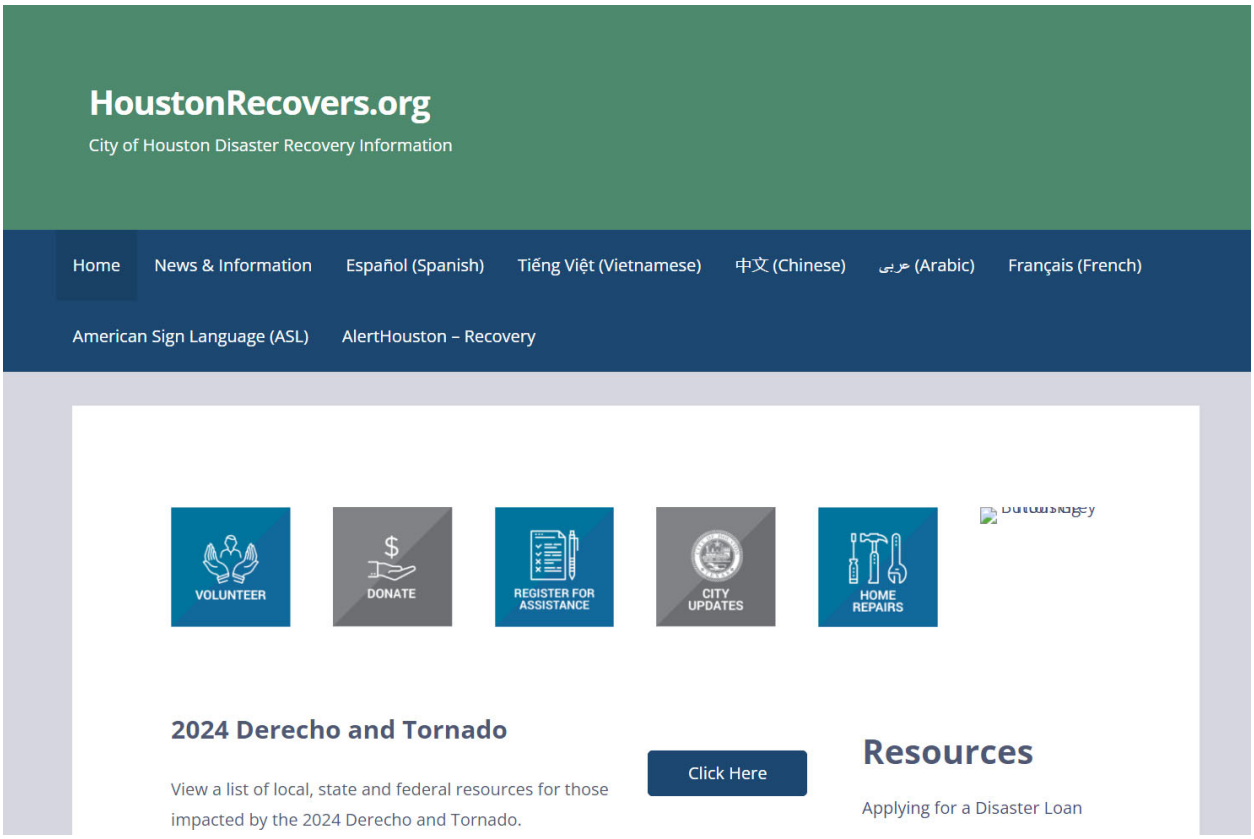


Figure 3- Houston Recovers Homepage

Open Finance

In April 2021, the City of Houston created the Open Finance initiative to provide more transparency about the City's finances. This initiative includes publishing relevant, accessible datasets about the City's budget, checkbook, and payroll. It also provides simple data visualizations to help the public explore the City's financial activities. Houstonians can benefit from data that helps measure policy efforts, increase government operational and process efficiency, provide deeper analytical insights, and increase citizen participation. Increased transparency through open data initiatives enhances the collaboration between residents and their elected leaders. These efforts empower residents to get involved and understand the City's financial activities.

Website Address: data.houstontx.gov/pages/openfinance

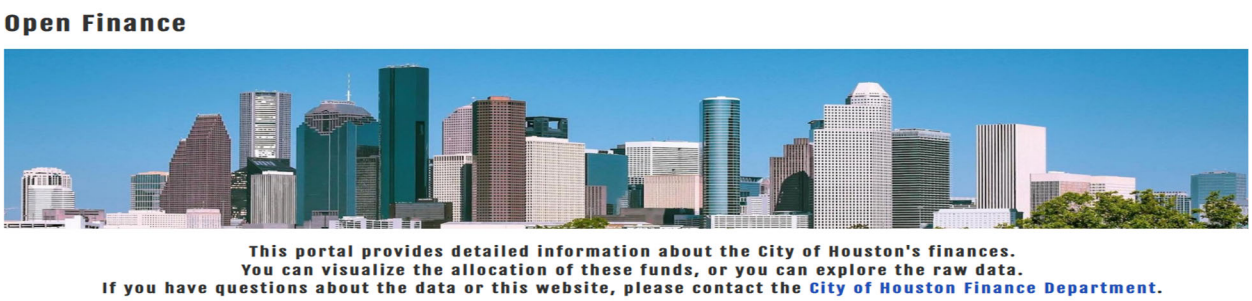


Figure 4 – Open Finance Homepage

Budget Bootcamp

Budget Bootcamp is a city website application that provides an interactive experience with city budget information through an easy-to-use dashboard. Budget Bootcamp was created during Houston's inaugural Houston Hackathon and was the first project officially launched. Budget Bootcamp provides citizens with an educational walk-through of the City's budget data – both for the most recently adopted budget, as well as all adopted budgets since Fiscal Year 2010. Check out this data visualization tool below to gain a better understanding of the City's finances.

Website Address: houstontx.gov/finance/budgetbootcamp.html

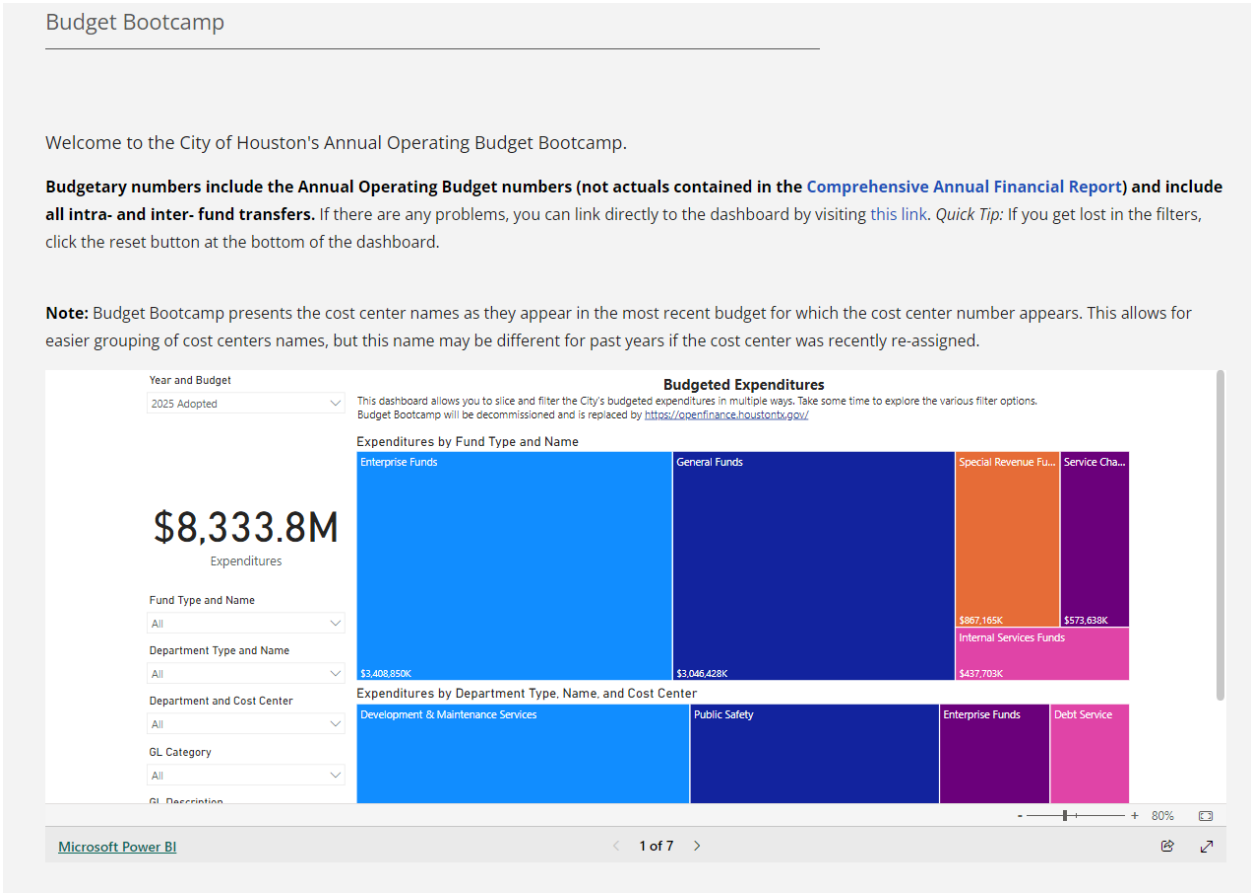


Figure 5 - Budget Bootcamp Homepage

Houston Airports Passenger Website

The Houston Airport System fly2houston.com is the go-to website for IAH and HOU passengers, as well as for friends and family transporting passengers to and from each airport. The website includes a flight search feature and TSA wait times; parking availability, rental vehicle rates and reservations; airport maps and lounge directory; security and international travel information; airline information and a list of non-stop destinations worldwide; a complete searchable guide to dining (with menus) and shopping; ground transportation; the airport art collection and Harmony in the Air live concert schedules; and a list of nearby hotels with airport shuttles. There is also a link to provide online feedback, as well as a newsroom for the media.

Website Address: fly2houston.com

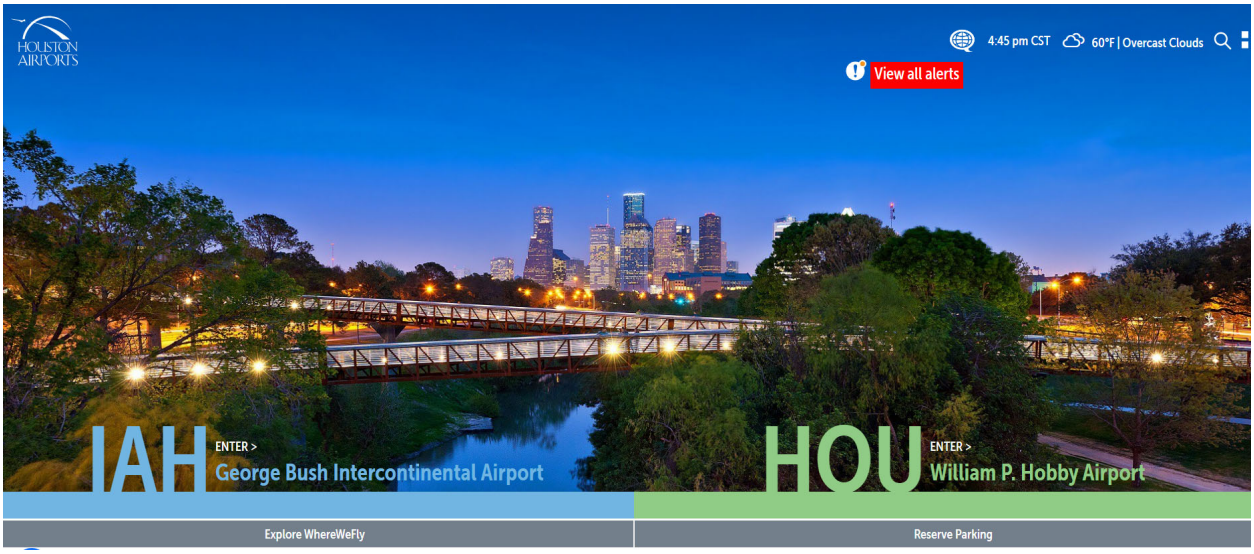


Figure 6 - Houston Airports Systems Main Page

IAH & HOU Interactive Maps

The Houston Airport System's IAH & HOU browser-based interactive maps (app download not required) provide turn-by-turn wayfinding, including walking time estimates, between any two points at the airport for passengers. Find your way from curb to gate and back with ease. Each website provides a convenient search tool for restaurants, cellphone charging stations, shop listing and many other activities.

IAH Website Address:

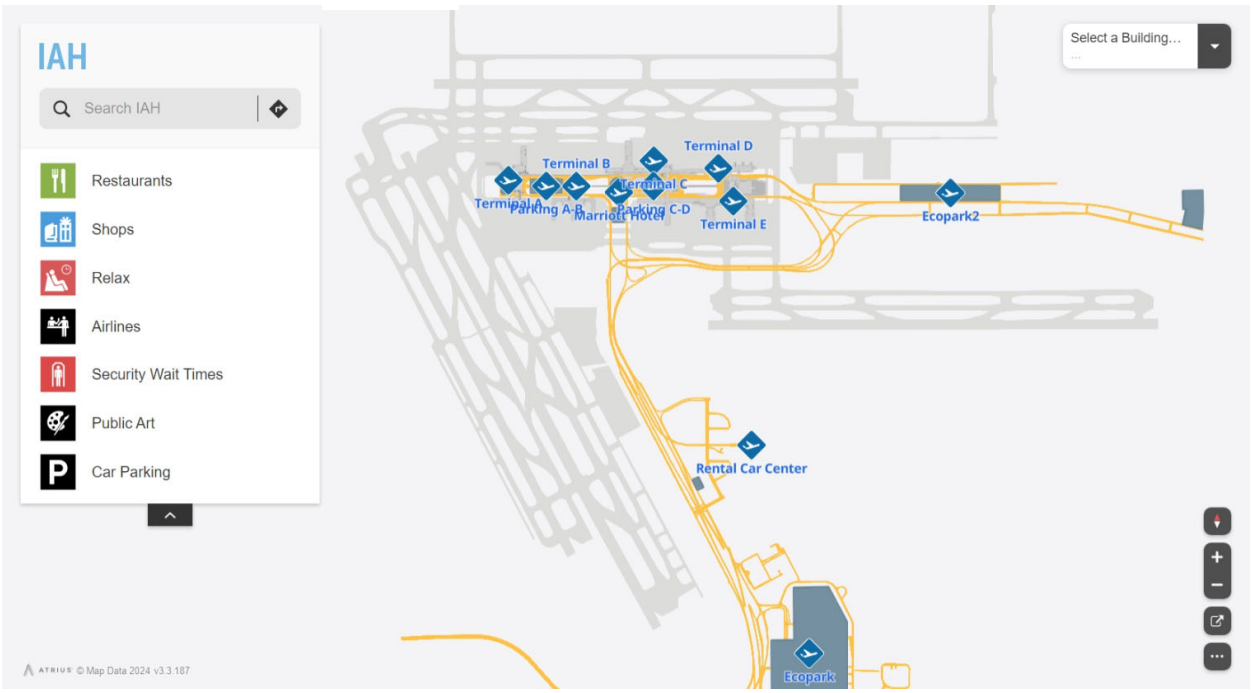


Figure 7 – Bush (IAH) Airport Interactive Map

HOU Website Address:

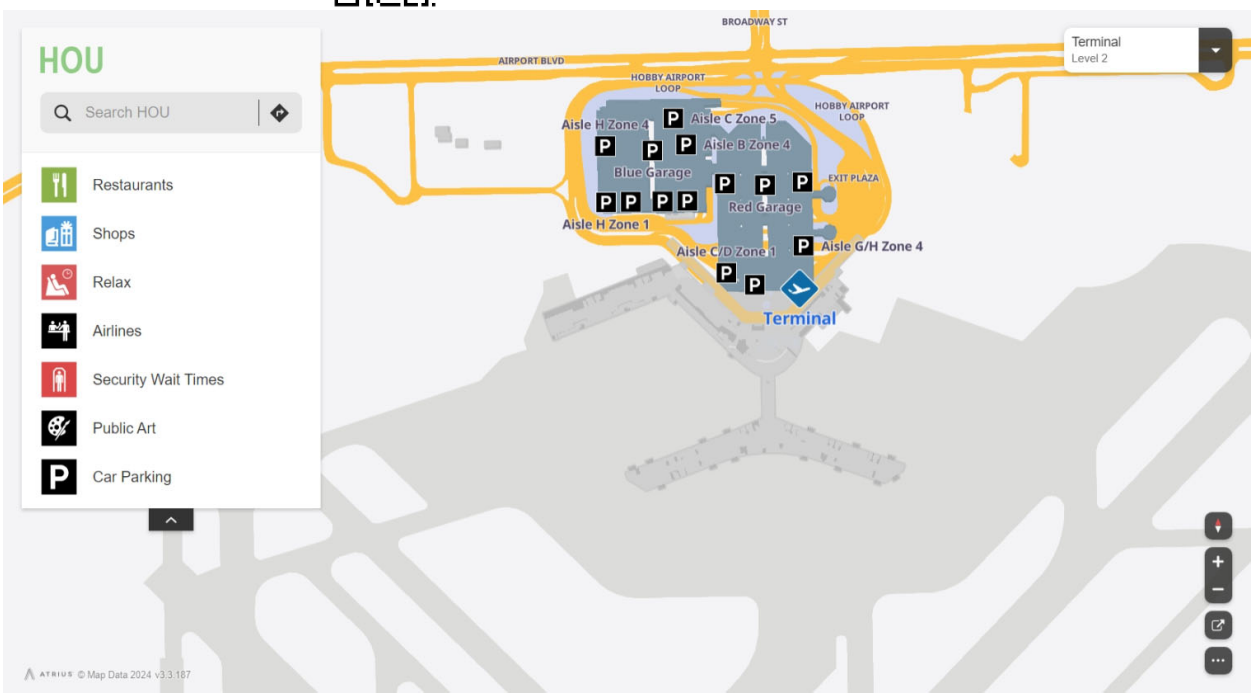


Figure 8 - Hobby (HOU) Airport Interactive Map

Helpful Mobile Applications

311 Help & Info

iOS Android

The Houston 311 app makes reporting issues easier than ever. The app uses GPS to identify your real-time location and allows you to add photos to your service request. Reports are automatically sent to the City's 311 system and routed to city departments for resolution.

Houston Public Library

iOS Android

The Houston Public Library catalog, access to your account, information about library locations, and more is now available through your mobile device. Wherever you go, you can now search for books, DVDs, audiobooks, and e-books, and place holds or renew items - all from your phone! You can also check out our latest reading recommendations, ask one of our professional librarians a question, find out about upcoming library events or classes, or follow our blog and tweets.

Park Houston

iOS Android

The City of Houston has partnered with Parkmobile to provide a convenient way to pay for parking using your mobile phone. The ParkHouston app takes the stress out of parking. No more searching for coins. With ParkHouston, starting your parking session takes just a few seconds. You can extend your session on-the-go (where permitted), as well as save "Favorite" locations. Users can also opt-in to receive notifications prior to their parking session expiring.

Rollout!

iOS Android

Rollout! is a simple app to make figuring out the City of Houston's trash pickup easy! Forget about peeking outside to see if your neighbor's bins are out. With Rollout! we use your phone to determine your location and instantly let you view your schedule for your neighborhood. You can set up reminders to notify you when to take out your trash and to make sure you don't miss recycling day again.

Helpful Webpages

Houston-HDHHS

The Houston Department of Health and Human Services webpage is very easy to use and is a fast way to access information on services offered by the City of Houston Health Department for all Houstonians. For more information visit houstontx.gov/health.

Ready Houston

The Ready Houston webpage is the Houston Region's official emergency preparedness webpage, brought to you by the City of Houston Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security. Its goal is to provide an all-inclusive, singular mobile resource for Houston-area residents to access accurate and timely information before and in the event of an emergency. The webpage includes options to receive local weather and public health alerts, plan and keep track of your family and emergency contacts, build a kit, track your supplies, and receive notices when it's time to restock, stay informed with direct access to emergency radio, news, and weather updates, gain more information and watch videos on disaster preparedness, and use the emergency alert to notify your emergency contacts of your location. For more information, visit readyhoustontx.gov.

COHHR

The City of Houston's Human Resources webpage provides access to a guidebook for municipal employees, as well as links to employee news and information on training, policy documentation and other useful resources. Real-time COH employee notifications are also featured on this webpage. For more information visit houstontx.gov/hr.