
Houston Bike Plan

Public Engagement FAQs



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Houston Bike Plan is a guide for the City of Houston to achieve the vision of making Houston a safer, more accessible gold-level bike-friendly city within 10 years. The vision is supported by 4 goals: Improved Safety, Increased Ridership, Increased Access, and Improved Development and Maintenance of Facilities. The Plan provides recommendations on the general location and types of bicycle facilities, projects, policies and programs that support the goals and vision. The Plan includes maps showing how the bike network might develop over time. More information is available at houstonbikeplan.org.

What was the public engagement plan?

How was the Houston community engaged during the Houston Bike Plan?

The Plan employed two major phases of community engagement. The first phase conducted during spring and summer of 2015 focused on setting goals and a vision. The second phase was conducted from February 19 to April 11, 2016 and solicited comment on the publicly-released draft plan. Below is a summary of statistics relating to public engagement performed by City staff, the Plan's consultant team, and project partners such as BikeHouston, the Houston Parks Board, H-GAC, and the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

- 100+ community meetings and events attended, including 12 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) meetings in 2016, as well as Sunday Streets, Critical Mass, and community events;
- Presentations to the Super Neighborhood Alliance and inclusion of Super Neighborhood Alliance representative on the Bicycle Advisory Committee;
- When requested, the project team and/or partners attended local civic meetings and events, including meetings with civic associations and individual Super Neighborhoods;
- The project team contacted all civic clubs for which we had contact information;
- Focus groups on neighborhood bike planning in the Gulfton/Sharpstown area, and on women and biking;
- Facebook posts, Twitter, an online webinar, and 3 CitizensNet email blasts;
- Coverage in the Houston Chronicle, online, television media, and in City Council newsletters;
- Project team members were interviewed several times on radio, including KUHF;
- 75,000+ informational postcards, brochures, and flyers distributed (bilingual in English and Spanish) multiple times to all City libraries, multi-service centers, community centers, universities, bike shops, businesses, METRO, and at meetings and events;
- 1,800+ people reached by BikeHouston's supplemental outreach to under-represented communities at over 30 locations, including transit centers, schools, and universities;
- 5,000+ people and organizations signed up for email updates (13 email updates were sent);
- 2,895 online surveys completed in 2015;
- 1,240 online surveys completed in 2016;
- 968 comments received on written maps and by email;
- 632 comments received on interactive online maps;
- 312 comment cards received;
- 299 letters of support received.

Public engagement for the Plan exceeded the scope of work approved by City Council and feedback on the draft Plan was overwhelmingly supportive. Council Member David Robinson provided funding to assist with Plan outreach.

Who served on the Bicycle Advisory Committee?

The Houston Bike Plan reflects the interests expressed by the Houston community through a process facilitated by the Planning and Development Department. The Plan was funded by the City of Houston, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), BikeHouston, the Houston Parks Board, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). City Council approved the scope of work and awarded a contract to a team of transportation planning consultants led by Traffic Engineers Inc. The study was guided by a Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) appointed by Mayor Parker that included the following individuals.

AARP, Isabel Longoria

Alief Independent School District, Sue Page

BikeHouston, Mary Blitzer, John Long, Michael Payne*

Bike Barn, Neil Bremner

City of Houston – Health Department, Stephen Williams,
Carra Moroni

City of Houston – Mayor’s Office of Sustainability, Lisa Lin

City of Houston – Parks & Recreation Department, Rachael
Die, Yolanda Ford, Yuhayna McCoy*

City of Houston – Planning & Development Dept., Patrick
Walsh, P.E.

City of Houston – Police Department, Captain Larry
Satterwhite

City of Houston – Public Works & Engineering Department,
Jeff Weatherford, P.E.

Critical Mass, Fab Ordonez

Greater Houston Partnership, Joey Sanchez

Houston B-cycle, Carter Stern, Will Rub*

Houston Coalition for Complete Streets, Jay Blazek Crossley

Houston – Galveston Area Council, Chelsea St. Louis, Jesse
Thornsen, Andrew Pompei

Houston Independent School District, Leo Bobadilla,

Houston Parks Board, Beth White, Chip Place, Roksan
Okan-Vick*

Management District Energy Corridor, Clark Martinson

Management District Houston Downtown, Lonnie
Hoogeboom

METRO, Yuhayna McCoy, Luis Guajardo, Jason Morgan*

Neighborhood Centers, Matt Starr

Neighborhood Representative, Cedric Douglas

Super Neighborhood Alliance, Steve Parker

TxDOT – Houston District, Ana Ramirez Huerta

Urban Land Institute (ULI), Ann Taylor*

*Representative no longer with organization

What was included in the release of the draft Plan for public comment in February 2016?

The public comment draft of the Bike Plan included drafts of all chapters of the Bike Plan including drafts of all maps for download or online viewing in PDF format. It also included an online interactive map with additional information, including Super Neighborhood and Council District boundaries, populations and employment densities, transit facilities, etc. The interactive map has been viewed over 15,000 times. An Interactive Plan Walkthrough Guide was also developed to help readers review the components of the plan.

The public comment period ran from February 19 through April 11, 2016 and also included an online survey and online webinar. The Bike Plan project team and partners actively engaged the public including attending CIP meetings in all Council Districts, as well as attendance at many other public events and significant outreach through study partners, online, and social media.

Where there any changes made to the draft Houston Bike Plan as a result of public comment?

Yes. Following the close of the public comment period on the draft Plan in April 2016, the project team considered each and every comment submitted. Many of the comments were incorporated into the final document. The final draft network maps added facilities in areas like south Houston along Sims Bayou where new connections to that growing trail were provided.

In all, the study team made approximately 60 changes and added 133 miles of additional facilities to the initial draft map based on the comments. These changes increased ½ mile access to the long range bicycle network by about 87,000 people. The final draft Plan also included greater detail on access to the bayou network and on neighborhood-level bicycle planning.