

North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP) Health Impact Assessment

H-GAC Ped Bike Subcommittee Meeting

JULY 19, 2018

Bakeyah Nelson - Air Alliance Houston (AAH)

Adele Houghton – Biositu, LLC

Air Alliance Houston

Air Alliance Houston believes everyone has a right to breathe clean air and where you live, work, learn, and play should not determine your health.

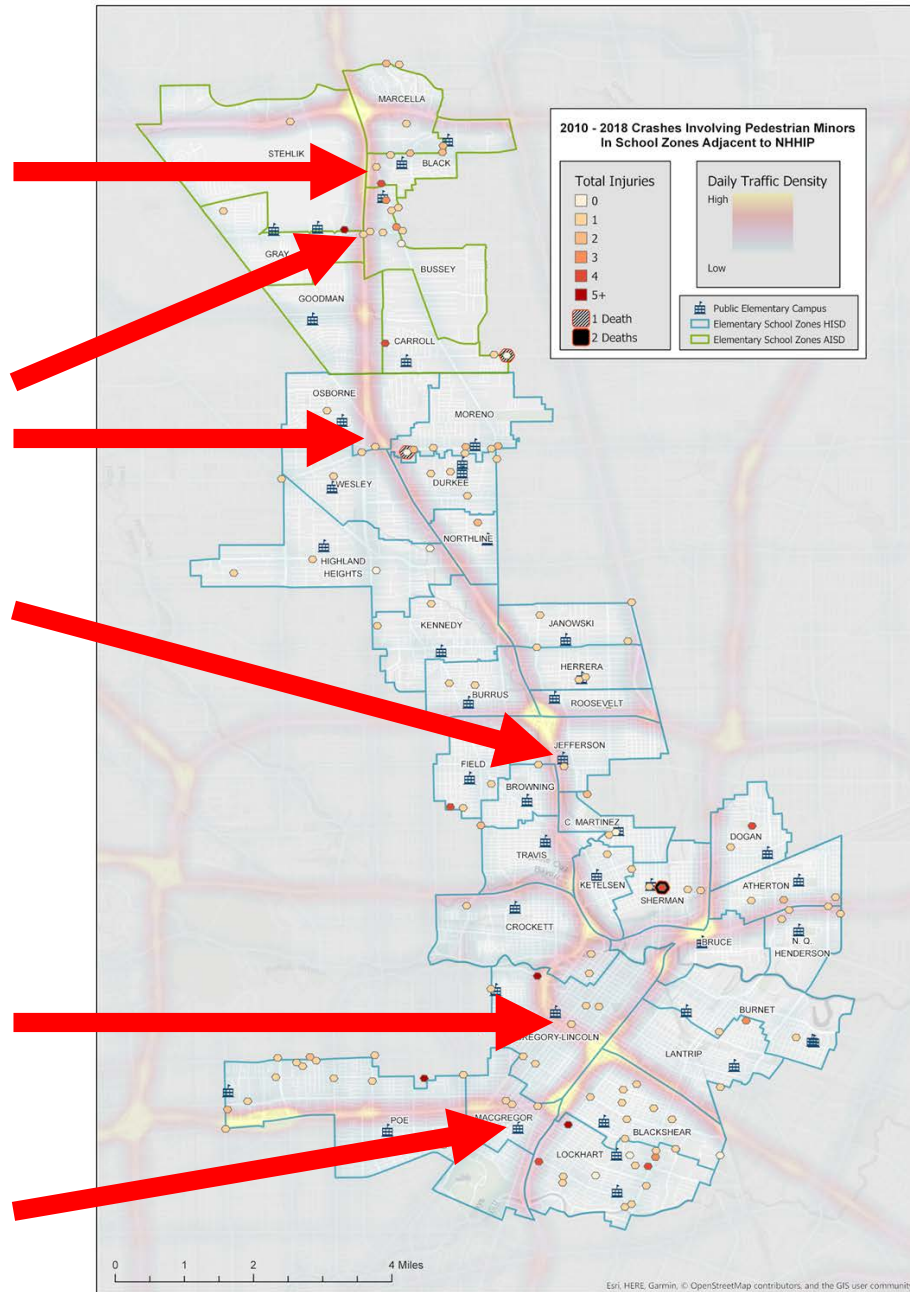
What I will talk about today

- Why we are concerned about NHHIP
- NHHIP Health Impact Assessment (HIA)
- Developing assessment for impacts on pedestrians and cyclists

Why we are concerned about NHHIP

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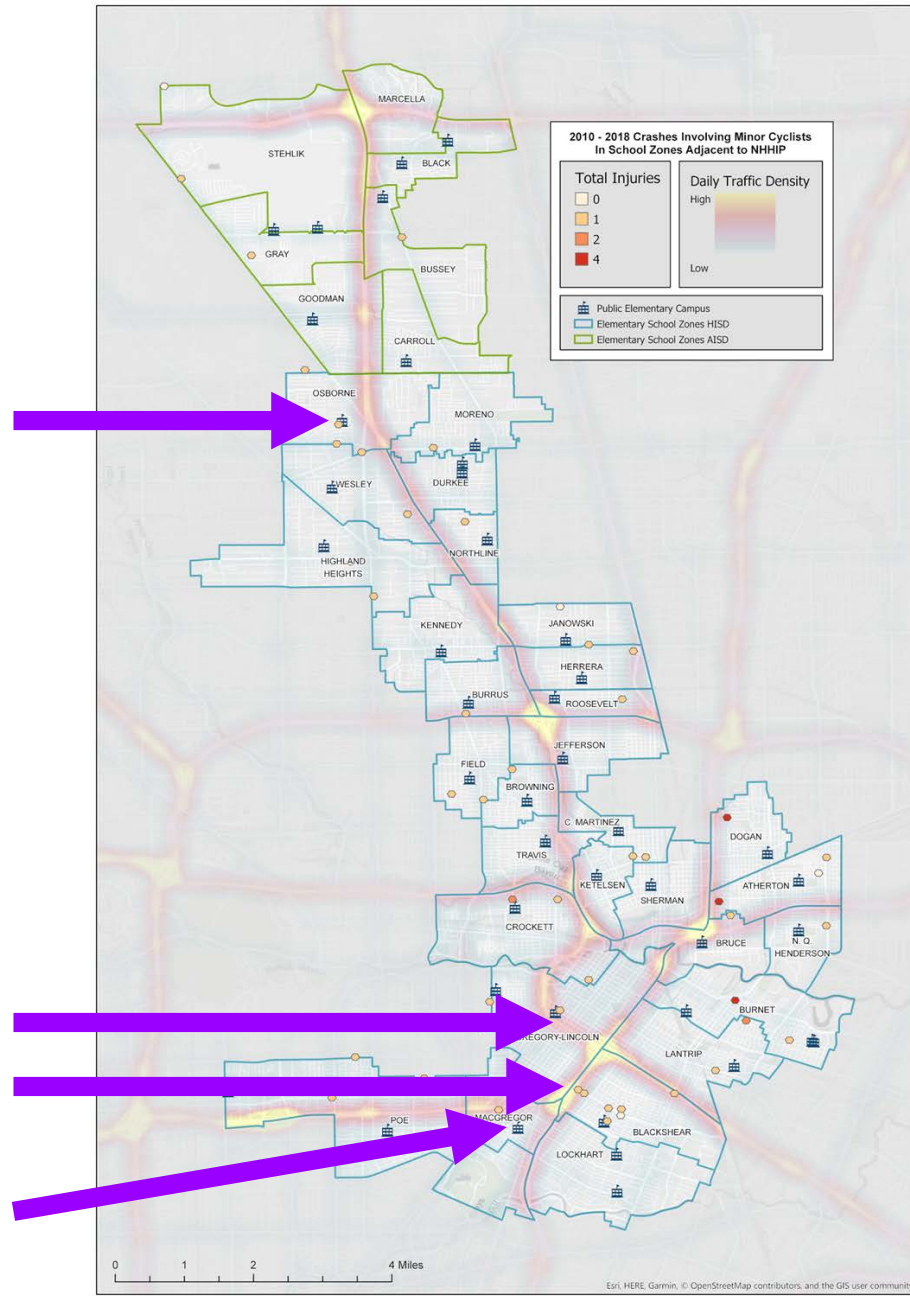
Minor pedestrian traffic-related injuries and deaths along NHHIP



Several school campuses close to NHHIP have experienced pedestrian and/or cycling traffic-related crashes.

The DEIS does not include any proposed mitigations for these schools

Minor cycling traffic-related injuries and deaths along NHHIP



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Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

Grant period: March 2018 - March 2019

Awarded to AAH by Urban Institute, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

What is a health impact assessment?

HIA is an objective methodology designed to establish the ways in which a proposed policy or project could benefit and/or harm community health.

HIA Process

1. **Screening:**
Define project goals.
2. **Scoping:**
Set parameters and methodology.
3. **Assessment:**
Identify potential co-benefits and co-harms to population health.
4. **Recommendations**
5. **Report**
6. **Evaluation**

Screening

Setting Goals

Primary Goal:

Develop quantitative information about the project's potential co-benefits and co-harms to health and mitigations for inclusion in the Final EIS.

Long-term Goal:

Model project for inclusion of HIAs in future transportation projects in metro-Houston area.

Ancillary Goal:

Raise public awareness of the public health implications of freeways.

Scoping

Setting Parameters

Assessing two types of health effects

1. Freeway expansion
2. Mitigation strategies

Focus on one vulnerable group

School-aged children

Addressing all impact categories in coalition DEIS letter

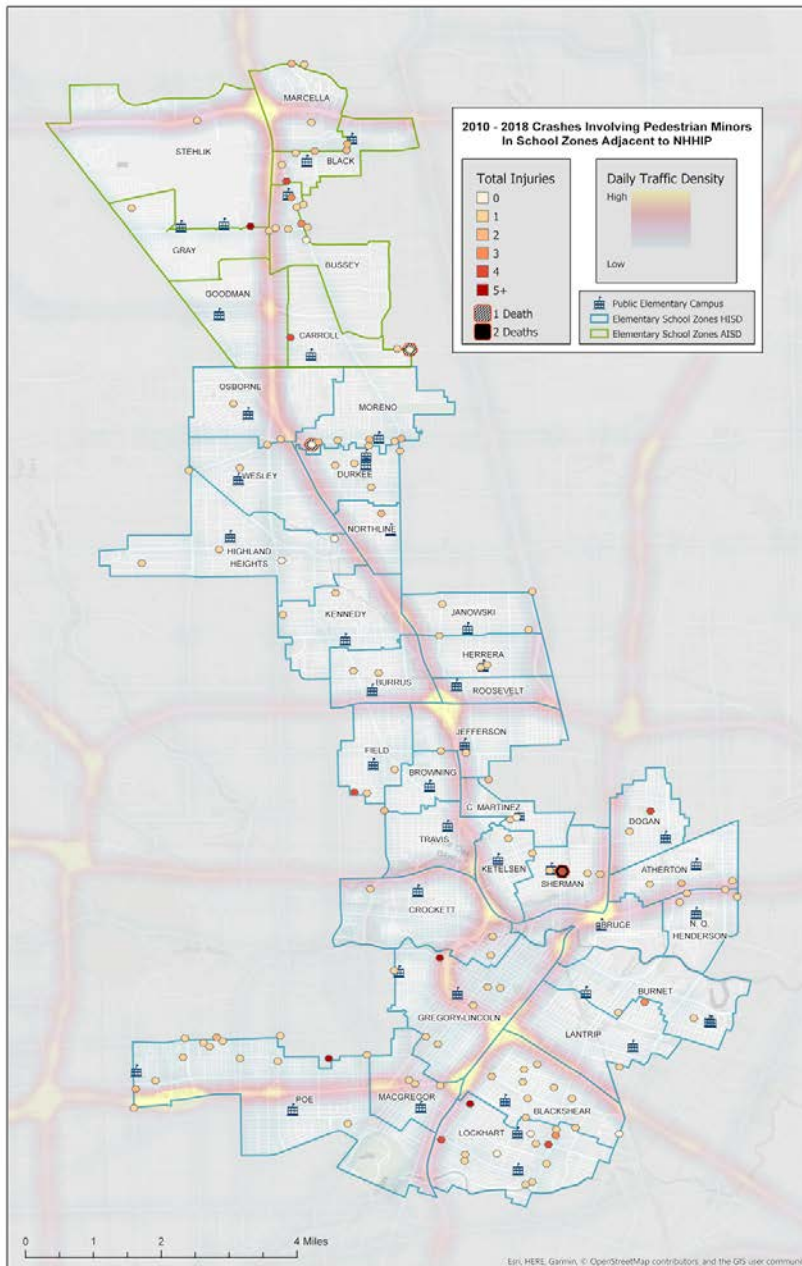
Air quality, Mobility, Low income communities, Economic development, Parks and green space, Noise, Views

Developing assessment for impacts on pedestrians and cyclists

Mobility

Research questions to ID high risk schools

1. Location $\leq 400\text{m}$ (walking) or $1,600\text{m}$ (cycling) of NHHIP project?
2. School zone intersects NHHIP?
3. High sum of vehicle miles traveled (VMT)?
4. High school-aged traffic-related injury/death rate?
5. Existing connection with the community?



We are seeking help fleshing out the mobility impact area

Research Questions

- Priority health outcomes?
- Appropriate catchment area around schools?
- Environmental exposures?
- Opportunities to walk and/or cycle to school?

Next Steps

Finish gathering data

July - August 2018

Stakeholder meetings

August/September 2018

Mobile air monitoring

August 2018 / January 2019

Perform assessment

August – December 2018

Peer reviews

December 2018 – January 2019

Issue report

February 2019