



# Executive Summary

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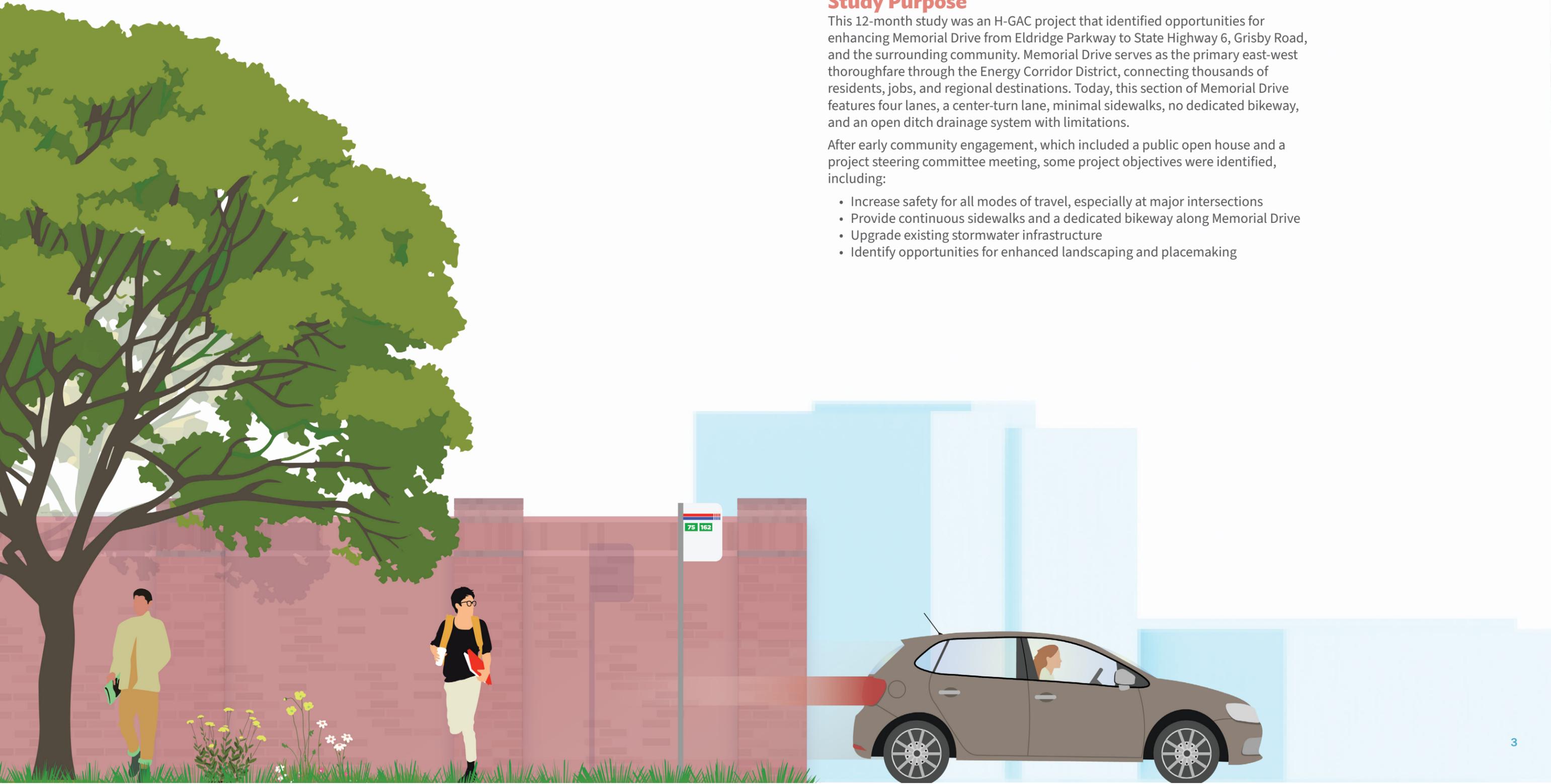
The Memorial Drive Bicycle and Pedestrian Study provides the Energy Corridor District with a clear roadmap to enhance safety, connectivity, and resiliency across the community. By pairing near-term quick wins with long-term strategies, the District can work with partners and funding agencies to phase improvements over time. These improvements include transforming Memorial Drive, Grisby Road, and the surrounding network into a connected system that supports mobility, livability, and economic vitality for residents, workers, and visitors alike.

## Study Purpose

This 12-month study was an H-GAC project that identified opportunities for enhancing Memorial Drive from Eldridge Parkway to State Highway 6, Grisby Road, and the surrounding community. Memorial Drive serves as the primary east-west thoroughfare through the Energy Corridor District, connecting thousands of residents, jobs, and regional destinations. Today, this section of Memorial Drive features four lanes, a center-turn lane, minimal sidewalks, no dedicated bikeway, and an open ditch drainage system with limitations.

After early community engagement, which included a public open house and a project steering committee meeting, some project objectives were identified, including:

- Increase safety for all modes of travel, especially at major intersections
- Provide continuous sidewalks and a dedicated bikeway along Memorial Drive
- Upgrade existing stormwater infrastructure
- Identify opportunities for enhanced landscaping and placemaking



## Memorial Drive: Alternatives Considered

It will be necessary to reconstruct Memorial Drive to provide more robust mobility enhancements and considerable stormwater upgrades. Two primary approaches were considered during the opportunities analysis:

**Alternative 1:** Reconstruct Memorial Drive with two travel lanes in each direction, with left-turn lanes at intersections, a 10-foot median mid-block, a 10-foot shared-use path on the north side of the street, and a six-foot sidewalk on the south side.

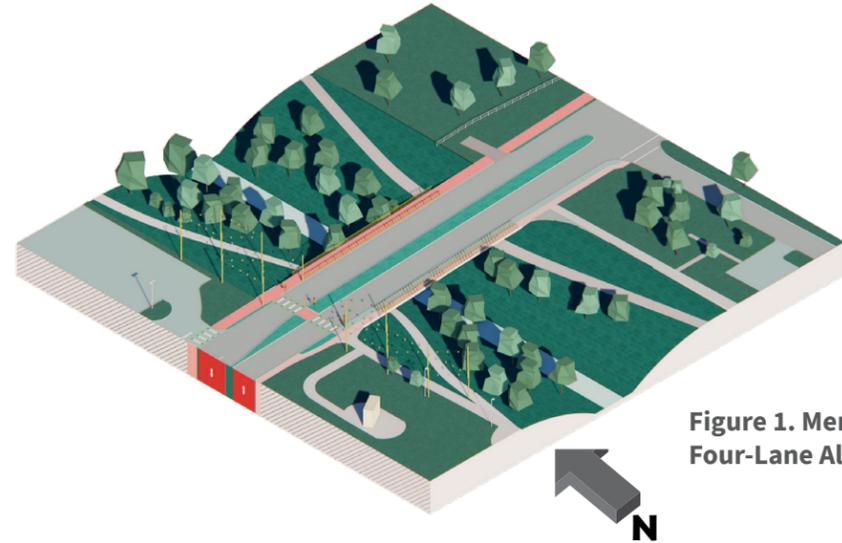


Figure 1. Memorial Drive Four-Lane Alternative

**Alternative 2:** Reconstruct Memorial Drive with one travel lane in each direction plus left-turn lanes at intersections. By reducing the number of vehicular lanes, it would be possible to provide a wide (approximately 30 feet wide) landscaped median featuring a shared-use path. Both sides of the street could also feature a six-foot sidewalk.

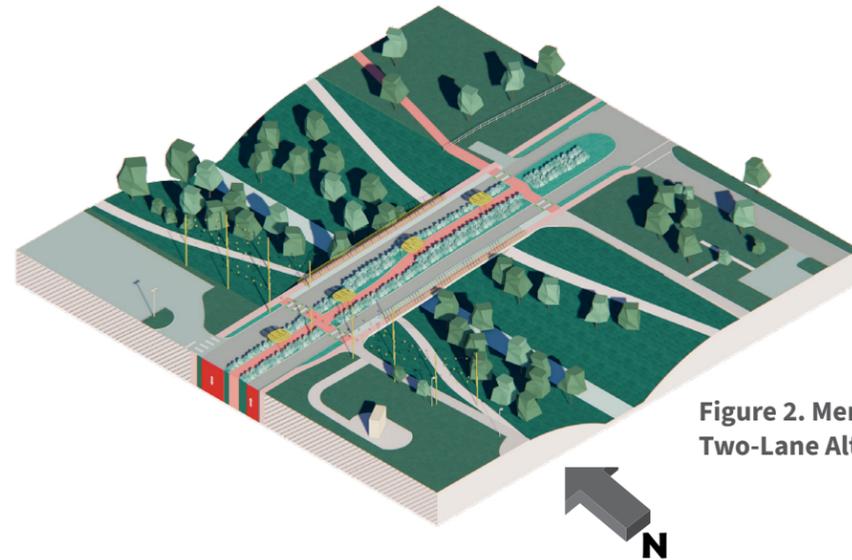


Figure 2. Memorial Drive Two-Lane Alternative

Both approaches were presented to the public at an open house and to the project steering committee. Participants expressed concerns about the reduction in the number of lanes and its potential impact on vehicular capacity and emergency response. People expressed enthusiasm about how both options included continuous sidewalks and a shared-use path with access to Terry Hershey Park and trails.

Ultimately, the four-lane cross-section received more support and was identified as the preferred and recommended alternative. Aspects from the two-lane concept, including a landscaped median and a confluence of trails in the vicinity of Terry Hersey Park, were incorporated into the refined, final recommendation for the four-lane cross-section.

## Memorial Drive: Recommended Alternative

In addition to the multimodal safety improvements along Memorial Drive, roadway reconstruction would provide notable upgrades to stormwater infrastructure, including a reinforced-concrete pipe that would lead to reduced ponding during most storm events.

The greatest opportunity for placemaking enhancements along Memorial Drive is near Terry Hershey Park, where existing park trails cross the corridor. A signature pedestrian and bicycle bridge along Memorial Drive is recommended on the north side of the street and would create an opportunity for Energy Corridor District branding and placemaking. The project could incorporate signature lighting, landscaping, and safety improvements at the confluence of the existing park trail and the new Memorial Drive shared-use path.

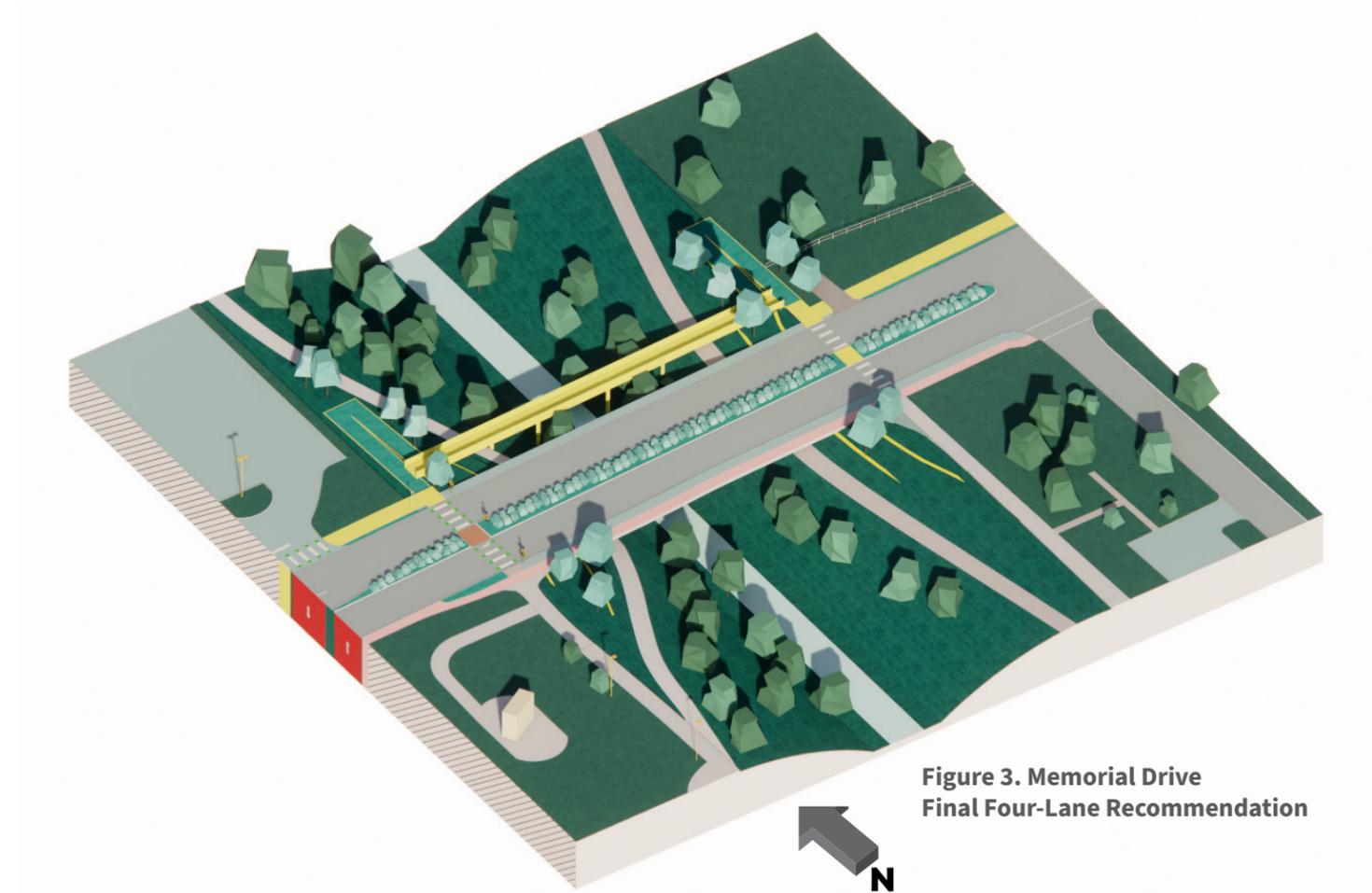


Figure 3. Memorial Drive Final Four-Lane Recommendation

## Grisby Road Recommendations

Grisby Road enhancements primarily focus on the Grisby Square area. Reconstructing the street between Addicks-Howell Road and State Highway 6 presents an opportunity to formalize on-street parking, provide continuous sidewalks, increase district placemaking and landscaping, and improve stormwater infrastructure. East of Addicks-Howell, the existing eight-foot sidewalk can be expanded in the future to match the width of the proposed 10-foot shared-use paths throughout the study area.

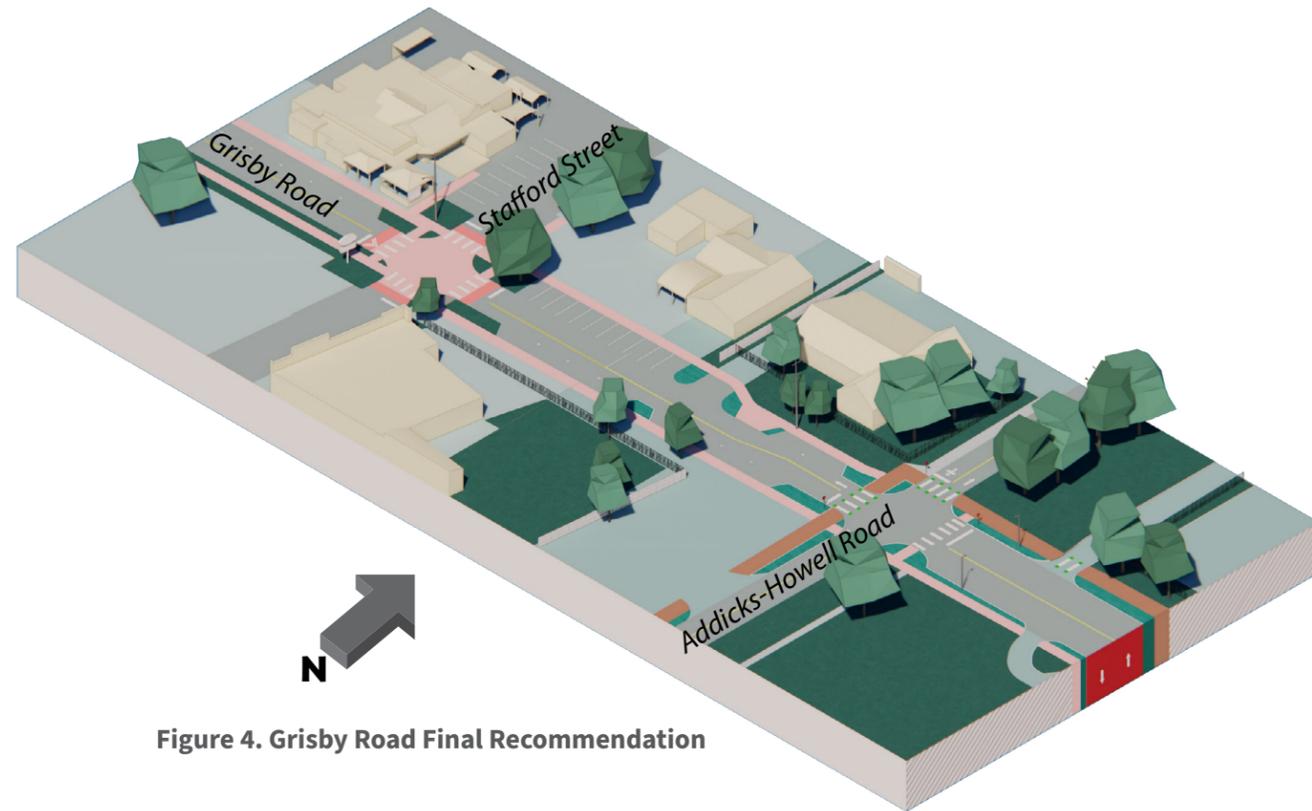


Figure 4. Grisby Road Final Recommendation

Overall mobility improvements for the entire study area are shown on the map on Figure 7, which showcase the Memorial Drive and Grisby Road reconstruction recommendations illustrated above.

To achieve the vision outlined in this H-GAC study, the Energy Corridor District will seek partnerships with key stakeholders, including the City of Houston, Harris County, TxDOT, METRO, and others, to fund and implement improvements throughout the study area and reconstruct Memorial Drive.

## Engagement Overview

Throughout the study, the project team engaged with the community to provide updates on study progress and to gather feedback on the approach. A steering committee comprised of representatives from agencies across the region was established. The committee had three meetings, each focused on a study phase: Existing Conditions, Opportunities Analysis, and Recommendations and Implementation. At the beginning of the project, a stakeholder focus group was conducted to hear from representatives from local organizations and businesses within the study area. The project team held two open house style meetings for members of the public to participate. The two open houses were held at the Energy Corridor District; the first focused on Existing Conditions and Opportunities, and the second on Opportunities Analysis. In addition to in-person engagement, an online survey allowed members of the public to provide input on the alternatives considered. The ongoing engagement provided opportunities for members of the community to have awareness and a platform for input throughout the study that ultimately helped shape the project recommendations.



Figure 5. Public Open House



Figure 6. Steering Committee Meeting

## Conclusion and Next Steps

To achieve the vision outlined in this H-GAC study, the Energy Corridor District will seek partnerships with key stakeholders, including the City of Houston, Harris County, TxDOT, METRO, and others, to fund and implement improvements throughout the study area and reconstruct Memorial Drive. The Implementation Considerations included in this study provide the Energy Corridor District with potential next steps to move the project forward. Improvements will likely need to begin with lower-cost approaches, like pavement marking enhancements that can be accomplished during an upcoming roadway overlay. Larger infrastructure projects will rely on grants and funding partners to carry out this project vision to provide safer and better connected mobility opportunities for Memorial Drive and the surrounding community.

## Summary of Study-wide Recommendations

- 1 Improve Eldridge Parkway crossing conditions to increase access to Memorial Drive Improvements
- 2 Create a confluence of shared-use paths at the entrance of Terry Hershey Park
- 3 Improve intersection safety and Memorial Drive crossings at Westlake Park Boulevard
- 4 Evaluate new traffic signal at Memorial Drive and Barkers Landing Road
- 5 Upgrade traffic signal and pedestrian crossings at Memorial Drive and Crossroads Drive
- 6 Improve Memorial Drive crossings and access to Wolfe Elementary
- 7 Coordinate with TxDOT to improve Memorial and SH-6 intersection, and explore access to George Bush Park
- 8 Improve Grisby Road and Addicks-Howell Road intersection crossings
- 9 Create walkable intersection with enhanced placemaking within Grisby Square at Stafford Street
- 10 Coordinate Grisby Road at SH-6 intersection safety with TxDOT

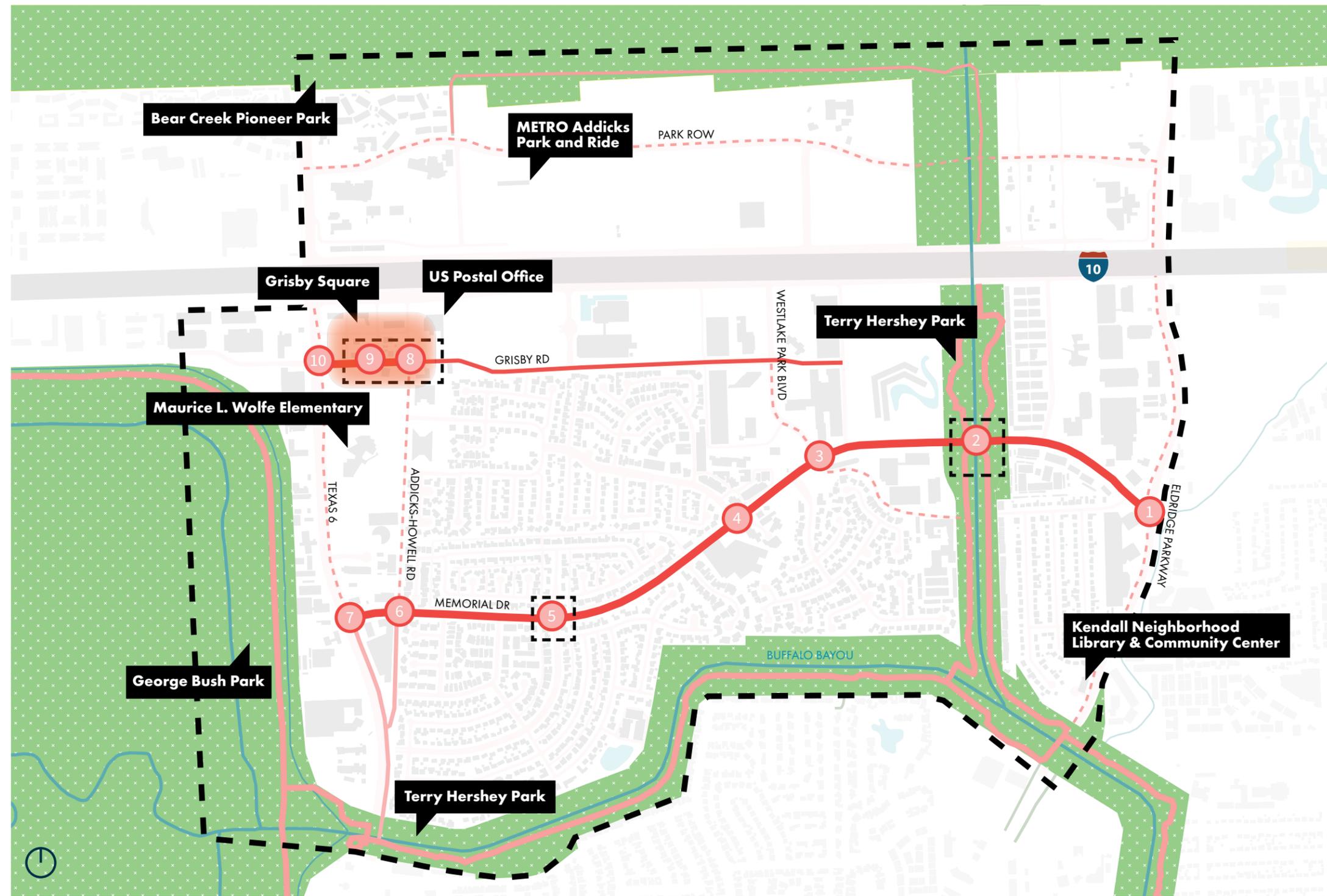


Figure 7. Map of Recommendations

### Key

- Primary Corridor
- - - Potential Future/Partnership Corridor
- ⊗ Intersection Improvement
- Axon Illustration Area
- Grisby Square

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