

Parking Considerations at a City Level: Houston, Texas

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Daily Choices

Where Am I Going?

- Home?
- Work?
- School?
- Buffalo Bayou?
- **Lunch?**



How Will I Get There?

- Walk?
- Bike?
- METRO?
- **Drive?**



How Will I Find the Way?

- I know it?
- **My phone?**

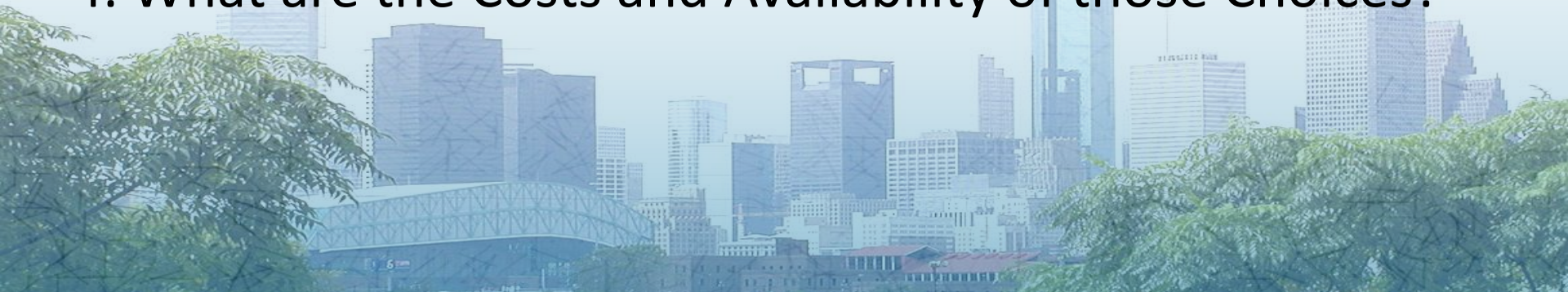


What Will I Do When I Arrive?

- Park
- Walk Inside
- Greet my Friend
- **Eat**

Planning For Those Choices

1. What's the Land Use?
2. What are the Other Land Uses Nearby?
3. What are the Travel Choices?
4. What are the Costs and Availability of those Choices?



Historically Building For Those Choices

1. What's the Land Use?
2. Build Parking



Houston's Result

Houston's Parking
= 69,000,000 Parking Spaces
= 445 Square Miles of Parking
= Land Area of San Antonio

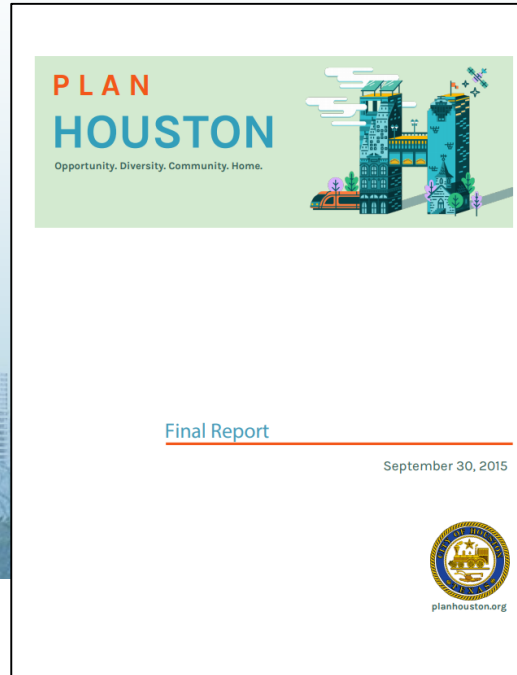
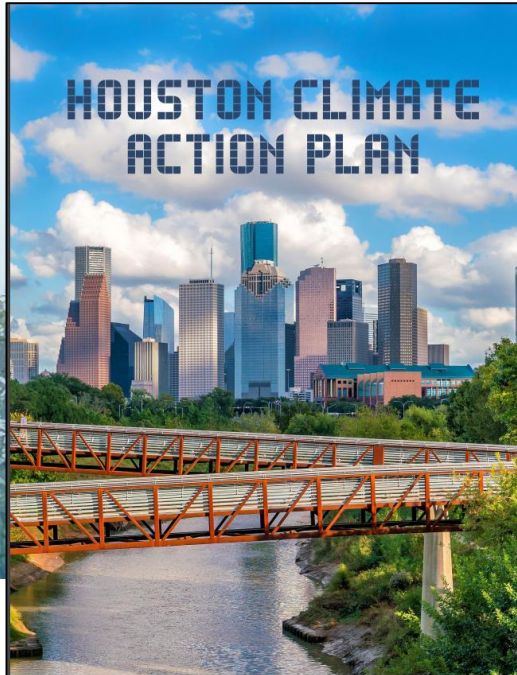
Source: The Atlantic, July 9, 2019



So what's the right amount of parking?

Trick Question! There is no right answer.

The right question is: What are the City's goals?



What's are Houston's goals?

➤ Plan Houston

- ✓ Equal access to opportunity and prosperity.
- ✓ An affordable multi-modal transportation network.

➤ Resilient Houston

- ✓ Build up, not out, to promote smart growth as Houston's population increases.
- ✓ Increase regional transportation choice.

➤ Houston Climate Action Plan

- ✓ Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita.
- ✓ Provide equitable and safe mobility choices.



Houston's Approach to Answering the Question

- **New Approaches to Development Code**

- ❖ Elimination of parking minimums in Downtown, Midtown, EaDO
- ❖ Walkable Places/TOD Ordinances
- ❖ More Spaces Program
- ❖ Livable Places Initiative + review of Off-Street Parking Requirements
- ❖ City Goal: Multimodal Access

- **New Approaches to On-Street Parking**

- ❖ ParkHouston: Encourages curbspace turnover
- ❖ City Goal: Equal Access to Opportunity



Houston's Approach to Answering the Question

“This has been in many ways a paradigm shift, because we are literally changing how people move about in the city of Houston.”

-Mayor Sylvester Turner

