

## Transcript of Public Comments Recorded at 2013-2016 TIP Call for Projects Public Meetings March 19, 2013

#### **Noon Meeting:**

1. Bill Hopkins, a resident of Westchester for 45 years – Expressed his support for the Memorial Drive reconstruction project. The project is moving along well with CIP approval, preliminary engineering finished last year. All we need is funding. The benefits improve transportation mobility, increase traffic capacity and efficiency of current streets. Increases safety with addition of sidewalks and open ditches. (also submitted a letter with these comments)

#### 1. William B. Hopkins:

Project - Memorial Drive Reconstruction COH District G

Status – In COH CIP, for several years, preliminary engineering completed; completion date estimated in 2016.

Benefits – 1) Improved transportation mobility (traffic flow, increased traffic capacity)

2) Increase safety with an option of sidewalk closure of open ditches.

Qualifications – Resident of Westchester 45 years; past board member of HOA; 10 years sn/g chair of Drainage Corps.

#### March 18, 2013

Transportation Public Information Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777 Houston, Texas 77227-2777

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project for the following reasons. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

This reconstruction is vital to transportation in West Houston, the travelers in this area and to the residents of this area. I have been one of those residents for the past 45 years and have experienced the tremendous growth in West Houston, especially during the past 10+ years. Various fixes by the City of Houston were studied some nine years ago when traffic began being a major issue. Most of these have been tabled searching for a permanent fix. The current reconstruction plan will be the most beneficial to the entire Wes Houston area and to this local area.

Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, two of the fastest growing parts of the Houston region. It also connects neighborhoods to each other, those activity centers, schools and shops. It is an essential road both for our community and the region. Memorial Drive is an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel to and from downtown resulting in greater than usual traffic jams. The intersections in the project provide access to and from the Katy Freeway, most notably during rush hour.

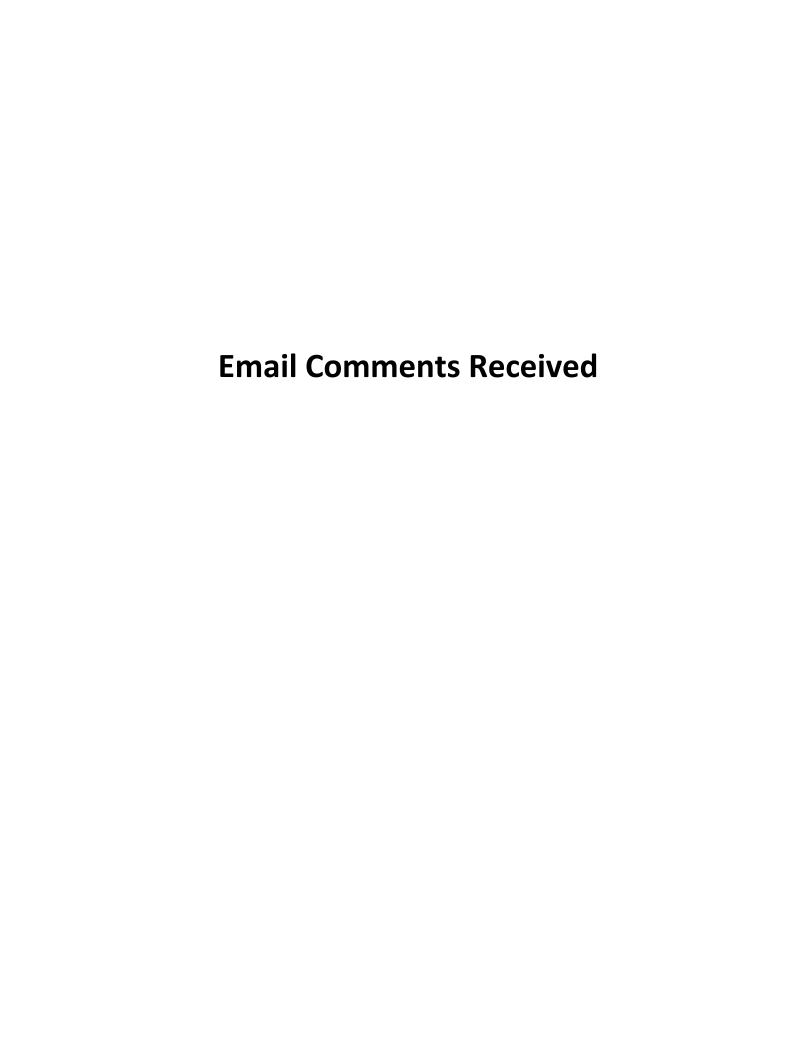
Of major value will be the addition of turn lane medians in the middle of Memorial thus allowing left turns without impending traffic flow. Today, traffic during morning and evening rush hours causes long delays at intersections. It is my understanding that additional turn lanes at the intersections of Kirkwood, Dairy Ashford and Eldridge will provide noticeable reductions in wait times at these major intersections. This is very important now and will become more important with all of the new office and high density residential development planned for the area.

In addition to the medians, the proposed addition of sidewalks will make it easier to walk along and cross Memorial Drive to access shops and schools. The medians should also reduce accidents caused by left turns onto Memorial Drive. There are many families in the area that do not allow new teen drivers to turn left onto Memorial Drive at locations without traffic signals because of the high accident risk.

Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Sincerely,

William B. Hopkins Marge T. Hopkins 14722 Quail Grove Lane Houston, Texas 77079



#### **City of Houston Memorial Drive Reconstruction Project**

I understand that the City of Houston PWE Department has submitted the Memorial Drive project for federal funding through the Houston-Galveston Area Council. In view of the fact that H-GAC prioritizes regional projects for federal funding based on the benefits of the project, I believe it is important that the public shows strong support of the project. As the Chair for the TIRZ 17 Board of Directors I am acutely aware of the issues related to mobility and drainage in the area of Houston heading west and particularly the area of this proposed project. As I understand this project, the said section of Memorial Drive will provide for much needed relief in the flow of increased traffic and to some extent mitigate drainage issues present in the infrastructure as it exists today. As the City of Houston experiences increased development it is important that the infrastructure be maintained and upgraded to meet the demands development creates. Please accept these comments as support for the rebuild of Memorial Drive from Kirkwood-Eldridge.

#### Ann Givens

I am writing in support of the proposed Memorial Drive Capital Improvement Plan, which would rebuild Memorial Drive from Kirkwood to Eldridge. Please approve and fund this project. The affected stretch of Memorial Drive is extremely busy and very outdated. It is the primary surface artery between Beltway 8 and Highway 6, traffic flow there is not good, and the roadway conditions is bad in several areas. The commercial areas in this part of West Houston are experiencing tremendous growth—office construction sites are everywhere. While those of us living in the neighborhoods north and south of Memorial are pleased that our section of the city's popularity as a business destination continues to grow, we are gravely concerned about the traffic impact once these projects become occupied. The rebuilding of Memorial is critical to support the coming increase in traffic.

#### Stephen M. Moore

Wilchester Owners Committee, the HOA serving Wilchester owners, wants you to know that it fully supports the City's plans to reconstruct Memorial Drive west of Kirkwood. While this planned reconstruction is just west of Wilchester, our residents use this corridor regularly and the reconstruction would aid in moving traffic through Wilchester to the west more efficiently and safely which would have direct benefits to Wilchester owners. Memorial Drive provides direct access to many schools, restaurants and retail and commercial establishments in the area. We understand reconstruction will provide

- continuous, wide sidewalks
- roadway buffers
- logical ingress/egress access points

that will make driving along and entering onto Memorial from local establishments safer and easier. The proposed addition of right and left turn lanes at the major intersections will provide huge improvements for through traffic without adding lanes on this roadway that bisects single family home neighborhoods.

#### David A. Barcus

I am a home owner in Ashford Forest, north of Buffalo Bayou. I strongly support the Memorial Drive Project. The renovations are sorely needed.

#### Debra Harris

The subject project is highly needed. Traffic has increased considerably last few years. I moved to Rancho Bauer Dr in 2005 and have noticed that traffic for the last 2 to 3 years has increased considerably. Additionally, drivers specifically not from the area are driving very aggressively.

Memorial in the subject section is sinking on the edges and potholes appear often. Making left turns from Memorial is now quite a task at times with vehicles breaking at the last second behind you. It is even more difficult to merge into Memorial from Rancho Bauer. The school zone by Clear Spring is often violated by irresponsible drivers speeding past 20mph and in cases past the road speed limit of 35mph. Please give the highest priority to this project. I'm available to provide more testimony should you want to understand the issues we face with Memorial.

#### Ricardo Tapia

As a long time resident of Memorial Acres (513 Rancho Bauer) and using the stretch of Memorial Drive to be improved, I totally support the planned improvements. It's way over due. Hans Knickrehm

I support the widening of Memorial Drive project from Eldridge to Kirkwood. This project is needed for safely as we'll as traffic congestion. I look forward to seeing this project go into effect.

#### Lori Jackson

The West Houston Association strongly supports for federal funding the proposed priority rebuilding of Memorial Drive from Kirkwood to Eldridge proposed by the City of Houston.

- This project will greatly enhance this critical mobility project to improve traffic flow to and from major activity centers, enhance access to adjoining properties and improve traffic and pedestrian safety for neighborhoods.
- It is a long needed improvement as the adjacent residential and commercial community has
  completely outgrown the original rural design of the facility. Memorial, as a major arterial
  feed to the Energy Corridor, serves as only one of two east-west major thoroughfares
  between Interstate 10 and Westheimer and as such completely fails during morning and
  afternoon peak hour traffic.

The West Houston Association has a 34-year history of planning for and supporting improvements in infrastructure and public policies that help accommodate the significant population and employment growth of Greater West Houston. Our membership works for a better living and working environment for the 1.5 million residents and 500,000 employees in Greater West Houston. WHA members are property owners, major employers and related interests who advocate for improved mobility, better infrastructure and a sustainable quality of living environment for the region.

#### Roger Hord, West Houston Association

I am writing to encourage support for the proposed reconstruction project for Memorial Drive from Kirkwood to Eldridge. This residential and commercial area as an integral part of the Energy Corridor has done much to uphold the status and revenue of west Houston. This area has continued to maintain home values and to support the general economy with strong oil industry projections and centralization in this area. Please continue to uphold the infrastructure and beauty of this area for the benefit of all of Houston.

#### Kelly Higgins

We have lived in this Memorial Drive area for 36 years. We consider this project to be a waste of city money. There is no problem with traffic flow. Also, there are not a lot of pedestrians. This is not an area where there are many destinations for pedestrians. If the City of Houston has plenty of money to spend on improving roadways, then let's repave both Wilcrest and Dairy

Ashford instead of putting down more bad patches. I have heard neighbors complain repeatedly about the very poor condition of those two roads. Repaving would be a wise use of city funds and would be much appreciated by residents of this area. We will be quite disappointed in city leadership if the Memorial Drive project proceeds since it is completely unnecessary.

Ron and Linda Durant

Please do all you can to improve Memorial Drive from Kirkwood to Highway 6. We realize consideration is only being given from Kirkwood to Eldridge, but traffic is extremely heavy all the way to Highway 6. We have lived in our home 40 years. Traffic is now so bad we avoid, if at all possible, driving between 7-9 AM, 11 AM -1:30 PM, and 4-6 PM. With all the office buildings under construction and/or planned, traffic will only become much worse. When that happens, our houses will decrease in value. Do not let that happen, but make our area safer and easier to navigate. It is hoped construction plans can be expedited and once started completed quickly. *George and Margaret Byers* 

I am writing to you to show my support for the proposed widening of Memorial Drive in West Houston between the Kirkwood intersection heading West to the Eldridge intersection. As you are hopefully aware, the Energy Corridor along I-10 in West Houston is one of the "hottest" commercial real estate markets in the United States today! Multinational Oil Companies such as Shell Oil, Conoco and BP employ thousands in their HQ level campuses in this area. All (3) are expanding and adding workers at this time. Memorial Drive is the ONLY East/West arterial running parallel to I-10 in this area. Traffic on Memorial Drive is getting more congested by the day! For quality of life purposes as well as to allow the oil companies to not move their expansions to less congested areas, it is imperative that the City of Houston provide the needed funds to allow for the widening of Memorial Drive from Kirkwood to Eldridge. David J. Littwitz

Memorial Drive Acres, Section 1 HOA is in favor of the Memorial Drive Project, between Kirkwood and Eldridge. We believe many residents and businesses will benefit in terms of safety, traffic flow, and aesthetics. The main route out of our neighborhood is on Rancho Bauer. Drivers, making a left turn onto Memorial at certain times of the day, find it difficult and sometimes dangerous. We believe medians and additional turning lanes will make this road safer and easier to travel. We also have many school age children who live in MDA. Some will walk or ride bikes to Meadow Wood or Spring Forest schools. The proposed sidewalk design, being further away from the road, appears to be safer. Our HOA fully supports this project. We think it is a worthy investment in our infrastructure.

Memorial Drive Acres. Section 1 HOA

I am very much in favor of this reconstruction project and want to voice my support. Clay M. Roth

A re-build of Memorial Drive between Kirkwood and Eldridge is certainly overdue. However, this stretch of Memorial Drive desperately needs more than just turn lanes at major intersections. There needs to be a continuous center left-turn lane along this entire stretch of Memorial. Because this portion of Memorial is so commercial, cars commonly attempt to turn left into the various strip centers and businesses and back up traffic all the time. Inevitably, a car or cars in the backed-up left lane will swerve into the right lane to get around the tie-up, thus creating higher odds for accidents and disruptions in the right lane. This problem exists going in both directions. As part of the proposed Memorial Drive re-build project, I would urge you to include a center left-turn lane along the entire stretch, not just at major intersections.

Anne Tyler

We are Nottingham Forest residents are in favor of this improvement. The roads are in major need of safety and traffic flow improvements. We look forward to making our community better for all.

#### Jennifer Kallus

We are currently in dire need of turning lanes into both the subdivisions and places of business; also, a light may be necessary at Memorial and Kickerillo. The limited access streets into Nottingham Forest Subdivision make this a very busy and dangerous entrance. Widening to two lanes, with accompanying turning lanes, should reduce congestion and traffic backup at the key entrances. I support this project which is long overdue.

#### Sam Peppiatt

The Board of Directors of Fleetwood West, a subdivision in west Houston off Memorial between Eldridge and Hwy 6, met and voted to support the reconstruction of Memorial Drive between Kirkwood and Eldridge. Memorial Drive is an essential east-west artery for our community as well as for commerce in our region. The growth in the area is causing increasing loads on our streets and greater delays in travelling the area. The plans for sidewalks and medians will add to the safety of travel also. We ask that you fund the project in the 2013-2014 TIP for the reasons stated above.

#### Keith Reed

I support the improvement project! I just moved to this area a couple months ago. It is a night mare trying to get out of my neighborhood without a median! It is dangerous too and I am surprised there aren't more accidents because of it. People are trying to pull out everywhere-the gas station, McDonalds, Kroger, while I am trying to pull out on the other side of the road. It is also dangerous for pedestrians too- crossing 4 lanes of traffic without a median in the middle! My kids ride their bike to Stratford high school and the light at the intersection of Tully and Memorial needs improvement too. Wider sidewalks and trees in the median is a great idea! The area between Kirkwood and Dairy Ashford needs more trees, especially between the middle school and Dairy Ashford. It is a "concrete jungle" in this area! However, I do not support more traffic lights. Memorial has enough lights as it is. Please proceed with the project. It will be a mess for us for a while, but it will be worth it in the end!

#### Valerie Ragland

We are currently in dire need of turning lanes into both the subdivisions and places of business; also, a light may be necessary at Memorial and Kickerillo. The limited access streets into Nottingham Forest Subdivision make this a very busy and dangerous entrance. Widening to two lanes, with accompanying turning lanes, should reduce congestion and traffic backup at the key entrances. I support this project which is long overdue.

#### Sam Peppiatt

This email is sent in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. We own and operate a pool service company in the west memorial area, and the project stands to benefit many businesses and residences in and around the area. There is more development planned for the immediate future, and the time for road/traffic improvements is now. Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the increase in economic activity along the corridor.

#### David Howard

We are Nottingham Forest residents are in favor of this improvement. The roads are in major need of safety and traffic flow improvements. We look forward to making our community better for all.

#### Jennifer Kallus

Thank you so much for considering a left-turn signal on Memorial Drive and Bateswood. It is extremely difficult to turn left onto Bateswood when dropping my son to school in the morning and the same when I pick him up. It would be great if you could put the left turn signal. *Cheryl Goel* 

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP. Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, two of the fastest growing parts of the Houston region. It also connects neighborhoods to each other, those activity centers, schools and shops. It is an essential road both for our community and the region. Memorial Drive is an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel to downtown. The intersections in the project provide access to and from the Katy Freeway, most notably during rush hour. Today, traffic during morning and evening rush hours causes long delays at intersections. It is my understanding that additional turn lanes will provide noticeable reductions in wait times at Kirkwood, Dairy Ashford and Eldridge. This is very important now and will become more important with all of the new office and high density residential development planned for the area. In addition, the project will add sidewalks and medians which will make it easier to walk along and cross Memorial Drive to access shops and schools. The medians should also reduce accidents caused by left turns onto Memorial Drive. Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Ray and Kathie Marshall, Mary DeBauche, Diana Bates, David and Monica Howard, Natalie Horak, Tor Kragas, Martha Jorgensen, Richard Golden

Knowing that at this time the City is taking public comments, this email is to express a support for the request of a left-turn lane with left-turn arrows turning from Memorial onto Bateswood. We understand that this project is in the plans, but is not finalized yet. We have our kids attending Yorkshire Academy Elementary School and would be great to see a dedicated lane and left turn signal to improve the safety around our families and kids. *Maria Connolly* 

As a home and business owner in the area, I definitely support the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, two of the fastest growing parts of the Houston region. It also connects neighborhoods to each other, those activity centers, schools and shops. It is an essential road both for our community and the region. Memorial Drive is an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel to downtown. The intersections in the project provide access to and from the Katy Freeway, most notable during rush hour. Today, traffic during morning and evening rush hours causes long delays at intersections. It is my understanding that additional turn lanes will provide noticeable reductions in wait times at Kirkwood, Dairy Ashford and Eldridge. This is very important with all the new office and high density development planned for the area. In addition, the project will add sidewalks and medians which will make it easier to walk along and cross Memorial Drive to access shops and schools. The medians should also reduce accidents caused by left turns onto Memorial Drive. There are many families in the area that do not allow new teen drivers to turn left onto Memorial Drive at locations without traffic signals because of the high accident risk.

Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor. The above statements were explicit and to the point and I could not have said it better myself.

John (Tom) Marrow

I support the reconstruction of Memorial Drive between Kirkwood and Eldridge. I believe the addition of a center turn lane would expedite traffic and provide increased safety. I urge this project be funded immediately.

William R. Gwinn

Thank you for addressing the traffic congestion on Memorial between Eldridge and Kirkwood. I understand that you will be putting in center lanes. That is wonderful! Please make sure that you put in a left turn lane (heading east on Memorial) and a traffic light at Memorial turning onto Bateswood located just west of Kirkwood. I work at Yorkshire Academy which sits at that intersection. It is very difficult to make the left hand turn from Memorial onto Bateswood because the Memorial traffic does not want to stop, let alone slow down. I personally have seen several accidents and many near misses at that intersection in the 3 years I have worked at the school. It is also a trick trying to turn onto Memorial from Bateswood even when there is a green light because the Memorial traffic doesn't believe they have a red light and have to stop. A traffic light would definitely solve the problem. I do appreciate your consideration.

Diane Whitlow

We respectfully request the City of Houston place a left turn light when going west on Memorial at the Bateswood intersection. This is a school zone and creates a high level of danger to students/parents and faculty without the ability to make a left turn safely. Please consider adding this to the light.

Jerry Mosbacher

I fully support adding a left turn lane (east bound) on Memorial at Bateswood. It is a dangerous intersection with all the cars turning left to go to Yorkshire Academy.

#### Corey Alemand

I am very excited to hear about the plans to add a left turn arrow on Memorial onto Bateswood. It would be a safety implementation that is greatly needed. It is a very dangerous intersection to sit and try to gauge when to turn. People are constantly honking because they have to wait. If a turn arrow is implemented at this intersection, it would create less frustration in morning rush hour and keep citizens safe.

Letichel Blancett.

I definitely support the plan for Memorial between Kirkwood and Eldridge. It's so dangerous to try to make a left turn without the turn lane. Drivers waiting behind the car turning left tire of waiting and dart out to get around. Cars have gone into the ditches many times making dangerous to be on the sidewalk. I think the plan will benefit businesses, residents, and make our area more walkable and bikeable. I do think that it need not go farther west that Nottingham Oaks Trail. There are fewer businesses and side streets, and less traffic. *Judi Campbell* 

I travel this route each day, both east and west on Memorial. The traffic at that intersection is always problematic. I have seen numerous accidents there over the years, speeding to get through the light, and intersection tie-ups due to the crossroads of Yorkshire Academy and Kolache Shop adding many extra cars. A turn lane is most needed at the intersection. I have lived in this area for 25+ years, and this intersection has been a concern to me for a long time.

#### Lisa Williams

A turning lane and light is desperately needed at the intersection of Memorial Drive and Bateswood. It is near the 14120 Memorial Drive area. It is dangerous to try to turn left off of Memorial Drive, onto Bateswood. This is a busy area, because there is a school, a church and a large apartment complex. Many people use this intersection daily. *Melinda Nelson* 



March 26, 2013

#### H-GAC:

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

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In addition, the project will add sidewalks and medians which will make it easier to walk along and cross Memorial Drive to access shops and schools. The medians should also reduce accidents caused by left turns onto Memorial Drive. There are many families in the area that do not allow new teen drivers to turn left onto Memorial Drive at locations without traffic signals because of the high accident risk.

Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Sincerely,

Will Hrachovy

Nottingham

Houston, TX 77079

Will Answer

#### H-GAC:

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Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Sincerely,

Julie Rutledge Nottingham

Houston, TX 77079

Mr. Alan Clark Transportation Director Houston-Galveston Area Council 3555 Timmons Lane Houston, TX 77027

Dear Mr. Clark:

My wife and I strongly support reconstruction of Memorial Drive between Kirkwood and Eldrige as proposed by the City of Houston. We encourage the Transportation Policy Council to fund this project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

The children of Nottingham Forest live on South side of Memorial Drive and attend Meadowood Elementary, Yorkshire Academy, Spring Forest Middle School and Stratford High School all of which are on the North side of Memorial Drive. New sidewalks and medians will make access to the schools much safer. This could encourage parents to allow students to walk to school and ultimately reduce congestion in front of those schools along Memorial Drive each morning. Comparably, grocery stores and restaurants are on the North side of Memorial Drive from the Nottingham Forest neighborhood.

Also of interest is the proposed addition of turn lanes at the major intersections. It is our understanding that this will provide huge improvements for through traffic without adding lanes on this roadway that bisects single family home neighborhoods and school feeder patterns.

Please include the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Sincerely,

Tim and Nancy White 414 Kickerillo Ct.

Tio White

Nottingham Forest

Houston, Texas 77079

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#### Thornwood Fund Inc

11152 Westheimer #722 Houston, Texas 77042 board@tw1234.com

4/8/2013

Transportation Public Information Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777 Houston, TX 77227-2777

Dear Mr. Clark:

The Thornwood Fund Inc. (aka Thornwood HAO) strongly supports reconstruction of Memorial Drive between Kirkwood and Eldrige as proposed by the City of Houston. We encourage the Transportation Policy Council to fund this project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

This project is discussed each month at the Memorial Super Neighborhood meeting. As homeowners, we have worked closely with City officials to design a project that meets the community's needs as well as addresses the City's responsibility to manage traffic.

The children of Nottingham Forest attend Spring Branch Meadowood Elementary, Spring Forest Middle School and Stratford High School all of which are on the opposite side of Memorial Drive.

New sidewalks and medians will make access to the schools much safer. This could encourage parents to allow students to walk to school and ultimately reduce congestion in front of those schools along Memorial Drive each morning. Comparably, grocery stores and restaurants are on the opposite side of Memorial Drive from the Nottingham Forest neighborhood.

Also of interest is the proposed addition of turn lanes at the major intersections. It is our understanding that this will provide huge improvements for through traffic without adding lanes on this roadway that bisects single family home neighborhoods and school feeder patterns.

Please include the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Sincerely,

Thornwood Fund Inc Board of Directors

Susan Alleman 14507 River Forest Drive Houston, Texas 77079

Transportation Public Information Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777, Houston, TX 77227-2777

RE: Memorial Drive Reconstruction Project

This letter is written in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project under consideration for funding in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Memorial Drive is a regionally significant thoroughfare that extends from SH 6 to Downtown Houston. Located between IH 10 and Westheimer Road, it serves as an alternate route to IH 10. It also connects three of the fastest growing activity centers in Houston: the Energy Corridor, City Centre and Memorial City.

Numerous office buildings and apartment complexes are under construction or planned for construction along the corridor. Delays are currently experienced during peak hours at the intersections of Kirkwood Road, Dairy Ashford Road and Eldridge Parkway. The delays will increase as additional development occurs. Left-turn lanes at driveways and collector and local streets are not accommodated in the current four-lane undivided cross-section. The construction of a raised median and additional turn lanes at major intersections will improve the safety and reduce delays along the corridor.

Memorial Drive also provides critical local access between adjacent neighborhoods, located primarily on the south side, and schools and businesses, located primarily on the north side. The METRO bus route, 131 Memorial, also generates pedestrian traffic across Memorial Drive. The sidewalks and median included in the design of Memorial Drive will facilitate residents walking to the bus stop, grocery stores, restaurants and schools and will provide a safer environment for doing so.

Memorial Drive should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP to address regional and local transportation needs.

Sincerely,

Susan Alleman

Sm Halen



## WOODS ON MEMORIAL

Transportation Public Information Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777 Houston, TX. 77227-2777 April 4, 2013

APR 08 2013

#### Gentlemen:

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In addition, the project will add sidewalks and medians which will make it easier to walk along and cross Memorial Drive to access shops and schools. The medians should also reduce accidents caused by left turns onto Memorial Drive. There are many families in the area that do not allow new teen drivers to turn left onto Memorial at locations without traffic signals because of high accident risk.

Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economics along the corridor.

Sincerely,

Sue Rhoades, Secretary

Board of Directors
Woods on Memorial

Homeowners Association

H-GAC: Dear meraber of the ownerly

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Sincerely,

Setrey & Went S. Liville

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Haurton, TX 77079

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proceed on this project! Lety D. + Wm I Sixilly

## JIM & STEPHANIE RUSS 13523 Taylorcrest Road Houston, Texas 77079

March 27, 2013

H-GAC:

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Sincerely

Jim & Stephanie Russ

APR 0 2 2013

#### H-GAC:

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, two of the fastest growing parts of the Houston region. It also connects neighborhoods to each other, those activity centers, schools and shops. It is an essential road both for our community and the region. Memorial Drive is an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel to downtown. The intersections in the project provide access to and from the Katy Freeway, most notably during rush hour.

We have many residents in the Ethan's Glen community that work in the Energy Corridor. Today, traffic during morning and evening rush hours causes long delays at intersections. It is my understanding that additional turn lanes will provide noticeable reductions in wait times at Kirkwood, Dairy Ashford and Eldridge. This is very important now and will become more important with all of the new office and high density residential development planned for the area.

Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Selin

Treasurer / Board of Directors

Ethan's Glen Community Association

134 Litchfield Lane

Houston Texas 77024

#### H-GAC:

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, two of the fastest growing parts of the Houston region. It also connects neighborhoods to each other, those activity centers, schools and shops. It is an essential road both for our community and the region. Memorial Drive is an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel to downtown. The intersections in the project provide access to and from the Katy Freeway, most notably during rush hour.

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In addition, the project will add sidewalks and medians which will make it easier to walk along and cross Memorial Drive to access shops and schools. The medians should also reduce accidents caused by left turns onto Memorial Drive. There are many families in the area that do not allow new teen drivers to turn left onto Memorial Drive at locations without traffic signals because of the high accident risk.

Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Sincerely,

Robin Motley

President, Westchester Owners Committee

April 3, 2013

#### H-GAC:

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

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Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Sincerely,

Rick and Suzie Edrington

Area Resident

425 Benignus Rd.

Houston, TX 77024

## Pam & Kent Puckett 13818 Pínerock Lane Houston, Texas 77079

April 3, 2013

Mr. Alan Clark Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777 Houston, TX 77227-2777

Re: Funding for City of Houston Memorial Drive Reconstruction Project in 2013-2016 TIP.

We are writing to express our support for the above-referenced project. Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and the Memorial City area, two of the fastest growing parts of the Houston region. It also connects neighborhoods to: each other, those activity centers, schools and shops. It is an essential road both for our community and for the growing westside of town as it provides an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel to downtown. The intersections in the project provide access to and from the Katy Freeway, most notably during rush hour.

Today, traffic during morning and evening rush hours causes long delays at intersections. It is our understanding that additional turn lanes will provide noticeable reductions in wait times at Kirkwood, Dairy Ashford and Eldridge. These improvements are critical now and will become even more important with all of the new office and high density residential development planned for the area.

In addition, the project will add sidewalks and medians making it easier to walk along, and cross, Memorial Drive to access shops and schools. The medians will also reduce accidents caused by left turns onto Memorial Drive.

Recent years have seen increased congestion and traffic incidents along Memorial Drive. The proposed reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so that this congestion will not continue to worsen with the continual increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our opinions on the project. We trust that you will give them serious consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Pam Puckett

Kent Puckett



## WOODS ON MEMORIAL

Transportation Public Information Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777 Houston, TX. 77227-2777 April 4, 2013

#### Gentlemen:

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, two of the fastest growing parts of Houston region. It also connects neighborhoods to each other, those activity centers, schools and shops. It is an essential road both for our community and the region. Memorial Drive is an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel to downtown. The intersections in the project provide access to and from the Katy Freeway, most notably during rush hour.

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Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economics along the corridor.

Sincerely,

Paula Beth King Board of Directors

Woods on Memorial

Homeowners Association

Paulabeth King

Transportation Public Information Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777 Houston, TX 77227-2777

I, Paula Balcezak, strongly supports reconstruction of Memorial Drive between Kirkwood and Eldrige as proposed by the City of Houston. We encourage the Transportation Policy Council to fund this project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

The Memorial Super Neighborhood has worked closely with City officials to design a project that meets the community's needs as well as addresses the City's responsibility to manage traffic. I am very excited to see this project take place, it is long overdue.

My children attend Spring Forest Middle School and will soon be attending Stratford High School as well, all of which are on the opposite side of Memorial Drive. New sidewalks and medians will make access to the schools much safer. I would feel much better about my children walking to school with the wider sidewalks and bike lanes proposed in this project. Also there are a number of stores, shops and restaurants within walking distance of my home, however at this time I drive to them all. It would be so nice to be able to walk to these places. The new project would allow more residents to feel safer walking to many of the local establishments.

The traffic on this section of Memorial does get quite congested during the morning and afternoon commute time and with school start and dismissal times. Turn lanes are essential in keeping the traffic flowing. Currently, when trying to make a left turn one can tie up that lane of traffic for quite a while, which then causes ripple effects down the road. It is frustrating and dangerous. This stretch of Memorial needs updating to accommodate the rise in population and traffic flow.

Please include the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Sincerely,

Paula H. Balcezak

7HBoJuk-

Resident



# COUNCIL MEMBER OLIVER PENNINGTON DISTRICT G

March 6, 2013

Transportation Public Information Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777 Houston, TX 77227-2777

Re: Memorial Drive Reconstruction—2013-2016 TIP Call for Projects

#### Gentlemen:

Please consider this letter as the strongest possible public support for the Memorial Drive Reconstruction Project (from N. Eldridge Parkway to Kirkwood Road), submitted as part of the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Project Call for Projects. As you are no doubt aware, an apparent miscommunication between staff at the City of Houston and staff for H-GAC resulted in this project receiving a Benefit/Cost Score of 0, which resulted in this project being relegated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier ("Funding Recommendation Possible").

The project is likely to result in significant system-level vehicular delay reductions, emissions reductions, as well as increased mobility, safety and clean air in the area.

While the project does not plan to increase the number of lanes of Memorial Drive, improvements to the three main intersections' operations, such as added turn lanes and traffic signal coordination at Kirkwood @ Memorial, Dairy Ashford @ Memorial and Eldridge Parkway @ Memorial, as well as the addition of a median with left turn lanes will provide significant benefits to area residents and those who use this roadway for access to their jobs in the Energy Corridor Management District. The City's Public Works and Engineering Department believes that the major benefit to be obtained will occur at these three intersections during the peak periods. There is a huge benefit to be realized by shortening delays. There is also a huge benefit to be realized by reducing emissions, and improving the air quality in the area. There is also likely to be a reduction in the number of accidents that occur on this stretch of roadway, saving lives, money and property.

In addition, Memorial Drive is the only arterial thoroughfare that parallels I-10 from the far west side all the way into Downtown. HPD and the Houston Office of Homeland Security consider Memorial to be a viable evacuation route out of Downtown. Memorial is also heavily utilized by motorists whenever there is an incident on I-10 and even during more routine congestion.

There are also safety considerations that will be addressed by the modified roadway. There are a number of Spring Branch ISD schools that are located on this stretch of Memorial Drive, and others that are in the immediate vicinity. The pedestrian and bike-friendly changes that will come with this reconstruction project will provide a much safer route for children to walk or bike to school.

The schools in the area include:

- Meadow Wood Elementary School, 14230 Memorial Drive 77079
- Technology Training Center, 14330 Memorial Drive, 77079
- Spring Forest Middle School, 14240 Memorial Drive, 77079
- Nottingham Elementary School, 570 Nottingham Oaks, 77079
- Thornwood Elementary School, 14400 Fern, 77079
- Stratford Senior High School, 14555 Fern, 77079

This area is the fastest growing real estate submarket in the city. There are a number of large construction projects already underway in this area that will dramatically increase the traffic volumes within the next couple of years. Currently, the following projects are under construction:

- City Center IV (123,000 square feet)
- City Center III 100,000 sq. ft.)
- Nexen Energy (332,000 sq. ft.)
- Murphy Building (320,000 sq. ft.)
- Shell (670,000 sq. ft.)
- Energy Tower III (450,000 sq. ft.)

There are three more large office buildings planned for construction starting this fall:

- Mason Creek Office Center (135,000 sq. ft.)
- Westgate (660,000 sq. ft.)
- Energy Crossing II (240,000 sq. ft.)

Further, while they do not yet have a firm date for construction, there are several other projects that are likely to proceed shortly in this area:

- Energy Center III, IV & V (1,000,000 sq. ft.)
- 15375 Memorial (Skanska) (750,000 sq. ft.)
- Eldridge Oaks II (350,000 sq. ft)
- Greenhouse Office Park (250,000 sq. ft.)
- Woodbranch Park (350,000 sq. ft.)
- Piedmont REIT (300,000 sq. ft.)
- City Center V (123,000 sq. ft.)
- Town Center I (250,000 sq. ft.)

Together, these projects are expected to account for an additional 11,000 jobs in this immediate area. Additional capacity on Memorial Drive will thus become critical in the next few years.

In addition, there are approximately 1,000 apartment units either currently being constructed or to begin in 2013 in this immediate area, which will create additional congestion on this roadway.

We are submitting this letter strongly supporting this project for the reasons stated above and to give the citizens of this area an opportunity to comment on the Memorial Drive project design. Please include this project in the 2013-2016 TIP and give it the appropriate Benefit/Cost score.

tenningten

Sincerely,

Oliver Pennington

#### H-GAC:

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, two of the fastest growing parts of the Houston region. It also connects neighborhoods to each other, those activity centers, schools and shops. It is an essential road both for our community and the region. Memorial Drive is an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel to downtown. The intersections in the project provide access to and from the Katy Freeway, most notably during rush hour.

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In addition, the project will add sidewalks and medians which will make it easier to walk along and cross Memorial Drive to access shops and schools. The medians should also reduce accidents caused by left turns onto Memorial Drive. There are many families in the area that do not allow new teen drivers to turn left onto Memorial Drive at locations without traffic signals because of the high accident risk.

Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Sincerely,

Nick Gibbens

13907 Queensbury Lane

Houston, TX 77079

H-GAC,

I respectfully ask you to consider funding the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

We are residents of the Nottingham Forest neighborhood, and find Memorial Drive in this area a difficult road to get on and off of. Medians and designated turn lanes would make their commute safer and will also reduce the number of accidents that are caused by left turns on Memorial Drive.

In addition, the project will cut down on frustrating and often hazardous morning and evening rush hour delays due to increased traffic in the area.

The Memorial Drive reconstruction project should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP to make our commute safer and to reduce congestion in the area.

Regards,

Regards,
Klaren Martin
Jim and Karen Martin
14330 Heatherfield Drive
Houston, TX 77079

## LEE HERMAN 13811 KIMBERLEY LN. HOUSTON, TX. 77079

March 27, 2013

#### H-GAC:

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, two of the fastest growing parts of the Houston region. It also connects neighborhoods to each other, those activity centers, schools and shops. It is an essential road both for our community and the region. Memorial Drive is an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel to downtown. The intersections in the project provide access to and from the Katy Freeway, most notably during rush hour.

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Sincerely,

Lee E. Herman

Leef. Herman

March 26, 2013

#### H-GAC:

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, two of the fastest growing parts of the Houston region. It also connects neighborhoods to each other, those activity centers, schools and shops. It is an essential road both for our community and the region. Memorial Drive is an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel to downtown. The intersections in the project provide access to and from the Katy Freeway, most notably during rush hour.

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Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Sincerely, Lisa Herman Jum Herman 13811 Kimberley Lane

Houston, TX 77079

#### H-GAC:

These comments are submitted in opposition of the City of Houston Memorial Drive (between Kirkwood and Eldridge) reconstruction project, as well as many other "would be good to have" projects vs. absolutely necessary projects.

I live within a quarter of a mile of Kirkwood and Memorial Drive, one intersection included within the proposed scope of this project and frequently travel this stretch of road. Many of my neighbors will not be happy with my letter.

While the economic activity in the Energy Corridor and Memorial Drive areas have been, and will continue to be, increasing substantially, Memorial Drive is not in disrepair. The roads are in reasonable condition. Traffic congestion can be significant at certain times, but this is a price of growth and can be managed with patience by drivers. There are sidewalks in the area so foot traffic can currently avoid walking in the street.

My understanding is that supporters of the project are seeking a substantial portion of the funding for this project from federal funds. Our federal budget deficit is tremendously large, and we all need to take responsibility to help reduce our federal spending. Many may take the position that a certain dollar amount of federal funds have already been designated for this type of project, so it will have to be spent and it might as well be spent in my area or in a way that I will benefit from since my tax dollars are going into the federal treasury. This is one of the root causes of our budget problem. Sure it would be NICE to have improvements made to this road, but it is not anywhere close to necessary at this time.

My view is that H-GAC needs to do several very hard things.

- One, say no to the Memorial Drive project.
- Two, say no to many other "it would be nice" or "it would be good" or "it would be helpful" projects, and only look at saying yes to NECESSARY projects.
- Three, set a spending limit for the prioritization of these funds at 75% of the amount of earmarked federal funding and not authorize spending in excess of that amount. Please demonstrate leadership and loyalty to our nation by cutting our spending in this regard by 25%.

Everyone needs to be contributing to the spending cuts and we need to show people how federal spending can be significantly reduced. This will be very difficult because residents will exert pressure to get many different things to improve their lives and businesses will exert pressure so they can get additional contracts and profits. If our individual families had budget deficits, we would take the steps ourselves to try to bring them back into balance and would not rely on someone else far away to try to figure out or to tell us how to cut our spending. We would not think someone else's minor cuts on things that don't affect us directly will solve the problem. Everyone needs to contribute to the savings. We need to lead the way in saying "Even though there may be budgeted money set aside, we are not going to spend it" because much of the political process makes it otherwise difficult to REALLY reduce spending levels.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

8076964182



## WOODS ON MEMORIAL

Transportation Public Information Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777 Houston, TX. 77227-2777 April 4, 2013

### Gentlemen:

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, two of the fastest growing parts of Houston region. It also connects neighborhoods to each other, those activity centers, schools and shops. It is an essential road both for our community and the region. Memorial Drive is an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel to downtown. The intersections in the project provide access to and from the Katy Freeway, most notably during rush hour.

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In addition, the project will add sidewalks and medians which will make it easier to walk along and cross Memorial Drive to access shops and schools. The medians should also reduce accidents caused by left turns onto Memorial Drive. There are many families in the area that do not allow new teen drivers to turn left onto Memorial at locations without traffic signals because of high accident risk.

Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economics along the corridor.

Sincerely,

Kim Parker, President

Board of Directors

Woods on Memorial

Homeowners Association

#### H-GAC:

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

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Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

hamm Juarez & Messe Jua 14610 Cindywood DR. Houston, TX 17079

Shannon Tharez & Marco Tharez

### NOTTINGHAM FOREST CIVIC ASSOCIATION c/o RealManage Houston, LP 2000 S. Dairy Ashford, Suite 120

Houston, Texas 77077

April 5, 2013

Transportation Public Information Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777 Houston, Texas 77227-2777

RE: Funding the Memorial Drive Reconstruction from Eldridge Parkway and Kirkwood Road

(the "Project") in the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (the "TIP")

To Whom It May Concern:

The Nottingham Forest Civic Association, Inc. (the "Association") strongly supports the Project and funding the Project in the 2013-2016 TIP. Nottingham Forest is located south of Memorial Drive, north of Buffalo Bayou and east of Dairy Ashford. The Project will have a significant impact on the Association and its members because much of the Project will occur on portions of Memorial Drive forming Nottingham Forest's northern boundary.

Memorial Drive is an essential road for both Nottingham Forest and our region. Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, two of the fastest growing business centers in the Houston region. It also connects our area neighborhoods to one another, to major activity centers and to our area schools and shops. In addition, Memorial Drive serves as an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel between downtown Houston and our area, and other areas to the south and west of Nottingham Forest.

Today, rush hour traffic must endure long delays at intersections within the Project area. In addition, insufficient turn lanes within the Project area cause most of this traffic to travel almost exclusively in the right lane for fear of being stuck behind left-turn traffic. As a result, the Project will provide noticeable reductions in wait times at Kirkwood, Dairy Ashford and Eldridge, as well as improve the flow of traffic along Memorial between these major intersections. This improved traffic flow will only increase in importance because of all of the new office and high density residential development planned for the area.

The Project will also increase pedestrian/cyclist safety by providing continuous sidewalks, medians, a larger roadway buffer on either side of the right-of-way, and well-marked cross walks. In order to gain access from Nottingham Forest to our public schools, most area restaurants and shops, nearby grocery stores and many nearby offices, our residents must cross Memorial Drive. A short walk or bike ride to or from these destinations would be easy and safe, but for the danger of crossing Memorial as currently constructed.

Based on these factors, and others, the Association strongly supports the Project and the funding of the Project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Best regards,

Jonathan D. Polley

President

Nottingham Forest Civic Association, Inc.

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

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Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Sincerely,

John M. Longo. 13819 Taylorcrest RJ Houston, TX 77079

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Sincerely,

Joe Guidera

13907 Kimberley Ln

- Gal-

3/26/2013



# JIM MURPHY

# Member HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES District 133 • Harris County

April 2, 2013

Transportation Public Information Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777 Houston, TX 77227-2777

To Whom it May Concern:

The City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department has submitted an application for the Memorial Drive project for federal funding through the Houston-Galveston Area Council. As shown through active voices at multiple town halls, there is strong public support for the Memorial Drive project. This project would encompass one of the fastest growing real estate submarkets in the Houston region and is necessary for decreasing travel times and ensuring safety of the community.

I applaud the major increase in economic activity along the corridor and without this project, that growth may lead to increased congestion. The Memorial Drive reconstruction would alleviate the congestion and allow for the high density residential and office development plans for years to come. We support the City of Houston Public Works and Engineering Department in their application for funding.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you should have further questions, please contact me at jim.murphy@house.state.tx.us or 512.463.0514.

Regards,

Sim dlaply

# Trammell CrowCompany

April 5, 2013

Houston-Galveston Area Council Attn: Alan Clark Director of Transportation Planning P.O. Box 22777 Houston, TX 77227

Re: Memorial Drive Reconstruction

Dear Mr. Clark:

I am the Houston City Leader for Trammell Crow Company, a leading commercial real estate developer. We are actively developing several kinds of new commercial projects around the Houston area. Currently our largest project under development is a 546,000 sf office building, Energy Center III, located at the Southwest corner of Eldridge and Interstate 10. This is our third large office building in this area, and we have plans for more.

As I am sure you know, the Energy Corridor area is the most active office development submarket in the Houston region. It is home to many of Houston's largest and most prominent employers. This combination of location, amenities, access, and proximity to residential areas has made the area popular with major energy and related companies. With the popularity of the area, traffic safety and congestion are significant concerns.

A very important project to enhance the safety and mobility of the area is the Memorial Drive Reconstruction project. We understand that the portion of the project between N. Eldridge Parkway and N. Kirkwood Road is under design and under consideration for construction soon. Trammell Crow Company is very supportive of this project, which will enhance the safety, mobility, and aesthetic appeal of this important area and its communities. This part of Memorial provides a vital link to area amenities, as well as commuting to and from major office projects in the Energy Corridor. It is currently four lanes undivided, with many commercial and retail properties along it. It is dangerous and congested, and really needs to be improved.

We request that this project be given the highest priority amongst the projects you are considering. The economic vitality of this area, including the major office employers in the area, will bring additional growth. This stretch of Memorial Drive should be rebuilt and operating in a way that will properly service the needs of the area. We appreciate the efforts of the Memorial Super Neighborhood Council to study and communicate on this issue.

Thank you,

Trammell Crow Company

Jim Casey Senior Managing Director

3/ March 2013

#### H-GAC:

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, two of the fastest growing parts of the Houston region. It also connects neighborhoods to each other, those activity centers, schools and shops. It is an essential road both for our community and the region. Memorial Drive is an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel to downtown. The intersections in the project provide access to and from the Katy Freeway, most notably during rush hour.

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In addition, the project will add sidewalks and medians which will make it easier to walk along and cross Memorial Drive to access shops and schools. The medians should also reduce accidents caused by left turns onto Memorial Drive. There are many families in the area that do not allow new teen drivers to turn left onto Memorial Drive at locations without traffic signals because of the high accident risk.

Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Sincerely,

Jay Russell 1384 Pershshire Rd Howston Tox 77079 Houston-Galveston Area Council Transportation Public Information P.O. Box 22777 Houston, Texas 77227-2777

#### Gentlemen:

These comments are submitted in support of the City Of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

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Sincerely,

James Nelson – President Memorial Club Townhouses

Association

J. Shannon Cavers 1087 Britoak Lane Houston, TX 77079

Shannon.cavers@gmail.com

VIA USPS FIRST CLASS MAIL

VIA EMAIL - publiccomments@h-gac.com City of Houston Transportation Public Information Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777 Houston, TX 77227-2777

March 27, 2013

Dear H-GAC:

I submit the following comments to support the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, two of the fastest growing parts of the Houston region. It also connects neighborhoods to each other, those activity centers, schools and shops. It is an essential road both for our community and the region. Memorial Drive is an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel to downtown. The intersections in the project provide access to and from the Katy Freeway, most notably during rush hour.

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Sincerely -

. Shannon Cavers

APR 0 2 2013

Transportation Public Information Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777 Houston, Texas 77227-2777

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project for the following reasons. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

This reconstruction is vital to transportation in West Houston, the travelers in this area and to the residents of this area. I have been one of those residents for the past 45 years and have experienced the tremendous growth in West Houston, especially during the past 10+ years. Various fixes by the City of Houston were studied some nine years ago when traffic began being a major issue. Most of these have been tabled searching for a permanent fix. The current reconstruction plan will be the most beneficial to the entire Wes Houston area and to this local area.

Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, two of the fastest growing parts of the Houston region. It also connects neighborhoods to each other, those activity centers, schools and shops. It is an essential road both for our community and the region. Memorial Drive is an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel to and from downtown resulting in greater than usual traffic jams. The intersections in the project provide access to and from the Katy Freeway, most notably during rush hour.

Of major value will be the addition of turn lane medians in the middle of Memorial thus allowing left turns without impending traffic flow. Today, traffic during morning and evening rush hours causes long delays at intersections. It is my understanding that additional turn lanes at the intersections of Kirkwood, Dairy Ashford and Eldridge will provide noticeable reductions in wait times at these major intersections. This is very important now and will become more important with all of the new office and high density residential development planned for the area.

In addition to the medians, the proposed addition of sidewalks will make it easier to walk along and cross Memorial Drive to access shops and schools. The medians should also reduce accidents caused by left turns onto Memorial Drive. There are many families in the area that do not allow new teen drivers to turn left onto Memorial Drive at locations without traffic signals because of the high accident risk.

Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Sincerely,

William B. Hopkins

kins Marge T. Hopkins
14722 Quail Grove Lane
Houston, Texas 77079

#### March 18, 2013

Transportation Public Information Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777 Houston, Texas 77227-2777

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Sincerely,

William B. Hopkins Marge T. Hopkins 14722 Quail Grove Lane Houston, Texas 77079

# Transcript of Public Comments Recorded at 2013-2016 TIP Call for Projects Public Meetings March 19, 2013

#### **Noon Meeting:**

1. Bill Hopkins, a resident of Westchester for 45 years – Expressed his support for the Memorial Drive reconstruction project. The project is moving along well with CIP approval, preliminary engineering finished last year. All we need is funding. The benefits improve transportation mobility, increase traffic capacity and efficiency of current streets. Increases safety with addition of sidewalks and open ditches. (also submitted a letter with these comments)

#### 1. William B. Hopkins:

Project - Memorial Drive Reconstruction COH District G

Status – In COH CIP, for several years, preliminary engineering completed; completion date estimated in 2016.

Benefits – 1) Improved transportation mobility (traffic flow, increased traffic capacity)

2) Increase safety with an option of sidewalk closure of open ditches.

Qualifications – Resident of Westchester 45 years; past board member of HOA; 10 years sn/g chair of Drainage Corps.

## MEMORIAL SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

815 Elk Run Circle Houston, Texas 77079

March 15, 2013

Mr. Alan Clark Transportation Director Houston-Galveston Area Council 3555 Timmons Lane Houston, TX 77027

Dear Mr. Clark:

The Memorial Super Neighborhood strongly supports the Memorial Drive reconstruction project sponsored by the City of Houston for the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). As a community, we have done all we could to participate in and support the process long before the TIP call for projects began.

Our community is located along Memorial Drive between the Memorial Villages and SH 6. This area encompasses Memorial City and the Energy Corridor. Memorial Drive is the heart of this community and runs parallel to the Katy Freeway from SH 6 to downtown. Every day Memorial Drive functions as an alternate to and reliever for the Katy Freeway. In fact, it is our only alternate to the Katy Freeway.

Today, during the morning and evening rush hours, it is not uncommon to wait through numerous traffic signal cycles to cross any of the intersections in the project area, which is between Kirkwood and Eldridge. Attached is a listing of new commercial development that will add millions of square feet of office space within the corridor. The overwhelming majority of those new offices will be occupied by people who drive to work and may also go to lunch or run errands at the shops along Memorial Drive. Without reconstruction, the new commercial development will only add to the existing delays along Memorial Drive. And it is not just neighborhoods, retail and office space. The reconstruction area includes five public schools from elementary through high school. As reported by the Houston Business Journal, our area is the fastest growing submarket in the region.

The Memorial Super Neighborhood has worked closely with the City of Houston over the last two years in the design of the Memorial Drive reconstruction project.

- Residents requested a bike lane and sidewalks. They were added.
- Residents requested medians for safe pedestrian crossings and safer turning movements. They were added.

• Residents balked at additional lanes that would further bisect the community. Public Works and Engineering replaced them with right and left turn lanes that consultants indicate will provide comparable travel time benefits.

We believe there is significant regional benefit to the Memorial Drive reconstruction and the City of Houston has shown it.

- Memorial Drive is the closest alternative to the Katy Freeway and travel times will be improved with new turn lanes.
- Memorial Drive is a connector between two rapidly growing regional business activity centers: Memorial City and the Energy Corridor. Buses connecting the two as well as commuters and customers will benefit from the improved travel times from turn lanes and access management.
- Memorial Drive medians will reduce accidents and provide a quantifiable savings in property damage and injury.
- Memorial Drive sidewalks and bike lanes will provide alternatives to driving for local trips, which will reduce congestion and emissions. Both are quantifiable.

In H-GAC terms, Memorial Drive reconstruction is a Livable Centers improvement. It is certainly a "Complete Street" in the minds of community members. This is the type of development that is being encouraged by urban planners. It is also regionally significant given its role as an alternative to the Katy Freeway and connector of two fast-growing activity centers. Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Jergo Letter

Regards,

## Memorial Drive Area Growth – updated March 12, 2013

The Energy Corridor - current commercial projects underway are expected to bring 11,250 employees to the area in 2013.

Under Construction – Office Space							
<b>Building Name</b>	SF	Delivery	<b>Energy Corridor/Memorial City</b>				
Westgate I	120,000	2Q13	EC				
Westgate II	186,000	2Q13	EC				
Energy Crossing II	321,000	3Q13	EC				
Murphy Building	320,000	2Q13	MC				
Energy Tower III	429,000	1Q14	EC				
Energy Center III	546,000	4Q14	EC				
Shell Woodcreek I	321,000	2Q14	EC				
Shell Woodcreek II	336,000	2Q14	EC				
Westgate III	225,000	2014	EC				
West Memorial Place	650,000	2014?	EC				
TOTAL	3,454,000						

Under Construction/Scheduled – Multifamily							
Project Name	Units	Delivery	<b>Energy Corridor/Memorial City</b>				
Wilcrest @ IH-10	360	4Q13	EC				
Icon at City Centre	152	4Q13	MC				
Broadstone Energy Corridor	320	3Q13	EC				
Domain West	333	4Q14	EC				
Domain (Memorial)	300	4Q14	EC				
TOTAL	1,465						

HealthCare – Planned			
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center	300,000	2017 Start	EC

March 27, 2013

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In addition, the project will add sidewalks and medians which will make it easier to walk along and cross Memorial Drive to access shops and schools. The medians should also reduce accidents caused by left turns onto Memorial Drive. There are many families (including mine) in the area that do not allow new teen drivers to turn left onto Memorial Drive at locations without traffic signals because of the high accident risk.

Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Sincerely,

Ronny and Sheila Green 13915 Queensbury Lane

Ronny and Shaila Sheen

Houston, TX 77079

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Currently, traffic during morning and evening rush hours causes long delays at intersections. Equally problematic, lack of separate turn lanes create congestion, delays, and accident risk to drivers swerving to avoid cars waiting to turn. The addition of turn lanes will provide noticeable reductions in wait times particularly at Kirkwood, Dairy Ashford and Eldridge. This is very important now, and will become even more important with all of the new office and high density residential development planned for the Energy Corridor areas.

In addition, the project will add sidewalks and medians which will make it safer to walk along and cross Memorial Drive to access shops and schools. The medians should also reduce accidents caused by left turns onto Memorial Drive. There are many families in the area that do not allow new teen drivers to turn left onto Memorial Drive at locations without traffic signals because of the high accident risk.

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Sincerely,

Carlye and Mitch Graydon

Westchester residents

March 26,2013

MAR 27 2013

H-GAC:

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2013 MAR 27 AM 7: 38

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Sincerely,

Georgianna Verburgse 14534 Birev Forest Dr.

Houston, Texas 77079

( ashford-Forest Subdivision Inbr of memorial SuperTreighborhood)

# Frostwood Community Improvement Association c/o RealManage

PO Box 803555 Dallas, TX 75380-3555

April 2, 2013

Transportation Public Information Houston-Galveston Area Council P O Box 22777 Houston, TX 77227-2777

To Whom It May Concern:

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

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Sincerely,

Frostwood Community Improvement Association

# The Melcher's 13802 Barryknoll Lane Houston, Texas 77079

March 27, 2012

Transportation Public Information Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777 Houston, TX 77227-2777 Re: The City of Houston

Memorial Drive reconstruction project

To whom it may concern,

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

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Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

We appreciate your attention to the matter.

Sincerely,

J Frank Melcher

Elizabeth Leigh Baillio Melcher

#### **Nottingham Civic Association**

March 26, 2013

Transportation Public Information Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777 Houston, TX 77227-2777

#### To Whom It May Concern:

The Nottingham Civic Association, which represents the 320 households comprising the Nottingham subdivision (Sections I, II, and III), strongly supports the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. We encourage the Transportation Policy Council to fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Memorial Drive is a critical east-west road which connects our neighborhood to our schools, our places of work, and local shops and restaurants. Traffic on Memorial Drive has increased substantially in recent years and will continue to increase due to the construction of several major commercial building complexes in the area (particularly in the Energy Corridor District) as well as high density residential developments.

As a result, traffic congestion along Memorial Drive, particularly around the main intersections at Kirkwood, Dairy Ashford, and Eldridge, has become a major inconvenience and safety hazard. In particular, the lack of a dedicated left turn lane results in frequent accidents and injuries, such that many of our homeowners refuse to drive along Memorial Drive during peak traffic hours.

We consider this to be an essential project that should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP to alleviate the existing congestion, improve safety and quality of living conditions, and to facilitate the ongoing economic development in the area.

Sincerely,

Eric Madry

Secretary / Board of Directors Nottingham Civic Association 13922 Taylorcrest Road

Houston, Texas 77079

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Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Sincerely,

Jane S Elam 3/29/13 Mrs. Dorothy H. Johnson 13811 Barryknoll Houston, TX 77079-3308 281-497-2448 dhjohnsn@hal-pc.org

Transportation Public Information

Houston-Galveston Area Council

P.O. Box 22777

Houston, TX 77227-2777

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Sincerely,

Dorothy X John

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Sincerely,

David "Russ Gray

14710 Carolcrest St., 770796

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Sincerely,

DAVID J. LITTWITZ 10847 BRITOAK LAWE HOUSTON, TX, 77079

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Sincerely,

Well Groberson Dr. 72029



Mr. Alan Clark MPO Director Transportation Department Houston-Galveston Area Council P.O. Box 22777 Houston, Texas 770027-2777

2013-2016 TIP Public Comments

Support the City of Houston Memorial Drive Reconstruction Project: Eldridge to Kirkwood

Dear Alan,

The Energy Corridor District supports the City of Houston's Memorial Drive Reconstruction Project: Eldridge to Kirkwood.

We believe that the project benefits the adjacent community and the Houston region by reducing crashes, accommodating transit, providing access management solutions and creating a better commercial corridor for the West Memorial neighborhoods.

The Energy Corridor will directly benefit with the improvement of the Eldridge Parkway/Memorial Drive intersection and the replacement of the Turkey Creek Bridge with box culverts. This improvement will fulfill the City of Houston's vision that was identified in the Preliminary Engineering Report of the recently completed Eldridge widening project.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark Martinson AICP

General Manager

The Energy Corridor District

Huch Mentinisan

Cc:

Mr. Daniel Krueger, P.E. director COH PW&ED

Mr. Mark Loethen, P.E. City Engineer COH PW&ED

Mr. Jeff Weatherford P.E., P.T.O.E, Deputy Director COH PW&ED

Mr. Greg Sergesketter president Memorial Super Neighborhood #16

## Marywood Homeowners Association, Inc.

### c/o Crest Management Company P.O. Box 219320 Houston, TX 77218

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Sincerely,

Marywood Board of Directors

Carolyn J. Bonds, PCAM

Mr. Alan Clark Transportation Director Houston-Galveston Area Council 3555 Timmons Lane Houston, TX 77027

Email: publiccomments@h-gac.com

Dear Mr. Clark:

On behalf of the Ashford Forest Civic Club I & II (aka AFCC I & II), I am writing to state the residents' strong support for reconstruction of Memorial Drive. This City of Houston project should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP.

The AFCC I & II neighborhood is bordered by Dairy Ashford, Memorial and Winter Oaks. Congestion on Dairy Ashford and Memorial has become extreme at times. New construction on the west side of Houston, including the I-10/Energy Corridor, has pushed a great deal of traffic onto Memorial. It is not unusual for an individual to see a minimum of three wrecks a week on Memorial in our area. Additional turn lanes would help back-up and hopefully, help to prevent some of these accidents.

Sidewalks to be added along the length of the project will make the area more walkable. We have multiple schools in our immediate area, including but not limited to Stratford High School, Meadow Wood Elementary, Thornwood Elementary and a middle school. Medians and sidewalks will make walking to these schools safer for students and their parents. These schools are all almost directly across Memorial from the AFCC I & II and Nottingham Forest subdivisions which are home to a great number of students attending these schools.

The high density development in this area necessitates these improvements. Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, both of which are expanding rapidly. Memorial Drive provides easy access to work, shopping and medical services but only when traffic is moving.

Please include the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Sincerely,

Carol Wigginton, President

On behalf of:

Ashford Forest Civic Club I & II

#### Dear H-GAC:

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, two of the fastest growing parts of the Houston region. It also connects neighborhoods to each other, those activity centers, schools and shops. It is an essential road both for our community and the region. Memorial Drive is an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel to downtown. The intersections in the project provide access to and from the Katy Freeway, most notably during rush hour.

Currently, traffic during morning and evening rush hours causes long delays at intersections. Equally problematic, lack of separate turn lanes create congestion, delays, and accident risk to drivers swerving to avoid cars waiting to turn. The addition of turn lanes will provide noticeable reductions in wait times particularly at Kirkwood, Dairy Ashford and Eldridge. This is very important now, and will become even more important with all of the new office and high density residential development planned for the Energy Corridor areas.

In addition, the project will add sidewalks and medians which will make it safer to walk along and cross Memorial Drive to access shops and schools. The medians should also reduce accidents caused by left turns onto Memorial Drive. There are many families in the area that do not allow new teen drivers to turn left onto Memorial Drive at locations without traffic signals because of the high accident risk.

Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Sincerely,

Carlye and Mitch Graydon

Westchester residents

To H-GAC:

#### Re: Memorial Drive Reconstruction Project

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

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Today, traffic during morning and evening rush hours causes long delays at intersections. It is my understanding that additional turn lanes will provide noticeable reductions in wait times at Kirkwood, Dairy Ashford and Eldridge. This is very important now and will become more important with all of the new office and high density residential development planned for the area.

In addition, the project will add sidewalks and medians which will make it easier to walk along and cross Memorial Drive to access shops and schools. The medians should also reduce accidents caused by left turns onto Memorial Drive. There are many families in the area that do not allow new teen drivers to turn left onto Memorial Drive at locations without traffic signals because of the high accident risk.

Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Irene Bond.

Sincerely

Robert Boyd

Irene Boyd

#### **Westchester Villas Maintenance Association**

618 Chadbourne Ct Houston TX 77079

March 18, 2013

Mr. Alan Clark Transportation Director Houston-Galveston Area Council 3555 Timmons Lane Houston, TX 77027

Dear Mr. Clark:

On behalf of the Westchester Villas Maintenance Association I am writing to state the residents' strong support for reconstruction of Memorial Drive. This City of Houston project should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP.

The Westchester Villas neighborhood is just west of Dairy Ashford and south of Memorial within the corridor where significant new office & multifamily development is occurring. The intersection at Dairy Ashford and Memorial is very congested and during rush hour limits access to the neighborhood. Additional turn lanes should prevent the backups.

Sidewalks to be added along the length of the project will make the area more walkable. Westchester Villas is on the south side of Memorial and neighborhood residents must cross Memorial to shop for groceries. Medians and sidewalks will make walking to Spring Forest Middle School and Stratford High School safer for older students and their parents.

The high density development in this area necessitates these improvements. Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, both of which are expanding rapidly. Memorial Drive provides easy access to work, shopping and medical services but only when traffic is moving.

Please include the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Sincerely,

President,

Westchester Villas Maintenance Association

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Sincerely,

Honoton TX 77079

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Fallucel Barba Chile, Meulton

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CAROC PENTOD / CAROC Mallwell

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7 Felhal 1247 25 Quad Grove

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Sincerely 3/28/13

Saki ko Elliott

14611 River Forest Dr.

Houston Tx 77079

281 497 0882

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Jeedy Kolke 14614 River Forest Dr. Houston 77079

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Julie Cole 12511 Deep Spring Ln Honston, TX 77077

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Kathlen I Davis 14839 Grandle wood Houston 77079

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Phyllis a. Omens 1030 Orchard Hill Houston 77077-1124

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Patrick J. Clynes President, form Villas Civic Association

Bob Mader
627 This Hewood Dr
Houston TX 77099
March 25, 2013

### H-GAC:

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Rul & Geralyn Cornelius 735 Windbreck TRail Houston, TX 77079

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New Land, or Gres. Darker Ly Ho assn 3/25/13

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Cynthia Foley Jondon Townhomes 14711 Barry knoll Ln#30 Houston, Tx 77079

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12502 WINDING BROOK

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Durid Keden West BAyon OAKS 3-25-13 3-25-13 Heaster TX79 Howster 17079

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John Mattys 10823 Pepper Lu Hourton, Tx 77079

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Cold well Bankar United

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Chuck Caldwell

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Alfle A Tana I 3/26/13 Colline 11 Borren Wirkel, Roothons

March 26, 2013

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Drene Lacerra, Realton Coldwell Banker United 14201 Memorial Dr.

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Howing Probert 14842 Brown Hewood Horeston 77079

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Show Bothers Margaret C. Bobliste 14919 Carolcrest Dr.

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Betty J. Bland 14915 Bramblewood Dr. Houston, Tf. 17079

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Amy Moore 10310 Hazelhurst Dr. Howston, TX 77043

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Sherry (kmphel)
15430 Walkwood Dr.
Wouston, TX 77079

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HSSSOUMEN Mohammazasch 14118 Barry Kney, LN Hou, Tx Moza

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Crady R Billings 1323 Fracewood Hen Houston, TX 77077

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Michelle & Mike Rigo 514 Winter Daks Houston TX 77079

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H (Lawly) 14846 Bramblewood

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Kim? Paul Stetr 14843 Branblewood

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My 9/8)\_ 14802 Bramb lewood Dr.

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Cathy De La Torre 14922 River Forest Dr

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L7 Centre Corridor.

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14814 Brand Centre od Dr.

14814 Brand 77079

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12918 Traviate Dr. Houston, TX 77024

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3/25/13

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Handie Paeller) 406 Backer Kanding Ct. Houston TX 77079

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Michella Lindha 14927 Broadgreen Drive Itouston TX 77079

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