



Houston-Galveston  
Area Council

# LIVABLE CENTERS

## 2021 SUMMARY REPORT UPDATE & REPORT CARD



# **\$76** Million Increase in New Livable Centers Projects Over Last 2 Years

Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Livable Centers studies do not sit on shelves. By 2021, \$543 million in study-recommended projects were reported as implemented by local sponsors. This is a 16% or \$76 million increase from \$467 million reported in 2019. Local sponsors work with a variety of partners such as developers, private investors, local interest groups, philanthropies, and public entities to make the projects happen!

# LIVABLE CENTERS IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

**90%** of all study areas are on track to recommendation implementation

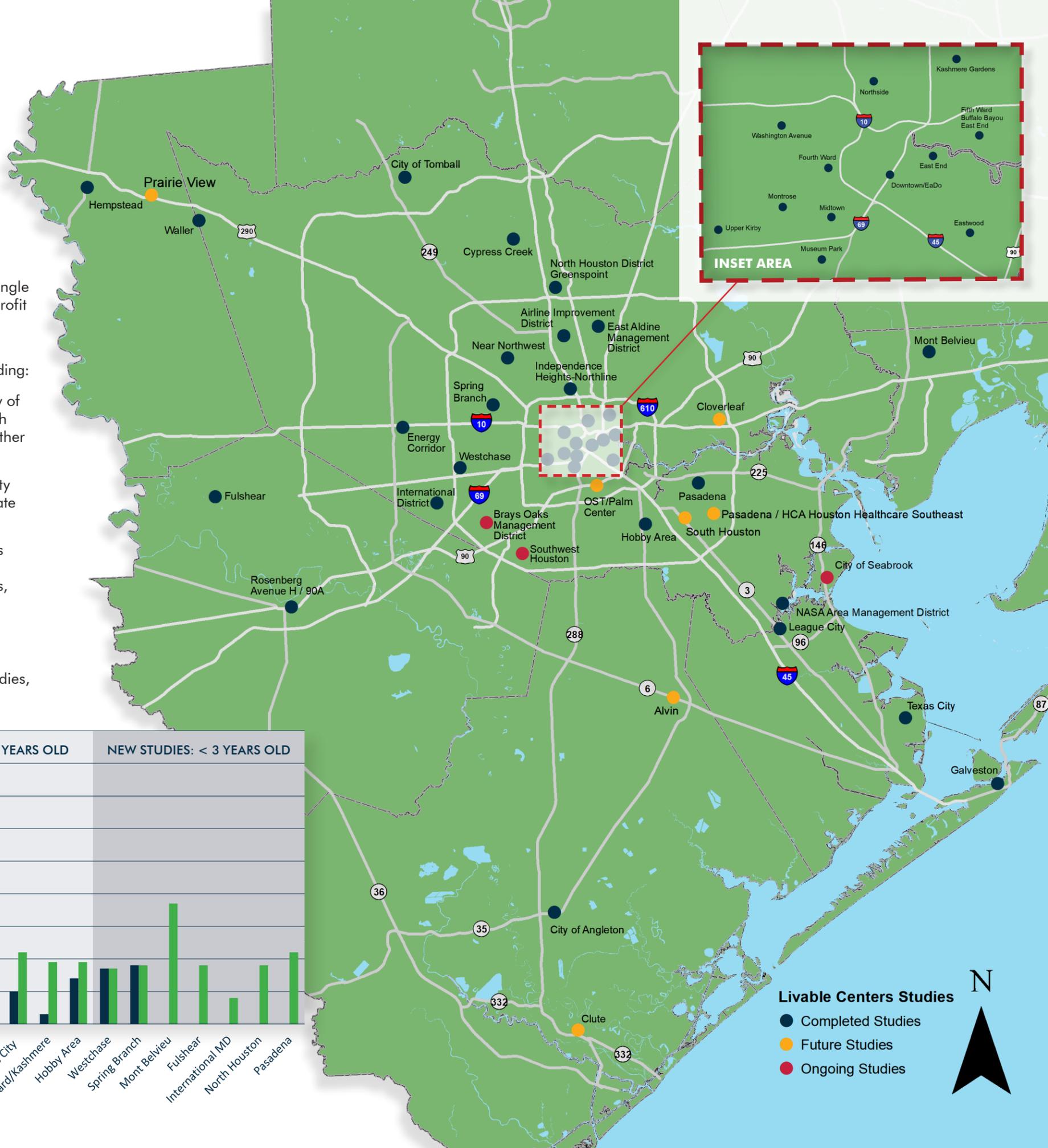
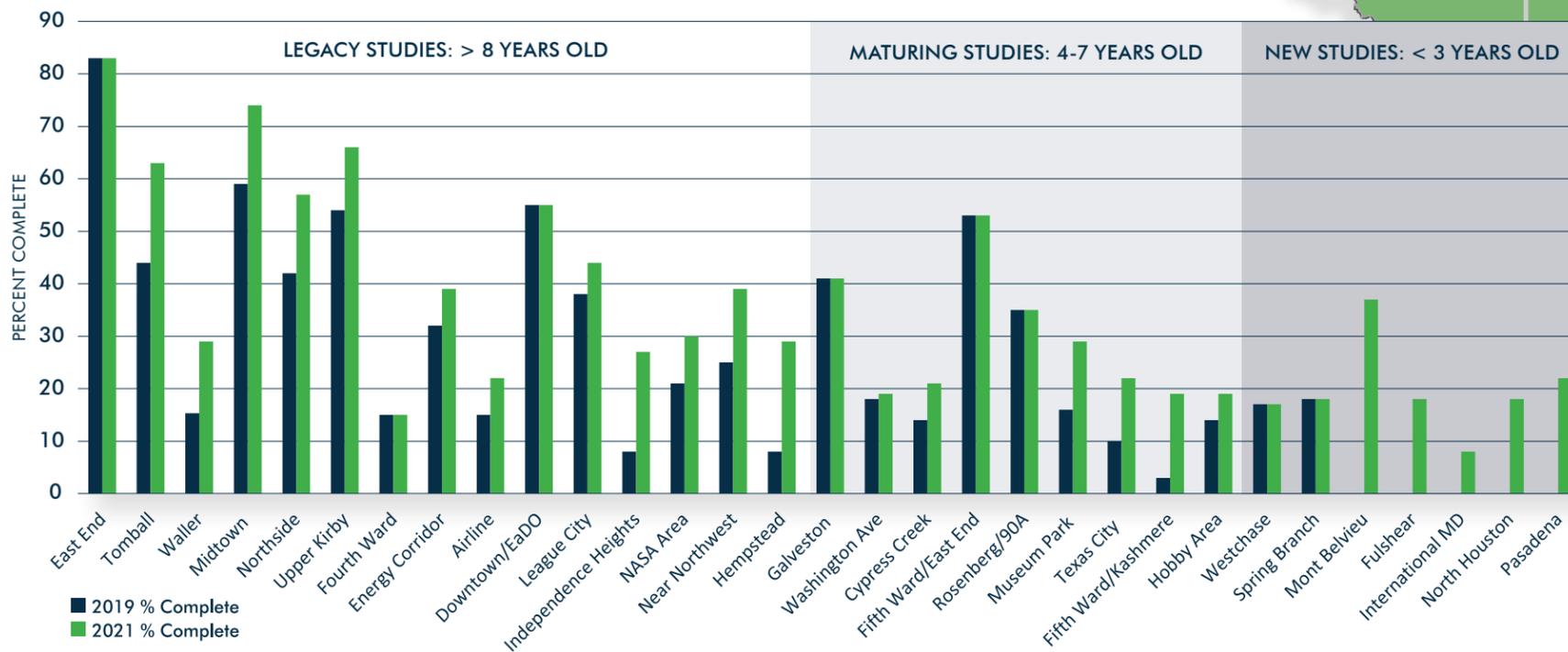
Tracking implementation of Livable Centers study recommendations is an important key to demonstrating the Program's effectiveness. Since implementation is not the sole responsibility of a single entity, H-GAC's tracking system accounts for actions taken by a variety of public, private, and non-profit actors within each study area.

This 2021 Summary Report is an update to the [10-Year Evaluation](#) of the Livable Centers Program completed in the fall of 2019. It covers current implementation status of study recommendations, including:

- **Multimodal Networks** – Infrastructure investments that enhance the accessibility and connectivity of the bicyclist, pedestrian, and transit networks. These recommendations are largely funded through local capital improvement programs, H-GAC's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and other public funds.
- **Housing and Economic Development** – Creating a mix of housing, jobs, and services in proximity to multimodal network. These recommendations leverage partnerships between developers, private investors, and public and non-governmental entities.
- **Placemaking** – Locations within a network where people want to gather. These recommendations can be temporary or permanent and provide an opportunity to highlight unique community characteristics. These recommendations are implemented by local interest groups, philanthropies, and public entities, individually and in partnership.

## Implementation Status

This chart illustrates implementation progress, by study, based on the year of its completion. Legacy studies were completed over 8 years ago; Maturing studies, between 4 to 7 years ago, and New studies, less than 3 years ago.



# WHAT'S NEXT: CONTINUED GROWTH & PARTNERSHIP

H-GAC applauds the perseverance of local study sponsors in pursuing implementation of study recommendations over the long term. Still, many face barriers, such as a lack of funding, staffing, training opportunities, and partnerships, which should be addressed as the Livable Centers Program continues to evolve.

This is what we're doing to help:

- **Interactive Planning Tool** – This tool maps all studies in an interactive, searchable format. It ties study recommendations to spatially mapped datapoints which can be incorporated into funding applications, such as H-GAC's TIP and Subregional Mobility Plans.
- **Peer-to-Peer Learning** – H-GAC conducts an annual workshop whose topics reflect challenges and barriers as identified by local sponsors. These workshops offer an opportunity for participants to share best practices and management innovations through an open exchange of idea, knowledge, and brainstorming.
- **Vulnerable Populations** – H-GAC's Livable Centers Need Index was developed in 2021. This tool helps users identify vulnerable populations within the H-GAC region and can be used by local sponsors to develop future TIP projects and grant applications.
- **Air Quality Benefit** – Livable Centers investments are designed to encourage people to walk, bike, or use transit, reducing vehicle miles traveled and improving air quality. H-GAC is developing a methodology to better capture the air quality benefits of these investments.

To learn more about H-GAC's Livable Centers Program visit the program website at [h-gac.com/livable-centers](https://h-gac.com/livable-centers). Click the [Implementation Tab](#) to learn more about each study and its individual report card.



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