



H-GAC 2018 TIP Call for Projects

## **Friendswood Downtown District: Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements**

---

### **Attachment #1 - Cover Letter**

#### ***Attached Materials Support Pre-Application Response #12 - "Project Information"***

The contents within this package present the funding commitment from the City of Friendswood to leverage local dollars to implement the pedestrian access and safety enhancement projects for Downtown Friendswood presented in this TIP application. Additional letters of support from other constituents are attached as well.

Also attached are project location maps and illustrations supporting the narrative for this TIP application.

#### **List of Attachments:**

1. Funding Resolution - City of Friendswood - October 1, 2018
2. Letters of Support:
  - Mayor Mike Foreman, City of Friendswood
  - Congressman Pete Olson, US House of Representatives
  - Senator Larry Taylor, District 11 Texas Senate
  - Representative Greg Bonnen, MD, District 24 State of Texas House of Representatives
  - Judge Marc Henry, Galveston County
  - Superintendent Thad Roher, Friendswood ISD
  - Harold Whitaker, Board President Galveston County Consolidated Drainage District
  - Brett Banfield, President Friends of Downtown Friendswood Association
3. Project Location Regional Map
4. Project Location - Friendswood Downtown District FM 518 Sidewalk Conditions
5. Corridor Mobility Operations FM 518 and Downtown District
6. Crash Data
7. Existing Sidewalk and Ramp Conditions
8. Public Survey Summary - Downtown Plan
9. Zoning Ordinance: Supplementary District Regulations Section N, #6
10. Typical Section of proposed sidewalks within FM 518 ROW
11. Proposed Recommendations from Downtown Plan
12. Downtown Events and Attendance

**RESOLUTION NO. R2018-20**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS, TO CERTIFY LOCAL SUPPORT OF THE FRIENDSWOOD DOWNTOWN DISTRICT PEDESTRIAN ACCESS AND SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS PROJECT APPLICATION FOR FUNDING UNDER THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL FY 2019 - FY 2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM CALL FOR PROJECTS.**

\* \* \* \* \*

**WHEREAS**, the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is seeking proposals from local governments and other eligible project sponsors to implement transportation projects which advance the vision and goals of the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Call for Projects will commit federal and state funds allocated to the Houston region to implement roadway, transit, pedestrian/bicycle, livable centers, and air quality projects within the next 10 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements project is to construct 9,576 square yards of sidewalk and intersection improvements such as crosswalks, ADA curb ramps, and updated signals enhancing the pedestrian experience along FM 518, providing an interconnected network of safe pedestrian routes to destinations such as Stevenson Park, City Hall, Friendswood Public Library, Senior Activity Center, schools, churches, businesses and shopping; and

**WHEREAS**, the City proposes to submit an application requesting funding for the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements project estimated to cost \$5,259,492; and

**WHEREAS**, the TIP Call for Projects requires a 20% local funding match of the estimated cost of the project, and the City has allocated and will provide the minimum match requirement of \$879,530; and

**WHEREAS**, the City will allocate funds for the incremental cost of brick pavers to be installed on top of the concrete sidewalk base with an estimated cost of \$861,840; and

**WHEREAS**, City matching funds will be allocated from the Friendswood Downtown Economic Development Corporation, a Type B sales tax corporation, that was created as a result of voters' approval in an election held in May of 2016 for the purpose of improving and funding downtown district projects including but not limited to streets, targeted infrastructure, paved sidewalks, pedestrian amenities including lighting, benches, signage, and other related public improvements, and the maintenance and operations expenses of such projects.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS, THAT:**

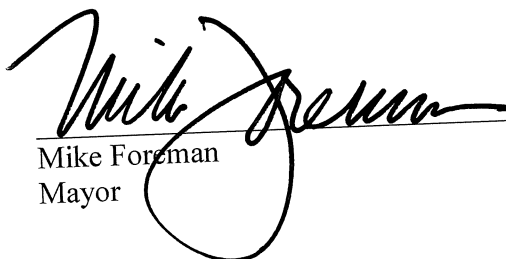
**Section 1.** The City of Friendswood supports funding this project as shown in the application budget and commits to the project's development, implementation, construction, maintenance, management and financing.

**Section 2.** The City adopts this resolution approving the submission of the project application, as well as the support and funding of the project should it receive federal funds.

**Section 3.** The Mayor is hereby authorized to act on behalf of the City in all matters relating to this funding application and to execute all necessary applications, assurances, certifications, and other documents, relative to the submission, later acceptance, and administration of such funds.

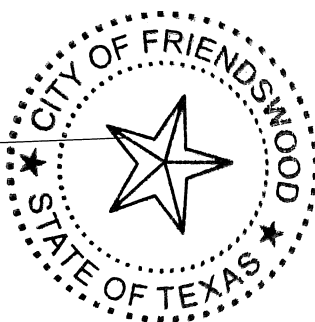
**Section 4.** It is hereby officially found and determined that this meeting at which this resolution is passed is open to the public as required by law, and that public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting was given as required.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF FRIENDSWOOD,  
TEXAS, ON THE 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2018.

  
Mike Foreman  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Melinda Welsh, TRMC  
City Secretary



R2018-20





## *City of Friendswood*

910 South Friendswood Drive  
Friendswood, Texas 77546-4856  
(281) 996-3270  
Fax: (281) 482-1634

Mayor  
MIKE FOREMAN

Mayor Pro Tem  
JOHN SCOTT

Councilmembers  
STEVE ROCKEY  
SALLY BRANSON  
TRISH HANKS  
ROBERT J. GRIFFON  
CARL W. GUSTAFSON

City Manager  
MORAD KABIRI

City Secretary  
MELINDA WELSH, TRMC

October 15, 2018

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

### **RE: Letter of Support for the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements**

Dear Mr. Clark:

I am writing to support the City of Friendswood's request for funding through H-GAC's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements. The proposed walkability and safety-related improvements were identified through Friendswood's very first Downtown District Improvement Plan completed in September 2018. The Plan identified goals and objectives that support a comfortable, safe, walkable, bikeable downtown district that enhances the overall pedestrian experience.

The proposed walkability and safety enhancements for funding consideration include filling in pedestrian gaps by providing continuous sidewalks along FM 518/Friendswood Drive and intersection improvements that include ADA curb ramps, crosswalks, and improved pedestrian signals providing for a more inviting, safe, and walkable downtown experience. The sidewalks will connect popular Friendswood destinations such as Stevenson Park, City Hall, Friendswood Public Library, the Senior Activity Center, schools, churches, businesses, retail, and restaurants.

I fully support implementation of these projects as they are greatly needed to support the accessibility and synergy of our downtown. The projects will not only fill in gaps where there are poor or no sidewalks, it will also enhance the overall look and feel of our community and provide a connected, more inviting place for our community's seniors, children, and families attending events and reaching downtown destinations.

I look forward to seeing progress towards implementation of our downtown district improvements and am hopeful this project makes a great candidate for H-GAC's

Transportation Improvement Program allowing us to achieve our goals for a safer and more walkable downtown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Foreman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Mike Foreman,  
Mayor

PETE OLSON  
22ND DISTRICT, TEXAS

2133 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5951

1650 HIGHWAY 6  
SUITE 150  
SUGAR LAND, TX 77478  
(281) 494-2690

6302 WEST BROADWAY STREET  
SUITE 220  
PEARLAND, TX 77581  
(281) 485-4855

22333 GRAND CORNER DRIVE  
SUITE 151  
KATY, TX 77494  
(BY APPOINTMENT ONLY)



COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
VICE CHAIR  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND POWER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,  
MANUFACTURING AND TRADE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2018

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

Dear Director Alan Clark:

It is with great honor that I write to express my support for the City of Friendswood's request for funding through H-GAC's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements Project. The proposal was introduced through Friendswood's very first Downtown District Improvement Plan completed in September 2018.

This grant will fill in pedestrian gaps by providing continuous sidewalks along FM 518/Friendswood Drive and intersection improvements that include ADA curb ramps, crosswalks and improved pedestrian signals for a safer community. The sidewalks will connect to popular destinations such as Stevenson Park, City Hall, Friendswood Public Library, the Senior Activity Center, schools, churches, businesses, retail and restaurants. I fully support the implementation of these projects and also recognize the need to provide great accessibility.

I would appreciate your efforts to ensure that I am kept informed of the progress of this application. Please contact Mary Davis (Mary.Davis@mail.house.gov), my Grants Coordinator, with any developments regarding this proposal as soon as they become available.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pete Olson".

Pete Olson  
Member of Congress

SENATE COMMITTEES  
EDUCATION, CHAIR  
BUSINESS AND COMMERCE  
FINANCE  
HIGHER EDUCATION



CAPITOL OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 12068  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2068  
(512) 463-0111  
FAX: (512) 475-3727

## SENATOR LARRY TAYLOR DISTRICT 11

October 4, 2018

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

RE: Letter of Support for the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements

Dear Mr. Clark,

I am writing in support of the City of Friendswood's request for funding through H-GAC's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements. The proposed walkability and safety-related improvements were identified through Friendswood's very first Downtown District Improvement Plan completed in September 2018. The Plan identified goals and objectives that support a comfortable, safe, walkable, bikeable downtown district that enhances the overall pedestrian experience.

The proposed enhancements for consideration include filling in pedestrian gaps by providing continuous sidewalks along FM 518/Friendswood Drive and intersection improvements that include ADA curb ramps, crosswalks, and improved pedestrian signals, providing for a more inviting, safe, and walkable environment. The sidewalks will connect popular Friendswood destinations such as Stevenson Park, City Hall, Friendswood Public Library, the Senior Activity Center, schools, churches, businesses, retail, and restaurants.

I believe these projects will increase the accessibility and synergy of our downtown. The proposal will not only fill gaps where there are poor or no sidewalks, it will also enhance the overall look and feel of our community and provide a connected, more inviting place for our community's seniors, children, and families.

PEARLAND DISTRICT OFFICE  
6117 BROADWAY, SUITE 122  
PEARLAND, TEXAS 77581  
(281) 485-9800  
FAX: (281) 485-9804

LEAGUE CITY DISTRICT OFFICE  
174 CALDER RD., SUITE 151  
LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS 77573  
(281) 332-0003  
FAX: (281) 332-0036



I look forward to seeing progress towards implementation of Friendswood's downtown district improvements and moving toward a safer and more walkable downtown. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L".

Larry Taylor  
Senate District 11

# GREG BONNEN, MD



## STATE OF TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CAPITOL OFFICE:  
P.O. Box 2910  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910  
(512) 463-0729

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
174 CALDER ROAD, SUITE 116  
LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS 77573  
(281) 338-0924

2 October 2018

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

**RE: Letter of Support for the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements**

Dear Mr. Clark:

I am writing to support the City of Friendswood's request for funding through H-GAC's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements. The proposed walkability and safety-related improvements were identified through Friendswood's very first Downtown District Improvement Plan completed in September 2018. The Plan identified goals and objectives that support a comfortable, safe, walkable, bikeable downtown district that enhances the overall pedestrian experience.

The proposed walkability and safety enhancements for funding consideration include filling in pedestrian gaps by providing continuous sidewalks along FM 518/Friendswood Drive and intersection improvements that include ADA curb ramps, crosswalks, and improved pedestrian signals providing for a more inviting, safe, and walkable downtown experience. The sidewalks will connect popular Friendswood destinations such as Stevenson Park, City Hall, Friendswood Public Library, the Senior Activity Center, schools, churches, businesses, retail, and restaurants.

I fully support implementation of these projects as they are greatly needed to support the accessibility and synergy of our downtown. The projects will not only fill in gaps where there are poor or no sidewalks, it will also enhance the overall look and feel of our community and provide a connected, more inviting place for our community's seniors, children, and families attending events and reaching downtown destinations.

I look forward to seeing progress towards implementation of our downtown district improvements and am hopeful this project makes a great candidate for H-GAC's Transportation Improvement Program allowing us to achieve our goals for a safer and more walkable downtown. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office at (512) 463-0729.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Bonnen, MD".

Greg Bonnen, MD  
State Representative, District 24





# Mark Henry

County Judge  
County of Galveston

Galveston County Courthouse  
722 Moody Avenue, Galveston, Texas 77550

Tyler Drummond  
Chief of Staff

Dianna Martinez  
Office Coordinator

Linda Bilotta Liechty  
Administrative Assistant

October 1, 2018

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

**RE: Letter of Support for the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements**

Dear Mr. Clark,

I am writing to support the City of Friendswood's request for funding through H-GAC's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements. The proposed walkability and safety-related improvements were identified through Friendswood's very first Downtown District Improvement Plan completed in September 2018. The Plan identified goals and objectives that support a comfortable, safe, walkable, bikeable downtown district that enhances the overall pedestrian experience.

The proposed walkability and safety enhancements for funding consideration include filling in pedestrian gaps by providing continuous sidewalks along FM 518/Friendswood Drive and intersection improvements that include ADA curb ramps, crosswalks, and improved pedestrian signals providing for a more inviting, safe, and walkable downtown experience. The sidewalks will connect popular Friendswood destinations such as Stevenson Park, City Hall, Friendswood Public Library, the Senior Activity Center, schools, churches, businesses, retail, and restaurants.

I fully support implementation of these projects as they are greatly needed to support the accessibility and synergy of Friendswood's downtown area. The projects will not only fill in gaps where there are poor or no sidewalks, it will also enhance the overall look and feel of the community and provide a connected, more inviting place for the community's seniors, children, and families attending events and reaching downtown destinations.

I look forward to seeing progress towards implementation of the downtown district improvements and am hopeful this project makes a great candidate for H-GAC's Transportation Improvement Program allowing Friendswood to achieve its goals for a safer and more walkable downtown.

Sincerely,

  
Mark Henry



FRIENDSWOOD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Thad Roher

*Superintendent*

October 1, 2018

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

**RE: Letter of Support for the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements**

Dear Mr. Clark:

I am writing to support the City of Friendswood's request for funding through H-GAC's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements. The proposed walkability and safety-related improvements were identified through Friendswood's very first Downtown District Improvement Plan completed in September 2018. The Plan identified goals and objectives that support a comfortable, safe, walkable, bikeable downtown district that enhances the overall pedestrian experience.

The proposed walkability and safety enhancements for funding consideration include filling in pedestrian gaps by providing continuous sidewalks along FM 518/Friendswood Drive and intersection improvements that include ADA curb ramps, crosswalks, and improved pedestrian signals providing for a more inviting, safe, and walkable downtown experience. The sidewalks will connect popular Friendswood destinations such as Stevenson Park, City Hall, Friendswood Public Library, the Senior Activity Center, schools, churches, businesses, retail, and restaurants.

As the Superintendent of Friendswood ISD, I fully support implementation of these projects. We have students that work and play in these areas and a safe walkway is important for their overall safety. Also, we have events like Homecoming parades that take many of our students and employees to these areas. Implementation of this project would be helpful to the safety of our students during these types of events as well as 4th of July and Christmas parades. Students also utilize the Friendswood Library in the downtown area. Creation of continuous walkways would help to assure safe passage of walkers from surrounding neighborhoods to the library.

I look forward to seeing progress towards implementation of our downtown district improvements and am hopeful this project makes a great candidate for H-GAC's Transportation Improvement Program allowing us to achieve our goals for a safer and more walkable downtown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thad Roher". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Thad J. Roher

Superintendent, Friendswood ISD

*Leading to Achieve Excellence in all Endeavors*

302 Laurel Drive • Friendswood, TX 77546 • 281-482-1267 • fax 281-996-2513 • [www.myfisd.com](http://www.myfisd.com)

*A Tradition of Exemplary Education*





## *Galveston County Consolidated Drainage District*

October 9, 2018

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

**RE: Letter of Support for the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements**

Dear Mr. Clark:

I am writing to support the City of Friendswood's request for funding through H-GAC's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements. The proposed walkability and safety-related improvements were identified through Friendswood's very first Downtown District Improvement Plan completed in September 2018. The Plan identified goals and objectives that support a comfortable, safe, walkable, bikeable downtown district that enhances the overall pedestrian experience.

The proposed walkability and safety enhancements for funding consideration include filling in pedestrian gaps by providing continuous sidewalks along FM 518/Friendswood Drive and intersection improvements that include ADA curb ramps, crosswalks, and improved pedestrian signals providing for a more inviting, safe, and walkable downtown experience. The sidewalks will connect popular Friendswood destinations such as Stevenson Park, City Hall, Friendswood Public Library, the Senior Activity Center, schools, churches, businesses, retail, and restaurants.

I fully support implementation of these projects as they are greatly needed to support the accessibility and synergy of our downtown. The projects will not only fill in gaps where there are poor or no sidewalks, it will also enhance the overall look and feel of our community and provide a connected, more inviting place for our community's seniors, children, and families attending events and reaching downtown destinations.

I look forward to seeing progress towards implementation of our downtown district improvements and am hopeful this project makes a great candidate for H-GAC's Transportation Improvement Program allowing us to achieve our goals for a safer and more walkable downtown.

Sincerely,

Harold Whitaker

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold Whitaker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "H".

Board President

Galveston County Consolidated Drainage District

1605 Whitaker Dr.

Friendswood, TX 77546



Advisory Board

Jerry Ericsson, Chair  
Alton Todd  
Dave Smith  
David O'Farrell  
Gary Harris  
Harold Whitaker  
Joyce Baker  
Kim Brizendine  
Lorrie Foreman  
Rebecca Hillenburg  
Tony Banfield, Sr.

Board of Directors

Brett Banfield, President  
Robin Hall, Treasurer

Allan Rasmussen  
Anouk Davis  
Benette Rowley  
Bobby Kirkpatrick  
Brittany Todd  
Craig Lovell  
Janel Yarberr  
Jeremy Magnuson  
Jim Foreman  
Jim Gerland  
Josh Griffon  
Karolyn Gephart  
Katie O'Farrell Travis  
Lonnie Moffitt  
Lucy Woltz  
Martha Cotton  
Mary Wise  
Marylyn Reed  
Meg Crowley Delgado  
Megan Jakob  
Michelle Thompson  
Rachel Chester  
Richard Matthews  
Sara Peters  
Selena Ellis  
Seth Park  
Theresa Gustafson

October 8, 2018

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

RE: Letter of Support for the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements

Dear Mr. Clark:

I am writing to support the City of Friendswood's request for funding through H-GAC's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Friendswood Downtown District Pedestrian Access and Safety Enhancements. The proposed walkability and safety-related improvements were identified through Friendswood's very first Downtown District Improvement Plan completed in September 2018. The Plan identified goals and objectives that support a comfortable, safe, walkable, bikeable downtown district that enhances the overall pedestrian experience.

The proposed walkability and safety enhancements for funding consideration include filling in pedestrian gaps by providing continuous sidewalks along FM 518/Friendswood Drive and intersection improvements that include ADA curb ramps, crosswalks, and improved pedestrian signals providing for a more inviting, safe, and walkable downtown experience. The sidewalks will connect popular Friendswood destinations such as Stevenson Park, City Hall, Friendswood Public Library, the Senior Activity Center, schools, churches, businesses, retail, and restaurants.

I fully support implementation of these projects as they fit very well with FDFA's Vision, **"Friendswood will be a visually appealing, pedestrian friendly, safe, traditional Texas small town that integrates cultural, commercial and residential activities that is recognized as the heart of the community"**.

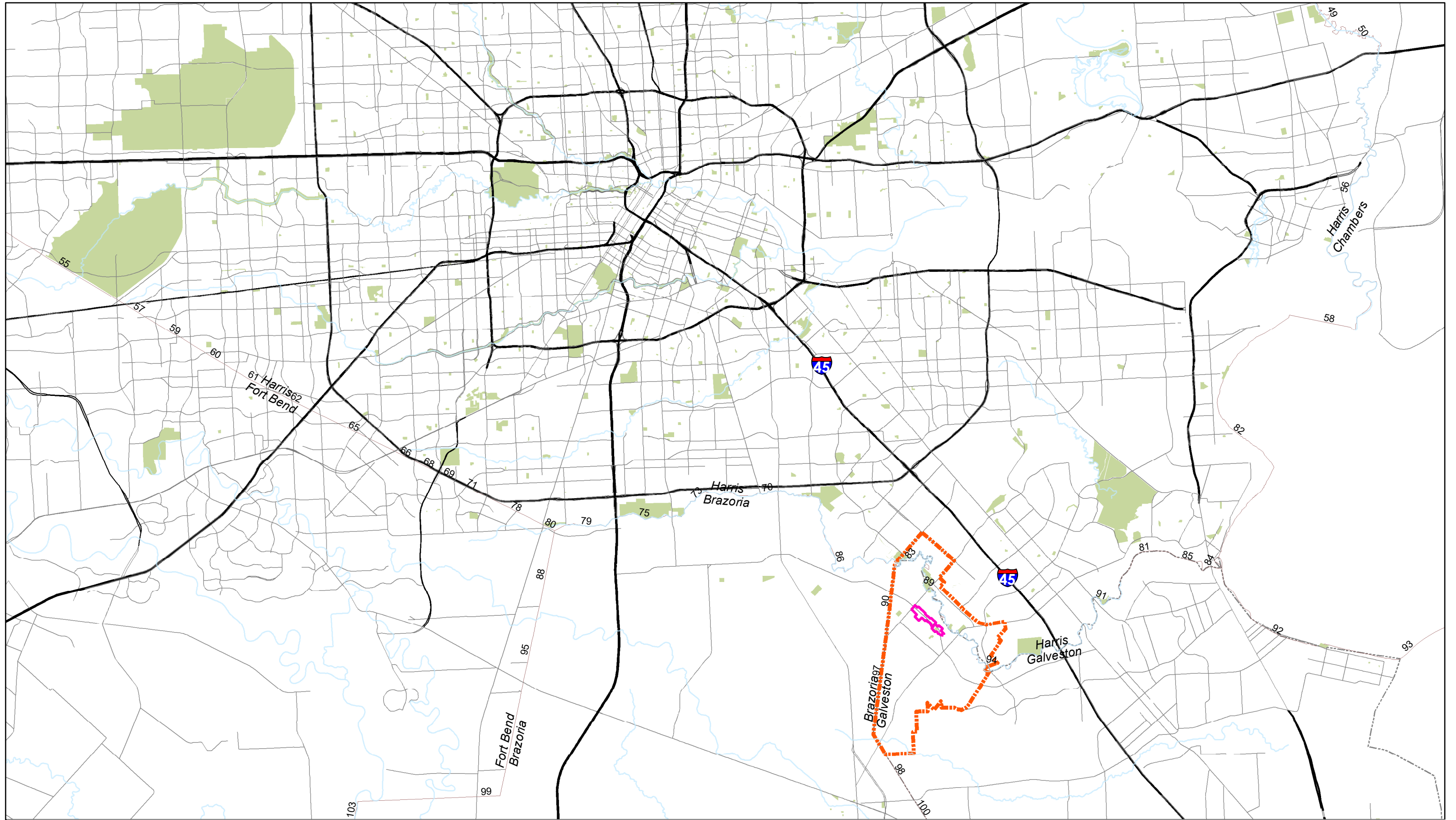
I look forward to seeing progress towards implementation of our downtown district improvements and am hopeful this project makes a great candidate for H-GAC's Transportation Improvement Program allowing us to achieve our goals for a safer and more walkable downtown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett E. Banfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B".

Brett E. Banfield, President

# Downtown Friendswood Pedestrian Access & Safety Enhancements TIP 2018 Call for Projects

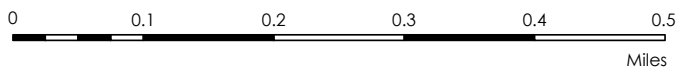
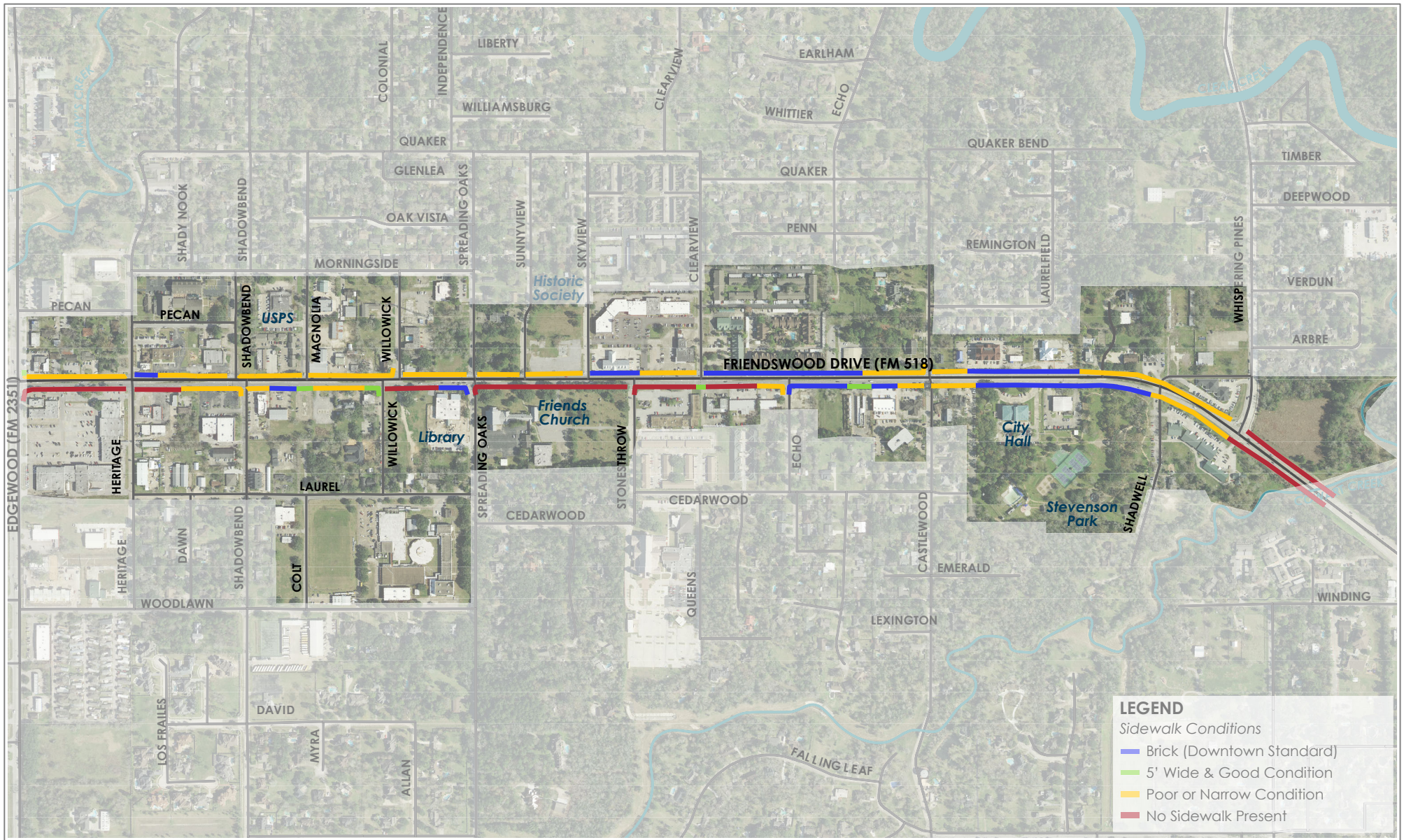


**Project Location Map - Friendswood, Galveston County, TX**

**Legend:**

- N
- 0 3.75 7.5 15 Miles
- Friendswood City Limits
- Downtown District
- Park
- Major Bayou

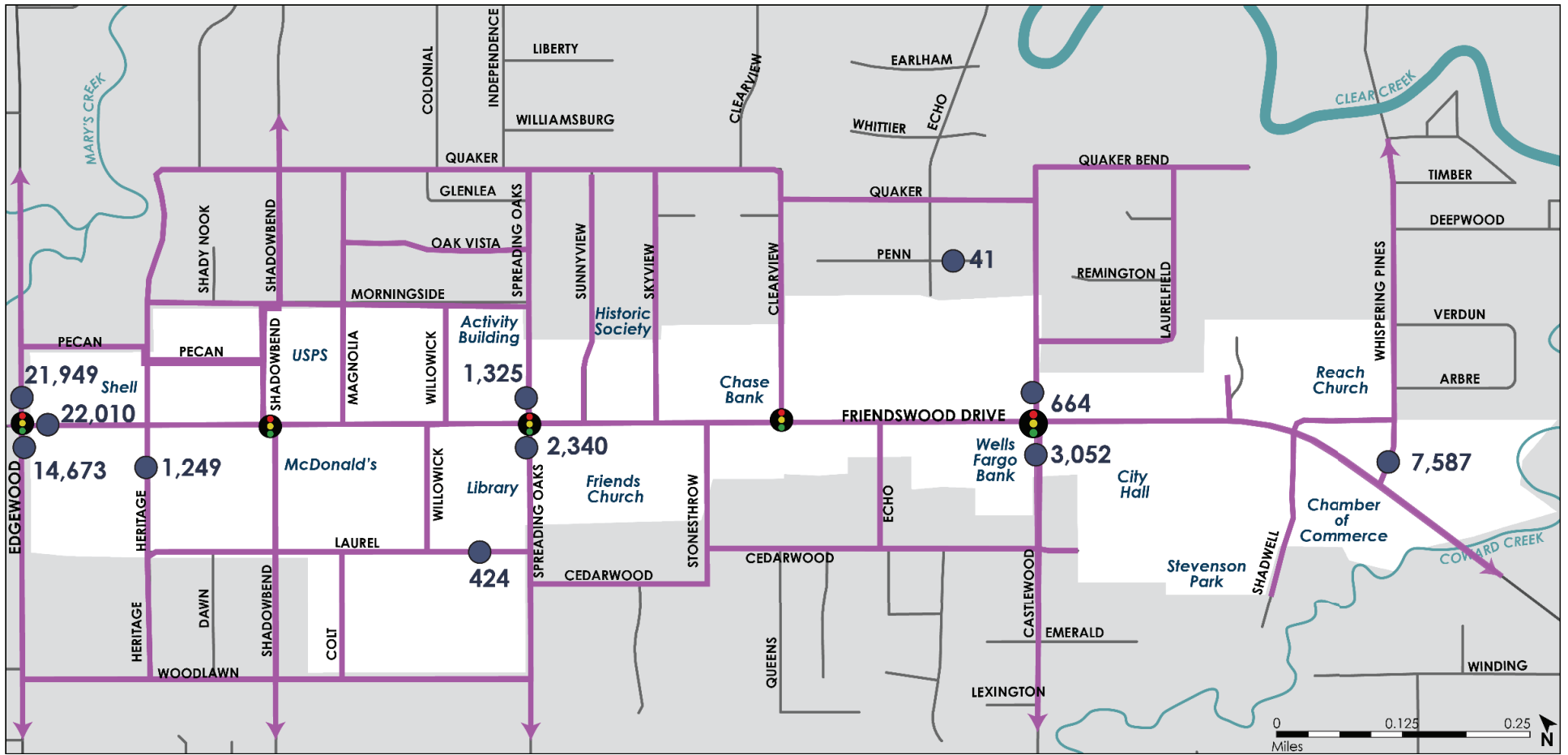




**CITY OF FRIENDSWOOD FM 518 PEDESTRIAN AND SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS TIP 2018 APPLICATION**










Source: TxDOT Urban Saturation Counts, 2016

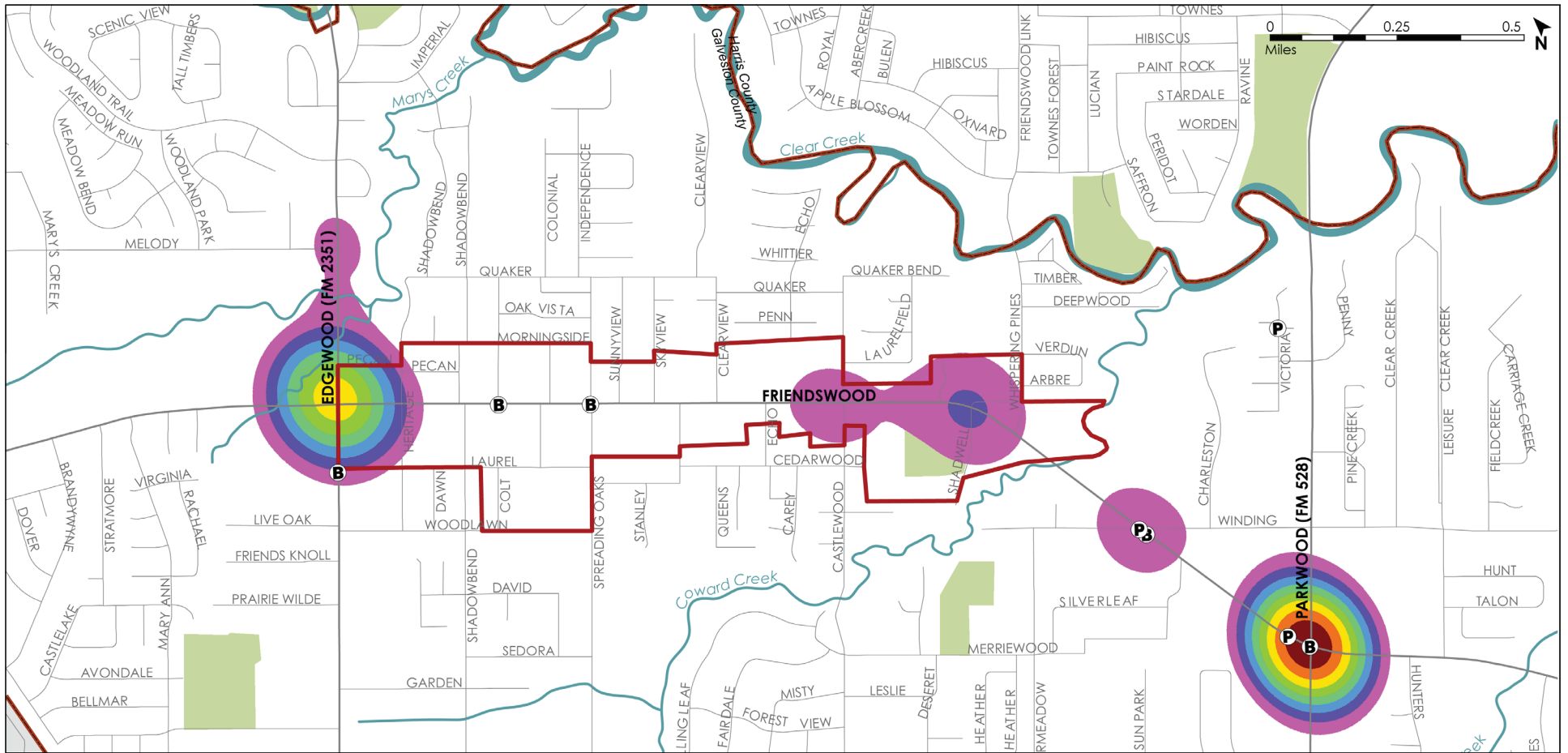
## Corridor Operations

FM 518 is a four lane divided curb and gutter roadway with raised medians. The corridor is maintained by TxDOT. Right-of-way (ROW) is approximately 80 feet along the corridor, however it is wider in some locations. There are six signalized intersections along the corridor. Average Daily Traffic (ADT) for FM 518 and the surrounding roadways are included in the figure above. FM 518 has an ADT of 22,010 vehicles per day. Planning level level-of-service (LOS) values from the *Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) Exhibit 16-14* were used to determine capacity along the corridor. The LOS for the corridor within the study area is LOS D, an acceptable LOS for a corridor within an active suburban area with high commercial activity.

The Downtown District has five span-wire signalized intersections along FM 518 including Edgewood, Spreading Oaks, Clearview, Castlewood, and Whispering Pines, and one signalized intersection that has a galvanized mast arm at Shadowbend. Replacing the span wire at the five intersections with black powder coated mast arms would contribute to a more cohesive look and feel for the Downtown area. Installation of new signals provides an opportunity for installing new curb ramps, crosswalks, and pedestrian push button signals for all crossings.

## Legend

-  Connected Street Grid
-  Signalized Intersection
-  24-hour Average Daily Traffic (ADT) Count (TxDOT - 2017)



Source: TxDOT CRIS Database, 2010-2017

## Vehicular Crashes

Crashes within the study area from 2010 to 2017 were collected from the TxDOT CRIS database and analyzed. A density map was developed to indicate areas with a high concentration of crashes. The heat map above depicts two hotspots within the study area, both at signalized intersections. The intersection of FM 518 at FM 2351 has a crash rate of 0.85 crashes per million entering vehicles (MEV). The intersection of FM 518 at Whispering Pines has a crash rate of 0.74 crashes per MEV.

The corridor crash rate along FM 518 within the study area is 349.08 crashes per 100 million vehicle miles. This value is greater than the TxDOT average for similar urban FM roadways (301.42 per 100 million vehicles miles) as well as higher than the average for a 4-lane urban divided roadways (193.14 per 100 million vehicle miles).

The map above also indicates locations of pedestrian and vehicle crashes. There are two crashes that involved a bicyclist along FM 518.

## Legend

- Bicycle Crash Location
- Pedestrian crash Location
- Downtown District Boundary
- County Line
- Crash Density
- Less Crashes
- More Crashes





## Sidewalk Conditions and Pedestrian Ramps

Curb ramps and crosswalks are also important for accessibility and walkability, especially as it relates to people using wheelchairs, walkers, or strollers. Numerous curb ramps at the signalized intersections are not ADA accessible with either no ramp, or a ramp that is inadequate or has been destroyed. Many of the ramp locations at the intersections direct the pedestrian into the middle of the intersection instead of safely onto the designated crosswalk. Improvements to the overall sidewalk network must also include curb ramps, access across driveways, and safe crosswalks at intersections.

Redesign of the signalized intersections would include ADA compliant ramps, wide well-marked crosswalks, pedestrian crossing priority, and clearly marked stop bars for cars to stop in advance of the crosswalk.

Legend - FM 518 Existing Sidewalks

- A** - Narrow sidewalk adjacent roadway
- B** - Poor driveway acting as sidewalk
- C** - Poor curb ramp, non-ADA
- D** - No connecting sidewalk; poor ramp
- E** - Poor driveway, narrow sidewalk
- F** - Downtown standard brick pavers

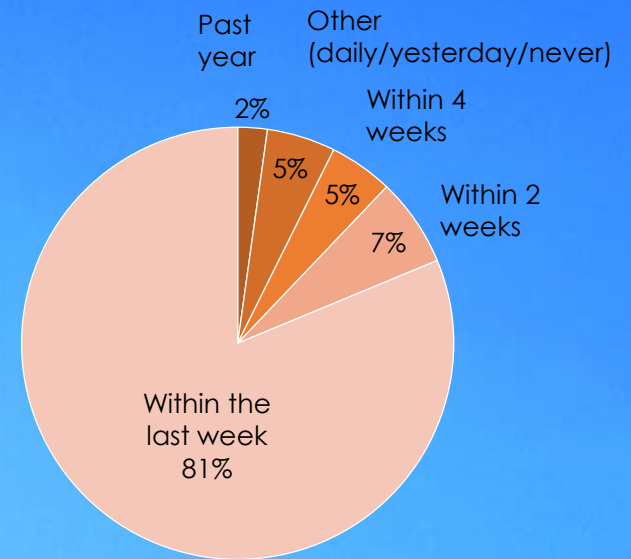
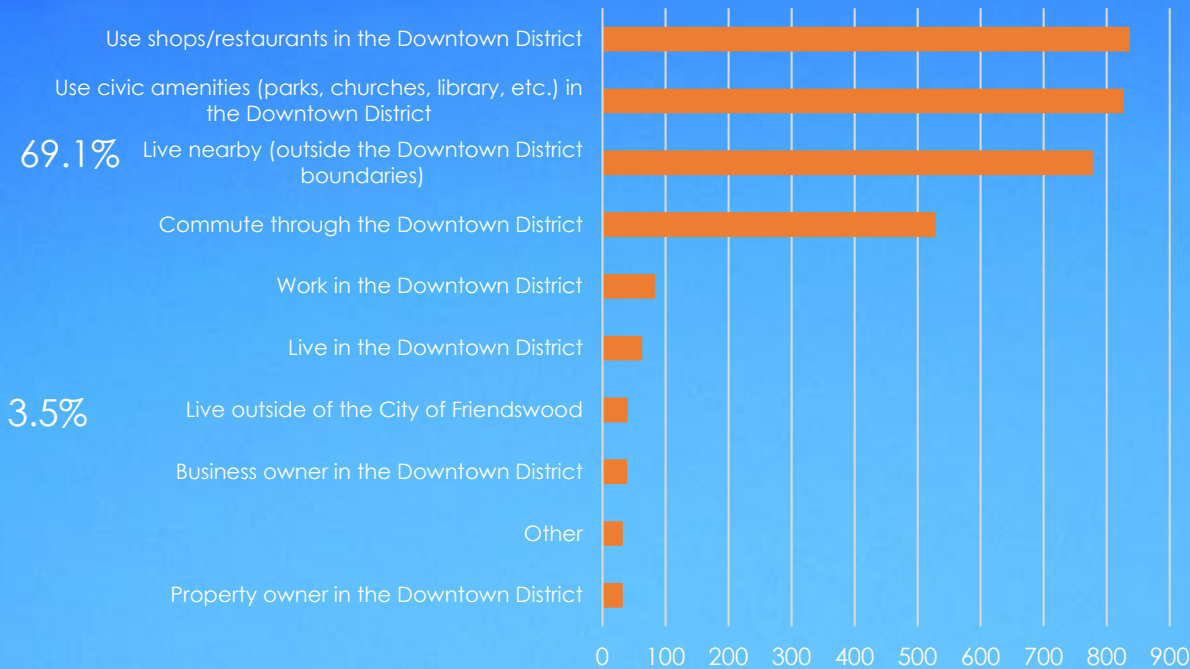


**1,132** unique survey respondents

10 questions, posted through City of Friendswood webpage

**938** mentions of “**small**”

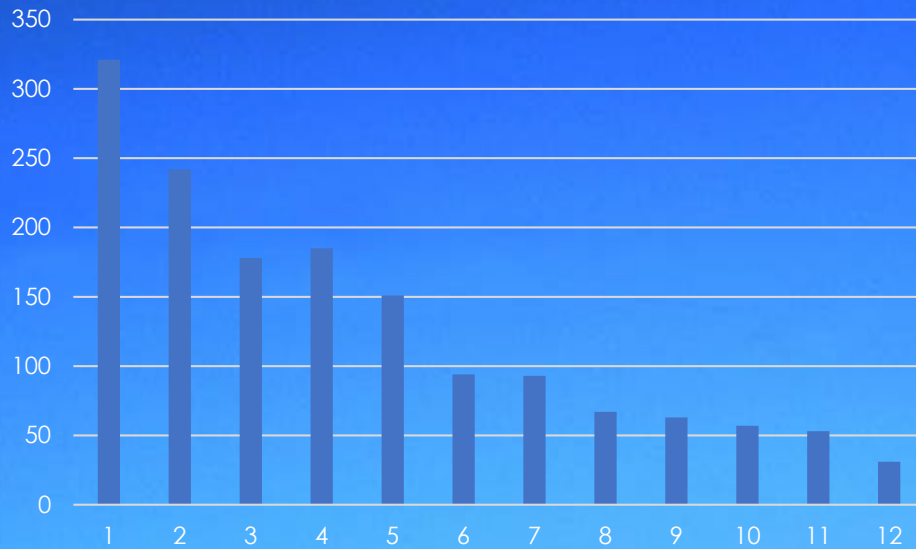
Small town, small businesses, small shops, etc.



Public input: survey results

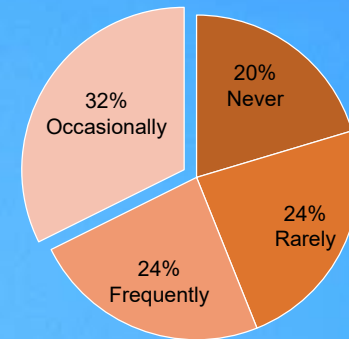
*Lauren Griffith Associates*

Please share your vision for the future Downtown District.  
 What would you preserve, modify, or add?



1. Sidewalks/walking
2. More restaurants/dining
3. More/preserve trees
4. More shops
5. More businesses (small)
6. More parking
7. Signs (reduce commercial signs, add signs)
8. More bike routes
9. Preserve history
10. Family oriented
11. Better lighting
12. Improve medians

How often would you prefer walking or riding a bike as opposed to driving a car within an improved Downtown District?



Public input: survey results

- N. Downtown District *supplemental requirements*. These supplemental requirements shall apply only to new developments within the Downtown District or where a structure in the district has lost its nonconformity. A new development shall be defined as any new project built on a raw or otherwise vacant tract or tracts of land, not associated with an existing structure. A structure shall be deemed to have lost its nonconformity as determined by appendix C, subsection 6.D.
1. *Geographic limits*. The geographic limits of the Downtown District are as shown on the Downtown District Map. All properties within these geographic limits may rezone to downtown zone. Those properties outside the geographic limits may not rezone to the downtown zone.
  2. *General purpose and description*. The Downtown District (DD) is intended to create a mixed use environment based on traditional neighborhood and smart growth standards. It is designed for physical flexibility with zero setbacks and allows for the redevelopment of small, existing tracts. The encouragement of a pedestrian friendly environment is established by allowing shared parking and on-street parking, as well as sidewalks and street furnishing.
  3. *Parking*.
    - a. Off-site parking shall be allowed if within one block of the development. For purposes of this subsection, one block shall constitute no less than 300 linear feet and no more than 1,200 linear feet.
    - b. Shared parking areas shall be allowed.
    - c. Shared access agreements shall be required between adjacent developments.
    - d. On-street parking shall be in accordance with subsection F.I.C., shown previously in this ordinance.
    - e. Development plans shall indicate how freight and goods will be delivered.
    - f. Development plans shall show the design and layout for all parking. Documentation shall be provided to verify authority for all shared or off-site parking.
    - g. All such required documentation shall be presented before a development plan is approved.
  4. *Architectural standards*.
    - a. Buildings in the DD zoning district shall have exterior cladding of brick, masonry, stone, stucco or glass. Fiber cement boards/siding are prohibited, except as trim for eaves and overhangs. The Planning and Zoning Commission may approve alternative exterior facade materials.
    - b. Fenestration shall mean the openings in a wall such as doors and windows, to include faux windows whether transparent or not. Such windows may be inoperative but must be framed as a window and otherwise appear to be a window. Painted openings would not be counted in fenestration calculations.

Fenestration along front or other facades visible to the public, shall be as follows:

      - (1) Walls visible to the public shall have windows and or doors (i.e., no blank walls allowed).
      - (2) Not less than 40 percent fenestration shall be provided for all ground floor primary facades (front or side) that face a public right-of-way.
      - (3) Not less than 25 percent fenestration shall be provided for any facade (upper floors and those not facing a public right-of-way).
    - c. Awnings and canopies are allowed upon approval of the planning and zoning commission.
    - d. Fenestration calculations:
      - (1) Area of primary wall (front or side) facing ROW x 40 percent = minimum fenestration;
      - (2) Area of upper floor or floor not facing ROW x 25 percent = minimum fenestration.
  5. *Screening*. Mechanical equipment, such as roof top equipment, compressors, refrigeration units and trash enclosures, and other nonpublic service areas that are visible from a public area, shall be screened to a height sufficient to completely screen the use from

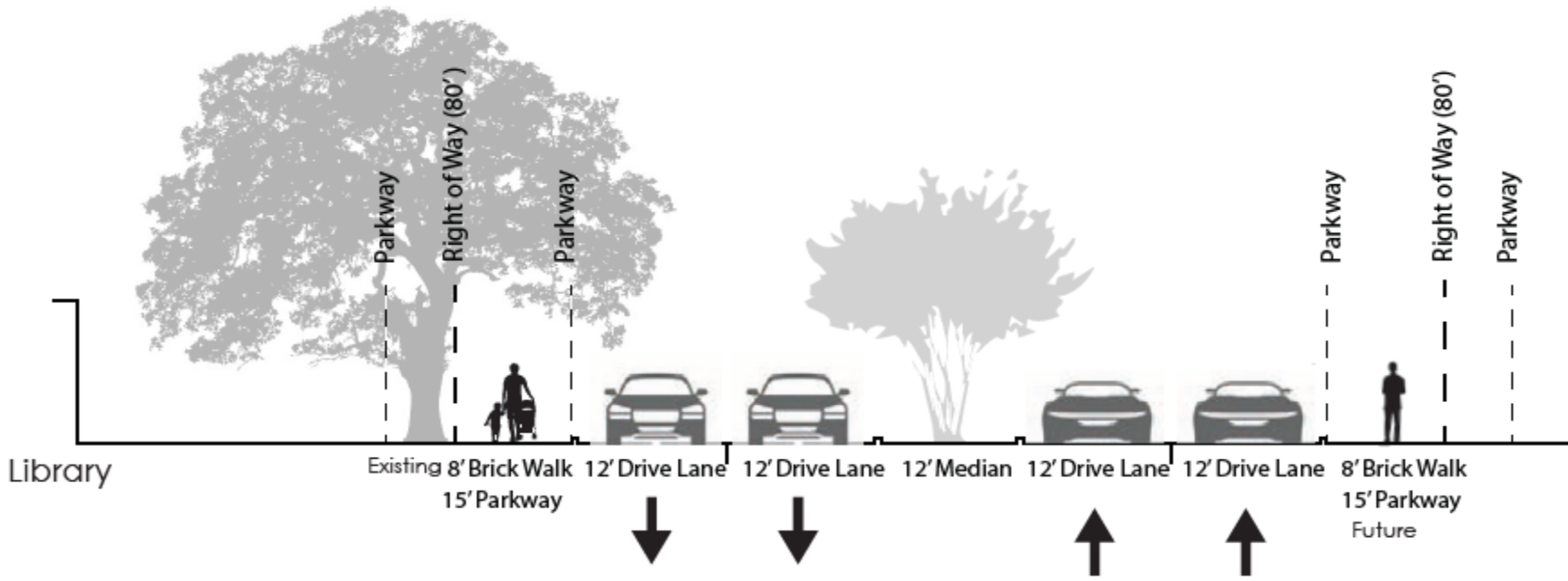
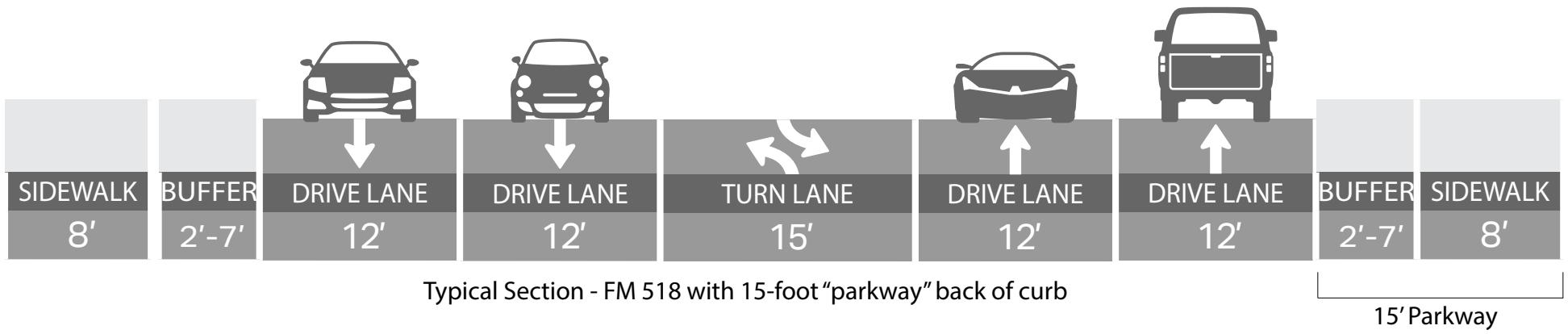
view at ground level. "View at ground level" shall mean the view from public walkways situated in the adjoining rights-of-way or from vehicular traffic in the first two traffic lanes in the bordering street or streets.

6. *Sidewalks.*

- a. Each development along FM 2351 and FM 518 shall provide a minimum 15-foot-wide parkway adjacent to the street right-of-way. The 15-foot parkway must contain an unobstructed brick-paved sidewalk, as described in Appendix E of the Design Criteria Manual, at least eight feet wide and a seven-foot wide landscape area.
- b. Each development along all other streets within the Downtown District shall provide a concrete sidewalk built in accordance with City of Friendswood standard specifications and shall be a minimum of six feet in width. Concrete sidewalks shall be built within the street right-of-way and adjacent to the right-of-way lines.
- c. If sidewalks cannot be placed wholly within the right-of-way and must be placed on private property, easements of the appropriate width shall be required.

7. *Parkways and landscaping.*

- a. The 15-foot parkway required along FM 2351 and FM 518, which runs parallel and adjacent to each street's back of curb, includes a seven-foot landscape area. This area shall be reserved for amenities, such as street furniture, lighting and landscaping, and may include grass, brick pavers or other decorative material as approved by the planning and zoning commission.
  - (1) Trees shall be provided every 25 linear feet. Trees used in the 15-foot parkway shall be Class 2 or Class 3 trees from the city's qualified tree list, and other landscaping material such as bushes and/or groundcover may be used. The tree and landscaping material shall be maintained in living condition. One-half of the trees shall have a minimum caliper of four inches and one-half shall have a minimum caliper of two inches. Existing qualified trees may be counted toward fulfillment of this requirement provided that the size, species, and guaranteed duration shall meet the criteria of the landscaping section of this ordinance. (Clustering of trees shall be permitted; provided, however, clustering shall not reduce the number of required trees, and trees shall not be clustered so as to lessen the survival rate of other trees.)
  - (2) Amenities shall be provided in accordance with the Design Criteria Manual, Exhibit E Downtown District Amenities. A minimum of two lights and two benches are required within the 15-foot parkway of each development. All provided amenities shall be permanently maintained by the property owner, including the brick-paved sidewalks.
- b. Developments along all other streets within the Downtown District shall have a minimum ten-foot landscaped buffer located on private property and not less than one tree, whether existing or planted, shall be planted and maintained for each 25 lineal feet or portion thereof. Each such tree shall be not less than eight feet in height immediately upon planting and shall have a caliper of not less than two inches measured 18 inches above the natural ground level.
- c. Alternate sidewalk, landscape and amenity designs, specific to the site or the function of the development within the Downtown District may be considered by the Planning and Zoning Commission if it determines that the proposed alternative(s) sidewalk is not narrower than six feet and provide(s), respectively:
  - (i) Equal or better pedestrian access to and along the development property;
  - (ii) Equal or enhanced landscape beautification for the development; or
  - (iii) Equal or better design amenities than otherwise required herein.



Friendswood Drive at Library

Existing Section FM 518

Rendering from Downtown Improvement Plan Report supporting Code of Ordinances Appendix C - Zoning, Section 8



# Mobility Recommendations

The mobility characteristics assessed for the Downtown District Improvement Plan expands on previous improvements made and identifies public infrastructure-related improvements to be made to enhance the District improving safety, making it more inviting, and more accessible. Below are a few mobility-related recommendations identified as a result of this assessment. Many recommendations can be grouped into "intersection improvements" including curb ramps, mast arms, crosswalks, and pedestrian signals. However, each of these are discussed individually on the following pages.

## Sidewalks

To provide a more consistent walkable Downtown experience, it is recommended that the FDEDC prioritize completing the entire sidewalk network along FM 518 using the eight-foot wide brick paver design standards, and implementing six-foot wide standard concrete sidewalks along the adjacent streets off of FM 518.

Filling in the gaps of the sidewalk network is a priority.



Existing



Recommended 8' wide sidewalks

## Curb Ramps

To provide a safe, walkable, accessible Downtown experience, it is recommended that the FDEDC improve all curb ramps to allow people in wheelchairs, walkers, and people pushing strollers, safer access at intersections and driveways. The current curb ramps are substandard and prohibits pedestrian connectivity.



Existing



Recommended

Source: [blog.unifboston.org](http://blog.unifboston.org)



# Mobility Recommendations

(Continued)

## Mast Arms at Intersections

The majority of the signalized intersections in Downtown are on span wire. To provide a more cohesive look throughout Downtown, replacing the span wire with black powder coated mast arms is recommended at the following intersections:

- Edgewood
- Spreading Oaks
- Clearview
- Castlewood
- Whispering Pines

Shadowbend will need black powder coating only.



Existing



Recommended

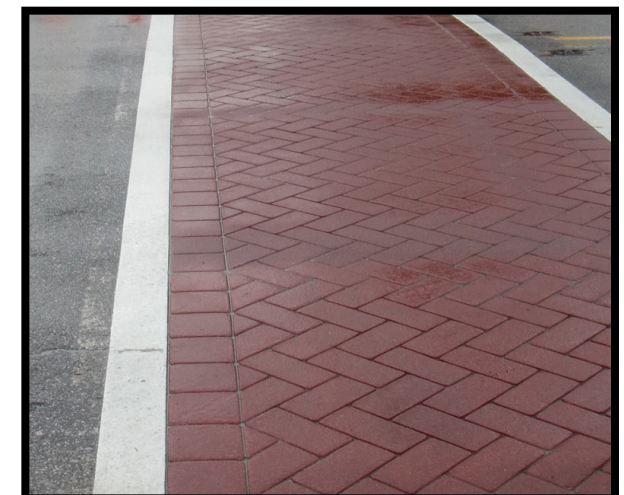
## Crosswalks and Pedestrian Signals

There are faded crosswalks at the signalized intersections Downtown, and eventual intersection reconstruction could allow for new crosswalks and other enhancements. Stamped concrete within the standard white crosswalk lines could be one option during reconstruction.

In the interim, repainting the crosswalks with a pattern or stylized paint may be considered.



Existing



Recommended



**City of Friendswood Major Downtown Annual Events**

<b>Downtown Event</b>	<b>Month or Frequency of Event</b>	<b>Estimated Attendance</b>
Santa in the Park	December	10,000
Easter Egg Hunt	Spring	1,000
Chamber Car Show	October	5,000
Art in the Park	November – 2 days	10,000
Farmer's Market	Once a month	1,000 people 40 vendors
Concert in the Park	6 Fridays in May & June	1,000+ per concert
Friendswood Texas Music Fest	March	3,000
Flapjack Fun Run	November	250
Histor-ween	October	50+
Halloween in the Park	October	1,000
Labor Day Ice Cream Social	September	1,000+
Chalk Walk	May	500+
Front Porch Series	3 Fridays in April	50+ per event
4 <sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Program	July	5,000
Lighted Christmas Parade	December	500+
Homecoming Parade	Fall	1,000
Christmas Tree Lighting	December	100+