

City of Stafford Sidewalk Connectivity Project Supplemental Information

Description of Project

The installation of approximately 4,380 lineal feet of five (5) foot wide ADA compliant pedestrian sidewalk is proposed to fill a gap that is adjacent to major thoroughfares and will ultimately provide pedestrian connectivity to employment, education, cultural arts and entertainment, and shopping destinations throughout the City of Stafford as identified in the City's 2015 Comprehensive Plan. The proposed sidewalks are located north of U.S. Highway 90, on the west side of Stafford Road and on the south side of Cash Road.

Planning Coordination

The installation of approximately 4,380 lineal feet of five (5) foot wide ADA complaint pedestrian sidewalk is adjacent to existing major thoroughfares (Stafford Road and Cash Road) as shown on the Master Thoroughfare Plan in the City's Comprehensive Plan (Figure 4.2) which encourages these high traffic areas to include sidewalks and other pedestrian friendly amenities such as crosswalks, pedestrian countdown signals, etc. The City's Comprehensive Plan encourages that deficiencies be identified and available funding be solicited to improve pedestrian mobility. At the August 15, 2015 City Council meeting, the Council identified this project as a priority that will enhance the level of service and the safety and well-being of Stafford's residents, workers and visitors.

Expands/Improves Bicycle & Pedestrian connectivity to Employment/Schools/Medical facilities/Transit/Other Points of Interest

The proposed installation of 4,380 lineal feet of five (5) foot wide pedestrian sidewalk will unite different areas and sectors of the community. More importantly, it will improve or expand connectivity to several key employment nodes and educational facilities identified below. The City's 2015 Comprehensive Plan identifies the desired connectivity amongst the following four (4) activity nodes (see attached map):

- **The Fountains.** An established and visibly identifiable node adjacent to U.S. 59/I-69 featuring a 600,000 sq. ft. shopping center with a wide variety of shops and restaurants attracting weekly and yearly visitors.
- **The Texas Instrument Mixed Use Development.** A 200 acre mixed use development currently under construction that features 350,000 sq. ft. of retail and restaurant uses, 2,400 residential units, two (2) hotels, a health club and class A office space.
- **The Arts and Entertainment District.** An area comprised of the Stafford Centre (a 1,110 seat performing arts theater; 25,000 sq. ft. banquet and exposition hall; a 20,000 sq. ft. ballroom and 28 acres of outdoor festival green space) and Houston Community College with an enrollment of approximately 60,000 in the greater Houston area.

- The Stafford Municipal Complex. An area consisting of educational (elementary, proposed middle school and high school) and recreational (track/stadium and fields) and cultural uses (Stafford Civic Center) uses.

The proposed sidewalks fill a gap located in the Arts and Entertainment (A & E) District. The installation of the new sidewalks will allow pedestrian connectivity to/from the A & E District to/from FM 1092 (Murphy Road) which will be improved in the next few years with sidewalks and shared use paths. These future pedestrian improvements to the FM 1092 corridor will allow accessibility to/from the Texas Instrument Mixed Use Development and Fountains activity nodes located in the northwest portion of the City.

The Comprehensive Plan states “over time through a series of shared use paths and trails (sidewalks), Stafford should make every effort to connect, not only activity nodes, but other areas of the community”.

Barrier Elimination

The proposed new five (5) foot wide ADA compliant sidewalks will provide safe and convenient access across all barriers including street and railroad crossing. The City will cooperatively work with Union Pacific Railroad for an at-grade railroad pedestrian crossing on the west side of Stafford Road, north of U.S. Highway 90. As mentioned earlier, the proposed sidewalk improvements will close a gap in pedestrian connectivity amongst four (4) major activity nodes that are spread throughout the City as identified in the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

Environmental Benefits (Emission Reductions - NOx, VOCs)

The proposed new sidewalks will provide connectivity to future share use paths adjacent to the FM 1092 corridor. The utilization of the sidewalks and paths will reduce the number of overall vehicular trip, thus reducing emissions. The City’s Comprehensive Plan supports alternative means of transportation by combining trips, walking, biking, etc. to reduce ozone pollution in the Houston metropolitan area. This project would benefit the environment through 16 tons/year NOx emission reductions and 3.84 tons/year VOC emission reductions.

Environmental Justice

The new ADA compliant pedestrian sidewalks will serve the disabled and avoid negatively impacting environmental justice sensitive areas by providing low income individuals or the elderly who may not have the means or ability to operate a motor vehicle a way to safely and conveniently travel to places of employment, education and culture around the city.

Letters of Support (see below)

1. Dr. Robert Bostic (Superintendent of Stafford Municipal School District)
2. Bryan T. Blaum (President of FMsquared, management company for Stafford Centre)
3. Mayor Leonard Scarcella (funding commitment letter expressing the City’s support)



STAFFORD MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
1625 STAFFORDSHIRE ROAD
STAFFORD, TEXAS 77477
O: 281.261.9202 F: 281.261.9249

August 14, 2018

City of Stafford
Honorable Mayor Leonard Scarcella and City Council Members
2610 South Main
Stafford, TX 77477

Re: Letter of Support for 2018 Transportation Improvement Grant Funds

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

The Stafford Municipal School District supports the City's request to obtain grant funds under the 2018 Transportation Improvement Program for the construction of new sidewalks that will provide pedestrian connectivity improvement between the four (4) Activity Nodes (the Fountains, Texas Instrument, Houston Community College and Stafford Municipal School District) identified in the City of Stafford 2015 Comprehensive Plan.

The construction of these new sidewalks are a much needed capital improvement that will provide connectivity between educational facilities, workplaces and other activities of interest. If I can further assist you in your efforts, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Bostic", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Best Regards,

Robert Bostic, Ed.D.
Superintendent



August 21, 2018

City of Stafford
Jeffrey Johnson, City Planner
2610 South Main
Stafford, TX 77477

Re: Letter of Support for 2018 Transportation Improvement Grant Funds

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The Stafford Centre supports the City's request to obtain grant funds under the H-GAC 2018 Transportation Improvement Program for the construction of new sidewalks adjacent to our 43 acre site. The Stafford Centre has hosted over 3 million visitors since opening in March, 2004. These patrons attend concerts, dance recitals, theatrical productions, festivals, consumer shows, weddings, meetings and numerous outdoor events.

The proposed sidewalks will provide much needed pedestrian connectivity between this cultural resource, Houston Community College and area businesses in the vicinity.

Thank you for your efforts to make Stafford a pedestrian friendly walkable community.

Sincerely,



Bryan Blaum

Bryan T. Blaum
President
FMSquared, A Facility Management & Marketing Co



CITY OF STAFFORD

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COUNCILMEMBERS
VIRGINIA ROSAS
CECIL WILLIS, JR.
KEN MATHEW
WEN GUERRA
ARTHUR "A.J." HONORE
DON JONES

LEONARD SCARCELLA
MAYOR

August 23, 2018

Vishu Lingala, Principal Planner
Houston-Galveston Area Council
3555 Timmons, Suite 120
Houston, TX 77027

Re: Funding Commitment Letter (H-GAC 2018 TIP Call for Projects Application)

Dear Vishu Lingala:

This letter confirms the commitment by the City of Stafford to construct sidewalks north of U.S. Highway 90 along the west side of Stafford Road and south side of Cash Road. Upon completion, the sidewalks will fill a gap that will ultimately provide pedestrian connectivity to employment, education, cultural arts and entertainment, and shopping destinations throughout the City as identified in the City's 2015 Comprehensive Plan.

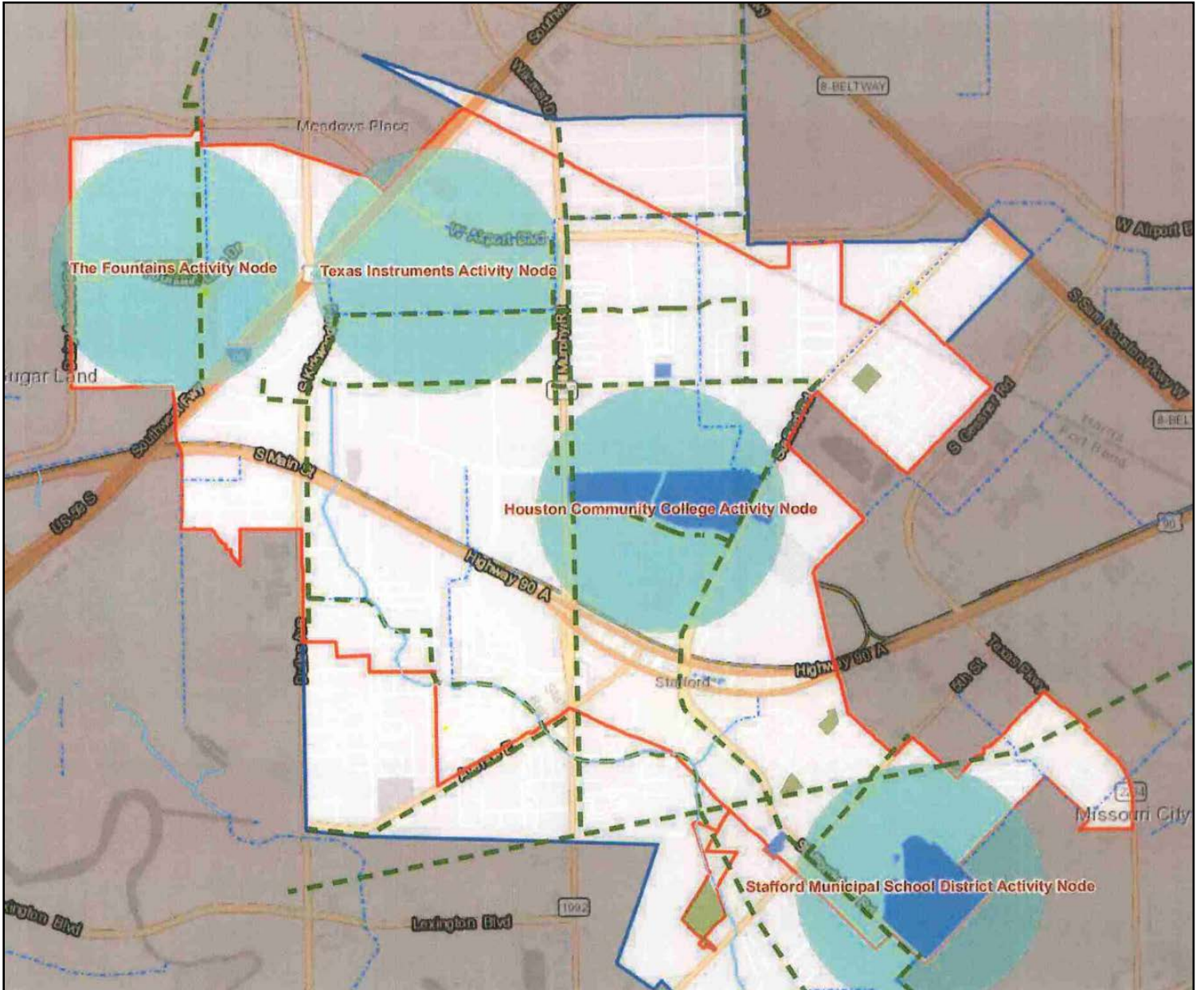
This project will be added to the City's Capital Improvement Program with funding committed for construction in the amount of \$41,684 along with survey and design costs in the amount of \$75,000, for a total cost of \$116,684 beginning in FY 2018/19.

Please find attached documentation for this grant application, including letters of community endorsement expressing loyalty for this project. We look forward to hearing from you once the project selection process is completed.

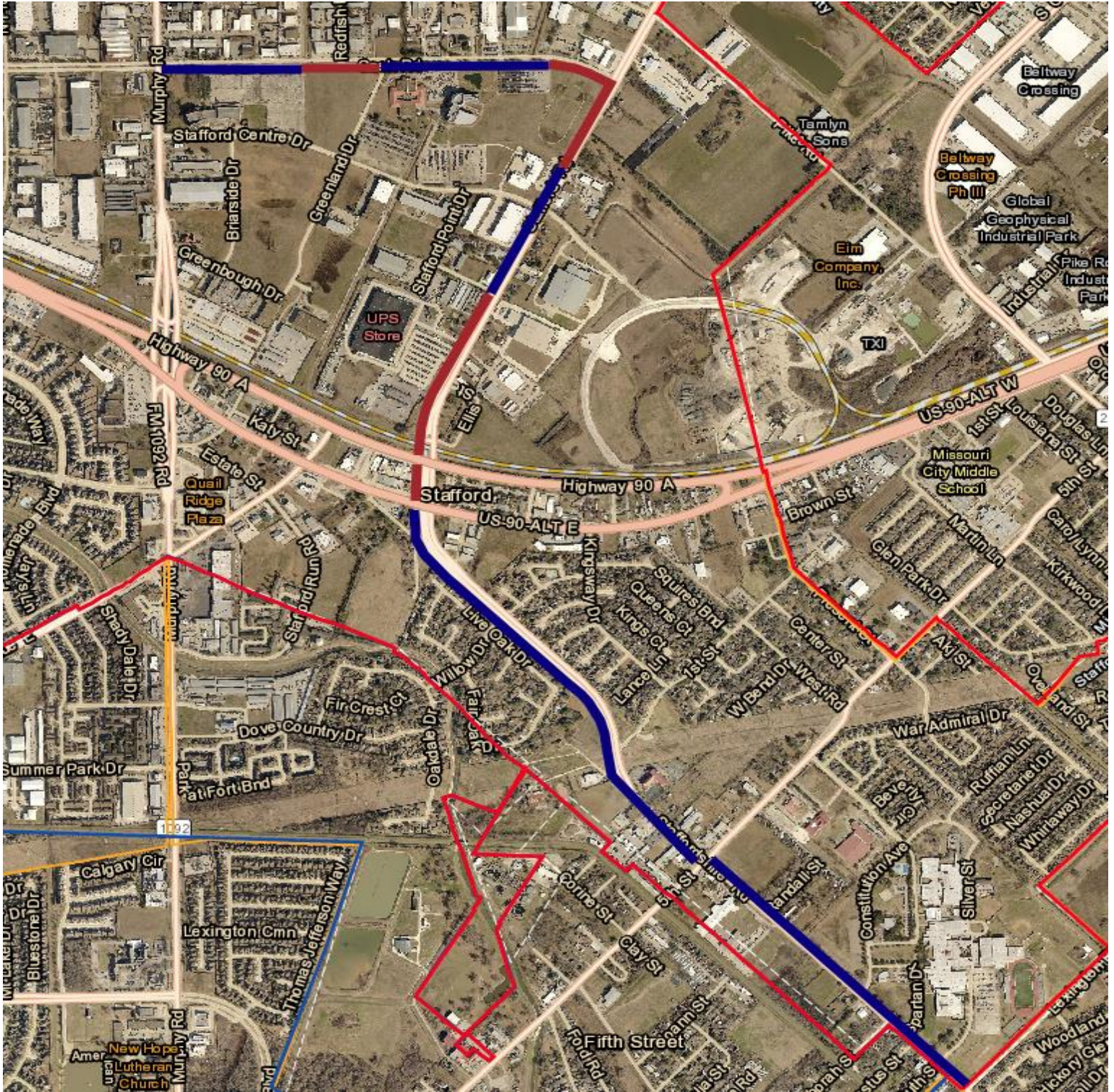
Sincerely,


Leonard Scarcella
Mayor

City of Stafford Activity Nodes



City of Stafford Sidewalk Connectivity Project



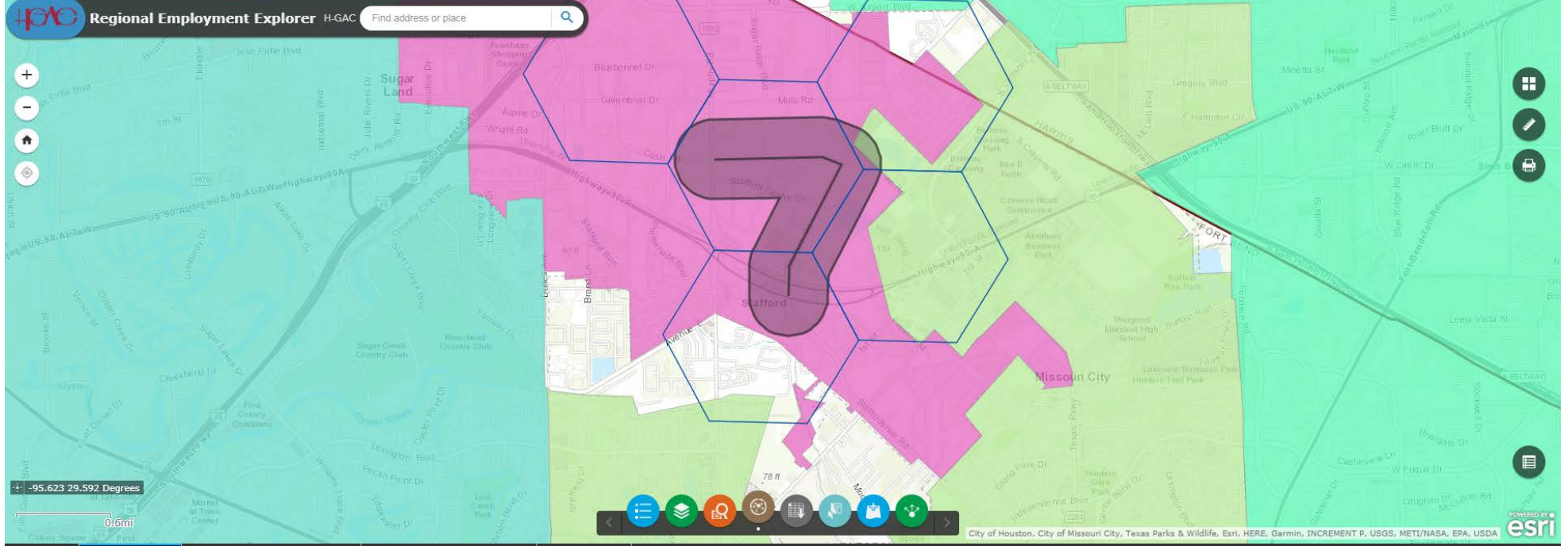
Legend:

-  Existing Sidewalks
-  City Limit
-  Proposed Sidewalks

Regional Employment Map with .25 Mile Buffer

Regional Employment Snapshot

13-County Places Tracts **Advanced** Userguide



Locate	Total Jobs	Workforce Demograph...	Workforce Edu&Income	Industry	2012	2013	2014	2015
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
	13,595	13,458	15,508	14,580	14,940	15,828	15,578	