

## KIRBY DRIVE EXTENSION PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Kirby Drive has been designated by the City of Houston as a major thoroughfare on the Major Thoroughfare & Freeway Plan (MTFP) since 1942. The extension of Kirby Dr. from Holmes Rd. to Beltway 8 would connect City of Houston Central Business District (CBD) and the Texas Medical Center (TMC) to the City of Pearland Town Center. Additionally, Kirby Drive connects several activity centers like the Upper Kirby District, Rice University, and NRG Stadium with residential neighborhoods along the route.

Currently, SH 288 is the primary north-south corridor within TIRZ 24, but it fails to provide ample access to primarily underdeveloped properties between Holmes Road and Beltway 8. This lack of roadway and transit connectivity along with the lack of water and sewer infrastructure have resulted in 4,000+ acres of vacant and underdeveloped land within the TIRZ 24 boundary. Additionally, based on previous studies Kirby Drive has been identified as a viable high-capacity METRO designated transit corridor. Having Kirby Drive built with utilities and transit would stimulate growth and development of these vacant/underdeveloped tracts.

As a parallel corridor to SH 288, Kirby Drive provides a viable alternative with ample circulation for future developments within the TIRZ. Furthermore, extending Kirby Drive across Sims Bayou would provide accessibility to the proposed shared-use path along the bayou. Kirby Drive from Holmes Road to Orem Drive last appeared on the City of Houston 2016-2020 CIP with a budget of \$7.6M (N-000594). For reference, our estimate for Kirby Drive stands at \$110M.

The Kirby Drive has the support of local governments/agencies such as METRO, Harris County Pct. 1, Brazoria County, City of Pearland, and the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. The support from many agencies and the need for Kirby Drive as mentioned make this project the most viable for funding.

