

Texas Department of Transportation  
Houston District  
7600 Washington Ave  
Houston, TX 77007

February 19, 2024

Attn: Advanced Project Development Director

Dear TxDOT Houston District,

Thank you for engaging Cottage Grove and other nearby stakeholders in the public information session regarding the proposed I-10 Inner Katy Corridor managed lanes from Voss Road to I-45 project (hereinafter referred to as “the Project” or “this Project”). We noted many neighborhood residents in attendance and are pleased they were able to see accurate renderings and models of the proposed options. We look forward to future information sessions to provide additional input.

Cottage Grove is directly adjacent to this Project and its residents face the brunt of the impacts. We voiced our concerns in a March 25, 2021 letter, as well as at our in person meeting on August 24, 2023. The neighborhood of Cottage Grove pre-dates I-10 by 50 years and was cut in half for its construction. The neighborhood was left forever fragmented and residents have been forced to endure the noise, pollution, and loss of community for decades.

When reviewing the Project renderings during the Feb 8<sup>th</sup> open house, our residents were shocked at the scale of the managed lanes. TxDOT is effectively creating a double decker freeway through the corridor at a tremendous elevation to clear the railroad tracks. Our already noisy park will become unusable, homes and wildlife habitats will be lost, and the long term health effects from increased traffic and vehicles will harm residents, many of whom have young children. It was clear from the presentation there is no way TxDOT can effectively mitigate any of the issues this Project will bring.

We understand TxDOT's desire to increase traffic throughput in this corridor but we do not believe this should come at the further expense of our neighborhood.

We offered several alternatives in our initial letter and TxDOT's communication director Raquelle Lewis mocked them in our in-person meeting. Regardless, we still feel TxDOT should re-evaluate its methodology in shaping Houston's transportation and consider true multi-modal alternatives for this project.

We have been coordinating with the “No Higher No Wider I-10” Organization (<https://nohighernowideri10.com/>) and fully support their proposed alternative. This group is requesting a structural cap solution that will create a mixed use community space and repair the damage TxDOT has caused our neighborhood, all the while still allowing TxDOT to achieve their throughput goals. We believe TxDOT could change the course of this project and garner strong public support with this alternative.

We support this alternative and encourage TxDOT to implement it going forward. Otherwise, please consider Cottage Grove Civic Association in opposition of both options presented.

Regards,

Cottage Grove Civic Association

Ian Fortney, President  
Anita Liu, Vice President  
Katie Niemann, Secretary  
Rob Burke, Treasurer