

Proud To Be



Lindale Park

The Hidden Jewel



Lindale Park Civic Club

THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE LINDALE PARK CIVIC CLUB
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF CIVIC PRIDE, 1979 - 2019

LINDALE PARK NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2019

**Lindale Park Civic Club
Quarterly Meeting
Tuesday, August 27 / 7 to 8 p.m.
Clubhouse / 218 Joyce St.**

**Quarterly Meeting Agenda:
Board Elections, Hurricane
Preparedness, I-45 Expansion, Elected
Officials, Deed Restrictions and
Neighborhood Concerns**

Make a difference in our neighborhood by serving on the Lindale Park Civic Club's Board of Directors. There will be six (6) open board member positions at the August 27 Quarterly Meeting. Board members serve two-year terms (August 31, 2019 – August 31, 2021).

If you are interested in running for an open board position, please send email to info@lindalepark.org, and we will get your name on the ballot. Write-ins are welcome! Please join us!

Closing Letter from LPCC President

Thank you, Lindale Park, for allowing me the opportunity to serve as a Lindale Park board member and president the last two years. Serving on the board is and always has been a labor of love.

Some of the things I'm most proud of are:

- leading meetings to hear your concerns;
- working on community events, like our 20th Annual 4th of July Parade;
- speaking on Lindale's behalf at City Hall with regards to vagrant/crime related matters;

- helping to implement changes on ordinances to require better standards and restrictions on said housing to ensure safety to our residents and neighboring schools;
- working with METRO to improve and increase security in the area surrounding our rail line;
- contacting local officials to address our lot size challenges; and
- speaking to our local state representatives about larger scope challenges that are imperatively important to our futures, such as the I-45 expansion, local school's needs for improvement and much more.

I hope each of you will seek an opportunity to find your voice in one of the many things that help shape our community. Serving on the board and/or being an active resident at our quarterly meetings and community events creates the chance for all voices to be heard.

As our neighborhood grows and becomes more diverse, we need to be sure we are reflective of your household. The only way to ensure Lindale Park is a place for all is to be a part of that influence. Be present. Be thoughtful in your efforts to join a committee and/or be a board member. Be willing to listen equally to wanting to be heard. There is much to be done.

As more developers come to the neighborhood, we need to be sure we are still reflecting what YOU want us to look like. As the I-45 expansion creeps its legs into our boundaries, YOU need to be sure you have voiced your opinion regarding that carbon footprint.

You can be sure I have my eyes, my efforts and my heart focused on many things that will shape our future as I move on to work on the expansion. I hope to see many of you step up and take the helm. I know you will find it as rewarding as I have.

Best regards,

- *Diana Lerma Pfeifer, Outgoing LPCC President*

Keeping Track of I-45 Expansion

The North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP) or, as it's commonly called, the I-45 Expansion, has attracted a lot of attention lately. The Greater Northside Management District (GNMD) has been keeping track of the project since the early days by advocating to minimize and mitigate the negative impacts and to make sure the project improves economic development in the District.

When I was younger growing up and starting to drive in the Northside, I remember my mother always saying to be careful around Irvington and 610. Both she and my father had accidents at that intersection, and she avoided getting onto the freeway from that location to head to I-45 North. I did not understand until I entered middle age that, yes... traffic is coming fast and it's really hard to cross over four lanes of traffic.

With that said, I do recognize that I-45 needs work. It is an old structure and truly does not work in certain ways, yet there are many questions and concerns that still need to be addressed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

The Greater Northside Management District has, in the last several years, been steadily working with TxDOT. We've held several meetings with our stakeholders, and we've participated in many, many meetings. While TxDOT has been willing to listen, the core issues of connectivity and the loss of access still has not been addressed sufficiently.

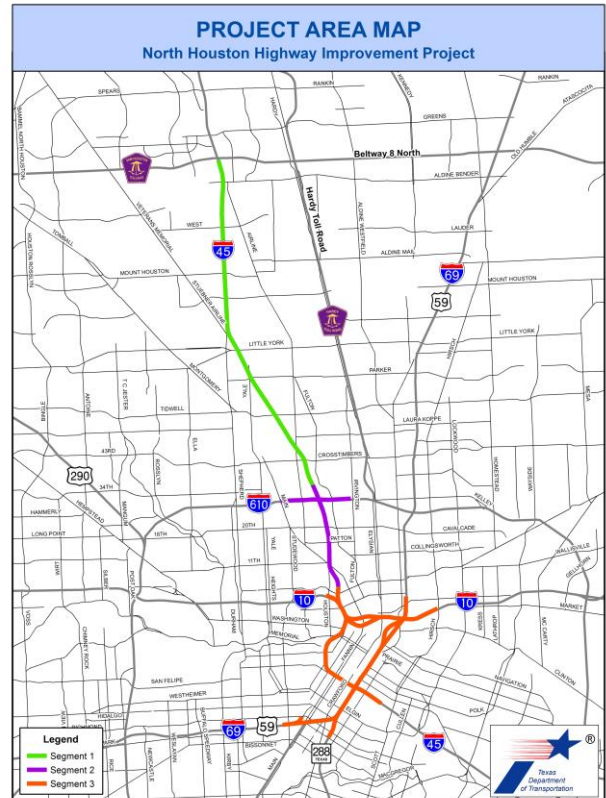
- Rebecca Reyna, Executive Director of GNMD

What is the I-45 Expansion?

The Texas Department of Transportation is proposing rebuilding the freeway from Beltway 8 to Downtown Houston, including the loop of freeways around it (I-69, I-10 and SH-288). The project is divided into three segments with Segment 1 extending from Beltway 8 to I-610, Segment 2 from I-610 to I-10 and Segment 3 being the loop of freeways around Downtown and Midtown.

Portions of Segments 1 and 3 and all of Segment 2 are within the boundaries of the District. The project proposes to move I-45 from the west and south sides of Downtown to the north and east side.

This allows for the removal of the Pierce Elevated between Downtown and Midtown.



Concerns within the District

Right-of-Way (ROW) impacts on all Segments, especially Segment 1. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) indicates that there is a disproportionate amount of loss in Segments 1 and 2, which are more economically challenged than Segment 3. The NHHIP could be redesigned with a tighter footprint that stays within the existing ROW, lessening the impact on the Northside communities, reducing the loss of businesses and homes, and keeping developable land within the footprint.

Loss of Local Connectivity. The rerouting of I-45 (Pierce Elevated) from Midtown to the Northside brings disproportionate impacts and poses a greater barrier between a minority, low-income population and the Central Business District. In addition, the loss of connecting bridges and freeway exits reduces access to businesses, placing them at a disadvantage. Some requests may come at the expense of traffic flow but should be prioritized, nonetheless.

Frontage Road Safety. I-45 has a disproportionate amount of bike and pedestrian crashes along frontage roads including the Crosstimbers intersection, which is currently ranked as the 13th most dangerous for people

walking or biking. This is an opportunity to make it safer and utilize other safety features along the feeder and intersections. We would like frontage roads to be designed using the City of Houston Design Standards and the Complete Streets Policy and lower the design speeds for safety.

Flooding Mitigation. Mitigate for both existing and proposed impervious surfaces and design drainage systems for the 500-year storm event. Mitigation strategies should have community benefits, including multipurpose drainage infrastructure, parks and trails.

Parks and Visual Impact. Minimize impacts to the White Oak Bayou Greenway Trail including the visual impact from the Leonel Castillo Community Center. Opportunities should be in the plan to extend existing trails and to link to future trails, according to the Houston Parks Board – Beyond the Bayous Plan.

The North Houston Highway Improvement Project will be transformational for the region, the City and the District. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to make real improvements that reflect the values of the existing community - No Right-of-Way impacts, connectivity, walkability flooding and impacts to the natural environment. While construction won't start until 2021, all the decisions are being made in the next few months. Join us in advocating to make this the best project it can be.

- Greater Northside Management District



20th Annual Parade Going Strong

Lindale Park's 20th Annual 4th of July Parade down Irvington Boulevard was a grand summer celebration! From a high school marching band to bag pipers to Chinese lion dancers to classic cars, low-riders and art cars, we definitely had it all!

We thank all those who continue to make this one-of-a-kind neighborhood tradition a success year after year!

The Lindale Park Civic Club extends our sincere appreciation to our amazing Parade committee who works for months to plan this cherished event, along with special appreciation to **Mike Bowlin Photography** for capturing these wonderful photos!

- Camille Webb, LPCC Secretary / Newsletter Editor

Yard of the Month Winners
June 2019
215 Ave of Oaks St. – Anthony Fry
303 Joyce St. – Elizabeth Payne
809 Gale St. – Ivonne Beteta

Quarterly Security Tip – August 2019

Walk safely in Lindale Park, and other places, especially at night. Even though those who live in Lindale Park realize we don't have sidewalks, others who live elsewhere may end-up driving our streets at any time and they may not be as cautious as those who live here. Follow the tips below to have a safe walk:

1. Walk Facing Traffic

This gives you the best chance to see traffic approaching closest to you and better enable you to take evasive actions. This may be a little confusing because the opposite is true for cyclists, who cycle in the same direction as the traffic.

2. Cross Safely

You need to look both ways before crossing any street. Make eye contact with any drivers who may be turning. Give them a wave. Make sure they see you and your kids/pets. In a collision between a vehicle and a walker, the walker can only lose.

3. Make a Small Target

You should walk one or two wide at the most, making yourself less apt to be in a driver's path should they move to their right when another vehicle is coming from the opposite direction.

4. Stay Aware of Bikes and Runners

Share the road with bikes and runners. Bike riders should alert you when approaching from behind saying "passing on the left or right." Listen for them, and move to walk next to the curb and/or single file, allowing them to pass safely. Runners also should call out for passing.

5. Be Visible

Wear bright colors when walking in the daytime. When walking at night, wear light-colored clothing and reflective clothing or tape on clothes to be more visible. Carry flashlights and/or use a headlamp or an LED cap visor light. Be even more cautious at dusk or dawn because drivers have more difficulty seeing, even though there is light.

6. Be Predictable

Make a practice of holding the same distance, or less, from the curb. Weaving randomly from side to side, or allowing kids to dart left and right is not a good idea when a bike or car is approaching. Sudden outward arm movements also can give a black eye, or worse, to a passing walker, runner or biker.

7. Keep the Volume Down

Don't drown out your cautionary environment when listening to music with your earbuds or headphones or by talking on the phone. If you feel you must, keep the volume at a level where you can still hear bikers and warnings from other walkers and runners.

8. Hang Up and Keep Looking "Up"

Walking while distracted by texting or playing on a device while you walk is as dangerous as doing those things while driving. You are distracted and not as aware of your environment. You are less likely to recognize traffic danger, tripping hazards or passing joggers and bikers. Potential criminals see you as an easy target. Adopt habits that can keep your phone in your pocket or at least make it a practice to stop in a safe place to complete your phone tasks before moving on.

9. Walk Dogs on Short Leashes

You will keep your dog safer as well as those who pass by you if you use proper leash walking etiquette.

10. Know When to Stop Walking

Heat sickness, dehydration, heart attacks and strokes can strike walkers of any age. Learn the symptoms of medical emergencies and carry a cell phone to dial 911. Even if you are a seasoned, well-trained walker, you may experience one of these problems and need to cut your walk short. Encourage your walking friends to stop when they show any concerning symptoms.

11. Be Aware of Stranger Danger

Street safety is a concern for many walkers. Choose your walking route for paths frequented by other walkers, joggers and bikers. If you see someone suspicious, be prepared to alter your course or go into a store or public building to avoid them. Acting alert and aware can convince bad guys you are not an easy target.

Enjoy safe walks!

- Mike Bowlin, Canadian Street Resident/Newsletter Contributor

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