

# 2010 member report



**The West Houston Association Produced an Unprecedented Array of New Maps; Published the 2010 Update of the West Houston Plan 2050 and Moved Aggressively on Needed Infrastructure Issues in Greater West Houston**

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## Message from the Chairman of the Board

### David W. Hightower:

The West Houston Association continues to plan for the future of Greater West Houston and address vital infrastructure needs. Our priority for 2010 was to accelerate our program, provide more service to our member firms and remain mindful of the economic times affecting many of our members--In short our goal was and will continue to be enhancing the value of your membership giving you the highest return on your investment in your Association.

*The West Houston Association was aggressive on a number of fronts in a challenging economic environment and a continuing need for greater infrastructure investment to support forecasted growth of Greater West Houston. This is a report on those activities.*

## PRIORITY PROGRAMS FOR 2010

**Transportation**—The Association Board of Directors began in February looking at options for increasing the funding for area projects. Projections of major cuts in projects because of less state funding proved correct as \$70 billion in projects were cut from Houston area's transportation program. The Board looked at a number

of options for statewide and local option funding alternatives and settled on asking the State Legislature to meet a goal of restoring funding in the area to a level that would restore this funding by adopting increased fees. The following are several of the actions your Association has taken this year regarding transportation funding:

- Communicated to local and state officials our support for increased transportation fees
- Participating with local and state groups in support of improved funding for transportation
- Presented testimony on the statewide rail plan and the 2035 plans
- Expressed support for major transportation projects before the Transportation Policy Council

A detail of the Board's recommendation is available on our website [westhouston.org](http://westhouston.org).

## WHA Transportation Priorities

- **US 290 Corridor**—The Association's prime priority received \$350 million for critical portions of the US 290/I-610 intersection. However, major progress will await resolution of the Texas transportation funding situation for all elements of this critical element of Greater West Houston mobility plan.
- **Grand Parkway**—Segment E awaits start of construction by Harris County with environmental issues near conclusion as Harris County reinitiated right of way acquisitions. Segment F will start design later in 2010 or early 2011.

**Wastewater Regionalization**—The Association launched a review of efforts to establish regionalization of wastewater treatment facilities. Several Executive Committee meetings and a members' RoundTable addressed the topic of Harris

County Infrastructure Department’s draft regulatory approach provided the Association with input to their finalization. In essence, the Association believes other initiatives that conclude “bigger is better” in treatment are misguided and cannot be supported by actual operating experience. A move to consolidate multiple wastewater treatment facilities stands to throttle development by adding excessive cost to new and existing development.

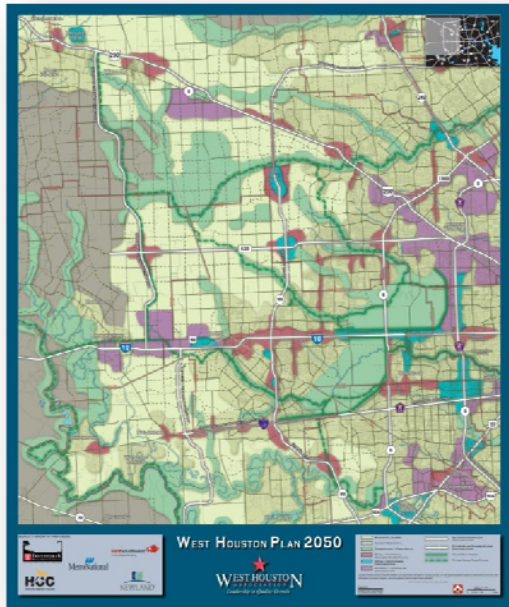
**Infrastructure Rehabilitation**—the Association Board of Directors began a review of the growing problem of aging roadways and drainage systems early in 2010. This followed our West Houston Plan 2050 which cited the potential size of repair and replacement of infrastructure some of which is 50 years old. Currently, no local governments’ revenues are dedicated to systematically begin addressing this issue.

**City of Houston Proposition 1 Support**—the Association expressed its support for ReNew Houston’s petition drive and later Proposition 1 on the November 2 City ballot and prepared numerous reports to the members, as well as an op-ed in support. The Association’s support for the initiative was, and remains explicitly conditioned by the following:

- The fund be dedicated to streets and drainage purposes by charter amendment;
- All fees associated with the fund be equitably allocated to properties regardless of land use; and
- There be no exemptions to the fees, other than those already statutorily exempted as properties of the state.

### 2010 WEST HOUSTON DEVELOPMENT MAP PLUS

Member firms received a copy of the Association’s 2010 West Houston Development Map. In addition, the Association distributed the map to over 100 area elected and agency officials.



**Seven (7) specialty maps** joined the Development Map for the first time depicting jurisdictions of school districts, municipalities’ ETJs, and all elected officials in Greater West Houston.

### GREATER WEST HOUSTON AT MID-CENTURY

The Association published the 2010 Update to the West Houston Plan 2050 and distributed it to members and area elected officials. The Update focuses on improvements and remaining challenges.

**Mid-Century Greater West Houston Map Published** The Plan also includes a unique likely land use scenario for GWH at mid-century.



**The West Houston Association continues to present speakers** on topics of utmost importance to its members. In 2010 the Association hosted Transportation Commissioner Ned Holmes; TxDOT District Engineer Delvin Dennis; Harris County Infrastructure’s John Blount; Senator Glenn Hegar; Harris County Judge Ed Emmett; Fort Bend County Judge Robert Hebert; Waller County Judge Owen Ralston and Waller Commissioner Glenn Beckendorff.

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