



# SYMPOSIUM ON THE FUTURE OF GREATER WEST HOUSTON

## Thursday, June 14, 2007

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### Governing Greater West Houston to 2050

Focuses of West Houston Plan 2050	Challenges	Current Governing Entities
<b>Transportation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand circumferential roadway capacity on major arterials and freeways/tollways</li> <li>• Transit access to employment center from West Houston suburban areas</li> <li>• High capacity rapid transit on heavily traveled corridors</li> <li>• Air cargo facility to expedite inter-modal freight</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TxDOT (FHWA)</li> <li>• Harris and other Counties (including county toll authorities)</li> <li>• City of Houston and other Cities</li> <li>• METRO (FTA)</li> <li>• New Freight Rail District</li> </ul>
<b>Drainage &amp; Flood Control</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development requires new drainage infrastructure</li> <li>• Reduce structural damage due to flooding</li> <li>• Preserve areas for recreation; conserve open/green space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Addicks/Barker Reservoirs)</li> <li>• Harris County Flood Control District; flood control powers of other Counties</li> <li>• Subsidence districts (Harris-Galveston; Fort Bend)</li> <li>• Drainage/levee improvement districts; Utility districts</li> <li>• City of Houston and other Cities</li> </ul>
<b>Water Supply &amp; Wastewater Treatment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide future sources of surface water supply and distribution system</li> <li>• Develop scalable regional wastewater collection and treatment facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Houston/CWA</li> <li>• River authorities (SJRA, TRA, BRA)</li> <li>• Water authorities (North Harris; West Harris)</li> <li>• Subsidence districts</li> <li>• Gulf Coast WDA</li> <li>• Utility districts</li> </ul>

Focuses of West Houston Plan 2050	Challenges	Current Governing Entities
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide educated work force able to compete globally</li> <li>• Maintain West Houston K-12 educational advantage as population grows and demographics change</li> <li>• Improve/add higher education facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 independent school districts; charter schools</li> <li>• Community colleges</li> <li>• University of Houston System (UHS) at Cinco Ranch</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation &amp; Open Space</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance growth and conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</li> <li>• Harris County Flood Control District; other Counties</li> <li>• Drainage/levee improvement districts; Utility districts</li> <li>• Cities</li> </ul>
<b>Quality Planned Communities – Residential and Commercial Developments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain/establish quality planned communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City and County development/platting regulations/ordinances</li> <li>• City and County enforcement of restrictive covenants</li> <li>• City and County local government powers to establish TIRZ's/municipal management districts</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure Rehabilitation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aging infrastructure requires significant expenditures for maintenance and rehabilitation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as above</li> </ul>

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Governing Greater West Houston to 2050  
Basic Structures for Collaborative Action under Current Texas Law\*

- **Existing Entity**
  - *Interlocal Agreements* (Chp. 791, Tex. Govt. Code)
    - Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA)
  
- **New Entity (with new power and authority)**
  - *Local Government Corporations/ Transportation Corporations* (Chp. 431, Tex. Trans. Code)
    - Houston Area Water Corporation
    - TIRZ Development Authorities
    - Grand Parkway Association
    - Land Assemblage Redevelopment Authority
  
  - *Single Purpose Authorities*
    - Harris County-Houston Sports Authority
  
  - *Special Districts*
    - Port of Houston Authority
    - Harris County Flood Control District
    - Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County
    - Coastal Water Authority
    - Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District
    - Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority
    - North Harris County Regional Water Authority
    - West Harris County Regional Water Authority





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## Governing Greater Houston to 2050 – Future Governing Structures and Entities

1. Overview/Trends
  - a. Role of Private Sector (vs. Public Sector) – Scope of Privatization
  - b. Funding – Reduction in relative roles of
    - i. Federal and state funds, requiring larger local/regional funding
    - ii. Ad valorem taxes, requiring more revenue systems with user fees
  
2. Specific Focuses/Structures and Entities
  - a. Transportation
    - i. Tolls – for toll roads, plus use of toll revenue for major free roads (arterials and express)
    - ii. More regionalism, but probably no Regional Mobility Authority because counties in region now have powers of RMA's for toll road purposes
    - iii. METRO – Mass transit improvements; 25% Street Improvement Dedication through September 30, 2014, and new election thereafter
    - iv. Freight rail and commuter rail through New Freight Rail District and METRO
  
  - b. Drainage & Flood Control
    - i. Counties and special districts – conservation easements; wetlands mitigation
    - ii. Greater regionalism through interlocal agreements and joint powers agencies
  
  - c. Water Supply & Wastewater Treatment
    - i. Supply – River authorities – SJRA/Lake Conroe; TRA/Lake Livingston; Luce's Bayou; BRA/proposed Allen's Creek Reservoir
    - ii. Surface Water Distribution – Water authorities
    - iii. Wastewater treatment – Regionalism (e.g., master districts, Gulf Coast WDA)
    - iv. Non-point sources of water pollution

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- d. Education – One or more community college systems
  - e. Conservation & Open Space – Multi-jurisdictional systems
  - f. Quality Planned Communities – Local service entities (e.g., management districts, unincorporated villages)
  - g. Infrastructure Rehabilitation – Revenue systems with renewal and replacement funds