

Comments added to the Petition for Complete Streets for Houston

May 8, 2011 – May 1, 2012



"I support a more holistic approach to city planning and infrastructure which includes provisions for cyclists and pedestrians."

- Scott Koehler, 77069, 4/8/11 20:39

"Yes - great idea !! I bike all over the city and welcome any ideas to help cyclists."

- Ron Kerr 77009 4/8/11 21:15

"May common sense prevail!!!"

- Bradford Moore 77079 4/8/11 21:48

"Please forward this petition to the H-GAC Transportation Policy Council!!!"

- Doug House 77030 4/9/11 8:22

"I love to bike but find knowledge of bike rules by other drivers to be dangerously lacking. I.e. Yelling 'stay on the sidewalk' as the pass me way to close for my comfort. Right now I'm safely in my car"

- Carolyn Heinz 77030 4/9/11 11:50

"Houston transforms itself so quickly, at a minimum it should do so in a forward-looking way so that our ever-changing landscape is rooted in some core principles of sound design and physical / economic sustainability."

- Alison Lands 77004 4/9/11 12:14

"May not be practical for every street to be complete but there is no excuse for not having a connecting grid that non-motorized traffic can safely use."

- Woody Speer 77096 4/9/11 22:39

"Complete streets are shared by all modes and all users. Think pedestrian bicycle, bus, car and freight. Freight is the hard part."

- Clark Martinson 77055 4/11/11 9:06

"Complete streets are SAFER streets!"

- Jennifer Fox Bennett 77019 4/11/11 11:35

"As Houston continues to grow, it will be increasingly important to provide safe streets as the density increases and property values go up..."

- Todd Meyer 77027 4/12/11 11:37

"Adding sidewalks to your subdivision increases your property value. Sidewalks come free if you add them when your streets are being reconstructed. So Vote Yes on Sidewalks!"

- Nancy Edwards 77025 4/12/11 11:48

“Sidewalks increase property value and happiness! Good bike lanes make everyone's commute safer - and gets more cars off the road -- win win!”

- Kate Roark 77018 4/12/11 12:54

“Quality of life issues like Complete Streets will make Houston a desirable city to live and work in. Without it, we become that place with jobs that people "tolerate" to feed their families.”

- Michael Lutomski 77006 4/12/11 12:57

“The time to do this is NOW.”

- Monica Savino 77007 4/12/11 13:13

“Houston hosts business travelers from all over the world. Among international guests, we have a reputation for being completely un-walkable and impossible to travel around without a motor vehicle. Complete Streets in Houston are essential if we want to attract talented workers to our city and compete in the international business marketplace.”

- Sarah Cooke 77082 4/12/11 13:27



“If you want to see an example of the utter disregard the City has had in the past for pedestrians, visit the intersection of West Alabama at Timmons. The north side of W. Alabama has no sidewalks, or discontinuous sidewalks, while the south side has narrow sidewalks blocked by utility poles. The sidewalks are narrow and flush against the street, forcing pedestrians to step into the street to get around utility poles that almost completely block the walkway. I'm glad to see this grassroots effort to make our streets better.”

- Paul Lester 77006-5204 4/12/11 14:04

“Help free our beautiful city from the devastating effects of poor infrastructure. Secure our future by developing and planning our infrastructure responsibly. Paul Lester is right, West Alabama is fugly and useless for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.”

- Raime Falero 77027 4/13/11 1:12

“It's past time to start making these changes”

- Michael Gold 77095 4/19/11 11:44

“Please, please, please....let some common sense creep into our elected officials' heads.”

- Bradford Moore 77079 4/19/11 15:01

“This is very important with Rebuild Houston allowing the City to redo many streets in Houston along with drainage improvements. What happens now will impact the next thirty years of roads in Houston.”

- Geoff Carleton 77030 4/26/11 10:35

“I think incorporating bike lanes on any new road project is great for future mobility and safety. Maybe that will keep folks from riding against the flow of traffic on our sidewalks.”

- Bob Mahlstedt 77098 4/26/11 13:05

“Houston streets - the way they are - are dangerous for bicyclists - I've been injured (minor) and intimidated (routinely) by motorists assuming bikes have no place on a street. I've had friends who have been injured riding bicycles in Houston, one of whom won't commute that way anymore. Bicycles take up less parking space, cause less damage to other vehicles, and use much less fossil fuel than cars. They also promote physical exercise and less wasteful lifestyles.”

- J Douglas Killgore 77006 5/24/11 12:49

“Warped sidewalks, no down ramps at curbs, no bike lanes or bike lanes with cars and tree limbs obstructing....in my inner city neighborhood..but the city wants less pollution, more pedestrians but yet does nothing .”

- Melissa Noble 77006 5/24/11 23:20



"I would love to ride my bike to work, but with broken, narrow, at various locations, non-existent sidewalks and NO street bike lanes it is impossible to do."

- MaryJean Tiernan 77027 5/26/11 6:22

"Human transportation is a great way to Houston's obesity, heart disease, and other health problems. Plus, it makes people happier since they're not sedentary all day. Houston's also one of the most unsafe cities for cyclists I have ever been in. Bike lanes are easy to install and have low costs. Plus, they also reduce motorist fatalities by forcing them to drive slower."

- Alec Steinfeld 77096 5/28/11 19:19

"I would love to ride my bike to work more. I almost have a complete trail journey until Bissonet which is just scary (even with the recent resurfacing)."

- Toby Craig 77056 6/1/11 18:19

"Just traveled to Boston to see all of their progress. Amazing. Of course the Netherlands, France, and Denmark are the standard to which we can all learn from in terms of what a complete street looks like and how they function. One of the wealthiest cities in the world (HOUSTON) should have such a quality of life issue high on the list. Let's rebuild this sprawled out mega-suburb city into nice communities people want to live in and enjoy."

- Mike Lutomski 77006 6/2/11 9:16

"Bicycles can reduce dependence on fossil fuels, reduce CO2 emissions, and promote good health. Houston has made good strides recently, but there's still much to do."

- Chris Thompson 77009 6/2/11 14:54

"I love riding my bike to work but the conditions of the roads makes it too dangerous. I have been hit by a car once and have had several near accidents. Unfortunately this is not unique among cyclist or pedestrians. Houston is a great and active city and the roads should reflect Houston's commitment to encouraging active lifestyles"

- Danielle Martinez 77406 6/2/11 15:34

"Wider lanes would be nice, but I find bike lanes to be a nuisance. I think cooperation is more the answer rather than separation of genres."

- Sebastian Rivas 77025 6/2/11 22:08

"Streets are for moving people, services and goods, cars and trucks are only one way to move people and goods through streets. Street design must provide an environment for walking, biking, utilities, shade trees, lights and signs in ADDITION to vehicular lanes."

- Kevin Shanley 77008 6/4/11 16:47

“Safe and attractive streets are not only good for people and bicycles to share the road with cars, but they can also help to improve property values - think about the nicest parts of town - the streets are not just designed for cars and trucks...”

- Todd Meyer 77027 6/4/11 17:17



“Completing & improving sidewalks are the #1 problem!”

- Yunjia Wang 77008 6/5/11 1:33

“Streets are for people. If we are to ever make Houston a Great City, then we must recognize that our streets do more than facilitate the movement of cars and trucks. They move people -

by foot, car, bus, truck, train, bike...They are conduits for utilities, commerce and the veins of our urban forest...They are our most prolific public open space...They are the image of our city and must be designed as such!”

- Scott McCready 77008 6/5/11 13:47

“A completes streets policy is critical for sustaining the graceful established neighborhoods in and around the Texas Medical Center. Current TMC policy drivers act ONLY in their own self-interests resulting in auto-centric planning and ZERO safe bike-ped ingress-egress.”

- Doug House 77030 8/7/11 22:15

“Though I don't see a need for such considerations on every street, there should be corridors for pedestrian and bike traffic, as well as public transportation connecting centers of activity throughout the city. City policy should also support pedestrian-friendly business centers by diverting through traffic around such areas.”

- Katy Atkiss 77007 12/21/11 16:58

“All for more citizen friendly streets.”

- Peter van der Schans 77096 12/28/11 2:24

“We cannot continue to ignore pedestrians and disabled individuals in street design”

- Luis Franco 77007 1/11/12 12:15

“We need more bike lanes and bike trails”

- Fei Wu 77004 2/17/12 17:06

“Grandma always said, ‘go walk around the block.’”

- Jim Bauknight 77266 2/18/12 15:37

“Berm and fill cracks between lane-slabs!”

- Alan Apurim 77008 2/20/12 13:47

“Looking forward to the Richmond Rail. Hopefully, the surrounding neighborhood streets and sidewalks in the Montrose area will be fixed to enable everyone to easily access the rail. Right now, the streets and sidewalks are in poor condition, even making it difficult to walk through the neighborhood.”

- Geneva Li 77098 2/21/12 19:25

“Sidewalks are not allowed in my residential neighborhood. To walk to the nearest greenbelt I must walk in the street. This is dangerous, especially for the elderly and children.”

- Emily Maas 77339 2/25/12 7:47

“Complete streets can improve QOL in Houston, lower obesity, crime, and our dependence on vehicles.”

- Ky Nguyen 77066 2/25/12 10:23



"It is not safe to walk on most pedestrian walks because they are in bad repair or incomplete."

- David Wallin 77008 2/25/12 11:39

"In my African American Historical neighborhood of 66 years of age there is less than .99% sidewalks, 100% asphalt 2 lane roads with open ditches no shoulders with 75% residents are older than 50 and low income."

- Tracy Stephens 77051 2/25/12 23:48

"Houston is ideally situated to become a world-class city for bicycle commuting for people of all ages. We should encourage this growth at every turn."

- Matt Hartzell 77009 2/26/12 9:10

"Back after living in Brooklyn for 5 years, pledging to be car free and work towards a more walkable / bikeable Houston."

- Delaney Harris-Finch 77006 2/26/12 11:08

"When we have more options for transportation and mobility, we have less dependency on only one kind of energy resource. Please consider holistic solutions to energy independence, sustainability, and a better economy. A complete street can address all these issues. A complete street with mixed-use development would also reduce the mentioned issues including the reduction of traffic on highways, and thus a reduction in maintenance and costs of unpopular freeway widening proposals. Say no to unsustainable, low-amenity, low people-oriented urban sprawl and neighborhood developers that contribute to it."

- Pedro Velasquez 77075 3/9/12 1:21

"Bikes!"

- Paul Hesson 77007 3/9/12 9:23

"Let's hurry. I can't stand it anymore not being able to ride my bike in peace."

- Julianne gustafson-Lira 77070 3/9/12 18:50

"It is too dangerous not to have safe haven for pedestrians and bikes, the urban traffic is more denser everyday and crossing the road is very dangerous for the young and the old."

- David Wallin 77008 3/9/12 19:19

"And thanks to Lisa Gray for the great column in the Houston Chronicle last Sunday, March 4."

- Art Browning 77429 3/10/12 2:34



"Let's build complete streets for our air, our health, our children, our economy, our communities so we can SAFELY walk, bike, stroller, wheelchair, Metro through this city that we all love like a crazy uncle."

- Joyce Almaguer-Reisdorf 77098 3/13/12 2:30

"My daily routine: Wake, shower, breakfast, bike 6.1 miles to work, work, lunch, work, bike 6.1 miles home. The trail from shepherd to the loop 610 desperately needs some attention. I am riding my bike because it's faster than driving from my house to the office, it's healthier living, and well... it's fun exercise and it drives the people in my office bonkers. Please... take all of this seriously."

- Myles Blackwood 77098 3/14/12 9:10

"There's not a bike friendly way to get from Montrose to the Heights. The roads are a mess, the trails at the Bayou and off Jester are under construction. The lighting is bad on underpasses and the streets we have to take are filled with potholes and gaps. The bike lane is one of the most dangerous places to be inside the loop."

- Kasey Dixon 77019 3/14/12 9:19

"I've been in many Third World countries with safer roadways than Houston. It's seriously an embarrassment and way past time this city clean up its act. We pay way too much in taxes for this lack of service."

- Valerie Johnson 77008 3/14/12 9:30

"More bike trails, more bike lanes along streets, approve the initiative to allow bike lanes under power lines. thanks!!"

- Ron Kerr 77009 3/14/12 9:31

"Road maintenance is definitely a must. Fix the old streets before building new ones."

- Brandon James 77019 3/14/12 9:38

"I don't really have a problem with how messed up the roads are around here as much as I have a problem with how messed up drivers can be. I think if streets reflected that roads were meant for both of us, there would be less of a case of 'get on the sidewalk' and 'you don't belong here!'"

- Dan Vo 77004 3/14/12 9:52

"So many streets in Houston don't even have sidewalks which is absolutely absurd. Time to have real infrastructure for biking and walking. It's time to focus on active transportation and quality of life. If you need to know how to develop a bike-way network then please look at the Davis, CA studies."

- George Mello 77459 3/14/12 10:24

"I live in the Montrose area where I should be able to walk to many places. Unfortunately, this is hampered by numerous sidewalks in poor condition or no sidewalks at all, that make it hazardous to walk in many places. It is dangerous to cross at many intersections on Westheimer because of the traffic and drivers turning without looking for pedestrians. To make adopting the Complete Streets design effective, an effort is also needed to effect a cultural change generating respect for pedestrians while working to improve our infrastructure."

- Carole Dodson 77019 3/14/12 10:41

"The Heights is increasingly clogged with commercial traffic, and the residents are being squeezed off the streets...White Oak used to be pedestrian friendly; now it is scary to even drive on it. Same with 19th Street and Yale. Now I HAVE to get into a car to go a few blocks, or risk being hit or smogged to death."

- Leslie Holland 77007 3/14/12 10:52

"We need to make our streets safe for not only myself to be able to bicycle, but also for my children! Houston could be a GREAT bicycling Mecca if we had proper streets to bike on and people were aware of cyclist! We also need to expand these safety measures outside of 610 and the beltway!"

- Susan Knapp 77070 3/14/12 10:57



"As a recent resident of the city, I am behind this petition to request our streets be better maintained. It is surprising to see a city, known for its design around automobiles, with roads in such disrepair. As a pedestrian, bicyclist, and driver, I strongly support the initiative to transform our transit-ways into well-maintained routes for all users."

- Justin Mason 77006 3/14/12 11:05

"Adopting the Complete Streets design approach has so many far-reaching advantages, some immediately apparent and some that not many consider. Immediate benefits are safer non-auto transportation choices, community health improvement by having ways to travel and exercise simultaneously. People who travel by non-auto or other less expensive choices save money, which in turn can lead to a greater disposable income that can improve their lives and re-inject some of that revenue back into the community's local businesses and economy. Several countries around the world have recognized these advantages, executed similar design approaches and have been rewarded by the success of their own forethought. America was once the innovation leader of the world. I believe a few visits to these other communities can help us improve upon what's already been accomplished and give us a unique chance to develop a community that other nations would want to study as an innovative example to follow."

- Justin Moss 77008 3/14/12 11:17

"Need more safe bike trails/lanes leading from all compass points into the medical center!"

- Ryan Radecki 77007 3/14/12 11:51

"The streets and sidewalks in Houston are an embarrassment to this city."

- Sonia Bradley 77007 3/14/12 12:01

- "Bike lanes to the max!"

- Matthew Cunningham 77006 3/14/12 13:05

"I'd like to be able to walk a block without having to dodge missing sidewalk segments or holes full of water and mud. Removing ditches and curbless streets that become mud pits would provide more parking spaces."

- Justin Silhavy 77098 3/14/12 13:19

"I live less than five miles from work and wish I could ride my bicycle to commute instead of driving. It's unfortunate that I can't because I don't feel safe doing so. Please make it a priority to transform Houston into a bicycle and pedestrian friendly city!"

- Kristen Washam 77007 3/14/12 14:06

"Children need safe, wide, well-lit sidewalks to go to school."

- Elizabeth Spike 77098 3/14/12 16:01

"There needs to be sidewalks and street lights in place at Mills and Grant Road, site of Cy-Creek High School. These are 40 MPH zoned streets. Children walking home to the nearby subdivisions have to walk in the street."

- Harry Haines, III 77070 3/14/12 22:25

"I really hope city leaders understand how important this is."

- John Malone 77042 3/15/12 12:45

"We need this desperately! It would not only help our citizens who live here but it would also make us more attractive so that others would want to visit....tourism dollars. Just like South Congress!"

- Cathy Santos 77019 3/16/12 14:08



"As a frequent bicycle commuter, I see plenty of room for improvement in bicycle accommodation. Thanks."

- Russell Green 77005 3/23/12 13:34

"As a former resident and current urban planning student, I fully support a shift in focus in Houston infrastructure. The city needs to use its considerable wealth to improve the quality of life of its citizens."

- Travis Norton 4/2/12 9:14

"As a senior caregiver & citizen of a community with many seniors ranging upwards to nearly 100 years of age--I support any improvements that increase and prolong their safe mobility."

- Sandi Newkirk 4/3/12 11:45

"This is an extremely important issue for all citizens, all ages, all abilities. Great effort worthy of support!"

- Jan Edwards 4/3/12 16:26

"Another great effort by one of Houston's greatest leaders!"

- Patrick Simon 4/5/12 20:41

"Gas prices are rising; money for roads is shrinking; live where you work and ride or bike to work. Get off the road.!"

- Doug Childers 4/6/12 9:23

"Encourage your friends to sign this petition. We need street the are safe for everyone."

- Bill Baumeyer 4/6/12 12:23

"I'm tired of roads for all the big ass trucks and no room to walk around. F***ING DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!"

- M Patel 4/6/12 12:31

"Make Houston a friendly bike city!"

- Vanessa Bernal 4/6/12 12:35

"Recovering from an economic downturn isn't just focusing on the creation of jobs. Although this is important and should continue, the integration of projects that take into consideration making Houston Walkable is the key to having communities become self reliant and sufficient while lowering."

- Sandy Reyes 4/6/12 12:46

"Make Houston safe for pedestrians/bikers please!"

- Kamalicca Ghosh 4/6/12 12:54



“Houston, let's catch up to the rest of the country without roads and pedestrian and bike paths! I can't even safely cross the Bayou on Stella Link or Buffalo with my stroller The sidewalks over the bridges are insufficient.”

- Keren Mazanec 4/6/12 13:22

“Except for Heights Blvd and Washington Ave, the bike lanes in this city are a joke. Two and a half feet of gutter, gravel and glass is NOT a bike lane!”

- Candice Donahue 4/6/12 15:16

“Please link up all the bike trails in the city. Can't get safely from one to another.”

- Rebecca Boon 4/7/12 22:45

“Sounds good to me!”

- Jimmy Quick 4/16/12 12:37

“Keep the faith.”

- Carl Harris 4/18/12 18:31

All comments were submitted online by signers of the *Petition for Complete Streets for Houston*, which can be found at <http://petition.houstontomorrow.org>. Minor typographical errors have been corrected, but the meaning of no comments have been altered and all comments are included. As of May 1, 2012, 1045 people have signed the petition, which states:

We call upon all local elected officials in the Houston region to begin a transformation of how our infrastructure is built and maintained, so that soon all projects incorporate the principles of Complete Streets for all users.

All infrastructure projects should properly balance the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, the disabled, automobile drivers, freight operators, transit, and local businesses along the street.

The City of Houston should lead this charge by adopting a policy of using Complete Streets design in all projects under the ReBuild Houston initiative. Where appropriate, when the streets are dug up, they should be replaced with wide sidewalks, ADA compliant intersections, and safe and clear bike lanes, as well as adequate, safe travel lanes for automobiles, transit, and freight operators.

HOUSTON COALITION FOR COMPLETE STREETS

Vision: Streets are safe for all users at all times throughout Houston

