



KARLA CISNEROS
Houston City Council Member, District H

September 8, 2022

Director of Project Development
Texas Department of Transportation – Houston District Office
P.O. Box 1386
Houston, TX 77251-1386

RE: CSJ: 0271-07-326 (TS) – I-10 from Heights Blvd. to I-45 Public Comment

Dear Director of Project Development,

My constituents are deeply concerned about how the proposed I-10 elevation project from Heights Blvd to I-45, will negatively impact their neighborhoods. I, therefore, register my opposition to this project as well.

For the last eight weeks, I have provided information in my weekly District H newsletter about how to access information provided by TxDOT to learn about the proposed I-10 elevation project from Heights Blvd to I-45. I have promoted the virtual and public meetings, shared TxDOT links to project details, and encouraged constituents to submit their comments. I have requested that constituents copy me, so that I also know what their comments are.

In addition to the over 150 individuals who have copied me on the comments they submitted to TxDOT, I have also heard from Super Neighborhood 22 and other neighboring civic clubs, representing a total of 26 smaller neighborhood organizations. Every single letter, every single communication to me, has been in opposition to the project. I have not received one single communication of support from anyone who has contacted me or my staff.

What I see is a general lack of trust. People just do not believe that TxDOT is a good faith partner.

Many have expressed that there has been a lack of transparency, engagement, and overall dubiousness around the project. They also feel that the project, in its current form, seems to be a waste of taxpayer money and jeopardizes the tranquility of the community. Included below is a list of many of the concerns that have been shared with me, and with you.

- TxDOT has defined the need, designed, and funded this project to start in 2024 without first considering the impact to the surrounding communities and ecosystems or engaging the public.

- TxDOT should halt this project until Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) completes its evaluation of a plan to [build 8 massive tunnels](#) that would divert and store water underground. A study should be done to determine whether the I-10 elevation would be needed if the tunnel system goes forward.
- This finished project would not withstand a Hurricane Harvey level event and traffic would still need to be re-routed as it is now and would be through the construction period. Any tax-payer funded project that purports to address flooding should be built to take on a 500-year flood.
- The elevation of I-10 would add significant noise pollution to already **very loud highway noise**. The increased noise will impact property values along White Oak and surrounding streets.
- TxDOT should consult local organizations to define parameters of the environmental impacts to be studied for ecosystems along White Oak and Little White Oak bayous and into our neighborhoods which are nesting sites for important birds like the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, the official bird of Houston and formerly endangered Bald Eagles.
- TxDOT should not disturb the forested area slated to be a detention pond. This provides important sound mitigation, natural habitat, and aesthetic beauty.
- TxDOT's decision to split the Inner Katy Corridor into segmented projects will mean that the full environmental impacts are not captured under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- We support other communities like Cottage Grove who are fighting a separate I-10 project threatening their parks and further dividing their neighborhood.
- Impact analysis should be combined with the current I-45 impact analysis as they will affect the same neighborhoods and bayous

Sincerely,



Karla Cisneros
Council Member, District H