I-45 NHHIP
Meeting Our Commitments

For additional information about the project, visit us online at: **www.txdot.gov/nhhip**

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COMMITMENTS	ROD	VRA	MOU CITY	MOU COUNTY
Twice Annual Public Meetings Through Design and Construction		✓ ■ ▲		
Construction Detours and Closures Notification Plan	✓	✓ ● ▲		✓
Reporting Construction Concerns	✓	✓ ▲		✓
Construction Alerts	✓	✓ ▲		✓
Mitigating Displacements, Relocations, Housing and other Community Impacts	✓	✓	✓	✓
Drainage Improvements to reduce Flooding	✓	✓ ▲	✓	✓ ●
Enhanced Relocation Services	✓	✓ ▲	✓	✓
Construction of Affordable Housing	✓	✓	✓ ●	✓
Community Cohesion	✓	✓ ●	✓	✓
Parks, Open Space, Trails, Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities	✓	✓ ▲	✓ ●	✓
Structural Caps	✓	✓		✓
Community Access During Construction	✓	✓ ▲	✓	✓
Highway Footprint Reduction	✓	✓ ●	✓ ●	✓ ●
Air Quality Mitigation	✓	✓ ● ▲	✓	✓ ▲
Publicly Available Project Website	✓	✓ ● ▲	✓	✓ ●
Meaningful Access for Persons with Limited English Proficiency	✓	✓ ● ▲	✓ ●	✓ ●
Weatherization and Energy Efficiency Programs	✓	✓ ▲		
Active Transportation Options	✓	✓ ▲	✓ ▲	✓ ▲
Emancipation National Historic Trail Study	✓	✓ ●	✓	
Project Ombudsman		✓ ■ ▲		

● Enhanced commitments compared to ROD

■ New commitments compared to ROD

▲ Information requested to be on the project website

Prior to the VRA, TxDOT issued the Record of Decision (ROD) in February 2020, whereby TxDOT made numerous commitments. In December of 2022, TxDOT signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Houston and another with Harris County that outlined enhancements to specific ROD commitments. TxDOT and FHWA signed the VRA in March of 2023. The chart above reflects TxDOT's commitments and the enhancements specified in the four documents.

WHAT IS THE VRA?

The Voluntary Resolution Agreement (VRA) is an understanding by and between the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Resolves the FHWA investigation of TxDOT regarding the North Houston Highway Improvement Project under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) by setting forth specific mitigation actions for the Project.

- Lifts pause
- No Title VI violations identified in VRA
- TxDOT to resume all project development activities.

Provides specific, enforceable timelines and monitoring by FHWA to ensure TxDOT carries out the Project consistent with the requirements of Title VI.

FHWA has concluded review of TxDOT's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with no findings.

KEY COMMITMENT UPDATES

Public Engagement

- Meetings held twice each calendar year in each segment while segment final design and construction is ongoing
- Dec. 2023 Public Meeting Series
- Monthly multi-agency meetings
- Stakeholder meetings
- Upcoming 2024 Public Meetings

Displacements, Relocations, Housing and Other Community Impacts

- During final design of each segment of the NHHIP TxDOT will evaluate changes to the project that may reduce the Right of Way needed and displacement impacts
- TxDOT agrees to commit an additional $3 million, for a total of $30 million, to affordable housing entities

Reducing Footprint During Detailed Design

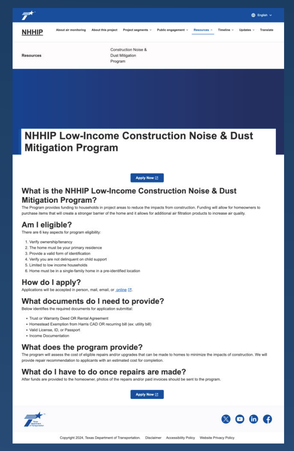
- TxDOT remains committed to evaluating reasonable opportunities to reduce project footprint in ways that will not compromise purpose and need of project as described in the ROD

TxDOT Establishes Publicly Available Project-Specific Website

- Within 30 days of execution of the VRA, TxDOT was required to establish a multilingual and immediately accessible project website available in English, Spanish, and other languages requested within the corridor.
- The agreements also specify key content to be posted.

I-45 NHHIP LOW-INCOME CONSTRUCTION NOISE & DUST MITIGATION PROGRAM

- **Purpose:** Provides funding to households in project areas to mitigate construction impacts.
- **Benefits:** Enables homeowners to strengthen their homes' barriers and purchase air filtration products to improve air quality.
- **Eligibility:** Low-income households (based on HUD standards) within 200 feet of the project right of way.
- **Application:** Available online at txdot.gov/nhhipnoiseanddust
- **Phased Outreach Approach Includes:** Postcards, mailing, and door-to-door efforts.
- **Segment 3 Outreach Rounds:**
  - **3B-1 Round 1:** Completed outreach to 144 homeowners, received 6 applications.
  - **3B-2 Round 2:** Started July 1, outreach to 700 households, received 9 applications.
- **Up to $20,000 in eligible items for qualified applicants:**



PROGRAM APPLICATION (WWW.TXDOT.GOV/NHHIPNOISEANDDUST)

ELIGIBLE ITEMS

1. **Insulation upgrades**
   - Walls (facing construction or all)
   - Ceiling/attic additional loose fill
   - Floor – open cell spray foam (better for sound absorption)
2. **Replacement windows**
3. **Replacement doors**
   - Storm Door
4. **Window A/C units with heat and air filtration (residences without central HVAC) 8,000 to 14,000 BTU**
   - Stipend for increased utility bills
5. **HVAC cleaning and maintenance (residences with central HVAC)**
   - Programmable thermostat
   - Retrofit for HEPA filter
6. **Weatherstripping doors**
7. **Internal storm window inserts**
8. **Caulking**
9. **HEPA Air Purifiers**
10. **Stipend for filter replacements (interval to be determined)**
    - Central HVAC
    - Central HVAC with HEPA retrofit
    - HEPA Air Purifiers

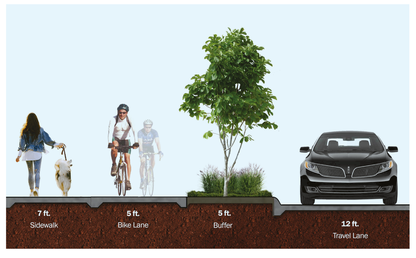
I-45 CONSTRUCTION CLOSURE & DETOUR PLAN

SCHOOLS

- Detours will be provided for sidewalks to schools during construction.
- Work directly with schools to provide pickup and drop-off routes
- Provide ombudsman to communicate concerns directly to TxDOT

METRO TRANSIT ROUTE

- Obtain METRO's review and address comments when bus stop needs temporary relocation
- Provide 14 calendar days' public notice of service disruptions



BICYCLE/ PEDESTRIAN AREAS

- All closure notices and detour routes will be published to the project website.