

H-GAC:

These comments are submitted in support of the City of Houston Memorial Drive reconstruction project. Please fund the project in the 2013-2016 TIP.

Memorial Drive connects the Energy Corridor and Memorial City, two of the fastest growing parts of the Houston region. It also connects neighborhoods to each other, those activity centers, schools and shops. It is an essential road both for our community and the region. Memorial Drive is an alternate to the Katy Freeway for travel to downtown. The intersections in the project provide access to and from the Katy Freeway, most notably during rush hour.

Today, traffic during morning and evening rush hours causes long delays at intersections. It is my understanding that additional turn lanes will provide noticeable reductions in wait times at Kirkwood, Dairy Ashford and Eldridge. This is very important now and will become more important with all of the new office and high density residential development planned for the area.

In addition, the project will add sidewalks and medians which will make it easier to walk along and cross Memorial Drive to access shops and schools. The medians should also reduce accidents caused by left turns onto Memorial Drive. There are many families in the area that do not allow new teen drivers to turn left onto Memorial Drive at locations without traffic signals because of the high accident risk.

Memorial Drive reconstruction should be funded in the 2013-2016 TIP so congestion will not worsen with the major increase in economic activity along the corridor.

Sincerely,