



Rail Safety Task Force

December 2025

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East End District

Rail Safety Task Force Membership

The task force meets on the second Wednesday of the month to discuss impacts to safety and mobility caused by railroad operations



Second
Ward



Fifth Ward



Eastwood



Denver Harbor



Magnolia Park



Pleasantville



Pecan Park



South Park

Lawndale/Wayside

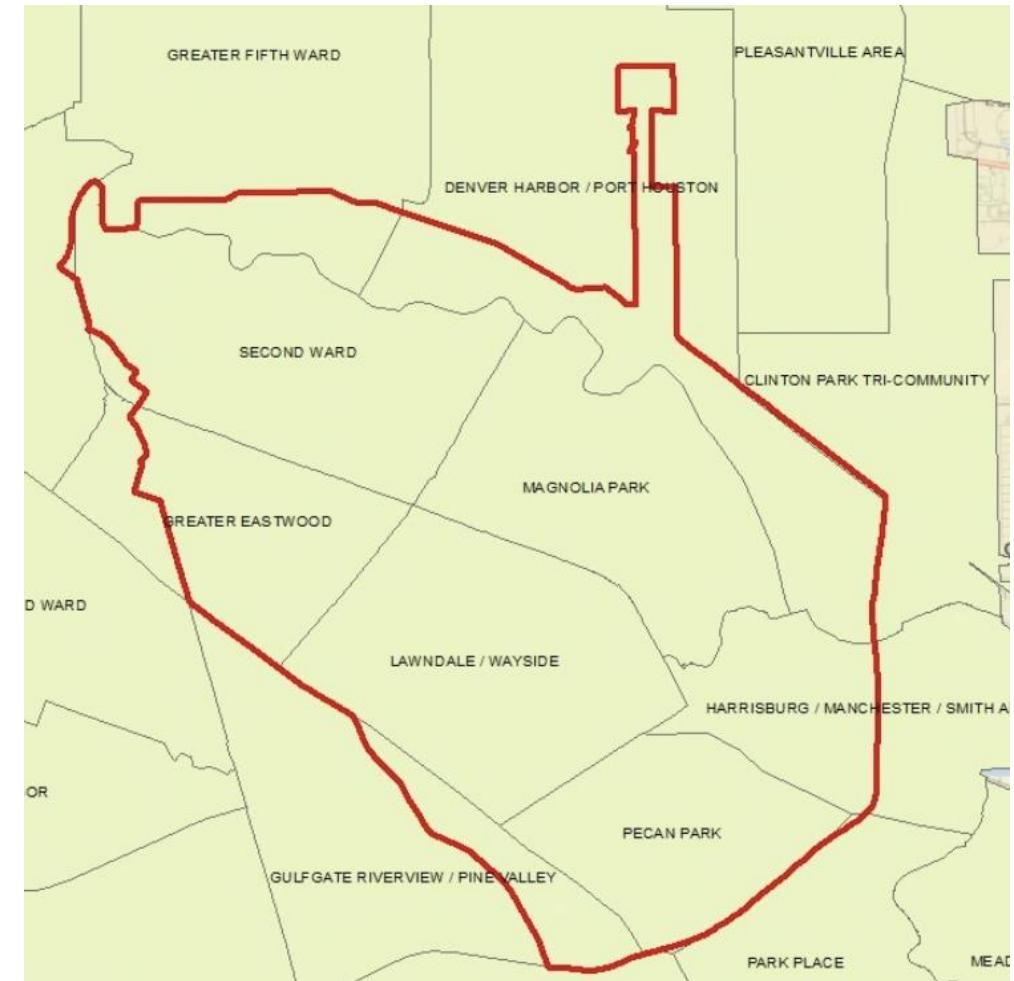


Manchester

Gulfgate/Pine Valley

OST/South Union

Have Representation



Rail Safety Focus Group

State Senator Carol Alvarado leads a group of public and private sector entities from the four railroads, city, county, state and federal governments to review and develop projects to improve safety along railroad corridors.

<u>Short Term</u>	<u>Mid Term</u>	<u>Long Term</u>
Crossing Prioritization List	Monitoring/Alerting Technology	Infrastructure Improvements
School Proximity List	Pedestrian Access	Legislation
Railroad Operating Practices	Funding	
Communication		
Signage (Wayfinding)		
Public Awareness Campaign		
Crossing Guards		

Rail Corridor Collaborative

Personnel from the East End District and Houston Emergency Services meets monthly with the four operating railroads to discuss impacts to safety and mobility along railroad corridors:

Reported Events that affected Safety and Railroad Operations:

- December 2, 2025 – Emergency Crossing Closure at Durham Street for broken rail repair
- December 2, 2025 – Emergency Crossing Repair at Lockwood for broken rail repair
- December 8, 2025 – Emergency Crossing Repair at T.C. Jester for broken rail repair
- December 11, 2026 – Scheduled Crossing Repair at T.C. Jester
- December 12, 2026 – Stopped Train Event Commerce Street due to trespasser on track
- December 13, 2026 – Train-Vehicle Crash at Post Oak Boulevard
- December 16, 2026 – Stopped Train Event on Lockwood due to vehicle stuck on tracks



Data Convergence

Texas A&M School of Public Health and the Texas Transportation Institute supported the East End District to develop a process to correlate data content from the:

- FRA Blocked Crossing Report,
- Houston Smart Railroad Project,
- HFD Delay by Train Report

The goal is to identify trends that compound a Stopped Train Event



East Houston Sensor Activity

November 2025

November 2025	<input type="checkbox"/> Daily Crossing Occupancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Average Occupancy	<input type="checkbox"/> Total over 1 hour	<input type="checkbox"/> Longest Occupancy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Validated: Smart Crossing Technology					
Commerce St	28	9 min	3	1.1 Hr 11/12/25 @ 8:47 am	
Hirsch Rd	8	26 min	26	2.42 Hr 11/27/25 @ 5:12 am	
Leeland/cullen	23	9 min	6	2.47 Hr 11/7/25 @ 1:39 am	
Lockwood St	8	11 min	2	1.43 Hr 11/30/25 @ 7:22 pm	
Market(5900)	14	13 min	7	2.06 Hr 11/2/25 @ 3:30 pm	
Polk (5400)	12	8 min	4	2.06 Hr 11/10/25 @ 8:39 am	
York St	4	10 min	2	1.1 Hr 11/19/25 @ 9:03 am	
Un-Verified: Traffic Signal Preemption Data					
Airport Blvd	15	6 min	0	.68 Hr 11/12/25 @ 3:10 am	
Broadway St	9	4 min	0	.19 Hr 11/11/25 @ 9:52 am	
Lawndale St	5	9 min	1	4.0 Hr 11/17/25 @ 3:34 am	
South 75th St	4	8 min	1	1.01 Hr 11/24/25 @1:46 am	
South Wayside	4	10 min	1	4.06 Hr 11/17/25 @2:06 pm	

Safe Streets Projects

- FY22 EED funds created a Safety Action Plan – posted on EED Website
- FY24 EED Supplemental Planning and Demonstration Award of \$895,000 in grant has been obligated; project is to start in late January 2026
- FY24 Houston HFD Post Crash Care - \$3.4 Million to expand the railroad crossing monitoring project is awaiting obligation of funds by the Federal Highway Administration
- FY25 EED Supplemental Planning Bike/Ped Access – a request was made to fund a study in Second Ward.



Spring 2026 Capstone Projects

In Spring of 2026, students from the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers are being requested to perform the following studies in the East End:

- District Gateway Traffic Demand - identify impacts and projected traffic demand caused by environmental conditions and evolving infrastructure changes such as drainage improvement and road closures within transportation network that affects access to the East End District
- Railroad Crossing Catalog - develop a process and criteria for creating at grade railroad crossing catalog that identifies risk, infrastructure needs, and project readiness to improve safety.



Transportation Safety Web Page

The East End District has created a Transportation Safety Web Page to capture its approach in supporting the reduction of traffic crashes and mobility concern in the East End District

- Community Groups
- Plans & Programs
- Helpful Links
- Resources and Studies

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

As a community effort to address transportation challenges, the East End District is implementing a comprehensive strategy focusing on transportation safety, quality of life and mobility throughout the district. Key initiatives include: creating a comprehensive safety action plan, identifying traffic flow impediments such as blocked railroad crossings, damaged crossings, inadequate pedestrian access, and malfunctioning traffic control devices.



MISSION
The East End District provides services and conducts capital improvement throughout the 16 square miles of the District. The services, funded by assessment paid by commercial property interests throughout the District, include public safety programs, graffiti abatement, maintenance of major thoroughfares, and disposal of illegally dumped trash.



Team



Community



Resources

HELPFUL LINKS

Report a blocked crossing	https://www.fra.dot.gov/blockedcrossings
TXDOT Rail FAQ	https://www.txdot.gov/discover/rail/rail-faqs.html
TX Operations Lifesaver	https://sites.oli.org/state/tx#about
Train Watch	https://houstonx.gov/trainwatch/
Report Issues to Union Pacific	NotifyUnionPacific.com

Rails and Trails Task Force

A collaborative effort between the East End District, HPD, PCT6 Constables, PCT1, UPRR, and Houston Parks to develop a best practice for managing property related concerns along railroad corridors and hike/bike trails within the East End District

Rail Corridor Update

- Validating three locations that have been mitigated by Union Pacific Railroad
- Coordinating with Precinct 1 Environmental Unit to proactively address illegal dumping along railroad right of way

Hike and Bike Trail Update

Urban Park Rangers - Harrisburg Hike and Bike Trail Report				
Date	Time	Starting Point	Trail Activity (%)	Comments
30-Oct-2025	10:00 - 12:00	65th St./Sherman (Westward)	25	
31-Oct-2025	07:45 - 10:30	Eastwood CC (Westward)	20	Constables Patrolling
4-Nov-2025	11:30 - 12:50	65th St./Sherman (Westward)	50	HPD posted on trail

Most noticed on trail were bikers, walkers and a few sitting on benches and as you approach downtown homeless increases

Houston Parks & Recreation Green Space Division Work Schedule				
Date	Work Duty		Work Cycle (Days)	Comments
	Trail Mowing	Debris Pick up		
10/13/2025	Debris Pick up			
10/27/2025	Debris Pick up			
11/3/2025	Debris Pick up			
11/10/2025	Trail Mowing			Harrisburg at Lockwood
11/12/2025	Debris Pick up			
11/13/2025	Trail Mowing			Harrisburg at Hidalgo
12/2/2025	Installed Trash cans along trail			
12/2/2025	Debris Pick up			





Thank You
