



**East Houston Rail Safety Task Force
Facilitated by the East End District
Notes for July 13, 2022 @6:30 Pm**

Attended Roy Lira (Second Ward), Danielle Laperriere, Lindsay Williams, Reese Campbell (East Wood), Nikki Knight (Southeast), Tracy Stephens (Pleasantville), and Phyllis Agular (Pecan Park)

- **Introductions**
- **East Houston Task Force Goals and Priorities**
 - **Goals** – to create a unified approach in assessing and prioritizing needs as it relates to safety and mobility in the East Houston Area. Focus efforts in railroad connected communities found within the railroad commodity flow
 - **Priorities**
 - Blocked Crossings
 - Train Noise Reduction
 - Parked Trains
 - Other Mobility Concerns
- **Blocked Crossing Report – June 2022**
 - Total of 279 Reported Blocked Crossing Events
 - HPD – 9 citywide/ 2 in East Houston
 - HFD – 78 delays reported / 19 in East Houston
 - FRA – 192 / 130 in East Houston
- **Federal Railroad Investigation Outcomes**
 - FRA Nationwide Report; Texas rates #3 in investigated blocked crossings.
 - In year 2020 and 2021 there were 41 unique crossings in Houston that met FRA criterion for investigation.
 - Outcomes – it was reported that significant rail construction projects took place during the reported years placing multiple tracks or sections of yards out of service due to the track work that impacted yard capacity. Causing increase in train staging out of the yards in the neighborhoods
- **Safety and Mobility Strategy**
 - **TIRF Road Safety Workshop** -an opportunity for research and investment through the Transportation Research Foundation (TIRF) to develop a Safety and Mobility System Plan. Part of the process is to assist TIRF in piloting a community survey to assess needs related to road safety within the East End District. Outcomes will be used to communicate concerns to a broad spectrum of transportation safety organizations to improve road safety not only in the east end but other neighborhoods as appropriate.
 - **Safe Sidewalk Prioritization** – requesting neighborhoods to identify sidewalks with no access to or through railroad crossings; causing pedestrians to use the street.
 - Block and Street Name

- Type of Use (Route to School, Store, Clinic etc.)
 - Condition – Non Existent, Stop Short of tracks, No pedestrian crossing pad
- **Way-Finding Opportunity** – identify alternate routes that can accommodate traffic flow to by-pass an occupied railroad crossing.
- **Houston Smart Railroad Crossing Project** – identify and encourage additional crossing sensors to monitor train activity at railroad crossings and to support Houston Smart City Initiatives in creating alternate route in capabilities
- **Rail Corridor Collaborative Response** – coordinating with the four local railroads to identify and address repeating train events that impact community quality of life and safety.
- **Other Business**
 - Start a dialogue with the Government Administrative Office regarding long trains
 - Work with Federal and State Entities to analyze train movements in trouble spots
 - Consider railroad participation in the task force on an as needed basis
 - Updating 311 Portal to capture railroad concerns and share data with the appropriate entries
 - Simplify the user interface
 - Create a on-stop approach for reporting the event

Next Meeting, August 10, 2022, at 6:30 PM