

# Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Technical Advisory Group

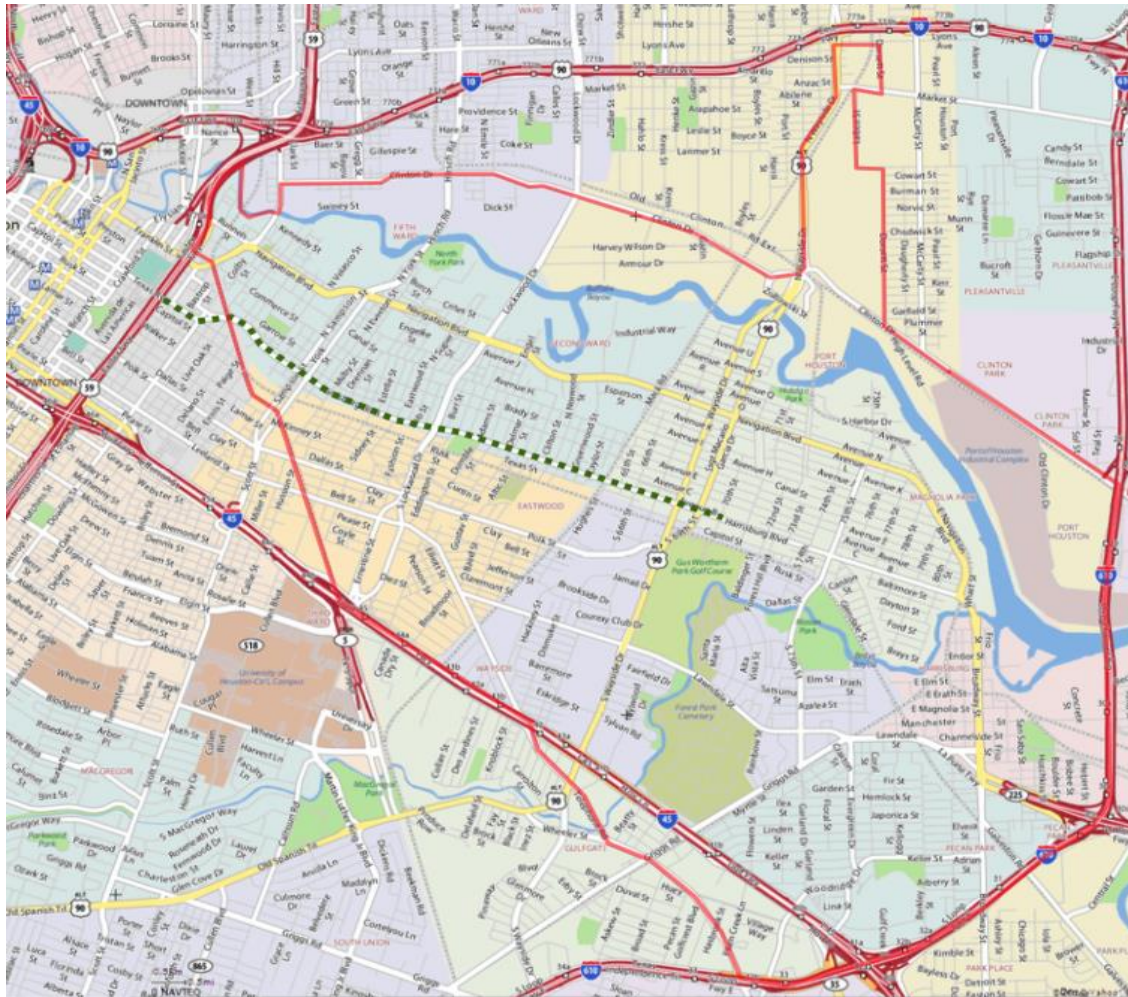
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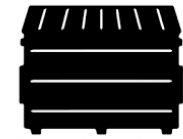
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Safe Streets for All Project



**THE EAST END DISTRICT IS A 16-SQUARE MILE AREA OF HOUSTON, BOUNDED BY CLINTON DRIVE ON THE NORTH, LOOP 610 ON THE EAST, TELEPHONE ROAD TO I-45 ON THE SOUTH, AND THE HOUSTON BELT AND TERMINAL RAILROAD TO U.S. 59 ON THE WEST.**

# Field Services Provided

## 2023 TOTALS



109.48

Tons of litter & Trash disposed



4,885

Bags of Litter Collected



1,819

Miles Mowed and de-littered



520

Tires Collected



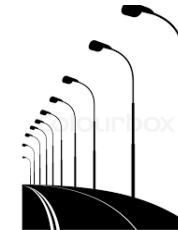
161

Dumpsites Collected



1,291

Graffiti Sites Removed



149

Streetlight Reported



670

Bandit Signs Collected



241

Shopping Carts Returned



246

311 Calls



13,380

In-Kind Hours

# Safe Streets for All



The East End District received funding for the Federal Highway Administration to conduct a two-year planning effort on Transportation Safety in Houston's East End. The goal is to develop a Safety Action Plan focusing on public safety, quality of life, and mobility.

- \$603,646.00 in funding.
- \$200K “in-kind” services & resources.
- Identify low cost-high impact strategies .
- Conduct feasibility studies of roadway infrastructure for possible counter measures.
- Use evidence-based projects & strategies as an integral part of the planning process.
- Unify multi-modal safety programs and direct appropriate treatments into the affected community.

# Purpose of the Technical Advisory Group

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is comprised of stakeholders and community representatives that will work together to promote the progression and completion of the Safety Action Plan (SAP).

# Objectives of the TAG

- Assist in the development of a Safety Action Plan for the East End District.
- Assist in defining short, intermediate, and long-term goals for reducing crashes in the District.
- Provide guidance in understanding neighborhood needs.
- Support disciplined based needs assessments for professional drivers (Police, Fire, Commercial).
- Review or recommend strategies, studies, or infrastructure improvements that promote safe and equity for the District.
- Assist with developing a mechanism that promotes project transparency.

# Establish a Safety Action Plan

A collaborated effort with transportation safety organizations to implement a road and rail safety awareness strategy for first responders, professional drivers, and schools in the district.

- US Road Assessment Program – assess and prioritize transportation safety and infrastructure conditions in the East End District..
- Enlist assistance from academia to conduct transportation feasibility studies.
- Deliver at a tactical level, appropriate safety materials for professional drivers, students and first responders.
- Measure transportation hazards comparing infrastructure gaps with unsafe behavior.



FOUNDATION



Roadway  
Safety  
FOUNDATION



# Project Plan: Tasks & Activities

•**Task #1: Steering and Advisor.** Create an SS4A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of relevant stakeholders.

•**Task #2: Action 2 Zero Community Assessment**

- Assess/inventory existing Vision Zero Strategy documents.
- Compile and Catalog any East End District specific overlapping transportation research.

•**Task #3: Safer People – Supporting a healthy community design**

- Identify and plot safe routes to school, community centers and neighborhood clinics.
- Partner with Park RX America.

•**Task #4: Safer Roads.** Collaborate with road safety organizations and technology providers to conduct infrastructure and traffic behavior studies.

•**Task #5: Safer Vehicles.** Assess safety related to environmental issues related to commercial traffic for speeding, idling, travel patterns, emissions, unsecured loads

•**Task #6: Safer Speeds.** Assess roads related to speed

•**Task #7: Post Crash Care**

- Review and assessment of current post-crash response
- Feasibility study of technology to give advance warning to first responders about delays or blocked routes

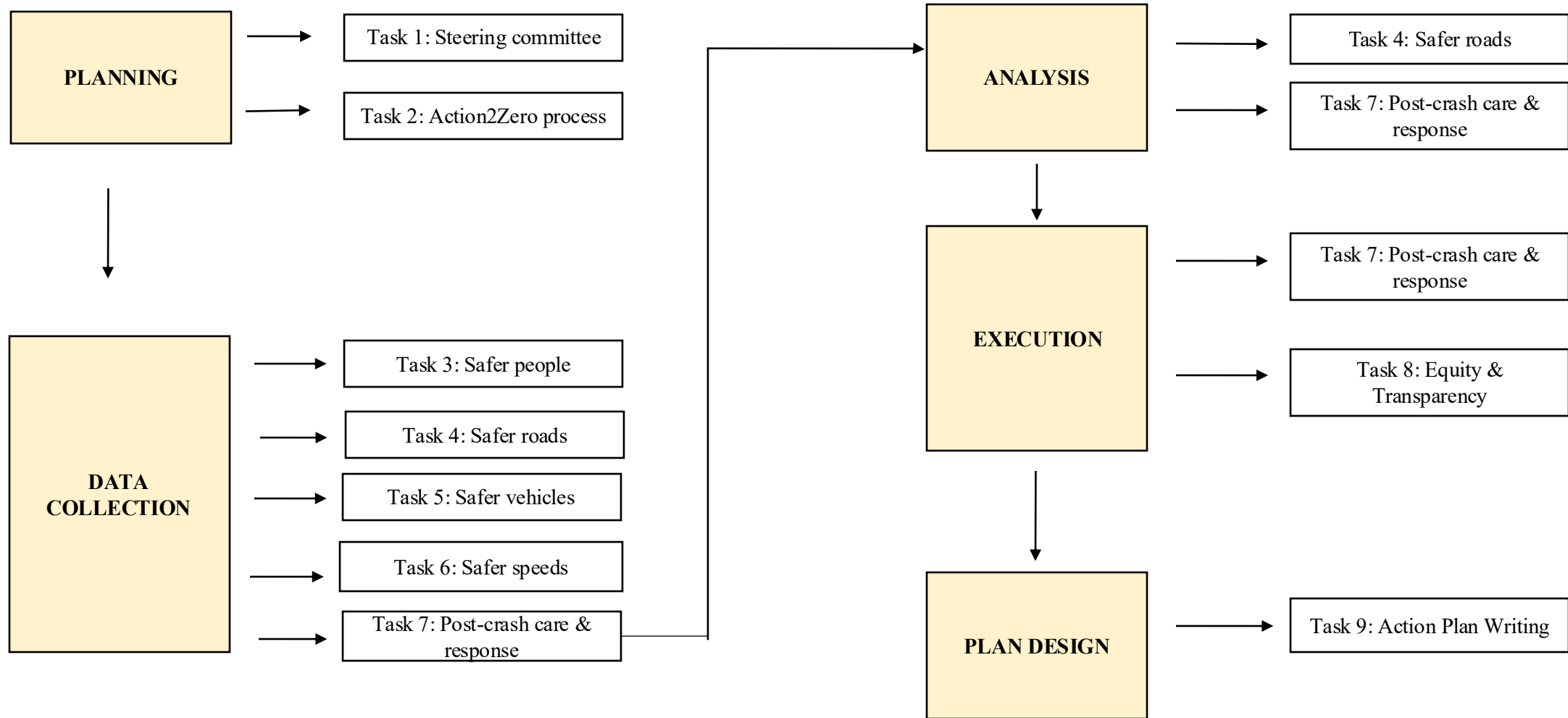
•**Task #8: Equity and Transparency**

- Develop Strategy for community input
- Develop PSAs

•**Task #9: Create a Safety Action Plan .** Draft Action Plan based on feasibility studies and assessment outcomes



# SS4A Action Plan Workflow



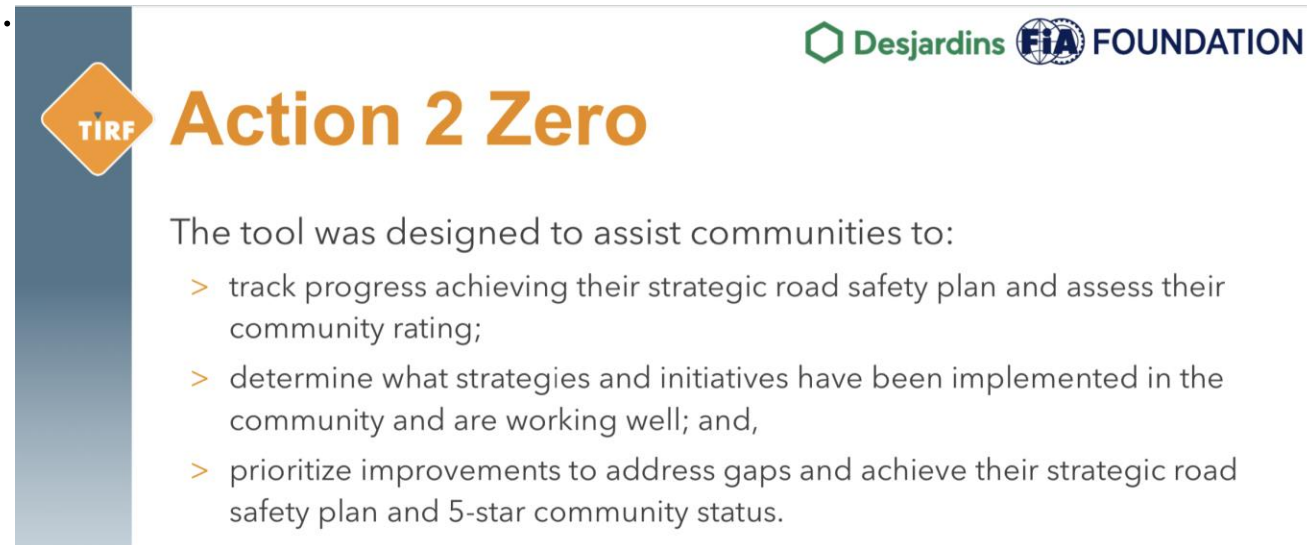
# Traffic Injury Research Foundation

- The District enlisted assistance from TIRF to help assess safety needs.
- TIRF is a registered charity committed to helping communities improve transportation safety.
- TIRF provides decades of subject matter expertise and state of the art tools to evaluate transportation safety conditions in an effort to reduce crashes and fatalities.



# Community Assessment

- Using the Action2Zero Tool a survey was conducted of 12 neighborhoods in the East Houston area.
- Diverse stakeholders: teachers, first responders, city council offices, business owners, professional drivers, and residents.
- Key Takeaways:
  - Lack of consistency in road safety activities.
  - Limited awareness of safety programs.
  - Siloed data sharing efforts.
  - No identified funding mechanism.



The graphic features a vertical blue bar on the left with a yellow diamond containing the text "TIRF". To the right, the text "Action 2 Zero" is displayed in large orange font. Above this text are the logos for "Desjardins" (a green hexagon) and "FIA FOUNDATION" (a blue globe icon). Below the title, a paragraph states: "The tool was designed to assist communities to:" followed by three bullet points: "> track progress achieving their strategic road safety plan and assess their community rating;", "> determine what strategies and initiatives have been implemented in the community and are working well; and,", and "> prioritize improvements to address gaps and achieve their strategic road safety plan and 5-star community status."

Desjardins FIA FOUNDATION

## Action 2 Zero

The tool was designed to assist communities to:

- > track progress achieving their strategic road safety plan and assess their community rating;
- > determine what strategies and initiatives have been implemented in the community and are working well; and,
- > prioritize improvements to address gaps and achieve their strategic road safety plan and 5-star community status.

# Action2Zero: Results

- Respondents were asked to briefly describe any other important road safety concerns in the community not included in this assessment. Nineteen respondents completed this section.
- Seven themes emerged:
  - there was little to no community engagement regarding transportation safety practices;
  - there was limited awareness on existing safety programs occurring in the East End;
  - unsafe railroad crossings;
  - unsafe sidewalks and bicycling lanes;
  - speeding;
  - limited or no infrastructure to make roads safer; and,
  - improper or no road maintenance.



# Action2Zero

- A baseline survey was conducted in July 2022 in the East End District.
- A second survey is being conducted in May 2024, to examine progress based on findings from the 2022 results.
- The survey can be accessed via the QR code:



# U.S. Road Assessment Program

- The Roadway Safety Foundation (RSF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational and charitable organization to work with private and public sector safety partners to reduce fatalities and serious injuries attributed to roadway conditions.
- Working in collaboration with Iowa State University the RSF evaluated roadway infrastructure in the East End District.
- The assessment process uses specialized software for evaluating the safety of road networks to assist in directing resources for improvements to the areas that have the most impact.



# Hobby School Capstone

## **Railroad Impact Study**

- Compile transportation data related to crossing delays.
- Analyze emergency service data impacted by train operations.
- Evaluate business and residential concerns related to delays caused by trains.
- Illustrate how a single event affects multiple modes of transportation.

## **High Injury Roadway Analysis**

- Catalog and prioritize existing studies and plans.
- Create a prioritized list of recommendations for improvements and treatments.
- Provide analysis for supporting a safety awareness program.





- **Star Rating for Schools.** Evaluate the use of evidence-based processes to measure, manage and communicate roadway risk along primary routes to schools found within the High Injury Network
- **Traffic Conflict Toolkit.** Measure needs using a safe system approach to determine if recommended changes could affect near misses before and after treatments
- **Safe Road Study (Smart Intersection).** Analyze the volume of crashes occurring at intersections around the Harrisburg Plaza and Coffee Plant areas and use technology to identify and evaluate the data collected.
- **Safe People Study.** Support new community/clinic programs intended to increase physical activity and wellness may also increase exposure to traffic around these health centers. By assessing transportation safety needs based on routes providers and patients take to access health care or programs.
- **Alternate Route Study (Phase 2).** Use simulated traffic flow projects to expand on efforts from a previous Capstone to develop a Railroad Crossing By-Pass set of solutions to alert and guide motorists around Blocked Crossings.

# Takeaways

- Many efforts to improve road safety in the District have been completed to date.
- These efforts require regular updating and innovation to adapt to new road safety concerns.
- Hold quarterly meetings to review and discuss components and studies that contribute to the Safety Action Plan.
- Assist in reviewing and recommending strategies, initiatives, and infrastructure improvements that promote safety and equity for the District
- Provide strategic and technical advice on needs specific to your role as a community representative or stakeholder