

SUPERNEIGHBORHOOD 22

WASHINGTON AVENUE COALITION - MEMORIAL PARK

August 13, 2014

To: Houston Planning Commission

Re: Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan amendments

The Washington Avenue Coalition - Memorial Park Superneighborhood Council (SN22) offers the following comments related to the adoption of Inner West Loop Mobility Study recommendations for amendments to the Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan. SN22 is a member of the Complete Streets Coalition, and considers the proposed changes to be a positive step toward implementation of those design principles.

Sawyer Street

SN22 strongly supports the recommended change for its ability to encourage a more pedestrian friendly streetscape and mixed use development along this corridor.

Patterson Street

SN22 strongly supports inclusion of Patterson as a bike route as the recommendation suggests. Our Neighborhood Greenways Committee is currently considering the scope of desirable and necessary improvements along this route that would allow it to serve as a central to the SN22 area connector between the Buffalo Bayou and White Oak Bayou trail systems. This route would additionally and efficiently connect three neighborhood parks and the Rutland Basin potential park site with that system.

Washington Avenue

SN22, in keeping with the findings of our Livable Centers Study and in light of pending transit service improvements as proposed by the METRO re-imagining process, requests designation of Washington Ave as a "Transit Corridor". The SN22 Council concurs with the position of our Washington Avenue Corridor Improvements committee in the belief that by allowing "Transit Corridor" development design guidelines to be more readily applied, pedestrian friendly and mixed use streetscape improvements would be realized along the corridor.

Westcott/Washington

SN22 strongly supports the recommendation to decrease the number of lanes northbound from the Washington/Westcott Roundabout and suggests that the southbound lane number also be decreased. All primary entry and exit points at the Roundabout are restricted to two lanes. With increased residential density, there is a significant amount of pedestrian traffic to and from Memorial park crossing the traffic lanes on both Washington and Westcott north of the Roundabout. Additionally an elementary school crossing is located in this area. With the current lane configuration, drivers perceive these as a freeway approach and exit rather than as neighborhood streets. Pedestrian and cyclist safety would be significantly enhanced by lessening traffic lanes and speed limits on both streets north of the Roundabout.

Thank you for your consideration,



Tom Dornbusch
President, Superneighborhood 22 Council
