

### III. Community Involvement

Ongoing community and stakeholder involvement throughout the planning process was essential in developing a plan that balanced the general desires of the community with the mobility needs of the greater region. Community involvement was divided into two public meetings and two stakeholder meetings. The first public and stakeholder meetings were held at the beginning of the study to better understand the mobility goals and preferences of the citizens and stakeholders. Alternative meetings were held before the finalization of recommendations to ensure the consultant team properly reflected ideas and concerns generated by the public and stakeholder committee alike.

In addition to the in-person meeting opportunities, the study also maintained an on-line platform where all interested parties could learn about the project, download related presentation material, and provide interactive comments in a blog-like format. Additionally, the public was able to provide comments on released information such as maps and pictures. Blog comments and discussions were also used interactively by citizens and stakeholders. The website for this study is <http://houston-northwest.org>.



### 3.1 Public Meeting #1:

The first public meeting for Northwest was held on March 27, 2013 to gather public insight on issues and opportunities within the Study Area. The meeting began with a presentation of the existing conditions within the community based on data from the City of Houston, the Houston-Galveston Area Council, and TXDOT. During this meeting, the public was able to view boards representing the data presented, as well as additional information. After the presentation, the public commented on aerials to provide detailed information on current conditions. This information was consolidated by the Consultant team.



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### 3.2 Stakeholder Meeting #1:

The first stakeholder meeting was held on May 15, 2013, where stakeholders were able to review the feedback provided by the public during the March meeting. In addition to reviewing this material, stakeholders were given the opportunity to make comments on additional issues and opportunities within the Study Area.

In the previous public meeting, several key issues were made apparent through consistency between comments. Due to the prominence of certain topics, stakeholders were asked to comment on the following issues specifically:

- Future road widening and connectivity
- Pedestrian elements
- Transit service improvements
- Intersection improvements
- Railroad Crossings



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From these questions and the open discussion allotted during this time, stakeholders worked with facilitators to develop “big idea” solutions to the issues found within the Study Area. These ideas were incorporated into the development of the Mobility Plan for the Northwest area.

### 3.3 Stakeholder Meeting #2:

The second stakeholder meeting was held on August 19, 2013. At this session, stakeholders viewed the preliminary recommendations of the study area in regards to road, pedestrian, bike, transit and intersection improvements. Feedback from this meeting was used to gauge how in-line the recommendations were with the public feedback gathered from the first public meeting, stakeholder meeting, the two steering committee meetings and data collected from the project website.

Stakeholders were presented with a summary of all feedback, bike plan recommendations and five model scenarios with background on how each scenario was developed. They afterwards broke into sub-committees to review the preliminary recommended improvements and provided comments.

Feedback from this meeting indicated initial recommendations by the consultant team were in-line with public desire. Expanding and connecting the network in the Northwest area is a priority for stakeholders. Growing the bike network was also presented as a priority for the community.



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## 3.4 Public Meeting #2 (Planned)

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