



## **Interface and Menus**

### **Application Requirements**

To run one of the My City family mapping applications, one must have a machine with an Internet connection and a browser that meets the following requirements:

- Internet Explorer 7.0 or higher, or
  - a recent version of Firefox, Safari, or Opera (Google Chrome is currently being tested),
- and**
- the appropriate Adobe Flash Player plug-in (10.x or higher).

Most computers will already have the Flash Player installed. Typically, the application does a check to see if the correct version of the Flash Player is installed. If not, the user will be prompted to download and install it.

In general, if the user is not using an appropriate browser version or you do not have an appropriate version of the Adobe Flash Player installed, the application will not load properly. The user may see the menus and tools load, but a gray screen where the map should be. If the browser is not able to issue a prompt indicating the need to install the Adobe Flash Player, or if the automated install process does not see to work for some reason (browser security settings, anti-virus software issues, etc.), the user can navigate to the Adobe site (<http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>) to download and install the Flash software manually.

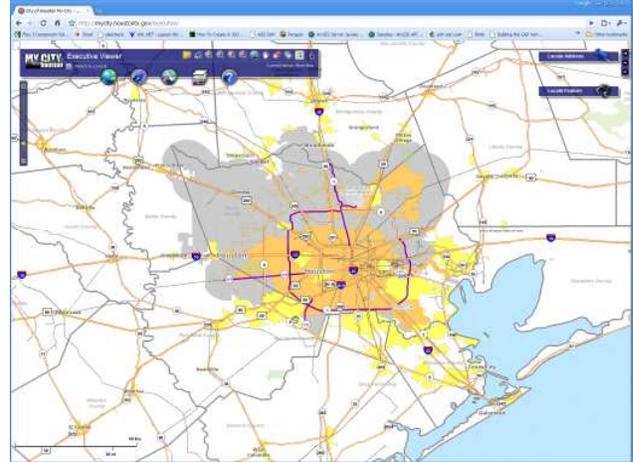
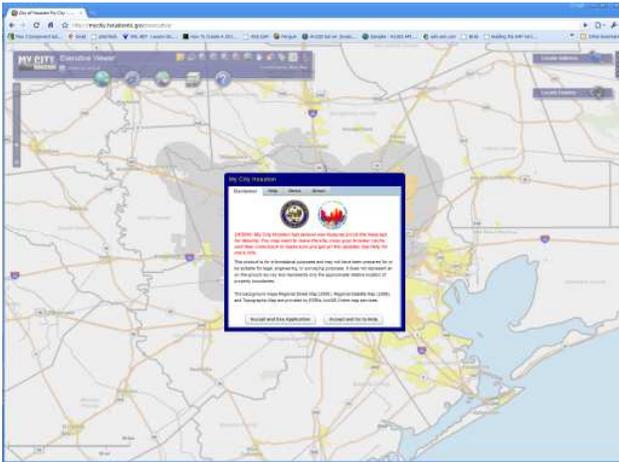


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### Using the Application

When the My City mapping application loads, the user will first see a gray Adobe Flash Player pre-loaded run in the middle of the browser window (it says “Initializing”) . After this process completes, a pop-up window (see screen grab on the left below) will be visible that includes a tabbed interface that allows the user

- to see application announcements (top of disclaimer, if applicable, and items accessible via the News tab),
- to view and accept the disclaimer in order to be able to start using the application,
- to download the help documents,
- to read new items that generally announce new datasets, functionalities, and tools, or that may alert the user to a problem that has been identified,
- to read general information about the application, including who to contact to report problems and to request additions or changes to the application.



The user must click the “Accept and Use Application” button to close this window and start use of the application (see screen grab on the right above).

The initial scale of the map will depend on how much browser real estate is available. The initial map display shows the COH Street Map as the background map, with the HPD Divisions, labeled by name, are outlined in navy blue. HPD District boundaries are also show in a lighter sky blue, but these are not labeled by name at the initial map scales. The legend for the HPD-related components of the map is show between the two possible first initial displays to add the user in identifying these data.



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## Main Controller Menu



The Main Controller menu appears in the top left portion of the browser window. It can be minimized or maximized by a click on the My City Houston icon. On the top right, the Main Controller menu contains smaller shortcut icons that the user can click to access the most commonly-used tools. There are also five larger icons on the center, bottom portion of the Main Controller menu that are used expand and access menu items. By moving one's mouse over the larger icon, the menus will expand so that a selection can be made.



The first "Globe" icon triggers the "Map Menu", which allows the user to change background maps, load the City Map data tool (which gives users access to the full array of data available in My City), load an overview map, print, etc.

COH Hybrid Map (2008)	The COH Hybrid Map (2008) background map is made visible, which is the COH Street Map overlain on the COH Aerial map.
Regional Hybrid Map (2006)	The COH Regional Hybrid Map (2006) background map is made visible. This is the Regional Street Map overlain on the Regional Satellite map.
COH Aerial Map (2008)	The COH Aerial Map (2008) background map is made visible. These are aerial photographs taken circa January, 2008.
Regional Satellite Map (2006)	The Regionall Satellite Map (2006) background map is made visible. This is an aerial map made of satellite and aerial image from circa 2006.
COH Street Map (2008)	The COH Street Map (2008) is made visible. This is the default map at startup.
Regional Street Map (2006)	The Regional Street Map (2006) background map is made visible. Some features may be outdated (wrong names, missing, etc.).
Topographic Map	The Topographic Map background map is made visible. These maps are very outdated as most were last updated in the 1970s, however, some people like these.
No Background Map	No Background Map is used with this selection. The user is able to change the background color using the tool on the top left corner of the window.
City Map Data	The City Map Data tool will be opened. A table of contents will be shown that allows the user to turn on/off the layer of City Map data as needed.
Overview Map	The Overview Map tool will be opened, showing a inset map with the current map extent of the main map window indicated as a red rectangle.
Bookmarks	The Bookmarks tool will be opened. This tool allows the user to save bookmarks for specific areas of interest. They are specific to that one computer and user.
Print	The Print tool will open to allow the user to print the map.



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The second “Compass” icon provides access to the Navigation tools and the Clear Graphics tool (these are more easily accessed from the smaller shortcut menu buttons on the top right portion of the Main Controller menu).

Zoom In	The user will be able to zoom in on an area by drawing a rubber band box on an area of interest on the map.
Zoom Out	The user will be able to zoom out around an an area of interest on the map by drawing a rubber band box on the portion of the map that is at the center of that area of interest.
Zoom In 1 Level	The map will zoom in one map scale level.
Zoom Out 1 Level	The map will zoom out one map scale level.
Full Extent	The map will zoom to full extent.
Pan/Re-center Map	The user can re-center the map by using the hand tool to drag the map in the desired direction.
Clear Graphics	This tool will clear any graphics (highlighted address, search areas, highlighted features, etc.) from the map.



The third “Tools” icon provides access to special tools for interacting with application data. Only a few of these tools can be accessed using the Shortcut menu

311 Calls	The 311 Calls tool is used to query and show 311 Calls on the map. There is a shortcut menu icon for this tool.
Search Miscellaneous	The Search Miscellaneous tool is used to search Parcel Appraisal data, view Parcels using Google StreetView, and other general search functions.
Search ILMS Permits	The Search ILMS Permits tools allows users to search out ILMS Permits such as building permits, demolition permits, certificates of occupancy, etc.
Legend	The Legend tool shows the map legend.
Locate Address	The Locate Address tool allows a user to find and zoom to an address, plus search out Jurisdiction Info, Solid Waste Collection schedules, and HPD jurisdictions.
Locate Feature	The Locate Feature tool allows a user to find a KeyMap Page or Block, Zip Code, Super Neighborhood, Council District, Lambert Tile, or GIMS tile, and zoom to it.
Draw	The Draw tool allows the user to draw on and/or annotate the map. These annotations are printable.
Crime By Area	This tool allows users to see Recent Crimes for the last 30 days by Zip Code, Super Neighborhood, Council District, Police Division, District, or Beat.
Crime By Address	This tool allows users to see Recent Crimes for the last 30 days for a buffer area around an address.
Houston Traffic	This tool allows users to see Houston Traffic incidents are reported by Yahoo Traffic. These data will ultimately be replaced by Houston TranStar traffic incidents.
Traffic Cameras	Houston TranStar traffic camera images can be seen with this tool.
HCOEM Stream Gages	Links are provided to show the status of stream gages in Harris County as reported by the Harris County Office of Emergency Management.
Identify	The Identify tool performs a drill-down identify of all data in the system for a location that the user identifies by clicking on the map. There is a shortcut icon for this tool,.



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The fourth “Layer Toggle” icon provides a quick way to simply turn on or off commonly used map layers. Each button except the bottom button (which turns all of these layer off if they are on) acts as a toggle.. If the layer is already drawn on the map, it will be removed. If it is not shown on the map, it will made visible.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parcel Address Labels</li> <li>Parcel Boundary Overlay</li> <li>Houston City Limit</li> <li>City of Houston ETJ</li> <li>City Council Districts</li> <li>Super Neighborhoods</li> <li>Police Jurisdiction/Facilities</li> <li>Parks (City of Houston)</li> <li>Park Sectors</li> <li>KeyMap Page</li> <li>KeyMap Block</li> <li>Historic Districts (City of Houston)</li> <li>Prohibited Yard Parking Applications</li> <li>Airport Tiers</li> <li>All Off</li> </ul>	
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The fifth “Help” icon provides access to general information, help, organizational links, and application contacts.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help</li> <li>City of Houston Home</li> <li>Planning and Development Home</li> <li>About</li> </ul>	<p>This document will open in or else the user will be prompted to download or save it (if Acrobat Reader or a similar application is not installed on the user's computer).</p> <p>The City of Houston home page will load in a new window or tab.</p> <p>The Planning and Development Departments' home page will load in a new window or tab.</p> <p>The About tool provides information on the team that developed the application, support contacts, and another rendering of the disclaimer.</p>
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## Shortcut Menu Items



The shortcut menu provides quick access to commonly used tools. These are (from left to right) City Map Data, Print, Zoom In, Zoom Out, Zoom In 1 Level, Zoom out 1 Level, Full Extent, Pan/Re-center Map, Clear Graphics, 311 Calls, Legend, and Identify.



## ***Interface and Menus***

### Zoom Slider



The zoom slider on the left side of the map can be used for basic navigation (zoom in/zoom out ). Click on either the + icon at the top of the slider to zoom in. Click on the – icon at the bottom of the slider to zoom out. Alternatively, click on the slider triangle and drag to the desired zoom level.