

Mission, Vision, & Goals

Chapter Two

The Greater Heights Strategic Connections Plan



Vision for Mobility

The Greater Heights is an active community built on an historic street grid where safe, easy mobility choices cultivate a healthy, connected, and dynamic place for people to grow up and grow old.

A Vision for Mobility in the Greater Heights

Mission

The Greater Heights Strategic Connections Plan will provide a blueprint for thoughtful design and intentional investment in a set of corridor and intersection projects that realize the Vision of safer, healthier, and more connected streets.



Vision

The Greater Heights is an active community built on an historic street grid where safe, easy mobility choices cultivate a healthy, connected, and dynamic place for people to grow up and grow old.



The Greater Heights Strategic Connections Plan lays the groundwork for implementing mobility initiatives to improve the experience of community members traveling around the Greater Heights area. The Plan serves as a guide for implementing ambitious mobility goals aimed at strengthening the transportation network by addressing existing mobility needs and filling gaps to improve the health and well-being of the Greater Heights community.

The Plan’s Vision, Mission, and Goals were identified using two main inputs. First, an analysis of the area’s people and infrastructure, found in the Existing Conditions Chapter, highlighted existing gaps and barriers for all modes. Second, direct input from a community survey and interactive map brought to light the key values and concerns of the people who use the street network in the Greater Heights every day. This Plan builds upon existing and planned projects in the area as well as ongoing or planned projects in the surrounding areas.

The Goals developed for the Plan focus on addressing the barriers that community members face in their daily mobility choices and improving their existing experience walking/rolling, biking, taking transit, and driving. These goals will help shape and guide projects that result in a balanced and well-connected multimodal transportation network that is safe, accessible, sustainable, and attractive to all users.

The **Mission** statement describes the purpose of the Plan and how it will work toward the Vision, while the **Vision** describes the aspiration for the Greater Heights in the future. The **Goals** on the next page translate the Vision into outcomes and focus areas.

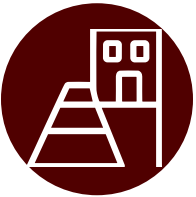
Goals to Bring the Vision Into Reality



Safe Crossings Goal

Improve crossing conditions on key corridors by **reducing the average distance between safe crossings** to bring major roadways into compliance with city standards.

Many major thoroughfares and major collectors in the Study Area are designed with very few crossings and wide vehicle travel lanes, leading to speeds higher than the posted limit and contributing to higher crash rates. This Plan will identify segments along these 15 key corridors that are not currently meeting the City of Houston Infrastructure Design Manual standards, and locate opportunities to add new crossings and improve existing crossings to match the City’s spacing and design standards to ensure the safety of all roadway users and encourage responsible speeds.



Complete Sidewalks Goal

Close all gaps in the sidewalk network and repair existing sidewalks that provide important connections to local destinations.

More than one-quarter of all sidewalks in the Study Area are missing, with many more in poor condition. In some neighborhoods such as Shady Acres, West End, and Rice Military, the portion of missing sidewalks is often much higher. This Plan will identify the specific streets and blocks where brand new and repaired sidewalks will help to complete neighborhood walking networks and tie into critical daily destinations like schools, parks, and commercial corridors.



School Streets Goal

Create an environment in which students feel safe walking or biking to school by **implementing safe street infrastructure initially within a 1/4-mile radius of all schools.**

During the first phase of public engagement, community members consistently mentioned a desire for safer streets near schools. Survey respondents identified unsafe intersections and vehicle speeding as the two main concerns for their children’s safety. This Plan will pinpoint specific opportunities to make streets and intersections safer within a quarter mile of all schools, giving students more independence and parents more peace of mind. Safer streets near schools also allow parents drop kids off farther away, knowing they can walk safely to get to class.



Great Spaces Goal

Design streets and trails as destinations, where abundant shade, lighting, and other amenities encourage people to spend time together outside.

Houston is hot, but the Greater Heights continues to draw people who enjoy the many parks and greenways that define its neighborhoods. This Plan will recommend locations and strategies for adding shade, lighting, seating, and other important amenities to make it more comfortable and safe for residents and visitors to get outside regardless of the weather or time of day.



Connected Network Goal

Increase the share of residents who have excellent or direct access (1/8 mile) to active streets and trails from 20 percent to 100 percent by delivering targeted street and intersection projects that connect to everyday destinations and expand the existing bikeway and trail network.

The neighborhoods of Greater Heights are well-known for their beloved trails and bikeways like the MKT Trail and the new Shepherd Durham pedestrian and bikeway facilities. However, only 20 percent of residents have easy access (one-eighth of a mile) to these great streets. Many of these streets are also disconnected from one another, or end before reaching important community destinations. This Plan will provide the vision for a full network of active streets that provides excellent access to all residents, useful crossings for barriers like White Oak Bayou and I-10, and connections to major destinations such as Memorial Park.