



BLUEPRINTHOUSTON
It's about your future

Blueprint Houston Newsletter

September, 2004

- I. Blueprint Houston Fall Calendar
- II. Three Important Plans Under Review
- III. Other Planning Issues Under Consideration

I. Blueprint Houston Fall Calendar

Blueprint Houston Welcomes You Back From Summer!

John Walsh, Deputy Chief of Staff for Neighborhoods and Housing

- Civic Awareness Committee Meeting
- Wednesday, **September 29th**, 6:00 – 7:00 pm
- 3015 Richmond, downstairs boardroom
- Refreshments offered
- RSVP hsweetnam@blueprinthouston.org

HISD Youth Summit Co-sponsored by Blueprint Houston and A+ Challenge

- Friday, **November 12th**, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm
- Harris County Department of Education
- To volunteer contact hsweetnam@blueprinthouston.org

Leaders' Conference: How Should Houston Plan for its Future?

- Saturday, **November 20th**, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
- George R. Brown Convention Center
- RSVP hsweetnam@blueprinthouston.org
- Volunteer facilitators needed (Training provided 11/2 and 11/3)

II. Three Important Plans for the City of Houston are Under Review

Capital Improvements Plan for 2005-2009 (CIP)

- Wednesday, **September 15th** at 9:30 am
- City Council Chambers, 901 Bagby

Next Wednesday, the City Council will vote on the [CIP](#). The 5 year plan identifies \$4.04 billion of projects for physical improvement to public facilities and infrastructure. \$2.41 billion is proposed for projects in enterprise fund programs (Airport, Convention & Entertainment and Combined Utility System). \$1.63 billion is proposed for projects in the areas of fire, health, library, parks, police, housing, solid waste management, general government, storm drainage,

streets, and traffic control. The public may comment on the CIP at the next Public Speaking Session, Tuesday, September 14th at 2:00 pm at City Hall. For permission to speak, you must call in person the City Secretary (713.247.1840). Speakers are usually taken in order of placement on the list.

The Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan (MTFP)

- Wednesday, **September 15th** at 9:30 am
- City Council Chambers, 901 Bagby

The Planning Commission has forwarded the [MTFP](#) to City Council for an expected vote on September 15th (See [agenda](#) posted on Friday before the next meeting.) Updated annually, the MTFP is a map and report that identifies projects for roadways in need of expansion, lengthening or widening and serves as notice of the public's requirements for development of new roads and land adjacent to identified roads. Public comments were solicited in February and March. The Planning Commission reviewed recommendations from the Planning Department in July.

H-GAC Showcase: Candidate Projects for Transportation Implementation Plan (TIP)

- Tuesday, **September 14th**, 6:00 pm
- H-GAC 3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120

The [TIP](#) is the three year implementation plan for the 2025 Regional Transportation Plan. Here is your chance to see what projects are proposed in your area from 2006-2008! The purpose of the open house is to give citizens the opportunity

- to review the list of projects seeking federal funds,
- to speak with staff and elected officials from each agency sponsoring a project (including the City of Houston, Harris County Tollroad Authority and Metro), and
- to comment in writing via comment cards or verbally via an on-site court reporter.

At this time, agencies in the 8 county area have submitted their list of projects for potential federal funding over the next three years. Next, H-GAC will rank the projects according to criteria approved by the Transportation Policy Council. The TPC is scheduled to vote on the criteria at its meeting at 9:30 am on Friday, September 24th. (Criteria available on line when 9/24 [TPC agenda](#) & materials posted.) Approval for the draft TIP is expected in January, 2005, with final approval expected in June, 2005, after TCEQ approves that the TIP is in compliance with the TCEQ Emissions Budget for the region.

The planning process is long – stay tuned. The public can comment at any Transportation Policy Council meeting, held at 9:30 am on the 4th Friday of every month at H-GAC, 3555 Timmons Lane, Conference Room A on the second floor.

III. Other Planning Issues under Consideration

Flooding & Drainage Issues Committee

- Assessing the True Cost of Flooding in Houston
- Monday, **September 13th**, 10:00 am
- City Hall Council Chambers

This meeting will be the first step towards assessing how much flooding and drainage problems actually cost Houstonians each year. Councilmember Ada Edwards, Chair, has arranged for presentations by the Public Works and Engineering Department, Stakeholders Advisory Group Representative and Harris County Flood Control District. You may want to record this meeting, shown live on Channel 16 and repeated over the next month (see [Channel 16 schedule](#).) For more information, contact Tamara Jones in Councilmember Edwards' office at 713.247.2001.

AIA Housing Strategy

The Houston Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and a broad-based steering committee, chaired by Councilmember Gordon Quan, is proposing 7 interrelated strategies for expanding housing opportunities and strengthening communities in Houston. Mayor White has already responded to the first recommendation for a cabinet level housing chief. In July, Mayor White appointed [John Walsh](#) as Deputy Chief of Staff for Neighborhoods and Housing.

Directions & Connections Conference

- Saturday, **September 11th** all day
- George R. Brown Convention Center

The City is once again hosting a city-wide conference for neighborhood leaders. The FREE, day-long conference, is geared for community-based organizations and individuals interested in improving their neighborhoods. It will provide Houstonians with training, resources and solutions through a combination of workshops, presentations, and networking opportunities. [Register on-line](#).

Blueprint Houston Planning Studies

Over the summer, Blueprint Houston has been completing its studies of the current planning process for six of the top ten goals adopted at the Citizens' Congress. (Transportation, Air Quality, Government and Accountability, Economic Development, Flood Management and Health). Summaries of the plans should be on line soon and will be the subject of discussion at the Leaders' Conference scheduled for November 20, 2004.

Please let us know if you would like your name removed from this mailing list.

3015 Richmond, Suite 201 • Houston, TX 77098 • Phone: 713.522.0590 • hsweetnam@blueprinthouston.org