



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 5, 2017

NORTH HOUSTON DISTRICT FOCUSES ON SAFE SIDEWALKS FOR COMMUNITY

Multi-Agency Effort Will Build a Sidewalk Network for Area Students and Residents

The North Houston District is working alongside local agencies to bring projects that improve sidewalks in communities they serve in north Houston so that residents have a safe way to move throughout their neighborhoods as well as to and from transportation sources.

In the next year, the combined efforts of Harris County Precinct One, North Green Municipal Utility District and North Houston District will result in a network of sidewalks that will connect area neighborhoods to an existing sidewalk that circles Aldine Independent School District's Greenspoint Elementary School. Aldine ISD constructed the encircling sidewalk before the school opened in 2016.

Crews recently started work on the first new sidewalk segment, a Harris County Precinct One "Safe Routes to School" project, scheduled for completion in August, that starts on Chisholm Trail at Goodnight Trail near Greenspoint Elementary and goes north to the Chisholm Trail Apartments. Commissioner Rodney Ellis' Safe Routes to School program involves constructing sidewalks near 21 Houston-area schools in the Aldine, Spring, Houston and Pasadena school districts.

"Ensuring that students and parents get to and from schools safely is a top priority for every district," Commissioner Ellis said. "I am proud to assist Aldine and the other three districts in adding another layer of protection for these precious youth."

Later this year, the North Green MUD has plans to extend sidewalks south of the school along neighborhood streets, as well as sections of Imperial Valley Drive and Hardy Street. The North Houston District is pursuing grant funding to fill gaps in the sidewalk network and to construct bus pads at Metro stops so that residents have a secure place to enter and exit buses, as well as travel to and from the bus stops.

Sidewalk Study

In 2016, the North Houston District worked with a consultant to conduct a study of sidewalks within the District's boundaries to determine opportunities for improvement and connection. The result was an in-depth report that rated the condition of existing sidewalk and curb ramps, and identified areas where none existed. This ratings inventory was illustrated on a map that allowed District officials to see the areas of greatest need and where to concentrate their initial

efforts to lobby and seek funding for new and upgraded sidewalks. The map revealed an area around Greenspoint Elementary where streets had no sidewalks or were in poor condition.

Part of the District's effort involved coordinating with local government entities to determine existing projects where resources could potentially be pooled. Through research, District employees learned about Commissioner Ellis' plans to construct sidewalks throughout Precinct One, and worked with the Harris County Engineering Department to obtain information about plans near Greenspoint Elementary.

North Green MUD officials also shared plans for their sidewalk project, which will connect the neighborhood with Regional Park Drive along the school's south border, and along Hardy Street to walking trails around three detention basins on the MUD's east side.

"This is an excellent example of government combining resources to collectively make much-needed improvements in our community," said Robert Fiederlein, the North Houston District's vice president, strategic planning and development. "At the end of the day, what matters is that students and parents have a safe way to get to and from school, and the community has sidewalks that they can use and enjoy for many reasons – to access Metro's public transit service, schools, parks and shopping."

The sidewalk network will also benefit future students and parents who will attend Aldine ISD's Early Childhood Center, which is under construction next door to Greenspoint Elementary and is scheduled to open in 2018.

"We are excited for the improved walking conditions near Greenspoint Elementary," said Tami C. Schuler, Greenspoint Elementary School Principal. "The addition of safe walkways will give parents and caregivers confidence in allowing their children the opportunity to engage in an active lifestyle by walking to school."

About the North Houston District

Created in 1991 by the Texas Legislature, the ***North Houston District*** is a business improvement district that leverages public and private partnerships to provide enhanced services in transportation mobility, public safety, beautification and recreational development, marketing and strategic planning and development. Minutes from Bush IAH, the District's 12-square-mile service area has 20 million square feet of office, retail and industrial properties. The District includes more than 4,400 businesses, 74,000 employees and 115,000 residents. For more information, visit www.northhouston.org.

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SAFE SIDEWALKS

Crews lay the groundwork for a new sidewalk on Chisolm Trail Drive that will soon link the Chisolm Trail Apartments to Aldine Independent School District's Greenspoint Elementary School as part of Harris County Precinct One Commissioner Rodney Ellis' Safe Routes to School program. The North Houston District is working with Harris County Precinct One and other government entities to improve and build upon the sidewalk system in north Houston so that residents and students have a safe place to walk to schools, Metro stops, shops and parks.