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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reconstruction Underway at Prominent Corner off Greenspoint Drive

Benmar Drive repairs to improve safety at busy North Houston District intersection.

BENMAR DRIVE CURB GRAPHICS

Houston, TX (SEPT 28, 2023) - With vehicular and pedestrian safety in mind, the North Houston District is widening the turn radius at the southeast corner of Benmar Drive at Greenspoint Drive. The construction project, which began the week of September 25, is expected to last up to three weeks and comes in just under \$59,000.

Robert Fiederlein, the North Houston District Vice President of Planning and Infrastructure, said the project was a high priority as a safety improvement, as well as an aesthetics improvement for a prominent corner that welcomes visitors to premium office developments, convention centers, and hotels.

"Over time, the curb there was crushed to gravel, a pothole formed, and the ramp at the crosswalk has been damaged," said Fiederlein. "Contractors will widen the turn radius, essentially pulling the existing curb back and making the area significantly less prone to damage from large vehicles and heavy trucks."

A wider curb will be rebuilt, as well, ensuring a safe area for walkers and bikers. Widening the Benmar curve required acquiring additional right of way, which necessitated a mutually beneficial partnership between several local entities, private property owners, and the local property owners association.

"This is another example of how we leverage partnerships to stretch District dollars on projects that help make our area more safe, appealing, and accessible," he said. "It's a heavily used intersection, and there's a lot of traffic there. Now, it will be safer for everybody and a more aesthetically pleasing corner along Grennspoint Drive."

Despite the construction, Fiederlein said there will be no disruption to traffic while work is being completed.

The turn lane project is directly related to goals identified in the District's 2020 <u>Livable Centers study</u>, which was funded via the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

The study analyzed the Greenspoint area of the District and put forth recommendations to make the region more walkable, among other goals.

Fiederlein said the Benmar/Greenspoint Drive intersection project accomplishes one of the study's primary goals, or "Jump Start Action Steps," to make the District a safe place to walk. This is important, considering a higher percentage of folks in Greenspoint (20 percent) walk more than compared to those living in the City of Houston as a whole (14 percent). What's more, the Livable Centers study found that "none of (Greenspoint's) infrastructure was designed to be comfortable or even safe for people on foot or on a bike."

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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 area includes more than 3,800 businesses, 68,000 employees and 118,500 residents. For more information, visit www.northhouston.org.