



Resolution to minimize freeway noise pollution on homes, businesses, and parks in Houston

§ 1. Whereas, freeway noise pollution harms the quality of life in Houston and is a growing problem for homes, businesses, parks and wildlife, and even entire neighborhoods;

§ 2. Whereas, design plans for federal-aid highways and for toll roads in the Houston region often include more and higher elevations from which traffic noise can reach much farther into neighborhoods and parklands;

§ 3. Whereas, this increasing reach of noise pollution due to increasing design elevations, coupled with increasing traffic and speed levels, will all make less effective the typical reflective ground-based noise walls placed at neighborhood and park boundaries;

§ 4. Whereas, modern and effective 21st century noise mitigation technologies and strategies, other than typical noise walls, are available to TxDOT and are by law provided for with 80% funding by the FHWA under noise and mitigation standards;

§ 5. Whereas, TxDOT has an opportunity with the I-10/I-610 interchange project to employ these new mitigation technologies to reduce the growing noise pollution invading Memorial Park, particularly at the Arboretum, a special purpose nature sanctuary;

§ 6. Whereas, TxDOT has not fully investigated all noise mitigation options that hold promise of reducing the impact of freeway noise on parklands, wildlife, sanctuaries, and homeowners near the I-610 West Loop, I-10 Katy Freeway, I-45, US-290, SH-288 and other projects; and

§ 7. Whereas, the U.S. Department of Transportation has established a new policy for highways that calls for "context sensitive design" to address concerns expressed by neighborhoods, and which imposes new expectations on TxDOT.

§ 1. RESOLVED, that the City of Houston should adopt policies, investigate transportation technologies, and provide information to citizens with the goal of reducing the impact of freeway noise on residents, parks, neighborhoods, and businesses;

§ 2. RESOLVED, that the City of Houston should work with TxDOT to review aggressively all highway design plans for Houston, including the I-10/I-610 interchange adjacent to Memorial Park, to ensure that such plans are based both upon full, transparent, and scientifically supportable analyses of noise impacts and upon the use of adequate noise mitigation measures, including modern and effective 21st century technologies and strategies; and,

§ 3. RESOLVED, that the City of Houston should work with TxDOT to ensure that full consideration of noise mitigation alternatives and public participation are integral to the design process for each highway project, from the initial conceptual design options through any midpoint changes to the final design choice.

Adopted by:

Organization _____

Your organization can help protect parks and neighborhoods by formally adopting this resolution.

Learn more on our website: <http://ctchouston.org/information>

Please tell us about you and your organization:

Organization name _____

Mailing address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____ Date _____

Website (if any) _____

Officer name _____ Title _____

Officer signature _____

E-mail address _____

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Please return one signed copy from your organization:

by fax to 713-529-1392
(you may phone 713-301-5716 to confirm arrival)

or mail to



Citizens' Transportation Coalition

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