

MEMORIAL DRIVE @ ADDICKS HOWELL ROAD

RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

Title: NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

CSJs: 0912-72-642, 0912-72-638

issued by: City of Houston Public Works Department

Dated: JUNE 9, 2023

TRAFFIC STUDY ISSUES

1. **DATE:** The Traffic Study map provided by BGE Inc is dated June 2, 2021, (DURING COVID) which does **NOT** reflect normal traffic patterns pre or post Covid.
2. **COVID:** Houston area offices had been closed for Covid in 2020 & early 2021, with people working from home. Therefore, the timing of the study does not reflect realistic work-related or daily shopping-related traffic loads.
3. **CONSTRUCTION:** This study projected NO INCREASED traffic on Addicks Howell Rd from new apartment construction in the Memorial and Hwy 6 areas.
See new developments impacting Memorial Drive area in Exhibit A.

SAFETY ISSUES

4. **PEDESTRIAN LIGHT:** There is **NO pedestrian light in the plans for the crosswalk** in the proposed design. An elementary school child is in danger while attempting to cross Memorial Drive to access Wolfe Elementary, especially during morning rush hour.
5. **SCHOOL BUS ACCESS:**
 - a. Access to Memorial at Six Apartments: This design prohibits safe access to Memorial at Six apartments by the Wolfe Elementary school bus. It forces the bus to use Hwy 6 and make a dangerous left hand turn across Hwy 6 eastbound rush hour traffic. There are deep drainage ditches on both sides of Addicks Howell at the Hwy 6 intersection.
 - b. Safe Turns to Memorial: Entering Memorial Drive is **dangerous for slow moving school buses**, especially during morning rush hour.
6. **AUTO ACCIDENTS:**
 - a. Drainage Ditches: At this intersection, south bound traffic on Addicks Howell speeds up to cross the west bound traffic on Memorial during rush hour. Two such accidents are shown in the photos in Exhibit B, where vehicles on Memorial Drive ended up in the ditch head first. These ditches have been dredged quite deep for flood control and are now quite dangerous to drivers.
 - b. Visibility: COH's infrequent maintenance of vegetation at this intersection reduces visibility of drivers on Addicks Howell to the west bound traffic on Memorial Dr.

REQUESTS AND PROPOSALS

- a) If this design goes forward, the community requests that POW **install a Pedestrian Traffic Light** at Memorial & Addicks Howell **to ensure safer crossing by pedestrians**, including school children attending Wolf Elementary.
- b) A more cost-effective solution is a wall. The community requests that POW consider **closing northbound Addicks-Howell, south of Memorial Drive with a wall** to prevent the dangerous north-south and south-north crossing of vehicles which has already historically produced many collisions.
- c) To conduct a realistic long-term solution, the community requests that POW **CONDUCT A NEW TRAFFIC STUDY** to correct invalid data produced by the faulty traffic study conducted during Covid restrictions. Please, **SPEND OUR TAX DOLLARS WISELY on a long-term solution** for a very dangerous intersection.
LIVES LOST ARE THE CONSEQUENCE of continuing forward with concrete medians.
INVEST FOR THE LONG-TERM WITH A TRAFFIC LIGHT.

CONTRACT HAS BEEN AWARDED WITH COMPLETION DATE FOR FALL 2023

7. **PRICE:** When we first started talking to City of Houston (COH), the cost they quoted was in the mid \$50K range. Now it is awarded at \$86K for the EXACT SAME DESIGN.
QUESTION: How can the project increase by 58%+/- in a 2-year period?
8. **TIMING:** The notice for public comment sent in June 2023, states the contract is already awarded and construction is set for completion at the end of the Fall, 2023.
QUESTION: Why weren't comments solicited prior to a contract award?
9. **GRANT APPLICATION:** This was submitted during Covid, in December 2020, **BEFORE** the June 2, 2021 Traffic Study map was completed! It is based on unrealistic traffic data for 2023 forward!

EXHIBIT A: NEW RESIDENTIAL & MULTI-FAMILY CONSTRUCTION

(Memorial Dr area between Hwy 6 and Eldridge)

1. Six at Memorial (Allied-Orion)
2. Caroline at Memorial (Morgan Group)
3. Westlake Complex
4. Addicks-Howell adjacent to Wolfe Elementary and the restaurants
5. A new Development across Hwy. 6 from Six at Memorial
6. Extension to Eagle's Trace

EXHIBIT B: CARS IN DRAINAGE DITCH

(Memorial Westbound @ Addicks Howell)

