



Steve Wormald &lt;steve.wormald@gmail.com&gt;

**Re: Response to Memorial and Addicks Howell--CSJs: 0912-72-642, 0912-72-638**

1 message

Steve Wormald &lt;steve.wormald@gmail.com&gt;

Wed, Jun 28, 2023 at 11:29 AM

To: "Hlavacek, Ian - HPW" &lt;Ian.Hlavacek@houstontx.gov&gt;

Cc: Janis Mecklenburg &lt;janismecklenburg@gmail.com&gt;, HPW- Safeststreets &lt;HPW-Safeststreets@houstontx.gov&gt;, Chris Culberson &lt;fwsec@comcast.net&gt;, "Nguyen, Khang M. - HPW" &lt;Khang.Nguyen@houstontx.gov&gt;, "Rueda, Salatiel - HPW" &lt;Salatiel.Rueda@houstontx.gov&gt;, "Huffman, Mary Nan - CNL" &lt;MaryNan.Huffman@houstontx.gov&gt;, MaryAnn Sterrett-Russell &lt;m.sterrett2@att.net&gt;, "Rains, James - CNL" &lt;James.Rains@houstontx.gov&gt;, Aubrey Haines &lt;ahaines@msn.com&gt;, Randy Crump &lt;prcrump@cdlawtx.com&gt;, robertrossen &lt;robertrossen@att.net&gt;, Ahmed.Ghaly@houstontx.gov

Ian,

A few comments to your letter below:

1. You state that a Public Meeting was not necessary, but also that you have not been able to properly address this matter at the Memorial SuperNeighborhood meetings. It was the "public" that considered a Public Meeting to be necessary, not a decision for Public Works to make. Even though such a meeting was agreed to by your office, our worst fears are now being realized - no meeting has taken place, and your project is proceeding without any public input and without addressing any of the concerns we made to Public Works some months ago.
2. One of the major concerns is that your plan continues to promote a right turn only when exiting Addicks-Howell South - exactly as it was on the original plan. You state "the proposed median modifications would effectively serve as a wall for many of the same movement as a full wall and closure". This is incorrect - the plan as designed means that exiting northbound Addicks-Howell traffic can only turn right, and much of it will then make a U-turn into oncoming traffic to head west, or north to the popular restaurants there.
3. That, and the lack of a street light to protect school-bound children, will become a major factor as your plan is assessed in reality.

Sincerely,

Steve Wormald

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On Tue, Jun 27, 2023 at 2:47 PM Hlavacek, Ian - HPW &lt;Ian.Hlavacek@houstontx.gov&gt; wrote:

Thanks Janis! It was a pleasure meeting you last night and chatting about this and other projects in the area.

As promised, here are some thoughts and answers for you:

- **Request for pedestrian traffic light:** this project will satisfy our current guidelines for pedestrian crossing safety by providing a new marked crosswalk, a new pedestrian refuge, and new pedestrian crossing safety signage. This will be a significant improvement to pedestrian safety at the intersection. That said, we are open to reassessing the need for further pedestrian safety enhancements after the project is complete. You may submit those requests to 311.
- **Suggestion for a wall:** In many ways, the proposed median modifications would effectively serve as a wall for many of the same movement as a full wall and closure. The only additional vehicle movements provided by this project would be the right turns to and from south Addicks Howell. A full street closure would face much steeper state legal requirements for implementation with few additional safety benefits.
- **Request for a new traffic study:** A new traffic study can always be requested through 311 as a request for a new traffic signal. We can't do a full study every time we receive a request, but we will, at minimum, do a check of crashes at least once every six months to determine if safety improvements are needed. We have been conducting signal warrants at this location for many years, even before COVID, and the intersection has never

come close to satisfying the requirements for a traffic signal. An unwarranted traffic signal can introduce many unexpected safety and operational concerns, and for this reason we are required to follow federal and state standard for implementation of traffic standards.

- **Why weren't comments solicited prior to the contract award?** This is a safety improvement warranted by a specific type of dangerous crash problem, and we at Houston Public Works must work judiciously to implement these kinds of safety improvements. We must balance our desire to inform the community about changes coming with our need to save lives as quickly as possible. We have communicated with the community in several ways, including a full project notification mailout and a project website. We have also made serious attempts to present at the Superneighborhood meeting two months in a row.
- **Cars in ditches:** it is possible that some cars are ending up in the ditch because of crashes or near crashes related to the existing intersection design. The proposal should greatly reduce the chance of crashes of vehicles falling into the ditch.

The takeaway is that this is not the end, and we won't simply finish this project and never revisit the intersection. We're here to work for the residents of Houston, and the best way we can do that is if residents report their concerns on 311 (and the SeeClickFix app).

Thanks again, and let's stay in touch.

Ian Hlavacek, PE (he/him/his)

Managing Engineer, Transportation & Drainage Operations

**Multimodal Safety & Design Branch**

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**From:** Janis Mecklenburg <[janismecklenburg@gmail.com](mailto:janismecklenburg@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 27, 2023 10:15 AM

**To:** HPW- Safestreets <[HPW-Safestreets@houston.tx.gov](mailto:HPW-Safestreets@houston.tx.gov)>

**Cc:** Steve Wormald <[steve.wormald@gmail.com](mailto:steve.wormald@gmail.com)>; Chris Culberson <[fwsec@comcast.net](mailto:fwsec@comcast.net)>; Hlavacek, Ian - HPW <[Ian.Hlavacek@houston.tx.gov](mailto:Ian.Hlavacek@houston.tx.gov)>; Nguyen, Khang M. - HPW <[Khang.Nguyen@houston.tx.gov](mailto:Khang.Nguyen@houston.tx.gov)>; Rueda, Salatiel - HPW <[Salatiel.Rueda@houston.tx.gov](mailto:Salatiel.Rueda@houston.tx.gov)>; Huffman, Mary Nan - CNL <[MaryNan.Huffman@houston.tx.gov](mailto:MaryNan.Huffman@houston.tx.gov)>; MaryAnn Sterrett-Russell <[m.sterrett2@att.net](mailto:m.sterrett2@att.net)>

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Attached is our feedback on this proposal. We would hope there is a cost effective long-term solution based on a new traffic study to consider the various issues we have laid out.

I spoke to Ian Hlavacek and Mary Nan Huffman last night at the Memorial Super Neighborhood meeting. Given that Allied Orion has currently walled off Addicks

Howell during their construction, we are currently getting the same result as the concrete barriers are designed to provide. Therefore, there is no urgency to have the project completed in the next few months.

The traffic study used for this project was conducted during Covid and did not include the new 6-story construction at this location. Therefore, it is a solution that does not realistically address traffic patterns.

We understand the multiple levels of complexity with City of Houston, TxDot, and Federal funding and appreciate your efforts to navigate these challenges. We are hoping that funding can be used wisely for a long term solution to a dangerous intersection.

Thanks to all of you for the work you are doing!

Best Regards,

Janis

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**Janis Hansen Mecklenburg, J.D.**

**Fleetwood West POA, President**

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