



Super Neighborhood 64 & 88 Council Town Hall Meeting

December 3, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Holy Family Church, 3719 Navigation, Houston, TX 77003

Host: Lindsay Williams (President, Super Neighborhood 64 & 88)

Guest Speaker: Councilmember Joaquin Martinez (District I)

Other Notable Attendees: Councilwoman Sally Alcorn, Mike Zintek (TxDOT), Representatives from the offices of Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia, Senator Carol Alvarado, and State Rep. Christina Morales.

The town hall focused on major infrastructure and mobility projects impacting the East End and Downtown Houston, specifically the George R. Brown (GRB) Convention Center expansion and the North Houston Highway Improvement Project (NHHIP). Councilmember Martinez addressed the controversial permanent closure of Polk Street and introduced a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) designed to secure community benefits. While the Councilmember highlighted progress on "quiet zones" and grade separations, residents expressed significant frustration over the speed of road closures versus the slow timeline for mitigation projects, as well as the lack of a unified communication platform for construction updates.

1. Welcome and Meeting Agreements

- **Lindsay Williams** opened the meeting, emphasizing a "productive dialogue" across the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Wards.
- **Meeting Agreements:** Participants agreed to assume positive intent, be critical of problems rather than people, and remain mindful of time.

2. Project Updates & Timelines (CM Martinez)

- **Telephone Road:** Currently at 60% design; construction is slated to begin in **Fall 2026**.
- **Polk Street Closure:** Confirmed closed to vehicles between Charters and Avenida de las Americas. The sidewalk was reopened on Nov 21 for pedestrians/bikes.
- **Leland Street Conversion:** Plans are underway to convert Leland Street from Charters to Louisiana into two-way traffic to compensate for the Polk closure. It is currently in the surveying phase.



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- **Grade Separations:**
 - **Commerce, York, and Sampson:** Fully funded via federal dollars (supported by Cong. Garcia). Construction is estimated to begin in **Spring 2029** and finish in **Winter 2031**.
 - **Leland & Cullen:** A feasibility study is funded in the TURS 24 budget.
- **Quiet Zones:** Design is at 30% for Zones 1-3. Martinez noted these typically take ~15 years to implement and suggested focusing momentum on grade separations instead.

3. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Highlights

Councilmember Martinez presented the signed MOU between the City, Public Works, and Houston First. Key provisions include:

- **Community Advisory Board:** A 13-member board appointed by Councilmembers from Districts I, H, and D to oversee the "Eastside Entryway" (Cap Park) planning.
- **Public Space Access:** Local nonprofits will have free access to the new GRB Plaza 6 days per year.
- **Bilingual Communication:** Requirements for English/Spanish updates regarding construction and reroutes.
- **Mobility Study:** A commitment to study East-West connectivity and the two-way Leland conversion.

4. Public Q&A and Resident Concerns

- **Timeline Slippage:** Residents questioned why projects like the West Belt (originally 2025) have slipped to 2029. Martinez cited "administration transitions" and design pauses.
- **Coordination Frustration:** Multiple attendees complained about the "dangerous" lack of coordination between TxDOT, Houston First, and City Public Works.
- **Communication:** Councilwoman Alcorn confirmed that Houston First is developing a unified platform for all area closures, though TxDOT participation is still being finalized.
- **Polk Street Permanency:** Residents challenged the "permanent" status of the Polk Street closure, reminding the Councilmember that a final vote on the street's abandonment is still pending (estimated July 2026).

5. Advocacy Update (People for Polk)



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- **Lisa Hunt & Amy Dinn** reported that over 230 residents responded to the Joint Referral Committee regarding the Polk closure.
- **Objectives:** They are pushing for the "appraised value" of the closed public streets to be reinvested directly into the East End community.
- Lisa Hunt noted that if residents are not "at the table" for TIRZ and Management District decisions, they are "on the table."