

Gulf Coast Institute

Metropolitan Houston



Houston

- City Population: 2.14 million (4th in America)
- Land Area: 600 sq miles
- Metro Population: 5.5 million
- Metro by 2040: 8.5 million
- No Zoning
- Laissez-Faire Government Structure

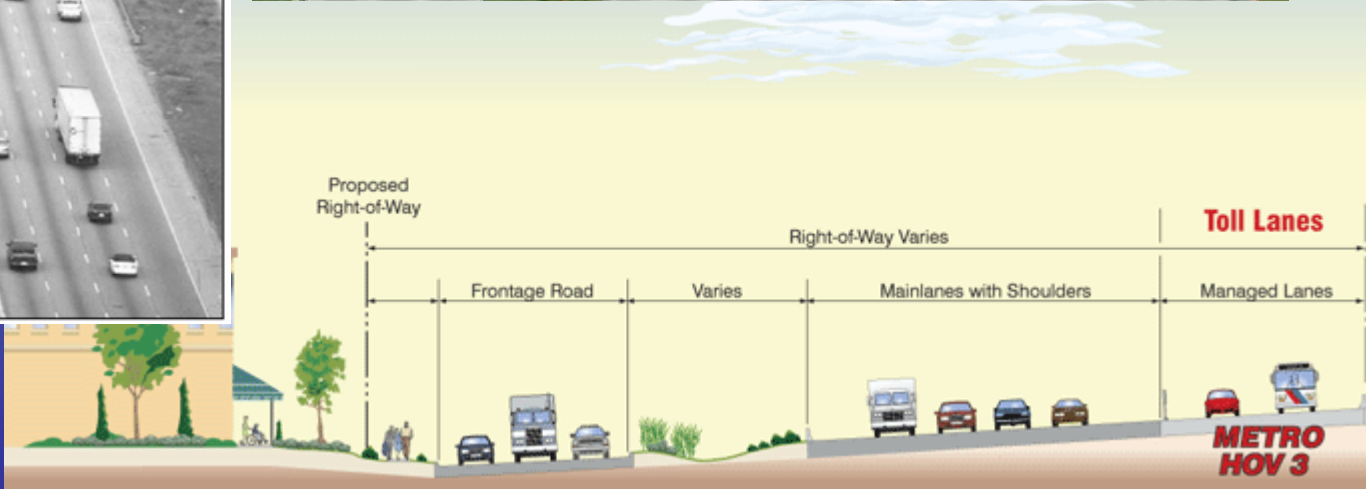
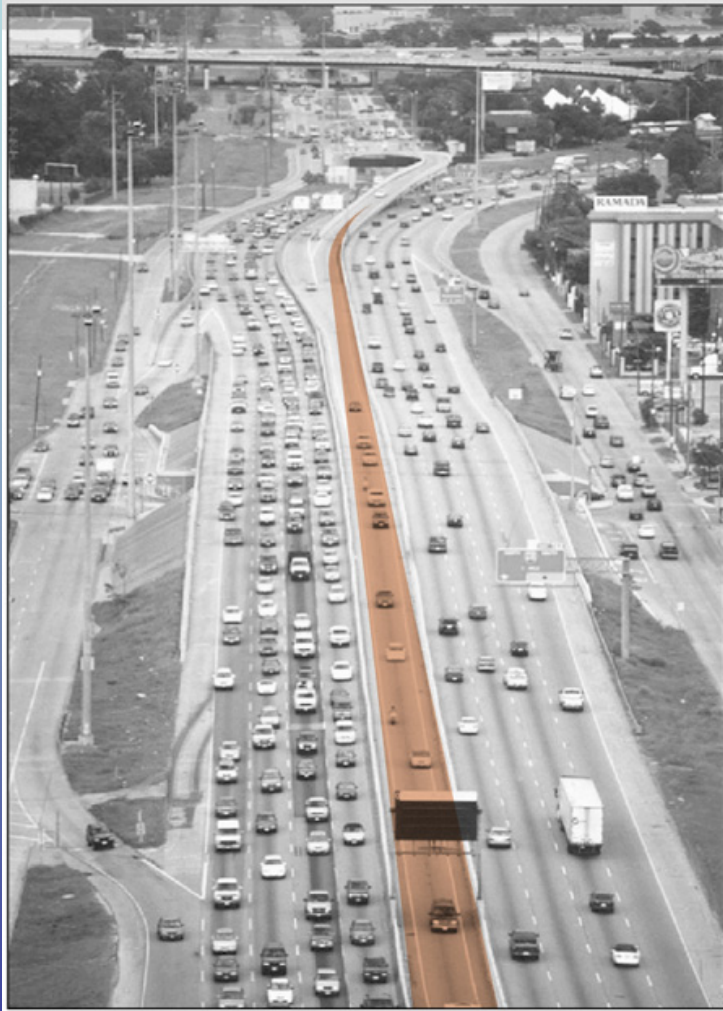
Gulf Coast Institute

- Mission is to create a sustainable and livable Houston
- Creates links amongst vital organizations
- Educates these groups as well as the community
- Develops long range visions

Medium of Education

- Alternative Plans
- Focus Groups (Imagine Houston)
- Online Magazine
- Large Conferences
- Monthly Meetings
- Studies

Alternative Plans: Katy Freeway



Imagine Houston

- A visioning exercise which was broken into 9 focus groups:
 - In Service to the Public
 - Learning For Life
 - Minding Our Natural Resources
 - Taking Care of Ourselves
 - Where We Live
 - Where We Meet
 - Where We Work

- Online Magazine
 - Articles
 - Essays
 - Latest in Sustainable Development and Current City Development Plans
- Current Front Page Article
 - Houston 2035: Disappearing Greenspace

Density By Design

- Held jointly with Houston-Galveston Area Council as well and The Texas Cooperative Extension
- metropolitan strategies, mixed-use financing, and transit-oriented design
- Increasing density without decreasing livability

Livable Houston Meetings

- Discussion of development in Houston
 - Does it tie into a vision
 - Is it sustainable
- Guest Lecturer
- Open to the Public

Houston Green Initiative

- Developed to study Houston's current tree coverage
- Studied environmental and economic benefits of trees
- Cost of trees lost over the year
- Value of restoring the canopy to 40%
- The only green infrastructure plan in the Houston area (non-profit and resident led)

Conclusion

- Innovative Organization and Programs
- Allows people to view things in a different way
- Aggressively producing plans and studies
- How much of an impact will the Gulf Coast Institute's approach to sustainability really be?
- Are developers and the government listening?