Montrose Boulevard Improvements Project
Public Comment Response Matrix

Thank you for your comments. Tree questions were responded to in a memorandum in September and may be found at montrosehtx.org. In summary, the 57 existing trees that will be removed that are unhealthy, growth-constrained, planted directly underneath overhead utilities, or are otherwise not City-approved street trees. They will be replaced with 137 new street trees. Replacement trees will be up to 200-gallon trees in the median and 100-gallon trees in the back of curb area, as determined by planting space and species availability. In addition, the TIRZ is committed to maintaining them for 4-years.

Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
1	Alexander	Spike	I love the plan as it. Huge improvements to pedestrian, cyclist, transit user's safety, slowing traffice. Toucan crossing is a huge improvement ocer flashing yellow beacons. I heard a lot of chatter about trees. I have a recommendation.The plan includes 60 feet for cars + metro and 40 feet for trees and sidewalks. Simply remove one car lane to save the trees, sidewalks, and prepare Montrose Blvd, for its future as a rapid transit corridor AND pedestrian priority corridor. I want to emphasis that I support all the effort to improve road safety for all users; including pedestrins and cyclists. The day of the public meeting, my partner missed her SG bus to the medical center because it was late, likely because of it operating in car traffic, I wnat to encourage yall to pursue rapid transit on the corridor. There are few crossings over Buffalo Bayou by bus or ped/bike, reducing connectivity. Lastly, I want to encourage yall to pursue walkable places for Montrose Blvd earlier this year. Kevin Strickland and I suggested this designation for Westheimer - how cool would it be to have two walkable places designated corridors through Montrose?	Thank you for your comment and suggestions. The current scope of the project balances and enhances safety for all modes of transportation. The proposed design for Montrose Boulevard Segment 1 (Allen Parkway to W Clay) is consistent with the Walk Bike Montrose Plan. Feedback received at previous TIRZ 27 public meetings and from the City of Houston was to extend the share use path further to the south to expand connectivity to destinations along the corridor and to the north to connect to Buffalo Bayou Park.
2	Shannon	Sims	Please be creative and find a way to keep as many live oak trees as possible - 61 is way too mnay to remove! We can do better!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
3	Robin	Holzer	I supprt reconstruction of Montrose as a much safer multimodal street. I support addition of bike facilities and much wider sidewalks. Please reallocate sidewalk between Allen Parkway and W. Dallas from west side to make wider facilities along est side. The cemetary will never redevelop. I support new safe crossings liek W. Clay! Please ensure all new lighting is dark skies friendly. Please avoid the monoculture and plant a variety of climate resilient tree species. Thanks!	Thank you for the comment and support. The City of Houston will not approve for the reallocation of the sidewalk. Standard CenterPoint Streetlighting will be utilized.
4	Jim	Tucker	I hope more detal can be provided on te 61 "trees" planned for removal The orientattion needs to be "trees worth keeping first, streets/sidewalks/bikeways second" If folks could be satisfied that this is the orienatation then people will be satisfied with the results. Thank you for serving.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
5	Simon	Newton	This is a great project with many improvements that will greatly add to walkability and safety. The design presented today is very good.	Thank you for your comment.
6	Alice	McCarthy	I am a pedestrian and have been since 1981 on W. Drew (1200 block). I have serious concerns about removing any nature trees in the area and concerns about trafic issues that the planners are unaware of.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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7	Jonna	Hitchcock	Public signage should be posted all along Montrse nothing tree removals planned! What Houston and Montrose need is shade not 10' sidewalks. To think that removing 61+ trees can be compensated by planting 134 saplings which will not provide any shade/canopy for 20+ years is insane. Save the Trees! Be more upfront with the neighborhood about what is planned. You have been purposely quiet to avoid protest. GET READY - PROTEST IS HERE.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
8	Charlotte M.	Bouchard	I am a resident townhouse owner who has lived on Maconi Street between West Dallas and West Gray for the last 6 years. My neighbors, fellow home owners on Marconi Street, only heard of this plan last week on next door neighbor - for the 1st time. This will significantly and negatively impact our daily life with more traffic. We already deal with tons of traffic on our tiny street. We hace children and pet owners walking on the street. No speed bumps. A two way 0 not four way stop at West Gray and Marconi. It is one of the most dangerous intersections in Montrose. Cars will out through Marconi. Also, why in the world would you remove 61 mature trees?!?!	Thank you for your comment with regards to Marconi Street. We are currently conducting some additional traffic analysis and wil share the results once completed with the community. See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
9	Elizabeth	Counningham	I'm interested in what the project will do to mature trees. Has there been consideration to re-route road to save these trees. Replacing them with samplngs is a poor solution.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
10	Georgia	Hitchcock	This project will make Montrose a hot dry desert, sidewalk width wil be a detriment! Traffic is already at standstill on Montrose. Narrowed with useless median is unthinkable - with climate change worries, why would you reduce canopy by chopping down heritage oaks? This sensible effort is more shade that does not come with saplings. Project smarties off passe! Ideas from academics!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
11	Rocky	Kneten	I am concerned about the preservation of mature trees in the medians. They are a significant piece of Montrose life. - I am against removing them. - According to the data currency on the TIRZ website, medians would be reduced to 20' to14'. This would allow tall trucks and other vehicles to severely damage the live oaks in the medians. Thsi already happens with 20' median. Questions: 1. If your reduce the medians to 14', can city traffic engineers devise a plan to restrict tall vehicular traffic from the inner lanes? 2. Will the city arborist's report on which trees ar to be removed be made public soon? 3. After the project is finishe, which arm of government will be responsible for replacing trees struck by cars (as happen all the time in Allen Pkwy)?	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments. 1. The 14' median is proposed north of W Dallas Street where there are no trees in the center since there is no median. 2. See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments. 3. The City of Houston will be in charge of the trees.
12	Delia	Cuellar	I welcome the re-development of Montrose. It will make a big differene in the immediate neighborhood as well as all of Houston - However, I take issure the plant topkant Chinese Cypress trees. They are NOT Texas natice and can not withstand prolonged 11+ dyas. houston is getting hotter and many crypress trees have died. There is a Houston Chapter of Native Plant Society here and they have not been consulted on any these plans. Cypress trees are a mistake. There are several Texas Native trees that are drought and Heat resistant. Please take the initiative to contact Dr.Kane, a specialist in Texas trees, especially those that can withstand an increasingly hotter Houston climate.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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13	William R.	Johnson	1. Can small trees be re-planted in the median and ruffen areas in additionto the proposed large trees, i.e.m cypress and live oak. This will create mor diversity of plantings and allow the introduction of more color, such as redbud, mexican plum, texas permisson, fringe ree, etc? 2. Can "mexian bench pebbles" be used at median tips to provide some variety; and be places in key locations to discourage pedestrians and panhandlers from standing in unsafe means, such as narrow medians, cornerns, etc? 3. Can the traffic light poles and street light poles have protective color coating, such as black, versus traditional galvanized finish?	1. See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments. 2. Pavers will be used at the median tips. 3. A standard galvanized finish will be utilized.
14	Karen	Groves	Please do not tear fown the trees. We have lost too many green cover in this area due to development.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
15	Medhi	Rais	I can't complement the engineers enough on the thoughtful and intentional deisgn of the safe corridor crossing (west clay & montrose). We have preserved safe passage of kids, pets, and olds. I'd love to see this solution scaled for all safe corridors across town.	Thank you for your comment.
16	Kyle	Funderburk	Please physically mark (i.e., a ribbon or some sort of non-harmful visual identfies) each tree that you plan to remove. This way we can visually see just how many are being removed and determine the tree impact that the tree removal will have on our neighborhood. That is the only way for us to be able to walk up and down Montrose Blvd and to be able to imagine how the projecy will want our establish trees.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
17	Bruce	Clark	Suggestion: Where pedestrians stops and wait for a signal change to cross an intersection, please install rigid bollards for protection from motor vehicles that jump the curb or from large trucks that turn too sharp. Pedestrians need something to stand behind while fast moving traffic rushes by mere inches away sometimes; in additio to corners, rigid bollards can also stand around medians where pedestrians sometimes wait to continue crossing.	Rigid bollards are proposed at the Montrose Blvd / W Dallas Street intersection.
18	Delia	Cuellar	Why hasn't anyone contacted a member of the Native Plant Society here in Houston? They know more about Native trees than the Houston arborist and the person in charge of landscaping for this project. They would never have recommended any type of Cypress tree to be planted in the median!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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19	Tom	Oliver	By blocking Montrose from W. Clay going North it will make every residential street between Waugh and Montrose North of W. Clay. These are single lane family streets with children, walkers, bicyclists, etc. They will destroy our neighborhood. North W. Clay is a cot through and needs 4 way stops to cut the 60 mph traffic.	Thank you for your comment. There is additional analysis that is currently being performed for this intersection.
20	Sylvia	Drew	The climate will only get worse - check out giss.nasa.gov. Why nothing - nothing reflected in plans - why no french drains to collect rain water for green space - why not a goal of "maintaining" [MOST] canopy trees instead of a feeble - not all trees will be cut down - why not artificial shade/mesh attached to sign post, shade - shade - shade will be criticial. Xerescape - stand up and lead! Texas Native plantings - commit commit commit! Find ways to collect then use runoff and rain water - Texas droughts will become worse. Trees - Canopy trees - need to be more valuable to you - Native Plantings will have deeper roots to absorb flood waters preserve group covers. bring in experts in climate change - take notes.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
21	Stephen	Cook	Please preserve the established trees at all costs! A sapling is not a alternative to a healthy, mature tree!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
22	Steve	Longmire	The median noses should be Riverstone on end to discourage penhandling - see upper Kirby design please eg at Kirby/Richmond and Kirby./W. Alabama	Pavers will be used at median noses.
23	Frank	Blake	1. Please consider heat island issues in design limit excessive sidewalk pavement where not needed. 2. Allow sufficient St. Tree ROW. Street trees need to be able to survive drought. Street trees need to be able to survive drought. 3. Plese plant tree species that can handle heat and drought!! 4. Personal concern about losing vehicle access at W. Clay. I like to turn at W. Clay t oget to Waugh Dr.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments. There is additional analysis that is currently being performed for this intersection.
24	Dru	Atkinson	Why do we continue to build bike lanes when NO ONE rides a bike? You take two lanes to one and create TRAFFIC! Stop with the waste of my tax dollars on stupid bike lanes! Houston has terrible traffic and you are just making it worse. Examples are on Waugh drive and W. Dallas bike lanes. Now it's major traffic becuase of your bike lanes than no one uses.	Thank you for your comment. There are no bike lanes on this project and no lanes are being taken away due to traffic volumes.

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25	Ann	Miller	I am Board president at PARC Condo HOA. 3600-3614 Motnrose. We want to be sure out two=hour contractor truck parking is kept in front of our buildings on Montrose. Ther is no other option! Thanks!	Thank you for your comment, the upcoming project is only for Segment I from Dallas Street to W. Clay Street. We will have a dedicated meeting for Montrose Segment II once design commences.
26	Ethan	Ganz	Removing 61 large trees, 150 that are protected and 11 that aren't is not acceptable. Y'all need to be better. Replacing 61 large trees with 136 saplings is not acceptable. We will push back on this if it is not changed! We will not just quietly allow the destruction of so many older trees. Yall need to build around the trees!!! We will not stop pushing back on th destruction of that many trees.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
27	Leslie	Perez	Please save the mature trees along Montrose Blvd!!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
28	Sofia	Gallo	Good afternoon, As a long term resident of Montrose, one of my favorite aspect of it is the walkability especially under the beautiful trees. I recently moved to a block that does not have the same tree coverage that I love so much, thus my family planted trees not just in our house but around the block. The proposed plan including the removal of mature trees along Montrose boulevard is concerning. These trees have taken decades to form and provide great value to the community for now and generations to come. Transforming the beloved Montrose neighborhood with good intentions to increase walkability and access but by removing its very core of nature that takes so long to form is deeply disturbing as a community member. What can we do to preserve our trees the city needs so much? Thank you for listening	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
29	Beth	Cunningham	Montrose TIRZ, I have been a homeowner in Montrose on Fairview Street since 2005. I appreciate that the TIRZ is planning some improvements to Montrose Blvd related to walkability, however, I feel strongly that the large, mature trees on the boulevard should not be sacrificed for this effort. Decades-old trees are an asset to a neighborhood. Montrose has been considered one of the most desirable neighborhoods in the City, and our beautiful old trees on the boulevard are a part of what makes Montrose special. Houston does not need more heat deserts or non-permeable surfaces. It will take decades for the planned saplings to provide the shade that will enhance the hoped-for walkability. Please consider a plan that will preserve our beautiful old trees, provide shade, and mitigate flooding. Regards,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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30	Stephen	Cook	Hello Montrose TIRZ Team, I'm writing as a concerned resident of Montrose who has recently become aware of your proposed plan for Montrose Blvd. (attached). As a native, gay Houstonian who attended HSPVA in Montrose from 1998-2002, whose parents live on Elmen/Fairview, and who now owns a home in Hyde Park, I feel deeply connected to and passionate about the preservation and upkeep of this neighborhood I hold so dear. This year alone, I personally planted some 50 trees around the Hyde Park neighborhood and have been tirelessly schlepping buckets of water on a weekly basis to keep them alive through this drought. See this recent writeup in the Hyde Park newsletter: **Neighbor Spotlight** Dr. Stephen Cook – The Hyde Park Tree Guy Stephen's inspiration for planting 46 trees since Feb, 2022 are the tree canopies in the Cherryhurst neighborhood. Someday, Stephen will have similar canopies on Waugh, Fairview, Van Buren, Upas and Jackson. He plans to continue planting trees in early 2024. Stephen is a busy guy and planting all those trees and now watering them is his passion. If you see him out watering be sure to wave or stop and say hello. Stephen is so passionate about planting trees that he planted 2 trees while on vacation in Costa Rica in July. Dr. Cook is no ordinary neighborhood tree hugger. He is a Dyslexia Therapist, married for 10 years (his husband is an attorney at Apache Oil) and plays the cello in the Texas Medical Center Orchestra. Planting trees has become a way for Stephen to build community and meet his neighbors	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
31	Stephen	Cook	– who often help with watering. Stephen is equally passionate about supporting local ecosystems – specifically pollinator gardens. He installed a pollinator garden with 3 ponds at Ciao's Salon at the corner of Upas and Fairview. He's particularly proud of the native plantings, swamp hibiscus and gulf coast toads that the pollinator garden supports. Hopefully, the next project is working with Russ Kane and Joe Zetter to plant a pollinator garden at Lamar Park, close to the dolphin fountain. Stephen hopes to inspire others to plant and water trees and increase the shade in Hyde Park. Right now there is a risk that excessive heat will damage trees and landscape in Houston. If you see a tree in distress, please consider watering the tree – even a couple gallons will help. Other things about our ecosystem that Stephen wants to share – crape myrtles don't need pruning – if you let them grow vertically they provide more shade. Minimize or stop using pesticides – insects are an important part of the local ecosystem. Plant trees in the late winter when it's cold – right now it's just too darn hot! Thanks for being a wonderful neighbor Stephen! While I want to applaud your intentions of improving the walkability of our neighborhood, I am deeply concerned about the potential loss of mature oak trees along Montrose Blvd.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
32	Stephen	Cook	If you think of the wealthiest and most desirable neighborhoods in our city (River Oaks, Memorial, West University, etc.), what they have in common is ample green space and mature trees. What Montrose needs most, in my opinion, is not more pavement, but rather to preserve our mature trees at all costs! To me, the oaks we have along Montrose Blvd. are absolutely sacred. They have taken several human generations to reach their current size and, in my eyes, their removal and replacement with saplings and concrete would be nothing short of criminal. While I fear my cries will fall on deaf ears, I nevertheless want to make my voice known in favor of any/all amendments to your plan to preserve every last mature tree we still have. Thank you for your time and consideration.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
33	-	-	🏘🏘🏘🏘Let's Cherish and Nurture Nature Together! We are believing in You to Save our Ancestral Oaks! We Volunteer to water and nourish them Forever😍! CRAFTSkooL Franchise The Fashion Design Academy MUSEUM of America, U.S.A	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
34	Rebecca	Gibbons	Please realize how important these trees are for not only the neighborhood but the appearance of Houston to visitors . Out of town guests always comment about the beautiful Oak trees, they are vital to our community. Thank You	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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35	Simone	Roemhild	Hello, Regarding the planned redesign of Montrose Blvd between Allen Parkway and 59 It would be a horrific to cut down the old protected oak tress. Tress are life - they provide oxygen and much needed shade to cool us during the hot seasons. Cutting them down will lower quality of life tremendously to all organisms in the area PLS just DO NOT CUT DOWN TREES - especially if they are older than you are - RESPECT the elders.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
36	Simone	Roemhild	this is how other cultures treat their elder trees if they need to be moved … please share. (PHOTO) We are not the most important organism on the planet as we humans contribute little to nothing to overall life on earth. If this looks too expensive …. Close one lane on Montrose permanently (and all other main north south arteries...) todo what needs tobe done and hence reduce car traffic ready made bike lanes, and accessibility for wheelchairs done…. promote - public transport increase walkability … closing one street lane should cover all these things without any major building expenses ($$$ saved engineer jobs lost LOL). If it gets a pain in the ….. people will park and use public transport to get to where they need to get - it works. Less cars is better for all. Also if we walk more or sit to wait for for buses / trains the shade and photosynthesis cooling will be appreciated by all. Thank you for sharing with engineers and other entities … I hope there are NOT only engineers involved in this project - diversity is key on all levels also desicison making regarding social impact , environmental impact and holistic planning strategies for a city ….LOL Bee well	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
37	Leroy	Mazac	PLEASE DON'T DESTROY THE TREES!!!! I am not a resident of this Montrose, but I have been. We need those beautiful Trees. There must be another way to do this without destroying what we have. Please go back to the drawing board!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
38	Lauren	Placke	To whom this may concern, I am a homeowner in Montrose and recently learned of the plan to remove 60+ oak trees in Montrose blvd to make room for bike and walking lanes. While these lanes are important, so are the oak trees. These trees have been here longer than most of the residents who now populate this neighborhood and should be preserved in the planning of these lanes. Please reconsider the removal of these trees and find a way to incorporate them into the planning. The bikers and runners will appreciate the shade, if nothing else. Regards,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
39	Troy	Troxell	Please reconsider plans to remove mature oak trees when street and sidewalk "improved". Thanks.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
40	-	-	Please do not cut down the beautiful trees on Montrose Blvd. Repair the sidewalks and don't add bike lanes. We have brand new bike lanes on Waugh and Commonwealth just a couple of blocks west of Montrose Blvd., that no one uses. I love the shade of the trees on Montrose Blvd. Thank you, North Montrose resident.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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41	Doris	Sherer	I am writing to strongly object to cutting down the trees slated for removal in the Montrose Project. These old trees are just as important, if not more important, for the physical and emotional health of the citizens of Montrose as are the plans for the widened sidewalks and bike lanes. Replacing these 100-year-old trees with smaller ones is an insult. Trees grow so slowly that you and I, and our children and grandchildren, will never live to stand in the shade of the replacement trees. Please reconsider your plans for this disastrous destruction of nature. Sincerely,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
42	Dasari	Srinvasa Rao	Hello, I am a resident of the neighborhood in Montrose , living on the Peden street. I came to know about the Montrose boulevard improvements project that is currently being planned. Thank you as this is much needed for the neighborhood . I am writing to express my concern as I have learned that as part of the project there is a plan to cut down dozens of live oak trees that are providing great look and shade and are important to keep the environmental equilibrium when the neighborhood is growing . Please make amendments to the plans so that the trees are saved . If you look at the heights boulevard and some other great neighborhoods like the tangle wood street between Woodway and San Felipe, you will appreciate how preserving these big trees enhances the beauty and quality of life of people in the neighborhood , as these provide green cover, encourage people to walk outside and also can be beautified to make it look glorious . Any plans to cut the trees will be ill-advised approach in the long term and bad for the eco system . Please do not turn the neighborhood into a concrete jungle. Replacing them with smaller plants is not an option but would be an eye-wash measure. Request you to revisit and modify plans accordingly . Thanks for your time !	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
43	Kirste	Reimers	Please refrain from cutting down the mature oaks on Montrose Blvd. They protect the area with shade & mitigate global warming in the city. It is shortsighted to cut them down for sidewalk expansion. Please save these trees! Thanks,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
44	Cynthia	Lam	Dear Montrose TIRZ, I recently learned about the planned project for Montrose Boulevard. While I support making Montrose more accommodating to pedestrians and cyclists, I do not support the current design calling for the removal of a significant number of mature trees. These trees have taken decades to grow to create the shade canopies that greatly benefit our neighborhood and cannot be replaced with saplings or young trees. Please challenge your engineering firm and landscape architect to rethink the design and construction plans so as to save our trees. We can have both a walkable/bicycle friendly neighborhood and the benefits of saving our mature trees, but only if you work with the community to make it happen. Otherwise, the result is a street that no pedestrian or bicyclist would want to use and the permanent loss of what our community invested in growing decades ago. Thank you,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
45	-	Chris	There is chatter on NextDoor emerging from the Sep 18 open house, that 61 trees are slated for removal in the Montrose blvd project. Is that true, is there a precise schematic anywhere illustrating which ones? I support the project and multimodal generally. I assume that increasing walkability means more tree shade, not less, and that this is probably a misinterpretation of the plan. Can you verify that? Thank you,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
46	Lucy	Thorp Suell	Please save the trees!!!!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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47	Stephanie	Cobb	Please save the mature trees along Montrose Blvd! Thanks!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
48	Simone	Roemhild-Titt	Hello, Regarding the planned redesign of Montrose Blvd between Allen Parkway and 59 It would be a horrific to cut down the old protected oak tress. Tress are life - they provide oxygen and much needed shade to cool us during the hot seasons. Cutting them down will lower quality of life tremendously to all organisms in the area PLS just DO NOT CUT DOWN TREES - especially if they are older than you are - RESPECT the elders.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
49	Beatrice	Houston	Dear Sirs: As a native Houstonian, I know that all generations--since my great-grandparents--have enjoyed watching Houston and it's population grow over the last two centuries. We've all prized our "green spaces" and especially looked forward to the enjoyment of the natural beauty of the near Downtown area --- (Hermann Park, Memorial Park, Arboretum, Sam Houston Park, Tranquility Park/City Hall Park, Eleanor Tinsley Park, etc.). I'm a resident in Midtown/Montrose and commute Montrose Blvd. daily. I'm aware that certain projects currently planned (along Montrose Blvd, from Allen Parkway to IH-59) include the cutting down of those mighty oaks that have weathered countless hurricanes and high-wind storms. These trees should not be destroyed—they're more precious to us than sidewalks and bike lanes. We need to preserve them for ourselves and our grandchildren, and the much-needed oxygen that all of our ''lovely old oaks" continuously provide. Even in San Antonio, they found ways to provide enjoyment to the public, while preserving their gigantic trees lining the edge of the San Antonio River (growing since before The ALAMO !!! Our City of cement and steel must preserve all green spaces, and whatever is original to our City. This is what makes us proud citizens and demonstrates our love of our hometown! Thank you for your consideration and may God bless our great City. Sincerely,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
50	Lynn	Balderas	Good afternoon, my name is Lynn Brandon Balderas. I have been made aware of the proposed bike lane addition and expansion project in the Montrose neighborhood in Houston. I am aware that no consideration was given or proposed to save the live oaks in which many of them are protected by the city of Houston. The city of Houston should preserve these trees and that additional amendments to the project for the existing live oaks to be saved should be implemented. Thank you,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
51	-	-	The city must allow for the trees to remain and amend their plans! We need those oaks to survive.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
52	Lauren	Murphy	Hello, I am a homeowner in Montrose (Brun st), a cyclist and a mom of two young children. I am deeply concerned by the plan to remove mature oak trees along Montrose Blvd. While I like to spend as much time as possible outside (including riding bikes from my home to Buffalo Bayou), this is really only feasible 6 months out of the year due to the extreme heat in Houston (which we know will get worse in the coming years). Mature trees are one of the only saving graces we have in this city, and part of what makes Montrose special. Please reconsider the ill-advised plan to remove any mature trees. Who will want to walk or bike along a heat-baked, un-shaded cement path? I have to think the people who planned this work are not from Houston, or if they are, don't spend any time outside. I would like acknowledgement that this letter of protest has been received.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

Montrose Boulevard Improvements Project
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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
53	Tammer	Botros	Hi Montrose TIRZ, I am a 20 year resident of Montrose and prior to moving here was a frequent visitor. I found the Montrose Blvd redevelopment presentation online and wanted to applaud you for the much needed investment on the area. I remember when I bought my current house 15 years ago about my realtor mentioning that the whole street would become a pedestrian street. While that obviously hasn't happened and unlikely to happen in the foreseeable, this is a HUGE step in the right direction. I run frequently to Buffalo Bayou from my home in Hyde Park and often wish they're more pedestrian friendly routes. I also have young kids that I take walks with and the narrowness and unevenness of the sidewalks make it one of the least appealing ways to go. So - again - this is a huge step in the right direction. But I also need to express my concern over the future of the mature trees that line the street and median. Montrose is amongst one of the prettier & interesting streets in the city precisely because of the maturity (not just mere presence) of its trees. I liken Montrose to other attractive roads in the area including Bayland Ave, Alabama (by St Thomas), Bissonnet (by Montrose) and Rice Blvd. The 'opportunity for new trees' I read in the presentation is exactly the opposite. It's a near-guarantee that the street will take on the drab, concrete appearance of Shepherd south of Westheimer or Heights north of Washington. The quality of the sidewalk and road cannot make up for the loss of character and shade that contribute to the appeal of the street and area. I would hope that there is an "AND" solution where we can expand sidewalks, maintain lanes of traffic and maintain our lovely trees until it's their natural time to go.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
54	J	McLane	I've just learned of a newly proposed project to prioritize bike lanes from Allen to 59 along Montrose. Traffic on Montrose is already bad enough that further restricting access with bike lanes is ill-advised. But the most important reason I'm messaging you now is my concern that numerous (50+) mature oak trees are targeted for removal as part of the project. As you know, trees are absolutely VITAL to the quality of life in every community. You also know that Houston currently has a problem with too few trees. We can't let bike lanes come at the expense of our mature inner-city tree cover. Please. I implore you. SAVE OUR TREES.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
55	Erinn	Rochelle	Your plan for the bike lanes on Montrose calls to cut down 100 YO Oak trees. Aside from cruelty, why would you plan to eliminate a much needed canopy in a city that just had 60+ days of over 100 degrees. There is absolutely a way to do this and fxk those bike lanes, houston is not nor never will be bike friendly.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
56	Garrett	Knox	Please, as a member of the greater Houston community & a lover of old trees….preserve these oaks. They have stood in silence for a generation & it's our responsibility to defend them. They cool our streets & soak up carbon, they produce oxygen, shade, and beauty for our city. Cutting down these trees for a sidewalk is a huge negative that will not lead to a positive.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
57	Priscilla	Martinez	Don't cut down the trees	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
58	Laurie	Lee	Please deny access to developers from cutting down trees along Montrose Blvd. from Allen Parkway to I-59. We MUST preserve all mature trees and deny developers ability to remove trees from properties along streets in Houston to maintain whatever green and growing beauty we have here in our city. It's bad enough, and sorely unattractive, to see advertising billboards along freeways and terrible trash along city streets. Billboards and street trash should be totally eliminated, as well. I'm happy to pay higher taxes to see this happen. I hope our City decision-makers will listen and follow through with these requests that all optimize the value and experience of living in Houston. Thank you	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
59	Sally	Barber	Dear Montrose TRZ I am concerned about the proposed changes to Montrose in my neighborhood. I don't think it is a good idea to cut down over 61 mature trees or cut off access to traffic crossing Montrose. That would mean that more and more cars would be cutting thru our neighborhood. We already have so many cars driving erratically down W Clay road since there are NO stop sighs on Clay nor any speed bumps. When we walk our dogs or walk our children to school, it is not safe now and will be even more dangerous when you stop traffic crossing Montrose at Clay Road. Please reconsider this plan as it is not the best interest of our neighborhood, some of us who have lived here for over 25 years.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
60	Boyd	Bryan	To Whom It May Concern: I learned this morning of plans to revitalize the neighborhood, with a bike and walkway path down the middle of Montrose, at the expense of removing the beautiful oak tree. I am 60 years old and lived in and around Houston my entire life. Houston is a beautiful and vibrant place to live but it is not a walking city due to unique weather. This city sells itself as tree city USA. Cutting down 100-year-old oak trees does not seem to fit that definition or image of the city. The city has recently upgraded several roads in the neighborhood with bike lanes, Waugh Drive and Hawthorne Streets. It would seem repairing the damaged sidewalks in the city rather than adding new ones would be prudent The Heights area along Heights Blvd has a very walkable, bikeable that is useable and beautiful for residents. Best of all they did not have to tear out and destroy the trees along the boulevard. So the remedy is to remove all of the trees that create shade for people to walk under and pour more concrete that does not absorb water, creating more drainage issues and holds all of the heat. This does not seem to encourage use but does assist in adding to the concrete jungle.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
61	Megan	Jefferies	Hello, I was shocked to learn of the Montrose TIRZ plan to cut down dozens of mature live oaks along Montrose blvd. It is shameful! Our city has just experienced the hottest summer on record (and it will only get worse) and you want to remove large, mature trees in favor of small saplings and more cement - this only contributes to the already unbearable heat! Not to mention the immeasurable beauty these trees provide to us all AND the wildlife who call them home. Please re-evaluate these plans and incorporate the live oaks into a new design. Don't commit this atrocity as is!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
62	Leslie	Lammlein	Bike lanes are just dangerous exposure to Houston drivers. We are opposed to the loss of ANY of these majestic live oaks. Trees control air pollution. They take carbon out of atmosphere and replace with clean air. We need every tree we have and to plant more!! Thank you,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
63	Rita	Bergers	We have just spent one of the hottest summers on records. The news has been reporting on the scorching temperatures in surrounding communities that lack TREE coverage. Metro will spend 10s of millions to build bus stops that have coverage from the sun. All this and more, yet you are proposing removal of 61 trees along Allen Parkway and 100 mature live oaks on Montrose. This is inconceivably the worst plan. You need to find a way to work with improving sidewalks WITHOUT tree removal. Who will walk on a sweltering sidewalk devoid of tree cover? Shutting down a major road for this extended period of time while simultaneously, Bissonnet and major cross streets are closed or have lane reductions due to construction or city projects will be a nightmare. This initiative needs to be reimagined, be green and preserve the natural resources already in place along the street.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
64	Charlotte	Prentice	Hello, I am currently a resident at 506 W Polk St and saw some info shared on TIRZ's plan to redevelop Montrose blvd. Although I am in full support of making Houston a more bike friendly/walkable city, I am against the plan put forth by TIRZ and especially concerned about the removal of mature live oak trees on Montrose. The first phase alone calls for the removal of 61 live oak trees which is unacceptable - is there no way to incorporate these trees into the planning or minimize removal? How does removing trees and adding concrete impact drainage? There is mention of planning new trees but what kind of trees? I've lived here long enough to see other development projects remove mature trees and expand sidewalks to only include saplings - removing any shade that would make utilizing them bearable. Has an environmental impact study been conducted? Alternative solutions need to be reviewed and I will not support this project until that is done. I will also be reaching out to our city council member reiterate my concerns.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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65	Judith	Lutkus	Save the trees on Montrose where bike lanes are being produced. Remember trees use Co2 and expell oxygen!!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
66	Susan	Bouchard	Hi Please don't cut the Oak trees on Montrose Boulevard.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
67	Jesus J.	Pimentel, M.D.	To whom it may concern: Don't you dare remove the trees on montrose. It would be an awful loss for that area. With the way the heat is going there is no way you can guarantee new trees will survive and they are no replacement for mature trees that are thriving the area.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
68	Anne	Muntz	Please consider an alternate plan to cutting down trees on Montrose Blvd. I have recently witnessed the trashing of beautiful trees along Memorial Drive and now to lose even more from the current drought is more than sad. With global warming on the horizon we need these trees desperately. We need their shade. We need them as part of the ecosystem. Cutting down trees for bike lanes in Houston is a joke. I travel all over the city and maybe see 1 or 2 bike riders. Our climate is not conducive to being a bike riding city especially after the heat of the last three months. Montrose Blvd. is a beautiful thoroughfare. Let's have at least one street in Houston that's not littered with billboards, tacky business signs and ugly commercial businesses. There are some things more important than the dollar. Houston just has a hard time understanding that.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
69	Kylee	Milton	To whom it may concern, The people of Montrose need the oak trees more than they need widened sidewalks. One oak tree absorbs about 48 pounds of carbon dioxide, thereby significantly helping reduce the toxic levels in our Houston air. Moreover, these trees help absorb water to decrease the chance of flooding in the area during heavy rains. WE NEED THE TREES	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
70	Daniela	Torres Marco MS, RDN	I am a resident of Montrose, and I am writing to ask that modifications to the expansion of Montrose boulevard be made to preserve the vast majority of trees, especially the old oak trees. Please let me know if there is something else we should do as resident to make our wishes heard. Kind regards,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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71	Sunny	Jain	Hi, This is regarding the planned redesign of Montrose Blvd between Allen Parkway and 59. Please help to save 100-year+ old oak trees which are planned to be cut down for sidewalk, bike trails. We need more mature trees in our cement jungle.... Please SAVE Thanks	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
72	Nancy	Noshie	I me writing to save all the Montrose trees. They are over 60 years old and are supposed to be protected by the City of Houston. Can't these bike paths be planned on streets with less old trees and let the old trees be saved? There has to be some smart solution for this disastrous plan. Please do something to save all these old trees. Thank you for your serious consideration!!!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
73	Christina	Sillavan	I have just learned of a project to widen sidewalks and create bike lanes on Montrose that will require cutting down over 60, 100 year-old live oaks. Destroying these beautiful trees, regardless of the reason, is short-sited and environmentally unconscionable. Inner-city Houston residents deserve better stewards of the natural beauty of their neighborhoods.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
74	Mary	Watson	Do not cut down even one of Houston's beautiful live oaks. They are providing much shade and oxygen. Removing the trees and adding concrete also increases flood risk. Just don't go there. The benefit of the trees in this climate far outweighs any potential benefit to a few bike riders. Think long term as our forefathers did for us.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
75	John	Brittain	Hello, My name is John Brittain, I am a long time Houston resident, as well as the local precinct chair for a neighboring precinct. Part of my position entails relaying important issues that neighbors bring to our attention, and in turn we relay those to the county and to our political party. I am sending you this email because I have been getting dozens and dozens of concerned neighbors that have expressed extreme concern about plans to remove 61 live oak trees in phase one along Montrose Blvd from Allen Pkwy southbound. These are citizens that vote very heavily and I personally agree with my fellow neighbors. I would also respectfully remind you that 50 of the 61 proposed tree cuts are protected live oaks. We all think bike lanes are wonderful, but not at the expense of our beloved historical trees that literally have historical significance, not to mention an engrained cultural importance so great that numerous neighborhoods, bayous, and local businesses are all named after. I implore you to reconsider the removal of these trees. I will be responding next month to the dozens of concerns I have received as well as responding to about a dozen businesses large and small to inform them of your official reply to my email (which I genuinely hope to receive one) so that we may open helpful dialogue between our city's residents and the planning committee responsible for this mistake made during the planning phase. Looking forward to speaking further,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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76	Lisa	Collins	I live in Montrose and walk my dog often in the neighborhood. It is a much more pleasant experience to walk with shade than in the heat of the sun. The old oak trees in Montrose Boulevard need consideration and should not be cut down. Please make way for these beautiful, helpful trees!!! We lose too many trees to development. Save the trees.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
77	Brianne	Donaldson	Dear colleagues, I am writing to ask you not to cut down the Montrose trees. I previously lived in a highly desired city called "the city of trees and PhDs" where residents would be fined if they cut down a tree and the city likewise could never remove trees without a process. The trees were a part of the city's unique character, appeal, and community. See the city's tree policies here. Mature trees like here in Montrose should be seen that way as well, as an asset and part of the community's uniqueness. Trees make Montrose unique and vital. If you would not destroy a home to put in this bike lane and street modifications, do not destroy these trees. They are vital habitat and shade that is irreplaceable. Please creatively work around them.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
78	Emily	McLeod	Please save our beautiful trees in the Montrose area This is an insane idea to destroy the natural beauty of one of our most picturesque neighborhoods!!!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
79	Alfredo	Brahim	Heard that the wonderful project of expanding sidewalks and creating bike lanes will need the existing live oaks to be cut down. Think its unimaginable to prioritize a bike lane over a tree that provides shades and is 100 years old. Project needs to be reassessed in its entirely as live oaks cannot be replaced.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
80	Nicholas	Stuart	Please save all the trees along Montrose BLVD. Planting more trees is a much better path to helping to address CO2. There should be a better way to reach the project goals. How about elevated bike and walking paths? Cutting down mature trees, which can better withstand the extreme heat in Houston is much better than replacing them with small saplings. There are ton of dead saplings along the Bayou. I see them all the time on my bike. The older trees can hang in this heat. Thank you	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
81	Kelly	Walker	I have learned that trees will be cut down in order to widen sidewalks & install bike lanes on Montrose. Mature trees are important to birds which migrate through Houston. Houston is designated Bird City. Big trees also cool the air & help counter the island effect of concrete & other development. Please feel free to contact Houston Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy's Jaime Gonzalez or virtually any environmental organization. Yes, much of Houston was a coastal prairie. I am passionate about about prairie restoration, but mature trees on a major urban thoroughfare are gold & should be protected.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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82	Janette	Ramirez	I am writing to let you know I do not support the project for bike lanes on Allen Parkway. I'm in support of all the trees staying where they are. Bicyclists don't respect bike lanes or laws anyway. This will just add to the already horrible traffic and disrupt the lives of/ displace all the animals that depend on those trees for shelter and food.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
83	Carol	Coale	As a native Houstonian, I have sadly watched the city turning more and more into a concrete jungle and destroying ancient out trees in favor of more pavement. Please consider that bike lanes only cater to a small percentage of the city's population, and the benefits of trees provide shade, improve air quality and are just more aesthetically appealing that more curbs and bike lanes. Choosing a less busy street for your project would make more sense for both bikers and pedestrians.	There are no bike lanes proposed in Segment 1 of the Montrose Blvd improvements. See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
84	Dolly	Thomas	I just learned of the Phase 1 plan for Montrose Boulevard Improvements. Please allow for any and all amendments of the current plan in order to save these trees. Bike lanes and a walkable neighborhood are wonderful things, but old growth trees are just as important and vital to our communities! Please change the plan to allow for trees and reduce the amount of concrete to aid in absorption of water during storms/hurricanes. Thank you!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
85	Nacy	Higgs	Good morning, The first time I heard about this project was at our Vermont Commons Civic Assoc meeting where Abbie Kamin spoke on Monday, Sept. 11. She shared no details. I emailed her office about how I could find out more, but have not heard anything back. Then, a friend made sure I saw the notice about the Montrose TIRZ meeting at St. Stephen's this past Monday evening and I went. I saw the notice too in the little n'hood newspaper we get occasionally. Until these two things, I have never heard of any plans to alter Montrose Blvd! At the TIRZ meeting, the speaker said it was the 4th meeting - when and where were the first 3 and how were folks informed? I read the Chronicle daily plus Nextdoor plus emails plus city notices…yet, I had never heard anything about this! I could barely sleep Monday night after the TIRZ meeting - after learning that protected live oaks - a lot of them - were to be destroyed! Not dug up and replanted - but destroyed!! As a native Austinite, I find this unconscionable. It would never happen in Austin. Protected means that - PROTECTED. I learned that the 'solution' is to simply plant a bubnchg of tiny trees to the extent that their tiny circumference would as a group add up to the total of the huge 'protected' one destroyed!!! :0 I am completely against this so-called, most unnecessary 'beautification' plan. Find another way to accomplish your goals.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
86	Kimberly	Mcclaine	To Whom it May Concern, I've just learned this massive project in the Montrose neighborhood of Houston that will impact some of our oldest and most exquisite live oaks. The project is to expand the sidewalks and add bike lanes along the 2-mile stretch of Montrose Blvd. from Allen Parkway to highway 59. The problem is that the existing, almost 100-year-old oaks appears to have been given virtually no consideration in the planning. The public meeting on the project last night and boasted that 61 mature trees (50 of which currently have protection by the City of Houston) are slated to be cut down in phase one alone, covering just a tiny stretch from Allen to Clay. There are easily hundreds more old oaks that will be impacted as the project continues south in phases. This would be an unimaginable loss with impacts to our environment, neighborhood beauty, safety and comfort. Houston's heat index is far too high to cut down mature trees when there are alternative options. I urge you to amend your current plan in order to save these trees. Bike lanes and a walkable neighborhood are wonderful things, but we need to let the planners know that old growth trees are just as important and vital to our communities. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
87	Min	Kwon	Please save the mature trees along Montrose Blvd!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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88	Kristin	Linoski	As a Montrose/Rosemont resident, I generally support projects that improve the safety, infrastructure, and walkability of the area. However, I don't believe this progress should come at the cost of losing the beautiful, existing older-growth shade trees - specifically those between Allen and Clay in scope for phase 1 of the project. Please revisit the project plans and make accommodations to save these mature trees along Montrose Blvd.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
89	Malisa	Galvan	Hello, My name is Malisa Galvan and I have been a resident of Montrose for almost 10 years. I was very disappointed to hear that the TIRZ is considering removing 61 mature trees to expand sidewalks. As I know you know, these are beautiful mature trees that simply cannot be replaced with new trees. I ask that you reconsider your plans and find a way to save our trees. Destroying so much green space in our little piece of Montrose would be devastating. We have had a very hot summer, and walking around or cycling around in Houston with no shade is not a solution. Please find a better solution that is better for our environment.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
90	Shereine M.	Dougherty	I've just learned of a massive project in the Montrose neighborhood of Houston that will impact some of our oldest and most exquisite live oaks. The project is to expand the sidewalks and add bike lanes along the 2-mile stretch of Montrose Blvd. from Allen Parkway to highway 59. The problem is that the existing, almost 100-year-old oaks have been given virtually no consideration in the planning. This must change! These trees must be saved! Please do all you can to factor in these beautiful trees to the plan. Houston Native & Tree Lover	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
91	Whitney	Riley	To Whom It May Concern: I am writing to beg you to reconsider plans to cut down old growth trees for the bike lanes on Montrose from Allen parkway to 59. Bike lanes and walkability are wonderful additions to our community but so are our beautiful old trees. I am not in support of destroying what we need more of for our beautiful city. Thank you for all you do. Please save our valuable trees.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
92	Marie	Lawrence	No No No to the current TIRZ plan for Montrose Boulevard Improvements. The trees are too vital to Houston, especially Montrose. With the massive construction projects going on in Montrose, the street alterations in this plan are ludicrous. TIRZ should not have the authority to use tax dollars for this kind of destructive "improvement." I have to question what is motivating the TIRZ Montrose board to come up with this kind of plan. If you just need to spend money, buy more land for parks.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
93	Elena	Bruess	Hi Walter, I am the environment reporter for the Houston Landing, a new nonprofit newsroom in the city, and I'm working on a story about the Montrose Boulevard Improvements Project, specifically in terms of the trees removed and added. From what I understand, large, mature shade trees are being cut. Would you be available for a call sometime this week on this? Thank you!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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94	Alex	Spike	Afternoon y'all, My name is Spike, I am a resident of the community and email on behalf of a group of like minded folks who want to help build a more walkable, bikeable neighborhood. I attended the public meeting on Montrose Blvd and really appreciate all that has been done to incorporate feedback from the first meeting into the now 90% complete design. We realize compromise is inevitable on a project of this scale and want to do all we can to make the experience for those outside a car as pleasant as possible- Montrose Blvd is and should be a destination too. Several like minded folks and I are hearing a lot about tree loss being because of a Shared Use Path and I would like to verify if this is true. Tree shade is ideal for any ped/bike corridor, which makes the language of a circulating petition insisting it is either mature oak trees or bike facility frustrating. I know there was a proposed plan dated December 2022 w/o the shared use path, did this plan also include the same number of trees lost? Could some trees need to be removed for, say, drainage, and not because of RoW constriction or need for width on the side of Montrose blvd with the shared use path? What about utility lines and utility line relocation, could required cutting be reducing the health of certain trees? We want to communicate to our community that this is a huge, all encompassing project with compromise and drawbacks inevitable. Any more information on what makes tree loss so high and what is being done to assuage this issue would be incredibly helpful. Thank you,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
95	Betsy	Kelley	I just learned that part of the TIRZ plan is to cut down and remove 50 live oaks and 11 other trees. Please don't do this! The trees are an important part of the aesthetics of the neighborhood and - there is all kinds of information available that trees help reduce the heat in cities. We definitely need heat reduction in Houston! Here is a recent article in the New York Times about this topic: https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/09/18/world/asia/singapore-heat.html?searchResultPosition=1 Thank you for your consideration.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
96	Gary	Brock	Please do not destroy any of the old oak trees. This was a disaster when done to the Kirby expansion.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
97	Holly	Benson	I am writing to voice support for protecting and preserving the old growth oaks currently set to be destroyed in the construction of a bike lane on Montrose near Allen Parkway. Mature trees remove CO2 from the air and put out oxygen. The canopy helps shield the ground from direct sunlight and thereby helps moderate temperature. This project is not helping the environment if it is encouraging bicycling at the expense of dozens of old growth trees. That is both ignorant and hypocritical. Please show the voters the studies and data that indicate more people want bike paths than trees. No one likes the bike paths on Waugh and very few people use them. They are a waste. I drive that street daily and hardly ever see cyclists. Meanwhile traffic flow is constricted and valuable trees were destroyed. Planting new saplings does not compensate for loss of old growth trees — not in CO2 removal, oxygen production, temperature reduction, or aesthetics. I urge you to reconsider the current plan and protect our trees.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
98	Christina	Propst, M.D.	I strongly urge you to preserve our lovely mature shade tree canopy AND create more protected pedestrian and cycling spaces in Houston! It does not have to be either/or : do all 3! Houston needs our mature trees for : shade, climate change, air quality, beauty. We also need fewer single driver cars and more safe walking and cycling byways. Please SAVE THE TREES! Thank you-	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
99	Allison	Perry	Good Evening: I have very recently learned of a major project right in my Montrose neighborhood, here in Houston, that will seriously impact some of our oldest and most exquisite live oaks. The project is to expand the sidewalks and add bike lanes along the 2-mile stretch of Montrose Blvd, from Allen Parkway to highway 59. The big issue is that the existing, 100-year-old oaks, have been given basically no consideration in the entire planning process. At a public meeting on the project this week, it was disclosed that 61 mature trees (50 of which currently have protection by the City of Houston) are slated to be cut down in just phase one alone, covering just a tiny stretch from Allen Parkway to Clay St. There are definitely hundreds more old oaks that will be impacted, as the project continues south in the next phases. This would be an unspeakable loss for all members of our community, as we all benefit greatly from these trees. After already having lost SO many of our beloved old trees recently, through hurricanes, as well as the infamous freeze, we must do what we can to protect these 100-year-old oaks, or before we know it, our beloved city COULD become just another concrete jungle. To that end, PLEASE highly consider revising the plans to INCORPORATE the 100-year-old oaks into the bike path/expanded sidewalk plans, so we can keep our city beautiful AND functional for all citizens to enjoy. Thanks so much for your time,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
100	Joanna	Serra	I'm writing to address the cutting down of trees to add bike lanes as well as widen sidewalks near Cherryhurst. I understand wanting to improve our neighborhoods, but not at the sacrifice of our beautiful trees. I have lived in the Montrose area for 20 years, and the trees are part of our nature and environment that gives back to o the earth. The bike lanes may be used, although I have witnessed cyclists not using them on Taft crossing Westheimer. Our trees are vital for the beautification of our neighborhoods, so please find another avenue to add bike lanes and sidewalks. Kind regards, Joanna	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
101	Darelle	Robbins	To the Montrose TIRZ Keep all of the mature oak trees on Montrose. You know bike paths will not be used much without trees for shade. Along with beauty and a sense of place, TREES ABSORB CO2. So ironic that if the trees are removed, the air will be more polluted for bikers and the rest of us. I have to wonder. What are the other "benefits" that you expect by removing the trees?	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
102	Chip	Nash	DO NOT CUT DOWN THESE TREES – plain and simple !!! Rework your plans but do not cut them down !!!!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
103	Kelly	Moore	To whom it may concern, It has come to my attention that an upcoming project to expand sidewalks and bike lanes is planned. I am also aware that part of this plan includes the removal of several old oak trees in the area. While I commend the expansion of the sidewalks if it comes at the loss of these majestic and important trees the price is too high. As the city is already unreasonably hot removing shade trees seems like very poor planning. The benefits of these trees not just esthetically but also environmentally is unconscionable. Please reconsider this plan.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
104	Linda	Thomas	I am strongly opposed to the destruction of the beautiful oak trees along Montrose boulevard. Trees not only beautify the city but also provide shade and help cool the city. The provide home for birds and other wildlife. These trees took decades to mature and cutting them down is not only short sighted but a real disservice to the community. Without the trees, there will be no shade. It will not add to a pedestrian friendly environment. More concrete will add to more flooding. Please reconsider and save the trees!!!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
105	Alex	Spike	Afternoon y'all, My name is Spike, I am a resident of the community and email on behalf of a group of like minded folks who want to help build a more walkable, bikeable neighborhood. I attended the public meeting on Montrose Blvd and really appreciate all that has been done to incorporate feedback from the first meeting into the now 90% complete design. We realize compromise is inevitable on a project of this scale and want to do all we can to make the experience for those outside a car as pleasant as possible- Montrose Blvd is and should be a destination too. Several like minded folks and I are hearing a lot about tree loss being because of a Shared Use Path and I would like to verify if this is true. Tree shade is ideal for any ped/bike corridor, which makes the language of a circulating petition insisting it is either mature oak trees or bike facility frustrating. I know there was a proposed plan dated December 2022 w/o the shared use path, did this plan also include the same number of trees lost? Could some trees need to be removed for, say, drainage, and not because of RoW constriction or need for width on the side of Montrose blvd with the shared use path? What about utility lines and utility line relocation, could required cutting be reducing the health of certain trees? We want to communicate to our community that this is a huge, all encompassing project with compromise and drawbacks inevitable. Any more information on what makes tree loss so high and what is being done to assuage this issue would be incredibly helpful. Thank you,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
106	Flavia	Vancia	To whom it may concern, The people of Montrose need the oak trees more than they need widened sidewalks. One oak tree absorbs about 48 pounds of carbon dioxide, thereby significantly helping reduce the toxic levels in our Houston air. Moreover, these trees help absorb water to decrease the chance of flooding in the area during heavy rains. WE NEED THE TREES. Sincerely,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
107	Cindy	Pruitt	Hi There, Just learned of this project: https://montrosehtx.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Monstrose-Blvd-Presentation-12-7-2022.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3P1KrDHcgSEaSfp3U3uNm28ONMnvu38sAkSNIpnT3Vx_M57smULe0OHZE_aem_AVQPrN02eQ1kOEafnNaflwguE019ew7am-v1ddhm__TYT76hzBk6rErAQywnwoxXr-g&mibextid=Zxz2cZ And as a 25+ year resident of the Montrose area I can tell you we all care WAY more about our 100+ year old oak trees (that are a huge part of what make the Montrose area a beautiful and desirable community) than we do about new bike lanes. Yes, it is wonderful to have additional ways to get out and cycle…but NOT at the expense of losing these beautiful trees, most of which are protected!! PLEASE DO NOT CUT DOWN THESE TREES. We have already lost a few in the area due to the updating of gas mains and water mains in the Montrose area. We are all gutted over these losses which will not be fixable in our lifetimes. ☹	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
108	Delia	Cuellar	I attended the Open House on Monday, September 18th. Thank you for hosting this informative event. I left my written comments and hope they are considered. I take issue with the choice of the Lenana Cypress Tree to be planted between Allen Parkway W Dallas. From all the information I can find online, this tree is touted to be very drought and cold tolerant. What I can not find is any information on its heat tolerance. I took this subject up with the landscaper at the meeting and he did not provide any answer. It has better retention of needles into early winter but will lose the needles in a prolonged frost, so it is not truly an evergreen. Just look down Montrose and see the trees that have withstood the extreme heat and cold that Houston can experience. What do you see? Live Oak trees. This really is a no brainer that Live Oak is the best tree overall. Why the landscaper chose this experimental tree is questionable and not in the best interest of your plans.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
109	James H.	Hazan	All of the live oaks on Montrose Blvd must be saved . I'm voting for a mayor who will stop all these crazy bike lanes that impede traffic that no one uses. It's a waste of tax money and simply impedes traffic flow.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
110	Cindy	Kahle	Please do not cut the pretty things that make Houston livable. Old trees are beautiful and cutting them down is bad for all of us. We do not need another bike lane at the expense of 100 yr old trees ! There is on already on Waugh! Come on !	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
111	R.	Lee Ingalls	Hi, I have just been informed of a plan to make changes to Montrose Blvd from Allen Pkwy to Hwy 69. This plan apparently includes cutting down some very old oak trees. I want to add my voice to those that do not want the trees cut down. We should be able to make the upgrades without cutting the trees down. Please keep me informed of meetings where the planning a approvals are taking place.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
112	Jeanne	Necaise, CPA	After the summer we've just had (another harbinger of what is to come), only in Texas would we be looking for mature trees to cut down. What Schumck thought this up?. This is an obscenity, a frontal assault to any progress toward sane climate policies. I just don't know what it would take to make you people see what we – collectively – must do. Your plan is irresponsible and immoral and all mature and thinking adults in Houston implore you to make alternative plans at once.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
113	Jennifer	Milton	To whom it may concern, The people of Montrose need the oak trees more than they need widened sidewalks. One oak tree absorbs about 48 pounds of carbon dioxide, thereby significantly helping reduce the toxic levels in our Houston air. Moreover, these trees help absorb water to decrease the chance of flooding in the area during heavy rains. WE NEED THE TREES. Sincerely,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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114	Kathryn	Guerro	As a native Houstonian and resident of Park Civic Association since 2002, I appreciate the efforts to make Montrose Boulevard friendlier for cyclists and pedestrians. However, I do NOT support removing healthy live oak trees as part of this process: UNIQUENESS: Live oaks are a distinctive species that provide a unique character to this part of the United States. Areas like North and South Boulevard would not be notable destinations if those trees had been removed. Broadway Boulevard on Galveston Island used to be a striking "front door" for visitors to the island with its stately oaks on the esplanade; now that they are gone Galveston no longer has a grand entrance. LACK OF SUCCESSFUL PRECEDENT: Previous efforts to remove existing trees to accomplish similar goals have not succeeded. Kirby Drive is NOT a "pedestrian promenade". The saplings on Allen Parkway continue to require regular landscaping support due to heavy rains and bad drivers. PROTECTION: Established live oak trees reduce the "heat island" effect created in our already-sweltering summers, help prevent soil erosion and reduce rainfall runoff during our storm seasons. The proposal is going to add more impervious ground to the area - do not remove elements that will help absorb excess rainwater. SUSTAINABILITY: Live oaks are keystone species in Texas. This means they are critical for the survival of entire ecosystems from game species, migratory birds, butterflies and wildlife. Please reconsider this aspect of the proposal. Don't de-Houston one of Houston's most notable neighborhoods.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
115	Barbara	Strominger	Trees make a difference! Our world is becoming uninhabitable. Our neighborhoods become less desirable as trees disappear. The area becomes hotter and there are fewer places for birds, insects, and other animals. Older trees contribute more to the environment relative to younger trees. So you can't just plant new ones to preserve the environment. Please try to preserve some of the environment. Don't be short-sighted.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
116	Sarah	Galfione	Hi! I'm writing to voice my opposition to cutting down the large oak trees along Montrose Blvd in houston. Those trees are so valuable to our city's well being and beauty and can not be replaced by planting tiny replacements. I drive that way often, and it will be a tragic loss. Please think twice before you cut down our ancient oaks. They are part of our history and our legacy for our children. Thanks,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
117	Jacob	Roche	Hello. Appears the Nextdoor folks have gotten themselves worked up regarding tree removal on Montrose blvd. I LOVE trees, but my understanding is y'all have hired an arborist and are going out of your way to avoid removing trees…instead you are planting MORE trees and planning for how to keep these trees alive for the next 50 years? Can you explain how many trees will be removed in phase 1, and how old are the trees being removed? (While I don't like to see any trees removed, if you are replacing a 10 year old tree with a 5 year old tree and gaining bike/pedestrian access, that seems like a net positive.) Do you have video of the 9/18 meeting? Folks are claiming 60+ MATURE trees being removed and replaced with saplings…is this true? If not, can you provide info to counter this? I am really excited about the work on Montrose (and Stanford), and don't want misinformation to mess it all up. Thanks,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
118	Constance	Reilly	Please cease and desist the plans to cut down or otherwise destroy ANY of the old oak trees along Montrose Blvd. it was bad enough decades ago when Walgreens was allowed to destroy the ones on their property- this is a massive destruction. Stop these plans immediately.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
119	Ashley	Panaezham	To whom it may concern, The people of Montrose need the oak trees more than they need widened sidewalks. One oak tree absorbs about 48 pounds of carbon dioxide, thereby significantly helping reduce the toxic levels in our Houston air. Moreover, these trees help absorb water to decrease the chance of flooding in the area during heavy rains. WE NEED THE TREES. Sincerely,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
120	Stacey	Coombes	I am writing as a member and home owner in Montrose. I will add that I am an avid walker and cyclist in then neighborhood and I want to communicate my strong protest to cutting down mature trees to widen streets on Montrose Blvd.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
121	Mark	Chambers	Don't even think about that. Ask the cyclists what they think of that. I would never ride there knowing what they did. Somebodies getting a kickback. Let's all kick back at that absurdity.	Thank you for the comment.
122	Ann	Schorno	I live in montrose on bomar and have for almost 15 years. I have enjoyed the upgrades made to Waugh and commonwealth making them more pedestrian friendly. As someone who goes for a walk first thing in the morning I look for areas that have trees for protection from the sun. I am concerned that the plans for upgrade montrose is going to remove what is beneficial (oak trees) for humans, birds and insects and helps w climate control in the sake of progress. Is there not a better way that can help to address all concerns more equitably?	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
123	Cay	Dickson	Please, please, please don't cut down those beautiful old trees along Montrose. Surely, there's a way to save them and still do some of the proposed changes. We need to keep them for any number of reasons, not the least of which is the carbon dioxide they remove from our polluted area. According to the Arbor Day Foundation , in one year a mature tree will absorb more than 48 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen in exchange. So next time you take a deep breath of air give credit to a tree or hug a tree in thanks for what it gives us – the very air we breathe. Thank you for your consideration - and hopefully LACK of action in cutting these precious trees down. Sincerely,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
124	Bill	Haase	I and my wife and neighbors oppose the destruction of old trees on Montrose. surely other plans could be made. To replace these with young saplings will set back amenities in this area by about 75 years. Keep oir trees!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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125	William	Margolin	Don't cut down mature trees for a bike lane . I am an avid cyclist but the bike lanes on Montrose would be dangerous anyway. The urban tree canopy is worth much more to the city than a bike lane. I'll ride on side streets thanks.	Thank you for your comment. There are no bike lanes on this project. See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
126	Theresa	Mullaly	Please save the mature trees along Montrose Blvd!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
127	Ed	More	Trees contribute to a positive impact on climate change. So we complain about deforestation in Brazil but then don't hesitate to cut down 100 yr old trees… Find another way or don't do it.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
128	Cathy R.	Blum	The proposed bike lane on Montrose that will allow the killing of over 50 mature oaks just in the phase one is the worst idea for our city that I have been made aware of to date. We need trees and the shade they provide and NOT more concrete. If there is anyway this very bad idea can be stopped, I plan to join with the forces to stop this horrible idea I am looking into what can be done to stop it. The trees absorb rain water, provide shade and help to beautify our city. More concrete leads to more flooding. Use the money to plant more trees. Who walks to anywhere in Houston in 100 decree heat. I believe there is already a bike land on Waugh. Just extend that one and leave Montrose alone. Please think through what this means for our cit I just saw the plan that was posted on Next Door and already 196 neighbors have responded and not one of the comments were for this crazy plan. I hope you will listen to the people who live in the neighbor and show some compassion that you really want to improve the neighborhood and not tear it apart. Thank you for listening and I hope you are listening	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
129	John	Zipprich	Please don't chop down the mature trees or move them for a project road, bike lane or sidewalk. Mature trees ha e a cooling affect and we surely need that in Houston.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
130	Michael A.	Chmiel	Save the trees on Montrose Blvd	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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131	Rikki	Mitman	Hello: I wish to register my objection to the planned tree-cutting for wider sidewalks. We cannot afford to remove mature trees. Further, I question what evidence you have that wider sidewalks are needed? Houston is not a walkable city: it's unpleasant to be outdoors for more than half the year, people are spread so far and wide that we drive everywhere, and many of us who read the news would not feel safe walking down the street even in broad daylight. Maintain existing sidewalks, sure – but to widen them when they will likely see little use at the expense of mature trees (something we need more, not less, of), would be a dreadful travesty. Please reconsider this rash plan.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
132	Rubina	Wahid	Kindly do not disturb our beloved trees on Montrose in the name of development best regards	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
133	Helen	Schilling	I am not in favor of the current plan to cut down mature trees for this project. It will be a misguided blight on the neighborhood. That area is too dangerous for bike riders anyway. Please re- think your plans.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
134	Carrie	Carter	At the Sept 18, 2023 meeting, construction plans showed they will remove 50 live oaks currently protected by city ordinance (which will be waived for this project) and 11 other existing trees. And 61 is just the number of trees to be cut down for Phase 1, which runs from Allen Pkwy to Clay St. Eventually the removal of even more mature trees will continue the rest of the way down Montrose to US 59. Please do not remove the trees. Our climate needs MORE mature trees, not less. Plus, trees add a beauty to the city, which lacks it greatly. We do not need wider sidewalks. Do you really think people will use them when six months out of the year it's over 100 degrees? Narrow sidewalks are adequate. I work in the area, from a high rise. Looking out of my office, I rarely see one person walking or riding the bike on the sidewalk. If you remove the trees and widen the sidewalks for "a grand vision" you are failing the people of Houston and caving to construction companies and people who will make money off of this horrible plan. According to experts from renowned organizations like Arbor Day Foundation and American Forests Association, mature live oak trees can absorb up to 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year while providing oxygen for two people annually. Their extensive root systems also help prevent soil erosion and reduce stormwater runoff during heavy rains.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
135	Carrie	Carter	Houston is pollution heavy. We should be doing what we can to reduce that and to reduce any chances of flooding. Removing trees and adding more concrete ups flooding. PLease do what's right and not what's purely about money. Again, there's no need for wider sidewalks. No one uses the current sidewalks. It's too hot to use them! Be realistic. Thank you. Sincerely,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
136	Carrie	Carter	One more point - what few people do use the sidewalk, have shade from the MATURE oak trees, which take a very long time to reach that side. Remove them, and even replanting young trees, there will no longer be shade. Ask yourself, do you want to walk in Houston's heat down a sidewalk in the blazing sun with no shade? No. Please, I beg you, do not cut down the trees. Do not bother widening a non-used sidewalk. Thank you.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
137	Emmad	Pervez	To whom it may concern Why would anyone use the new planned sidewalks if there's no shade? Do you all even live here? Completely asinine idea. Go ahead and do this if you want Houston to continue being a dump of a city. I'll be leaving.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
138	Jack	Williams	Good morning, Was hoping we could talk to someone over there or get a statement about the petition to save trees along Montrose that are at risk because of the improvement project. Thanks for your help.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
139	Desiree	Hill	I understand this proposal will remove a number of 100 year old oak trees. I am completely against any plan that would do this. The plan should be revised to incorporate the trees that cannot be "replaced" by a few saplings. I live on a street without old growth trees and the difference is immeasurable. Whether property values, flooding, cooling benefits, or just simple aesthetics mean anything to you, don't take down these trees. My husband and I are registered voters who do our research and vote in every election. Representatives who support the current plan will be on our list to not only vote against but to actively support your opposition. Please reconsider this poorly designed plan.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

Montrose Boulevard Improvements Project
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Thank you for your comments. Tree questions were responded to in a memorandum in September and may be found at montrosehtx.org. In summary, the 57 existing trees that will be removed that are unhealthy, growth-constrained, planted directly underneath overhead utilities, or are otherwise not City-approved street trees. They will be replaced with 137 new street trees. Replacement trees will be up to 200-gallon trees in the median and 100-gallon trees in the back of curb area, as determined by planting space and species availability. In addition, the TIRZ is committed to maintaining them for 4-years.

Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
140	Cheryl	Levine	I have recently learned of plans to improve Montrose blvd from Allen parkway to Highway 59. I am concerned that many mature live oak trees with be removed. Please redesign the plan to save those mature trees which are such an advantage to our environment. I believe these trees are just as important to Houston as the planned bike lanes and walkability of the neighborhood Thank you	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
141	James H.	Glassman	I am a homeowner in District C, and Montrose. I would like to let you know about my objections to Montrose TIRZ's plans for Montrose Blvd. The removal of that many of mature Live Oaks is unacceptable. The tree canopy is the secret sauce that makes Montrose so special. Replacement trees will likely be small and unprotected, and they will have little chance to become great. If a tree is to be replaced, then please be reminded of the new large trees that were installed at Kirby and W. Alabama over ten years ago. Those took the sting out of their predecessors' removal. Also, as a resident of W. Clay Street, I oppose the redesign of W. Clay at Montrose Blvd. I won't be able to drive down my own street! This too is unacceptable. Thank you for your attention on this matter.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
142	Teresa	Towery	To Whom It May Concern: It was brought to my attention by my neighbors that there is a plan in Montrose that involves 61 mature trees (50 of which currently have protection by the City of Houston) are slated to be cut down in phase one alone, covering just a tiny stretch from Allen to Clay. There are easily hundreds more old oaks that will be impacted as the project continues south in phases. This would be an unimaginable loss. As someone who has called Houston a home for nearly 3 decades, and Montrose my home the last decade, I cannot sit idly by and not voice my opinion against this extreme plan. Bike lanes and a walkable neighborhood are wonderful things, but we need to let the planners know that old growth trees are just as important and vital to our communities! Please reconsider this plan and find a new way to include both bike lanes and a walkable neighborhood without harming our wonderful oak trees. There are more examples with new builds in our community that can be of example, but the HEB, (on West Alabama), is a good one to point out. The planner's were able to build around the trees without problems! I have also signed this petition: https://chng.it/XmmsnQKPqm Thank you.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
143	LaVerne	Funderburk	Although sidewalk improvements are needed, PLEASE do not remove the beautiful historic trees that provide major shade and thus cooler temperatures in the summer months. How inviting would it be to walk or bike when everything is covered in hot concrete and there is zero shade? Please rethink this plan and compromise. Please save the existing trees.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
144	Sarah	Abasov	Dear Ms. Kamin and TIRZ Manager. I am writing to advocate against the current plan to remove mature Oak trees along Montrose. These majestic trees have stood tall for decades, providing us with a much-needed shade canopy and contributing to the unique character of our community. Not only are they beautiful, these trees play a crucial role in mitigating air pollution, reducing noise levels, and lowering the average temperature in our neighborhood. To cut them down in favor of MORE pavement is outrageous. It is disheartening to learn that this plan prioritizes sidewalk expansion over preserving our natural heritage. While we understand the need for pedestrian-friendly spaces, it should not come at the expense of sacrificing mature trees that have taken years to grow. According to experts from renowned organizations like Arbor Day Foundation and American Forests Association, mature live oak trees can absorb up to 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year while providing oxygen for two people annually. Their extensive root systems also help prevent soil erosion and reduce stormwater runoff during heavy rains. The Montrose TIRZ plan to replace these magnificent live oaks with newly planted small trees is not an acceptable solution. It takes 20-30 years for replacement trees to reach maturity. The Montrose live oaks are irreplaceable! The current plan does not even commit to replacing each cut down live oak with a new live oak tree. Many of the planned replacement trees will be less expensive and less shade-producing varieties like cypress and pines. Instead of removing mature oak trees the city should commit to plant MORE trees in every project and work to achieve the designation of Tree City USA (Tree City USA at arborday.org). The benefits of trees are numerous and we should together create a culture to save and care for them.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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145	Alison	Peterson	Hi, Although I appreciate trying to make Montrose even more pedestrian and biker friendly, cutting down 50-60 mature oak trees detracts from the appeal of walking or biking in Montrose. I hope that the project team is taking into account the concerned citizens of Montrose's feedback to find a way to keep these beautiful mature trees alive. Can you tell me when/where the next public meeting will be? The website only has Jan 23, 2023 listed.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
146	Neal	Hous	In the 1980's or thereabouts, I watched with dismay as the city cut down old mature healthy live oaks along Richmond Ave. to widen that street so it could handle more traffic. Yes, more trees were planted but it has taken 30 years for them to mature. METRO has plans to remove all or most of the vegetation along the south side of the Katy Freeway to build an elevated rapid transit ramp from the proposed high-speed rail station (formerly NW Mall) to downtown, in part to facilitate the flow of expected traffic from the dubious completion of said rail. Lush, mature vegetation was all removed to rebuild the 290/610 interchange and has been replaced with scrawny saplings that I will not live long enough to see mature. The same thing will happen with the planned reconstruction of the 610/45 interchange as part of the massive widening project of I-45N. When I first moved to Houston in 1973, little or no thought was given to street or highway beautification. At some point that attitude changed and suddenly landscaping and more attractive freeway architecture became the norm. It would seem that new attitude has begun to dissolve into more utilitarian (and boring) "improvements" to our landscape, with the possible exception of the newly-completed Memorial Dr. tunnels. What's next; the removal of hundreds of mature, blooming crape myrtle at the Memorial Dr./Waugh interchange so more concrete and pavement can be poured? Montrose Blvd. (the ORIGINAL portion between Mecom Fountain and Westheimer) has not been a true boulevard for decades after the removal of the esplanade to widen that portion of the street. Meanwhile, the city continues to permit high-density housing in older neighborhoods, thereby facilitating the gradual erosion of the character of those neighborhoods and adding more residents to fill already-widened streets and, now, adding bike lanes to this crazy soup where the lack of zoning has only complicated the problem. Drought and climate change are killing off our tree canopy and your answer is to remove healthy trees and pour more concrete? This proposed project should either be greatly revised or, even better, tabled altogether. If I wanted to live in a city where housing density has virtually eliminated streetscaping, I would live in NYC or Chicago.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
147	Cathy	Hodge	Do not cut down trees for bike lanes and sidewalk. -Trees beautify the city -Trees help moderate "heat"islands in the city - trees take up carbon dioxide -widened sidewalks would only benefit a VERY small number citizens, whereas cutting the trees impact ALL citizens - new trees would take decades to reach the size of mature trees, in the mean time, the sidewalks would be VERY hot 4-5 months out of the year -Montrose, with its trees, is an elegant roadway leading to a Houston area that contains many jewels of the city.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
148	T.J.	Parker	Good morning Walter, I'm reaching out to get more insight on plans to widen sidewalks on Montrose Blvd by cutting down 61 live oak trees during the first phase of this plan? We're talking to some disappointed residents, who reached out to us. Wanted to get a response from you all as well.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
149	Joshua	Martin	In a word, ridiculous.. I applaud the expansion of transit options, and a bike lane being added, but the oaks are part of the charm of Montrose. Removing them is going to piss off a lot of people. Please rethink this disturbing decision and find another way.. we need the trees, we need oxygen, more concrete is NOT the answer….	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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150	Calista	Herbert	I am unclear about the possibility that several or many mature oak trees will be removed in the rebuild of Montrose Blvd. Is this a possibility? Surely not. As I'm sure you are aware, oak trees require decades to mature and then live for decades as well. Removing a FEW (i.e. 3-5) might be necessary but more than that is a tragedy. I don't think I need to list all of the reasons why that is so. Please tell me this is just a wild rumor and that mature oak trees will not be destroyed.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
151	Nate	Cook	Please preserve the mature trees along Montrose Blvd! They are far more important to the community than additional bike lanes.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
152	Gayle	Sporn	I am writing you on behalf of our neighborhood to petition against cutting down these old oak trees. I found out that this project is planning on cutting down numerous precious old oak trees for this project to go through. I am pleading to this planning board please keep them as is! We really need these trees to survive and help our environment! Granted walkways and bike paths are wonderful but at the same time these trees were also planted for a purpose. I hope this will be considered seriously to halt this approach.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
153	Susie	Askanase	To Whom It May Concern: I understand that a street widening/bike lane is being planned on Montrose Boulevard, from Allen Parkway to Highway 59. This will require, as currently planned, the destruction of a huge number of live oak trees up and down the street. These trees provide shade, as well as a sense of comfort and tranquility for those walking on, and living in, Montrose.They help create the "neighborhood" feel that makes the Montrose such a delightful place in which to work and live. They help keep the character, and increase the value of living here. This is not the middle of downtown! It's what makes our neighborhood unique. And, it reduces our Houston carbon footprint. Instead of destroying these wonderful 100 year old trees, find a creative way keep them, while building your project.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
154	Melissa	Sambrooks	We implore you not to take any more trees and wildlife from the streets of Houston for a " bike lane". We are already an ugly concrete city while we lose more and more of any and everything that is beautiful. Do not remove those oaks !!!!!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
155	Patrick	McNamara, M.D.	I just found out that the Montrose TIRZ has plans to remove mature live oaks along Montrose Blvd. This would drastically alter the beauty of the neighborhood. There must be alternatives to what you are proposing. When were the public meetings held regarding this issue? How were the residents of Montrose informed about your plans. In addition to the aesthetic devastation, the removal of these trees will have a negative effect on the environment. Please reconsider this ill-conceived plan.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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156	Sara	Braud	If I am reading the proposed plans it looks like the developer has the upper hand and placing the wide sidewalks and trees on the east side near the Allen parkway. Then widening the road to accommodate a tree median and tearing down the mature trees on the west. How about just leaving out the median at the matured trees stretch at Allen parkway. Then not encroaching on the west side with the lush and majestic trees. I propose that the planners go back to the " drawing board" to redesign to take into account the mature trees. Even snaking the road around to miss the trees, which actually may slow traffic! Metro also needs to get on board and have smaller buses on the road especially inner city. Never seen them filled but with a couple of people. Would create less congestion. Easier to maneuver.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
157	Sandra	Lloyd	I vehemently oppose plans to clear mature trees to make room for pedestrian and bike lanes. BAD idea.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
158	Georgie	Vasey	We will challenge this VERY useful utilization of our tax dollars. Who dreams up this stuff ? DO NOT VANDALIZE THIS NEIGHBORHOOD. TS	Thank you for your comment.
159	Liz	Christoffersen	Dear Ms. Kamin and TIRZ Manager. I am writing to advocate against the current plan to remove mature Oak trees along Montrose. These majestic trees have stood tall for decades, providing us with a much-needed shade canopy and contributing to the unique character of our community. Not only are they beautiful, these trees play a crucial role in mitigating air pollution, reducing noise levels, and lowering the average temperature in our neighborhood. To cut them down in favor of MORE pavement is outrageous. It is disheartening to learn that this plan prioritizes sidewalk expansion over preserving our natural heritage. While we understand the need for pedestrian-friendly spaces, it should not come at the expense of sacrificing mature trees that have taken years to grow. According to experts from renowned organizations like Arbor Day Foundation and American Forests Association, mature live oak trees can absorb up to 48 pounds of carbon dioxide per year while providing oxygen for two people annually. Their extensive root systems also help prevent soil erosion and reduce stormwater runoff during heavy rains. The Montrose TIRZ plan to replace these magnificent live oaks with newly planted small trees is not an acceptable solution. It takes 20-30 years for replacement trees to reach maturity. The Montrose live oaks are irreplaceable! The current plan does not even commit to replacing each cut down live oak with a new live oak tree. Many of the planned replacement trees will be less expensive and less shade-producing varieties like cypress and pines. Instead of removing mature oak trees the city should commit to plant MORE trees in every project and work to achieve the designation of Tree City USA (Tree City USA at arborday.org). The benefits of trees are numerous and we should together create a culture to save and care for them.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
160	John	Busbee	Sirs, I am totally against the proposed removal of existing mature trees only to install smaller trees elsewhere that will take decades to provide useful shade. Also installing traffic barricades at intersections will only add to the chaos on Montrose when these neighborhood residents are forced to make U turns to get home. Bike lanes are notoriously under utilized and are unnecessary on this main thoroughfare. No sane person bikes in 105 degree heat that has become commonplace in Houston. I agree with the drainage, utilities and surface repairs, but there has to be a better solution than what is being proposed . These trees have been neighborhood highlights for decades. This is a solution looking for a problem that doesn't exist.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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161	Anne	O'Conor	I'm writing in to voice my support of the mature trees - PLEASE do not remove the precious trees in order to expand the roadway to build a bike lane. The street improvements are important but not at the expense of these trees. Houston needs trees and the mature trees take decades to grow.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
162	Kimberley	Hitchcock	Dear fellow Houstonians, My family is shocked by the proposed plan to chop down old live oaks on Montrose Blvd! Houston's trees are our pride and beauty. Can anyone imagine Rice campus without her gorgeous old oaks? Memorial Park! Sunset Blvd! Menil Museum! Sophisticated cities like Houston do not chop down their beautiful old trees! Saplings are no replacement! It would take 50 years for them to begin to resemble the trees along Montrose Blvd. Please find a way to keep the 60+ mature oak trees along Montrose Blvd! I'm sure there is a design for the new project that would showcase our trees, not decimate them. Our neighborhood is full of people who worked their whole lives to be able to live here specifically because of our mature oak trees. They are what make this neighborhood surrounding Montrose Blvd so desirable and identifiable as one of the most gorgeous places in our city. My entire family will be following the development!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
163	Terry	West	I can not believe that anyone would think that cutting down trees would improve this area. I have lived in Montrose for many years and have watched trees being cut down for townhouse after townhouse, all to the detriment of the neighborhood. Please reconsider this decision, this the worse thing that you can do to Montrose.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
164	Rebecca	Allen	I am writing today to ask that more consideration be given to the plan for the bike trail and sidewalk improvements that would destroy the existing mature oak trees. I am against any plan that does not save these trees. In Houston, the shade these trees provide are a welcome and necessary respite from the relentless heat and sunshine while walking or biking. Figure something else out, don't destroy trees to put in more concrete. This is a poor plan and is counterproductive for developing a pedestrian friendly city.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
165	Laverne	Funderburk	Although sidewalk improvements are needed, PLEASE do not remove the beautiful historic trees that provide major shade and thus cooler temperatures in the summer months. How inviting would it be to walk or bike when everything is covered in hot concrete and there is zero shade? Please rethink this plan and compromise. Please save the existing trees.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
166	Charlotte	Coyle	Hello, I have recently learned of the projected plans to cut down many of the beautiful live oak trees along Montrose Blvd in order to put more concrete down. An ever increasing concrete city will only increase our flood-rate percentages. Considering that storms and subsequent flooding are only predicted to get worse and more frequent since humans are doing a great job of killing this place we call home I cannot imagine a scenario in which it is a good idea to cut down trees that not only provide beauty and cleaner air for the human inhabitants but are part of an entire ecosystem of wildlife inhabitants as well. We all have a duty to protect this earth we live on. We can't possibly put a stop to everything that threatens it but we do have more control over what happens in our own backyard. Please reconsider these plans and think about the long-term effects of interrupting the ecosystem and the overall harm this will cause not just ecologically but also aesthetically as well. No one wants to live in a place where there are no trees especially in a place like Houston where it gets hotter every year. The shade from big, beautiful trees is one of the only reasons to step outside during the dead of summer. Please reconsider your plans and listen to the community members. We have a duty to protect this place we call home. We will not be silent.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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167	Jessica	Drake	Hello, I am a Montrose resident who will be directly impacted by the new plans for the widening of Montrose Blvd. Not only do I have concerns with the removal of 61 mature oak trees that keep our part of the city looking less industrial and more purposeful, I worry most about the impact of the surrounding area. There will be some cross streets that will no longer allow traffic to go across Montrose; these include Welch, Bomar, W. Clay, W. Main, and others. This will feed more traffic onto the parallel streets, these parallel streets are RESIDENTIAL. People with children, dogs, handicapped residents all use these streets safely because of the limited traffic. This plan will change forever the property value of our homes and change the way of life for the people that live directly in the area. Please help us rethink this plan.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments. There is additional analysis that is currently being performed for the W Clay Street intersection. The other ones are in Segment 2, which is not under design yet.
168	John	Feltch	As a resident of Montrose, who cherishes our trees, especially as the heat grows worse and worse, I am writing to protest the plant removal of Live Oaks on Montrose Boulevard. Development should not take precedence over shade and beauty. It’s shortsighted, greedy, and simply ridiculous.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
169	Jordan	Umphries	Hello, It has recently come to my attention the city's plans to destroy 61 live oaks around Montrose. I can only imagine this decision came from a group of individuals who felt the grueling, fetid heat of this past summer and thought, "Wow! I really wish this was worse!" Climate change is a reality we all have to live with. Natural protections from the direct rays of the sun must be safeguarded and even cultivated further. Do you know what is not going to improve the safety and quality of life of the citizens of this city as temperatures continue to rise? Forcing us all to live in a concrete box with no escape or respite. And for what? Parasitic commercial and residential real estate developers? There are enough empty buildings around town that I cannot believe space for commercial real estate is a concern. As for residential real estate, the last thing an historic neighborhood needs is more ugly modern housing that isn't meant to last beyond the mortgage, will mostly sit vacant, and will certainly continue to drive up property values, effectively pricing out the working class from the inner loop. Need more parking? If parking is such a huge issue for the city, do you know what would solve that? Expanded and more reliable public transportation! None of these things are worth the destruction of century old trees.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
170	Jordan	Umphries	Further, the aesthetic value of the live oaks cannot be overstated. Montrose is one of the prettiest areas of Houston for a reason. Intentional green space is better for the environment, the local flora and fauna, and people's mental health. Is your concrete going to be just as effective? DECIDEDLY not. If the overall safety, wellbeing, and happiness of the voters in the city is not a major priority for the Mayor, City Planner, or Office of Public Works, please let us know so we can be sure to express our displeasure during the next election. Shame on all of you for even considering this. Leave the live oaks alone and go pave something else, maybe City Hall.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
171	Trevor	Kalis	To whom it may concern, Please reconsider your decision to cut down the Montrose oak trees, and think of a better plan. Those oak trees provide vital shade, and make our neighborhood more beautiful.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
172	Mitchell	Young, M.D.	As a homeowner in Hyde Park, Business and property owner in the museum area, past civic association president, fifth generation Houstonian, Museum District Development Association member, and clinical child psychologist, I object in the strongest terms to your idiotic plan to destroy large healthy live oaks in the face of climate change. Come up with something sane!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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173	Ashley	Burklew	I heard about the plan to destroy the old beautiful trees to put in bike lanes. I'm am very disturbed by this news and am begging you to not destroy the little nature we have left in this area. These trees deserve to live and prosper.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
174	Isabelle	Chapman	Please save the trees in Montrose!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
175	Josena	Arquieta	As a long time resident I beg you not to cut down the live oak trees on Montrose Blvd. They are an important part of the neighborhood and should be protected. There has to be another way to achieve the bike trail and better sidewalks.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
176	Laura	Villagran	Please send correct link in order to sign petition. You sent: https://chng.it/qmz7h9jjnh Thank you –	Thank you for the comment.
177	Nate	Evans	Good morning, My wife and I have been residents of Montrose and now the Heights for many years. We have raised wonderful children in these lovely neighborhoods. One of the most appealing aspects to living here are the mature trees that line our streets and provide critical shade and ecosystems for animals. Not to mention they are aesthetically beautiful and quite irreplaceable. We were made aware by word of mouth (not via the TIRZ) that a significant number of mature trees along Montrose Boulevard will be removed. We strongly discourage you from doing so, and plead with you to consider alternatives which do not include cutting them down. While we are all for street improvements, they should not come at the cost of trees that both preceded and will outlive all of us. Rather we ask you to preserve them for future generations while creatively exploring alternatives. Stripping our neighborhoods of these gems to add more concrete devalues and detracts from the beauty of our city. Further, removing trees to add bike lanes and side walks is nonsensical because the shade is what encourages pedestrians to use them. With no substantive shade for 20-30 years until canopies of replacement trees have matured, nobody will utilize them. Lastly, I'm surprised the City of Houston and Houston Greespace Management would allow this proposal to proceed given its major negative impact. Thank you for your consideration.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
178	William	Santos	To all that it may concern: I have come upon recent information regarding an addition to Montrose Boulevard to install a bike lane alongside the sidewalks. To my dismay, these plans are incorporating the procedure to remove more than 60 old growth live oak trees, which have long been a signature of Montrose Boulevard and many other streets within the greater Montrose/River Oaks area. It would certainly be ironic and foolish to think that people would enjoy a biking route devoid of the beauty and shade that the trees have to offer, in the past, present, and future. I, and many others, are in complete disagreement with this preposterous idea that completely disregards the aesthetic our city has to offer. We understand that bike lanes are useful, both for those who commute with it from the local neighborhoods, as well as those who love to engage their free time in it. Mindlessly formulating ideas without the conscience of the denizens of Houston, both in Montrose and all around, is not the way forward to achieve any harmony. I am not aware of the specific messages you may have received from others who share the same sentiment, but I would like to offer a simple alternative solution: reroute the bike lanes onto quieter and safer streets. It does not always have to be every single time that people "share the road", especially on a busy arterial road. Not only are you removing the essence of the neighborhoods, but you are risking people's lives by relegating them onto the busiest sections of an otherwise peaceful area.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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179	William	Santos	I am demanding that this is given notice and awareness. I understand that in a TIRZ there is a mission to reinvest back into the community. However, this should be something that truly serves a purpose to residents and community members. We hope to see a revision in these plans, both in favor of the trees and in favor of community beauty. Please plan responsibly.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
180	Kay	Harnden	To destroy magnificent Live Oaks to create a bike lane that may or may not be used would be a huge mistake. Let's face it, Live Oaks are some of Houston's only natural beauty, without them, we would have a pretty ugly city. Imagine Rice University, Bayland Avenue, etc., without the Live Oaks that grace those streets. I have many bike riding friends who refuse to use the newly created bike lanes. Why? They say the likelihood of getting a flat in the bike lanes is high due to trash and debris. The city does not maintain the lanes, and I don't really see how they could with the curbs in place. A streetsweeper won't fit. I do think accommodating cyclist in this city of vehicles who can be aggressive towards cyclists is important, but we need to re-evaluate the best approach that does not involve removing our treasured trees.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments. There are no bike lanes on this project.
181	Mary	Rosenberg	I live on W Pierce St and am against the proposed changes to Montrose Blvd especially cutting down mature trees. Let's be honest most people don't walk so there is no need for changes. Houston is increasingly. hot which make the mature trees so important. They provide shade and help the environment. The plan would also increase traffic in our neighborhood's which are already seeing an increase due to all the new construction of apartments in Montrose. I have heard that is has been said that there haven't been much feedback regarding the proposed plan, I am sure that is because citizens are not aware of the plan. I only heard of it yesterday. Listen to the residents and not just be greedy for funding this project that will not be beneficial to the community.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
182	Terri	Ruffner	Hello, I just became aware of the project to expand the sidewalks along Montrose Blvd which will include the removal of well over 100 mature live oak trees. I want to express my opposition to this project. I cannot understand why it is ever necessary to remove beautiful mature trees in favor of new planting. This is just sad. The project will involve re-routing traffic through the neighborhood which is already congested. I live in this neighborhood and can attest to the traffic we already endure and the racing cars along W. Dallas. The side streets are full of parked cars, people exercising, kids playing. There are no speed bumps. We have 4 new restaurants in the area. Yes, those restaurants are replacing 3 prior restaurants but the older restaurants were not that busy. One of these new restaurants opened awhile ago and the parking throughout the neighborhood is already causing congestion. Why is this project even necessary at this time? There is so much development in this area already. Can you not wait until the mosque is built, the apartments/luxury living residences and all of the other developments are completed before even considering causing more havoc?	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments. There is additional analysis that is currently being performed for the W Clay Street intersection. This segment of the Montrose Blvd reconstruction is intended to be done early for the safe crossing at W Clay Street for pedestrians who travel to the Wharton Dual Language Academy.
183	David C.	Shaw	Why would you cut down beautiful trees for a 10' sidewalk? There is already too much concrete in Houston. I live 3 blocks from Montrose and your plans are incredibly ignorant.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
184	Sara	Fernandez	If you want to improve Montrose Blvd. start by preserving the trees. Any plans should work around the trees.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
185	Pat	Greer	I oppose the expansion of sidewalks on Montrose Blvd with the removal of old oaks. I do not believe enough effort was made on your part to notify our neighborhood about this issue. Our beautiful Montrose needs it's trees for shade and climate change heat reduction. What alternatives do we have?	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
186	Lisa	Nicholls	To whom it may concern, Please, please, please do not cut down our beautiful, old live oaks on Montrose Blvd. while widening the sidewalks. I understand the need of wider sidewalks, but not at the expense of these beautiful and much needed trees.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
187	Jonathan	McVay	I’ve just been made aware of a plan to widen sidewalks and a bike lane that would entail cutting down a number of old live oak trees. I’m writing to beg you to change the plans to include these trees! Their loss would be a horrible tragedy!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
188	Fiona	Gehring	TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, If the re-envisioning of Montrose Boulevard means cutting down mature trees to replace them with saplings which will not grown for generations, I’M NOT FOR IT If it means replacing these trees with wider pavements and increasing global warming, I’M NOT FOR IT If it means driving faster down Montrose because there are more side streets closed off, I’M NOT FOR IT If it means making drivers use our residential streets to take short cuts around these closed off side streets, and speeding along these same streets where children play and people walk their dogs, I’M NOT FOR IT IF YOU TELL US THAT THERE HAVE BEEN 4 PUBLIC MEETINGS ABOUT THIS & YOU’VE HAD FEW NEGATIVE COMMENTS SO FAR…YOU HAVE NOT TOLD US ABOUT THESE MEETINGS NOR SENT OUT NOTICES! We’ve asked for speed bumps along W. Clay and Marconi, WE HAVE NOT BEEN TOLD THIS IS HAPPENING EITHER Somewhere along the way, this re-envisioning has lost sight of people and the environment, and appears to be all about officialdom and construction projects.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments. There is additional analysis that is currently being performed for the W Clay Street intersection.
189	Stephen	Cook	Dear Montrose TIRZ, For your records, I have just submitted the following Public Information Act request through the Mayor's Office portal. Sincerely, Stephen Cook To: Reinvestment Zone Number Twenty-Seven, City of Houston, Texas, and the Montrose Redevelopment Authority, City of Houston, Texas (collectively, the “Montrose TIRZ”) Re: Request Pursuant to Texas Public Information Act (Texas Government Code chapter 552) (the “Act”) Related to the Montrose Boulevard Improvements Project (the “Project”) Please promptly provide all “public information” (as such term is defined under the Act and any regulations issued thereunder or any binding interpretations made thereof) relating to or arising out of the following: 1. General policies and/or procedures (whether formal or informal) for the procurement of goods and/or services by or on behalf of the Montrose TIRZ; 2. General policies and/or procedures (whether formal or informal) related to the prevention, identification, and/or mitigation of any conflicts of interest, including, without limitation, any conflicts of interest, whether actual, alleged, or perceived, that may arise in the procurement of goods and/or services for or on behalf of the Montrose TIRZ;	Thank you for your comment.

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190	Stephen	Cook	3. The procurement of goods and/or services, including, without limitation, planning services, communications and/or public relations services, engineering services, landscaping services, architecture services, and/or arborist services, for or directly related to the Project, whether directly contracted by the Montrose TIRZ or subcontracted on behalf of the Montrose TIRZ, including any requests for information ("RFIs"), requests for proposals ("RFPs"), requests for bids ("Bid Requests"), or similar procurement-related processes (including the full list of third parties selected for receiving any of the foregoing) and any replies, proposals, clarifications, submissions, or other responses to or regarding any such RFIs, RFPs, Bid Requests, or processes, and any agreements (including master agreements), contracts, work orders, purchase orders, scopes of work, statements of work, engagement letters, or similar forms of purchase, engagement, or contracting issued, applicable to, or entered into for or directly related to the Project; 4. Identifying information of all projects undertaken (whether or not completed) by the Montrose TIRZ for which Gauge Engineering or any affiliated entity is or was selected, requested, engaged, or or otherwise contracted to provide any goods and/or services, including, without limitation, engineering planning, design, or construction services; 5. Records related to any "relationships" by, between, or among (A) any member of the Board of Directors of the Montrose TIRZ or any officer, employee, or agent of the Montrose TIRZ and (B) any owner, member, manager, partner, shareholder, director, officer, employee, agent, or other representative of Gauge Engineering or any affiliated entity, where "relationships" means any familial, marriage, dating, employment, consulting, or close friendship relationships or any agreement, understanding, or arrangement involving the payment of money, provision of gifts, or any other form of consideration (e.g., parent/child, grandparent/grandchild, employer/employee, principal/agent, siblings, married partners, roommates, dating couples, cohabitation, commissions, rebates, "success fee", "finders fee", etc.);	Thank you for your comment.
191	Stephen	Cook	6. Records related to Items #4 and/or #5 above replacing "Gauge Engineering" therein with each other vendor, contractor, subcontractor, consultant, advisor, auditor, legal counsel, or other third party engaged by the Montrose TIRZ and where such engagement is related to the Project; 7. Traffic studies conducted or created by or on behalf of the Montrose TIRZ since 2020 relating to vehicle, bicycle, or pedestrian traffic within or around the area of the Montrose TIRZ, whether directly within the Montrose TIRZ boundary or the areas surrounding such boundary and whether or not related to the Project; 8. Environmental impact studies, analyses, or assessments created for the Project, including any preliminary drafts of such studies, analyses, or assessments; 9. Carbon footprint impact studies, analyses, or assessments created for the Project, including any preliminary drafts of such studies, analyses, or assessments; 10. Any other consultant studies, analyses, or assessments created for the Project, including, without limitation, any study, analysis, or assessment of the existing trees located within the planned Project area and the impact on or to such trees, whether created by a landscape architect, arborist, or otherwise, including any preliminary drafts of such studies, analyses, or assessments and including any alternative designs, construction plans, or mitigation strategies related to such trees;	Thank you for your comment.
192	Stephen	Cook	11. Safety studies, analyses, or assessments created for the Project, including, without limitation, those related to vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian safety, including any preliminary drafts of such studies, analyses, or assessments; 12. Initial plans, designs, and related documents for any and all phases of the Project beyond the currently-planned Phase I, including information related to the identification or number of trees that are or may be impacted by such phases; and 13. Emails, letters, memos, notes of conversations (whether handwritten, typed, or dictated), texts, messaging app conversations, message board posts, or any other communications, whether written or electronic, (i) by, from, to, with, or among (A) any member of the Board of Directors of the Montrose TIRZ, (B) any officer, employee, or agent of the Montrose TIRZ, and/or (C) any consultant, vendor, contractor, subcontractor, advisor, auditor, legal counsel (to the extent the communication is not subject to legal privilege or the work product doctrine), or other third party engaged by the Montrose TIRZ and (ii) related to the Project, including, without limitation, any such communications by, from, to, with, or among any public office holder, employee, agent, or other representative of (x) the City of Houston, Texas, or any department thereof, including, without limitation, the Mayor, the Office of the Mayor and/or any divisions or directors thereof, any member of the City Council or committee thereof, or the head of any department (including, without limitation, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Public Works Department, and/or the Planning and Development Department), (y) Harris County, Texas, including, without limitation, any member of the Commissioners Court, the County Administrator, or any department, division, committee, or other authority thereof or therein, and/or (z) the State of Texas, and, in any case (x) through (z), the office or staff members of any of the foregoing.	Thank you for your comment.
193	Stephen	Cook	I am happy to discuss any clarifications you may need and the most appropriate means of accessing, viewing, copying, or otherwise receiving these public records, including a rolling production schedule if necessary. Additionally, if any requested public information is subject to exclusion or redaction pursuant to the Act, please provide a summary of the excluded or redacted public information and the legal basis for such exclusion or redaction. I look forward to your prompt response in compliance with the Act.	Thank you for your comment.
194	Bobby P.	Gun	Help please! The long standing oak trees along montrose blvd are essential to our quality of life as pedestrians ,cyclists and residents in montrose. Their importance to the quality of our life cannot be overstated! I am asking that you become Creative in preserving these life sustaining trees. Shade and c02 mitigation , as well as their natural beauty , are the gifts they bring to us all!!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
195	MaryBeth	Buan	I am a lifelong cyclist and firm supporter of the idea of bike paths and their value to the community. I also see the issue in the context of the bigger picture. Please, I implore you, rethink and redesign the bike path plans and save the 100 year old oaks that you have announced you plan to destroy to build the Montrose bike path. There are very critical reasons these trees are under the protection of the City of Houston. This is an opportunity to BALANCE all of the concerns of citizens and the short and long term wellbeing of our people now and in the future. The old oaks are treasures we need to nourish and care for, not tear down. From beauty, to overall heat-impact management, to real estate value, managing AC cooling costs, to health issues related to skin cancer, heat illness, mental health, and to the contribution the trees make to drawing back carbon dioxide - these trees are part of the huge puzzle whose makeup determines so many outcomes from the simple to the complex. Please respect the wishes of the people in this community and save these trees from destruction.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
196	Cathy	Blum	Please read below and figure out a way to complete your plan without killing the mature oaks. Old trees no more concrete needed in this city: https://mailchi.mp/baec56735685/sunday-reads-a-rewilding?e=c897b596f1	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
197	Cliff	Mabry	We need bike trails where there's no car traffic. We don't need bike lanes in existing streets! Biking in Houston is only for fun and exercise. Our weather won't ever allow our city to be a bike commuter city. Never. Save the trees!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
198	Daniel	Musher	Save the oaks. Bicycle paths are important, but there must be some way to build them without destroying Houston 's trees.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
199	Rajeev	Raghaven, M.D.	Greetings, I am a 20 year resident of Houston and 8+ year previous resident of the Montrose area. I have heard about this plan to cut the trees on Montrose Boulevard. I do not think this is a good idea at all. These are 100 year old trees that provide a considerable shade for pedestrians. I love walking in that area and I'm concerned this will result in irreversible damage. The most desirable places in Houston tend to be the ones with the most trees.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
200	Mike	Bray	Good Afternoon, I've learned of city plans to remove mature trees along Montrose Avenue in order to provide bike lanes and additional sidewalks. As we've just endured two months of extreme heat in Houston, we know how valuable those shade trees have been. Please re-consider to minimize the loss of these mature trees. Thank you for your consideration.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
201	Barbara	Francis	I am so disheartened to hear that there is a plan in place to destroy 50 oak trees on Montrose Blvd. It is the charm of the area and these trees should be protected. There must be a better way to provide pedestrian traffic without destroying. I urge you to reconsider.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
202	Alice	McCarthy	It's good to have a plan for improving the Montrose area. The neighborhoods have been slowly deteriorating as long as I've lived in Houston, since 1964. And I've written countless letters for assistance with sidewalks and other issues since 1989, when I moved into 1200 block of W. Drew. However this proposal has not considered as carefully as it should a number of the issues and has not taken into consideration the thoughts and concerns of residents, who have the most knowledge of the area. With this in mind I urge you to please hold off on implementing this project until residents' viewpoints have been heard. Thank you,	Thank you for your comment.
203	Rian		I'm a concerned citizen of Houston, TX. I work and live in the Montrose area. We are living in the midst of global climate catastrophe which means record flooding events and heat. Removing mature oak trees will only increase these events in the Montrose area, ruining properties and making the neighborhood hotter, also removing mature trees is an eye sore that only makes Houston a more unattractive city. I moved back to my hometown after 2 years and I am embarrassed to say when I travel no one has anything good to say of Houston due to it's lack of green infrastructures filled with tall unzoned buildings and lack of trees. Your group must find a better way to improve sidewalks that does not involve making the area more prior to heat, flooding and looking undesirable to live in. Please leave the mature oaks alone.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
204	C. Michelle	Bouchard	COALTION TO SAVE THE MONTROSE LIVE OAKS Dear Chairman Webb and Members of the Montrose TIRZ, I am writing to you on behalf of the group "Save the Montrose Live Oaks." Our group has been actively involved in raising awareness about the development plans for the widening of Montrose Blvd. We have garnered significant local news coverage and have collected over 1000 signatures on a petition expressing concerns about the potential impact of this project on our cherished live oak trees. The live oak trees that line Montrose Blvd are not only an integral part of our urban landscape but also a crucial aspect of our environment, providing shade, oxygen, and a sense of history to our community. Live oaks are a keystone species and also one of the best tree species for absorbing carbon. We are deeply troubled by the prospect of losing many of these magnificent trees, due to the proposed project. We understand the necessity of infrastructure improvements and development in our city but firmly believe that progress should occur in a responsible and transparent manner that considers the concerns and input of the community it serves. In light of this, we would like to propose a meeting between representatives of "Save the Montrose Live Oaks" and the Montrose TIRZ. During this meeting, we can explore ways to enhance the transparency and inclusivity of public meetings related to the Montrose Blvd widening project. This would facilitate open dialogue, the exchange of ideas, and the consideration of alternative approaches to minimize any deleterious impact on our neighborhood.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
205	C. Michelle	Bouchard	We believe that such a meeting would be a constructive step towards finding a solution that benefits all stakeholders, including the residents, businesses, and natural environment of Montrose. Our group's local news coverage and the support of over 1000 petition signatories demonstrate the depth of concern in our community regarding this issue. By working together, we can ensure that our city's development aligns with our shared values and priorities, including the preservation of our unique urban greenery. We kindly request your consideration of this proposal and would appreciate a response at your earliest convenience. We are confident that through collaborative dialogue, we can arrive at a solution that allows our city to flourish while preserving the natural beauty that defines Montrose. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to the possibility of meeting with you to discuss these vital issues further.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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206	Barbara	Strominger	Trees make a difference! Our world is becoming uninhabitable. Our neighborhoods become less desirable as trees disappear. The area becomes hotter and there are fewer places for birds, insects, and other animals. Older trees contribute more to the environment relative to younger trees. So you can't just plant new ones to preserve the environment. Please try to preserve some of the environment. Don't be short-sighted.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
207	Kathryn	Guerrero	As a native Houstonian and resident of Park Civic Association since 2002, I appreciate the efforts to make Montrose Boulevard friendlier for cyclists and pedestrians. However, I do NOT support removing healthy live oak trees as part of this process: UNIQUENESS: Live oaks are a distinctive species that provide a unique character to this part of the United States. Areas like North and South Boulevard would not be notable destinations if those trees had been removed. Broadway Boulevard on Galveston Island used to be a striking "front door" for visitors to the island with its stately oaks on the esplanade; now that they are gone Galveston no longer has a grand entrance. LACK OF SUCCESSFUL PRECEDENT: Previous efforts to remove existing trees to accomplish similar goals have not succeeded. Kirby Drive is NOT a "pedestrian promenade". The saplings on Allen Parkway continue to require regular landscaping support due to heavy rains and bad drivers. PROTECTION: Established live oak trees reduce the "heat island" effect created in our already-sweltering summers, help prevent soil erosion and reduce rainfall runoff during our storm seasons. The proposal is going to add more impervious ground to the area - do not remove elements that will help absorb excess rainwater. SUSTAINABILITY: Live oaks are keystone species in Texas. This means they are critical for the survival of entire ecosystems from game species, migratory birds, butterflies and wildlife. Please reconsider this aspect of the proposal. Don't de-Houston one of Houston's most notable neighborhoods	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
208	Jeanne	Nacaise	After the summer we've just had (another harbinger of what is to come), only in Texas would we be looking for mature trees to cut down. What Schumck thought this up? This is an obscenity, a frontal assault to any progress toward sane climate policies. I just don't know what it would take to make you people see what we - collectively- must do. Your plan is irresponsible and immoral and all mature and thinking adults in Houston implore you to make alternative plans at once.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
209	Mary Anne	Fried	Just a note to say our Montrose family is in favor of the planned Montrose Boulevard improvement.	Thank you for your support!
210	Rick	Ricardo	Please do not destroy any of the old oak trees just to accommodate a new and bigger sidewalk. I'm sure people would rather walk around the tree than have it destroy it.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
211	Julie	Thobae	To Whom It May Concern: I am opposed to the current TIRZ plan for Montrose Boulevard. After this summer's record-breaking heat and drought, it is with complete disbelief that I heard of the plan to remove over 60 old oak trees in the median and along the sides of Montrose. And that's just the first phase.The current plan benefits nobody. It is an ill-conceived plan, which must be capitalizing on funding that has not considered the specifics of the locale. I am asking that this plan be reconsidered by people who care about Houston and understand the need to incorporate the shade these trees offer to create safer walkways or no one will use them. I have spent most of my life in Houston and recognize the value of these Live Oak trees. When I drove in shaded streets this summer the thermometer on my car read less by several degrees when I left the unshaded streets. Trees such as these established Oaks provide a canopy, shade for walking, biking and driving. They clean our air. They are a noise buffer. And they are beautiful. Think of Montrose Boulevard near the museums and the Rice University Campus and the area surrounding it, think of North and South Boulevards without their oaks. What the TIRZ has planned will be devastating to the Montrose neighborhood but also to the City of Houston as a whole. Removing well-established live oak trees does not figure into an improvement. There are bike lanes (not at all attractive) two blocks to the west of Montrose Boulevard on Commonwealth and Waugh for north-south flow. also a few blocks to the west of there on Woodhead. Whereas this could be an opportunity to restore what was once a magnificent boulevard from Buffalo Bayou Park to the museums (and beyond). All world-class cities have boulevards that beautify and attract visitors.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
212	Julie	Thobae	This plan to plant other kinds of trees such as Cypress and Cedar is further unacceptable. Those trees do not provide much shade and do not do as well in this climate. With ever-rising temperatures being the norm I do not see how they plan to get them established, as the plan does not provide an irrigation system for them. they will not make it. The saplings and small trees planted around Memorial Parkway near Houston Avenue have not survived. Even the Oaks planted on West Alabama where they have made the "improvements" (behind the Julius Melcher Post Office (between Timmons Lane and Buffalo Speedway) have died. This is what will will happen with the plan you have approved. Furthermore, if the real intent of this is to install the huge flood drainage pipes beneath this project, the priorities are misplaced. Trees provide value every single day. Montrose floods no more than most of Houston's four-lane streets. and the should not be a reason to sacrifice the Live Oak trees at the expense of the neighborhood and its all of the people who pass through and its wildlife and human inhabitants. The issue of children's walking to school was brought up by one mother who said her child attended Wharton Elementary Dual Language School and they needed a crosswalk. A safe crosswalk is a fine, necessary thing. I certainly do not oppose that. She was in the belief that this was going to benefit children somehow. That is not what this project is about. Furthermore, that school is a magnet school and the bulk of the students are driven to school. I ask that the Montrose TIRZ revise its Montrose Boulevard plan totally, to produce a careful plan incorporating the established Live Oak trees and design a pleasant shady walkway without over-doing the concrete. Surely you are able to revise this plan to use the assets which are already provided by nature to create a beautiful plan of which the City of Houston as a whole can be proud. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my comments.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
213	Alex	Bluebond	Hello, I am writing to express my opposition to the plan cut down the live oak trees on Montrose Blvd. The heat is a bigger concern to me than the width of the sidewalks, and I believe that the loss of the shade from the trees will make Montrose less walkable. I understand the desire to make the neighborhood more walkable, but I believe this plan is a step in the wrong direction. I believe that no change would be better than this plan. Instead I would suggest finding ways to add more shade in the area or to focus on some of the other streets that are in far worse condition than Montrose Blvd. For example, the sidewalks along Fairview east of Montrose Blvd and side streets such as Crocker street are virtually unusable and many people walk in the street as a result. These are major areas for street traffic because of the restaurants and bars in the area. It is a safety hazard, unsightly, and unappealing and addressing these areas would be a better use of funds and efforts.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
214	Sarah	Frazier	PDF saved in attachments	Thank you for your comment.
215	Simone	Ryan	Good day, I am fortunate that I live on a Live Oak lined boulevard in the Montrose area. It was a life saver this summer when the temperatures skyrocketed. The tree canopy made it possible to walk outside. Every single time we had to leave our shaded neighborhood we felt the heat difference dramatically. Please do not cut down any mature Live Oak trees. They are protected for a reason! This is NOT the time to be cutting down trees. It’s time to be planting them.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
216	Mary Ellen	Whitworth	Dear Mayor and City Council Member Kamin-The plan to cut down mature oak trees and replant with saplings is outrageous on many levels. 1)Mature oak trees and other trees have the ability to survive a drought. Saplings do not. 2)Mature oak trees capture CO2, saplings capture a small amount. 3)Mature oak trees capture up to 25% of rainwater, reducing flooding, samplings capture a small amount. 4)Mature oak trees provide shade, saplings do not. Please stop this ill-conceived plan. Explore creative alternatives that save the trees and provide safe sidewalks. Thank you for your assistance.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
217	Anna	Deans	Good morning, I am writing to share my strong objection and frankly, sadness, at the thought of losing the historic oak trees along Montrose. I work in real estate development and understand the challenges you are likely facing, but I also believe strongly that creativity can solve problems and many times result in a better solution. Challenge the standards. Upper Kirby went through this same thing and took down many beautiful trees from what I'm told. While the road looks nice, the character is gone. Montrose is known and recognized for its character above all else. These trees have MONETARY value that should be leveraged, not destroyed. It can not be recreated within any of our lifetimes. I know you are all very smart and capable. There is always another solution. Please find another solution. This will not be an improvement, and you will never be met with more dissatisfied community members than if the trees are destroyed, despite most of us typically being understanding as intelligent, yet busy, professionals. This would be an opportunity for me to show my little girls what a real protest looks like and how much your vote matters. I would be happy to help find another path forward if needed.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
218	Pahl	Samson	To those able to intervene, I'm not arguing that we need to halt improving Montrose blvd, however at a time when hot bus stops and urban heat island is in the news constantly, it's hard not to see the short sidedness of removing broad reaching and cooling older oaks from the fabric of the city. I have a degree in Landscape Architecture from Texas A&M and live in Montrose, and I can tell you the caliper of tree you are planning to remove is going to be impossible to replace. I hope you have the forethought to salvage the oaks in order to keep Montrose cool and walkable. It really is one of the last areas of Houston that remains walkable even in the summer. I have worked on plans with the city before and retained 90% of existing trees (Sharpstown district, OST) and fully believe this is the worst use of "improvement". Again, please think of the irreparable harm removing these trees from the fabric of our city will do. This is beyond embarrassing for removal to be in the works.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
219	LaDawn	Bly	To whom it concerns: I would like to be notified about any and all meetings concerning the removal of the Live Oaks in Montrose. Our community has been gifted with hundreds of established live oaks that set the character of the neighborhood. Removing those those trees will irrevocably change the neighborhood. With all respect, come up with a better plan.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
220	Beth	Shillibeer	Dear Board Members of the Montrose TIRZ, I have recently been informed of a plan involving cutting down of 61 trees in the first phase of widening sidewalks on Montrose Blvd. I had not heard of this plan before September 25th (2023) when someone gave me a flyer and told me about the plan. Since learning about it I have signed the petition to stop the plan until 1) more residents have time to understand and give feedback on the plan and 2) a better way can be found that does not entail cutting so many trees before new ones can grow and provide the same benefits. As a resident I am concerned with the loss of ecosystem services provided by these trees including heat reduction, air pollution filtering, shade provision, insect/pollinators/birds/animal support services and aesthetic benefits. They are also cultural icons in this area. I shudder to think what plans are in store for the lower sections of Montrose near my house. Be sure that now that I know what's happening, I will be following closely. Is there an email where I can sign up to get notifications of meetings, votes, resolutions and other news about the proposed Montrose Boulevard TIRZ plan?	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
221	Kathleen	Burke	Good afternoon, I am all for the Montrose Blvd improvements. Quite a few folks who just found out about the planned improvements have reacted very strongly and, I feel, without all the facts. I have known about this project for over a year and believe that the TIRZ is doing exactly what it was created for, making badly needed infrastructure improvements. I know experts and arborists were involved and I trust that no one is cutting down trees without reason. There are members of the community in favor of the project. Please let me know if there is anything I can do.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
222	Christopher	Williams	Do you realize that cutting down mature trees may be the dumbest / most ridiculous idea ever? I don't understand how you can even come close to justifying doing so. I guarantee you will re-plant with a small 3" diameter or less and they will all die within a year. We have seen this play out over and over again with our idiotic city government. Do you want to positively impact our community? How about repairing the water main leaks that have been wasting enormous amounts of water throughout Montrose. There has been one leaking tremendous amounts of water (by the minute) for over a month. Let's cut down mature trees and waste water.... Very smart.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
223	Patrick	Simmons	Hello, I'm excited at the general TIRZ plan for Montrose but recently discovered that this would lead to the the cutting down of over 60 established trees.Is there not a way to save them, transplant or modify the plan to keep the trees?	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
224	Nicholas	Stepp	The mature live oaks along Montrose Boulevard provide shade, food, and habitat. They enable native biodiversity to thrive in the heart of our city. They make life more comfortable for those of us who regularly use the sidewalks. Cutting down 60 or more live oak trees and replacing them with an unknown (but smaller) number of young trees is not a solution for creating a more pedestrian-friendly space. What shade will make that space usable in our long summer months? Where will bus riders take refuge from sweltering bus stop enclosures? Where will birds nest for the next 30 years while these saplings mature? Eliminating century-old trees ensures that almost none of us alive today will be here to see Montrose with as much shade and hospitality as these trees now provide. Other spaces in our city have been redesigned and improved while keeping existing trees: Sharpstown district, OST, Heights Boulevard, and more. Please ask the designers to go back to the drawing board and figure out how to save these trees.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
225	Terri	Phillips	Please reconsider the terrible plan to cut down mature oak trees on Montrose Boulevard. In the middle of a drought and record heat, and after multiple reports both locally and nationally about the benefit of trees at lowering temperatures, I can scarcely think of a worse plan. This is not just irresponsible; it is idiotic. Houston is not going to get any cooler in the years ahead…just hotter and hotter.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
226	Hilary	Reed	As a resident of Montrose who often walks around the neighborhood, including along Montrose and West Alabama, I was horrified to read today of the plan that would remove dozens on century old Live Oaks on Montrose Blvd. These trees are our heritage. They were planted generations ago and we now get to enjoy them! They provide shade, cooling, aesthetic value, and they are one of the best parts of Houston! Areas that have lost their big trees lose their character. They are hot and sterile. Plans to regrow trees from small replanted ones will not be large again for DECADES. This is an incalculable loss to our community. It will destroy hundreds of tiny ecosystems and habitats for the urban wildlife that we get to enjoy. Please reconsider and reject any plan that destroys our oak trees. It is short sighted, and what ever benefits can be imagined should be weighed against the historic loss of these trees. There has to be a better way. On another note, I am relatively well-informed and never heard any of this until the signs of protest were put out. Surely such a huge and devastating plan should have had much more publicity. Thank you for taking this feedback into account.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
227	Ben	Hawkey	Hello, I am writing to express my deep concern about the number of trees planned to be removed under the current TIRZ plan. I am a big supporter of the idea of the plan to make a more walkable / bike-able neighborhood (I walk and ride around the area extensively and already use and appreciate the new bike lanes on Waugh), but removing so many mature trees to achieve it would be a terrible shame, and replacing old trees with several saplings is not a good solution. Again, I am very supportive of the goals of the plan, but it should be reviewed and revised to make preservation of the current trees the top priority and dramatically reduce the number that will be removed.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
228	Chaz	Miller	I wanted to see if someone from Montrose TIRZ could do an interview regarding the Montrose Blvd. improvements/trees?	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
229	R.	Rothford, M.D.	If you are going to destroy these oaks, would you consider carefully digging them up to preserve the roots, so they can be re-homed instead? I would gladly take 2-4 and pay for the transport and re-planting at my home.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
230	Robin L.	Michel	Houston's plans for more bicycle lanes is to be applauded, however, the current proposal in the Montrose neighborhood to add bicycle lanes at the expense of removing protected, mature trees to make room for these lanes is a terrible price to pay to accommodate more bicycles. I have driven the route from the Allen Parkway to Clay and can see no viable reason for removing these trees. It appears that the City is proposing bike paths in the median, great idea, there seems to be sufficient width to create the lanes without cutting the trees by placing one lane on one side of the trees and the other on the other side. This would allow much appreciated shade for the bicyclist while also saving our much needed trees May I suggest that looking at some European cities to see how they have incorporated the bike paths and pedestrian paths. If not enough room to accommodate both pedestrians and bicycles on one side of the street then one path could go on one side and the other on the other side. This would provide safe, eco friendly paths for both the pedestrians and the bicycles. I might add, the current practice of putting the bicycle paths on the edge of a busy street, with curbing to keep autos and bicycles in the proper lane seems unnecessarily dangerous for automobiles, especially at night.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
231	Erwin	Brown	Please develop a better plan that save the lives of oaks along Montrose Blvd	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
232	GG	Hsieh	You need a better plan!	Thank you for your comment.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
233	Sarah	Frazier	Today I went to the protest to save Montrose trees and saw many lovely neighbors. I was dismayed to see families from Wharton, the local magnet (no longer a neighborhood school) there counter-protesting, claiming TIRZ officials told them the trees were safe. I asked them where I could see that position from TIRZ. I got little in the way of an answer but one person told me to check TIRZ minutes. I came home and watched the entire Sept meeting's ppt. Bottom line, the trees aren't safe. Key points: 1. TIRZ is now saying it will save trees that pass muster with an arborist. But only certain trees that are not in the way - see slide in comments. There is still the expectation to destroy many trees - again, see slide. And anyone familiar with arborists will understand that if you choose the right arborist, few trees will be deemed healthy enough. Urban trees are under stress. 2. As my urban planner neighbor points out, the flood drainage part of the TIRZ plan calls for drainage pipes to be expanded to concrete squares as wide as my breakfast room. Installing these under Montrose Boulevard will destroy the live oaks' roots. This street doesn't flood – why are we doing this? 3. There is a goal to increase pedestrians and bikes, including 10 feet wide "paths" on either side. 4. There is no goal to slow down traffic on this very loud street. 5. #3 and #4 are fundamentally incompatible at least as long as cars have combustion engines. No one in the neighborhood chooses to walk on this street. How was the decision made to make Montrose Boulevard a recreational street? Who wanted that?	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
234	Sarah	Frazier	6. There are brand new bike paths already 2 blocks west. Waugh and Commonwealth. Why do we need to accommodate bikes in this way on Montrose? 7. I heard a few parents say we needed to sacrifice 100 year old trees to stop our kids from being run over or we were bad people. Yet the West Gray crosswalk and signal is quite modern and seems safe to me. If not, let's just fix that. 8. It was maddening to be told by these mostly out of neighborhood parents that they were PARENTS, they had KIDS, we needed to prioritize them. I am a mother, and a resident, and I have a kid who actually walks home from school every day - Carnegie. Not on Montrose Blvd, though. He's not stupid. And less shade wouldn't help. 9. Any live oak destroyed will be replaced only with a cypress. I like cypresses, but they provide less shade and destroy the continuity of the boulevard – its chief beauty. Why not a live oak? Is this just the favorite of the arborist? Why must we indulge this preference? 10. Part of the plan would stop residents from crossing Montrose in our cars on several blocks, including my own, Welch Street. Why??? For the sake of the extra wide path we don't need because this will never be a recreational street? Please allow this to be a normal street we can use in the normal ways. This will be an inconvenience several times a day, every day, for my family, and for all on these blocks. This just seems like gentrification that Montrose residents don't want. I feel confident this did not come up at the Hyde Park meeting at which this plan was presented. 11. Why can't a street be a non-fancy street, but with some old trees? And just make it more accessible? Here's the key slide on destroying trees in the September 18 TIRZ powerpoint – this is the newest version, correct?:	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments. There is additional analysis that is currently being performed for the W Clay Street intersection.
235	Danielle	Ranneft	Surely your plans to widen footpaths can be modified to allow the existing oaks to remain in place. These trees provide needed shade to pedestrians. As a resident who walks regularly in the area, I am concerned about removal of these trees. No mature trees = no shade = no improvement.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
236	Janice	Barber	I support the idea of making Montrose more walkable. However shade from mature trees is the largest factor in making a street walkable. I walk 2 miles in the neighborhood every day along varying routes. From June to October, and probably beyond this year, my route selection is entirely dictated by finding shade and tree shade is the highest priority. It makes no sense to expect removing trees to make the neighborhood more walkable or vibrant. It will just make it an unbearably hot concrete wasteland. Please do not spend money intended to enhance our neighborhood by destroying it. The traffic flow changes will also just increase speed on Montrose making it less pedestrian/pet friendly. It will increase traffic on parallel streets and will contribute further dividing the neighborhood into east and west Montrose. This plan does not serve our neighborhood. It further depletes the community and divides the nighborhood. In addition I would note that the public meetings regarding this project were not widely publicized and plans were not distributed widely in the neighborhood. Please reconsider. Yes to improving sidewalks...no to cutting tress. Most particularly NO TO CUTTING DOWN MATURE LIKE OAKS.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
237	Philip	Hilder	I have lived and worked in Montrose since the mid 90s . I own multiple properties in Montrose. I am distraught that the very entity that is entrusted to better the community is aiming to destroy neighborhood charm and character by planning to cut down established trees. The trees largely make this neighborhood desirable. I must question the judgement of the Board to even consider that this is a good idea.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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238	Jason	Alfaro	Good morning, I wanted to take a quick moment and introduce myself and our team to see if we may be able to assist with any conversation regarding Montrose trees. We are a team of arborists who specialize in tree consulting, preservation, permitting, surveys, inventories, and assessments. We work with municipalities, engineers, landscape architects and everyone in between to save time, money, and trees. We would love to be of assistance or a resource for you and your residents. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions. If there is a meeting coming up to discuss the trees I'd be more than happy to attend. Thanks! (PDF in attachments)	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
239	Jenny	Pate	As a property owner just north of West Gray, I was dismayed to learn of plans to remove numerous mature trees for "improved pedestrian access" along Montrose. I am a pedestrian and won't consider walking along a busy road devoid of shade a pleasure, especially in Houston's brutal heat and sun. I doubt very much that other walkers will either. Wider sidewalks are not worth the loss of shade trees. Please reconsider this plan and think about simply repaving to improve the safety of pedestrians.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
240	Judy	Dougherty	Please stop the tirz and developers from cutting these lovely old trees	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
241	Jerry	Bevel	As a Montrose resident and business owner I am writing to express my opposition to your proposed "improvement" plan that includes the removal of existing live oak trees along Montrose Boulevard. The proposed plan is unacceptable and should be revised in order to maintain the trees! I look forward to seeing a more acceptable plan presented to the community.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
242	Lane	Llewellyn	Kate! Thank you for assuring your Montrose community that our fabulous Live Oaks will be left alone. The lack of communication and the highly technical language used by the TIRZ created a very negative scenario for the future of the existing trees. Frankly, I understood but didn't trust what was going to happen. Now, I can breathe a sigh of relief knowing we are all committed to GREEN in the Montrose!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
243	Alexandre	L'Eveille	Mr. Mayor and TIRZ members, I can't even imagine any logic behind removing the beautiful trees that line our boulevard. With climate change resulting in extreme temperatures, we need MORE mature trees not fewer. As a walker, I try to take a route that takes me under the trees. The temperature difference is amazing. Trees also help with CO2 emissions. Any new trees planted will take years to reach the size to shade our streets and sidewalks. These projects are supposed to improve the city, not make them worse. The last project in the neighborhood with the bike lanes was a bit disappointing. While it did create a lane for bicyclists, it doesn't provide signals for their safety. It created a hazardous situation for both drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. I urge you to take a moment to rethink the tree removal. On the plans issued by TIRZ, it wasn't clear to a layperson that so many of our trees would be removed.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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244	Maryann	Lucarelli	Please do not take down 61 trees on MOntrose BLVD We need them more than the concrete.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
245	Bill	Kopitzke	I am writing concerning the proposed traffic plans for the Montrose project. Have you even CONSIDERED the traffic patterns? Blocking intersections every two blocks. What's going to happen? I go down the street, make a u-turn, try to get across a lane of traffic (in one block) to get to my street. And this is from two directions. Maybe you should drive on 11th street in the Heights. Great planning. Oh, and don't forget the wonderful design on Heights going south. It was finally removed after enough cars hit it. Turn lanes. Let's take Montrose and Richmond going south. What's going to happen? The turn lane is going to fill up, traffic will back up into one of the two lanes remaining. Then, the traffic lane will be blocked because the left turn signal hasn't activated. Tree pits? See how well they've worked on Shepherd (another project that has never ended due to lack of City organization). And the street leading into HCC. Plant the tree. Ignore. Tree dies. Garbage accumulates. Rats and raccoons. No one maintains. It will be interesting when someone find a dead human body in one. Bus priority signals. Ever driven by the ION complex? Traffic backed up for three to five blocks because no one has figured out how to make the lights work after the train arrives. Medians. Very pretty on paper. Who is going to maintain? The city certainly hasn't figured out how to do it. Check out Main Street through the Med Center. Or Richmond between Montrose and 527 spur. or Montrose and Fairview with the dead trees. Yes, I would be more than happy to attend the next public meeting. Obviously, public input is not even being considered, but it would be interesting to see who is coming up with these plans.	A traffic analysis has been performed by the design team to ensure that traffic is well accommodated. There is additional analysis that is currently being performed for the W Clay Street intersection. Turn lanes are designed as appropriate to accommodate the appropriate level of traffic on the street for left turns. There are no tree pits. Bus priority signals are not being used. The City of Houston will maintain the medians.
246	Nicki	Thomsen	I am flabbergasted that your group is planning on cutting down trees along Montrose Blvd in order to widen sidewalks to make it more walkable....you are effectively destroying trees that have withstood this summer's heat and drought. Any newly planted trees don't stand a chance of surviving for long if next summer is like this one. The oaks on Montrose provide much needed shade and are beautiful.. You will literally be destroying the heart of this neighborhood. People don't walk here but it isn't because the sidewalks are bad - this is Houston, people drive everywhere which is why we don't have a light rail system that takes people anywhere. What upsets me the most is this plan seems to have developed in secrecy,, probably because you know how outraged people will be. The first inkling I had of this was on Facebook yesterday. Shame on you and the city if this project goes forward.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
247	Bryon	Norton	There must be another way to setup the community walk and bike paths without destroying the trees. Montrose doesn't really flood even during Harvey. Excuse to waste more money. This city is getting hotter why would I want a 40+ year old tree to be removed to make way for over a hundred saplings which will probably not survive a single winter or summer. That is stupid. Fix the problem or you will be voted out of office.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
248	Leslie	Malkin-Gosdin	This is my personal notice to you as a concerned houstonian. I protest the taking down of the mature beautiful live oak trees in Montrose and join with fellow houstonians to keep these trees at whatever cost. The proposed plan needs to be scratched in favor of something else!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
249	Rian	Crane	Cutting down live oaks during climate catastrophe and major flooding events. I'm a concerned citizen of Houston, TX. I work and live in the Montrose area. We are living in the midst of global climate catastrophe which means record flooding events and heat. Removing mature oak trees will only increase these events in the Montrose area, ruining properties and making the neighborhood hotter, also removing mature trees is an eye sore that only makes Houston a more unattractive city. I moved back to my hometown after 2 years and I am embarrassed to say when I travel no one has anything good to say of Houston due to it's lack of green infrastructures filled with tall unzoned buildings and lack of trees. Your group must find a better way to improve sidewalks that does not involve making the area more prior to heat, flooding and looking undesirable to live in. Please leave the mature oaks alone.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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250	Ryan	Nelson	I'm a Montrose resident. I own a townhome on Welch St. I like the proposed redevelopment plan. I've seen a lot of opposition based on allegedly cutting down the live oaks on Montrose Blvd, but the plan accounts for that and involves planting more trees while making the sidewalks ADA accessible. That seems wonderful. Please keep up the good work!	Thank you for your support!
251	Dana	L.	Request a reconsideration of plan to remove valuable trees along Montrose Blvd. Trees are a greater asset to the community than wider sidewalks.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
252	Natalie	Davis	I office over on West Clay and it has just been brought to my attention that there is a new project in the works called the Montrose Blvd TIRZ Project. According to the project 53 protected city trees will be knocked down, along with 27 live oaks and hundreds more as the project continues to 59. with hundreds more. They will be replaced with 3" pole trees that will not have irrigation. Protected trees are not to be cut down! This is the first time the people in our neighborhoods have heard about this project, this project has been silently taking place, and it is in fact NOT TRUE that we have been informed about this for the past 3 years. A petition has been started, and people are furious about this development! We have also been notified that streets will be permanently closed , including part of West Clay – this will create a traffic nightmare! This project needs to be STOPPED – or reevaluated. There needs to be changes made, including the decision to NOT CUT DOWN protected trees, and century old oaks that bring beauty to Houston. We don't need wider sidewalks, especially along Allen parkway, that is what the park is for – the trails and sidewalks are plenty large. However, if sidewalks must be widened, then a new plan needs to be created for this is a disgusting action and one Houstonians will NOT BE HAPPY about. Our city needs more nature, more beauty, not less of it! We need our STREETS FIXED! Not sidewalks widened and tress cut down! And as a native Houstonian, I am AGAINST this project starting. I am against the removal of protected trees; I am against the removal of century old trees. I am against the closure of streets that are going to drive unnecessary traffic into surrounding neighborhoods. What will be done to make changes?? I would like to know.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
253	Brielle	Starost	Hello, Please do not cut down the wonderful oak trees in favor of this project. Wider sidewalks are not worth cutting down these trees that are beautiful, provide shade, and help the environment get rid of the pollution from all the cars and construction that go on around us. When I moved to Houston from the Midwest, my family was shocked by the amount of greenery and trees populating the area. I loved to be able to brag about that, but this project is nothing to brag about. Please think of a better way or give up the project. It's not worth the money.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
254	B.	Wilson	To whom it may concern (and it should concern us all), the sidewalk expansion project is absurd in its current form. The loss of up to 60 trees along Montrose Blvd to accommodate wider sidewalks would be tragic. As a resident of Montrose for almost 10 years me and my house are strictly opposed to this plan. The City of Houston should instead FIX THE ROADS which are so bad that they cause drivers to swerve towards the sidewalks to avoid pot-holes. We are vehemently opposed to the cutting down of any healthy Montrose Oaks or mature trees of any kind in order to expand sidewalks.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments. This project does fix the roads!

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
255	R.T.	Castleberry	You DON'T improve the Montrose by cutting down trees or making people walk on the median, you damned fools! Stop your idiotic campaign to destroy the live oaks on Montrose.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
256	Debra	Oliver	Please promptly provide all "public information" (as such term is defined under the Act and any regulations issued thereunder or any binding interpretations made thereof) relating to or arising out of the following: 1. A copy of the traffic impact study report conducted by or on behalf of the Montrose TIRZ with regard to the closure of the Montrose and West Clay intersection; 2. A copy of all traffic impact studies conducted by or on behalf of the Montrose TIRZ for adjoining and parallel streets with regard to the closure of the Montrose and West Clay intersection; I am happy to discuss any clarifications you may need and the most appropriate means of accessing, viewing, copying, or otherwise receiving these public records, including a rolling production schedule if necessary. Additionally, if any requested public information is subject to exclusion or redaction pursuant to the Act, please provide a summary of the excluded or redacted public information and the legal basis for such exclusion or redaction. I look forward to your prompt response in compliance with the Act.	Thank you for your comment. Such information may be made available per the Act.
257	Ishman	Ware	Day. As an original of this land, realm, and planet, stop cutting down trees, limbs, branches, shrubs at undergrowth. Stop. There are no trees that are poisoned, except for when you all are poisoning them. Cutting off their lower limbs, leaving their top limbs, making them top-heavy so when the ground is saturated in the wind blows, they fall over. Stop. Stop.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
258	Mani	Nezami	As a concerned citizen and resident, I find the proposed project to chop down the Montrose live oaks to be absolutely reprehensible!! Shame on you for proposing this ridiculous and pointless project during a time of extreme climate change. As if the scorching heat isn't horrible enough. Now let's get rid of the canopy which protects us all. Great thinking, geniuses! The Montrose live oaks are what give this neighborhood its charm. They are the reason why we moved our family here. And, I know I'm not alone here, but chopping down these beautiful trees will be the reason why we move out of this neighborhood. STOP YOUR STUPID PROJECT—WHICH I'M CERTAIN IS LINING SOMEONE'S POCKETS AND SCREWING THE RESIDENTS OF MONTROSE!!! Shame on you!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
259	Blake	Whitson	Please don't remove the trees on Montrose Blvd. If you really want to improve quality of life in the area, put proper lane markings at the intersection of Dallas and Dunlavy. That spot is far more dangerous than the trees on Montrose.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
260	Cody	King	Montrose TIRZ plans to cut down 61 established trees in phase 1 between Allen Parkway and Clay. This is not an appropriate plan, there is a way to expand the sidewalks around the trees and keep them as they are. New trees will struggle to thrive in our new harsher winters and months long 100 degree summers. We will never have trees like this again if we cut them down. From the Houston arbatorium to new construction, I have seen many 10-15ft newly planted trees bake and die in our extended ovens of a summer due to climate change. Additional these mature trees are not only a fixture and aesthetic gift to our community, but also help fight against the heat island effect and provide cooler micro climates around them that can keep people from overheating, potentially saving lives and help reduce energy use in the surrounding area. Regardless of these key reasons they should not be killed, 50 are already under our City Ordinance and their protection should be upheld. I urge you to protect these trees and demand a better plan that accommodates these Houston Treasures.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

Montrose Boulevard Improvements Project
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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
261	Margaux	Crump	To whom it may concern, I was recently made aware that live oaks and other trees in Montrose are at risk of being cut down. I am writing to ask that you please save our precious trees. Safe sidewalks are important, but our trees are vital for our clean air, shade, natural beauty, and for combating climate change. Additionally, this past summer was far too hot for a plan to cut down trees to be acceptable. It is scientifically proven that tree covered areas are cooler than areas where trees have been removed. No one wants to walk down a sidewalk without trees creating shade and planting new trees when we had STUNNING old live oaks already thriving there is not the solution. Our old oak trees are part of the fabric of this city. Especially Montrose. I currently live and spend the majority of my time in Montrose. I went to Lanier Middle School and the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts when it was located here. I later rented an apartment near the HEB on Dunlavy and then bought a home on West Alabama. Now I live with my mother in law on Hawthorne near Bering Church. Montrose is my home and what keeps me here is our beautiful trees. They are sacred. Please do not take the trees away from us. Please spare our trees. They are truly precious and irreplaceable.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
262	Clifford	Pugh	Dear Montrose TIRZ, Perhaps I am missing something but I have gone through all of the information on your website about the Montrose Boulevard Project and cannot find a map that pinpoints the protected trees that are slated to be removed. I think it will clear up some confusion if you can supply the following information: 1. A detailed map showing the location of each protected tree slated to be removed in the first phase of the project. 2. An accounting of the trees on the medians. How many protected trees on each median are slated to be removed? 3. How many protected trees on each median are slated to remain? If this is already in the report, please point me in the right direction to find it. Many thanks.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
263	Jennifer	Fallon	Hello, I think that the excuse about “constrained growing conditions” doesn’t really work, since these trees are doing fine. Especially the very large Post Oak trees. It is clear that some excuse has been found to remove *every tree* that is not in the median, for convenience of construction. Trees should be saved especially on the west side where only a sidewalk is planned, and plans should be revised to save the large Post Oaks particularly.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
264	Dorothea	Hosmer	I can not believe that anyone would consider cutting down mature trees for the sake of a bike path. I’m a bike rider myself and live close to Allen Parkway/Montrose and strongly oppose cutting any of our trees for this or any other project. We need to preserve nature not destroy it.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
265	Tim	Womble	I am absolutely opposed to cutting down trees on Montrose and ask that you come up with another plan.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
266	Suzy	Reierson	Hey guys! Why cut tress down that have been here for years and provided shade (esp needed with climate changed due to deforestation), a noise buffer to the ever escalating sound volume, and beauty for people and pets to spend time. I’m afraid you are destroying the very thing that makes the area desirable and profitable thus undermine you goals: people will leave the area, it become run down, and a greater crime scene. Study the evolution of cities like Chicago or San Francisco: please consider a ‘work around plan’ that we would all benefit from.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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267	Barbara	Oravetz	I know there has been much discussion on the project along Montrose concerning the trees. I live off of Dallas Street near Montrose and I fully support the project as it is currently supposed to be carried out. I don't think those opposing the plan understand how dangerous it is for pedestrians, runners and bikers along the way. Just last night I saw someone on a bike on the road you could barely see because the sidewalk is not able to be used. I too appreciate keeping as many trees, but so many along this road are in such bad shape and I really believe your plan will not only make this area safer, but a much more beautiful street once again. I would love to be safely able to walk down this street. Thank you for all the ensight the committee has had to put out such a well thought out plan. I really believe it is the vocal minority that oppose this plan.	Thank you for your support!
268	Juniper	Jairala	It is not acceptable to cut down the Montrose Boulevard live oaks for your purposes! These are pride and joy of Houston and Montrose and what attracts so many people to our beautiful city, and we need them for shade! Do not do this please! You're violating city ordinances.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
269	Paul	Herrera	I would like to provide my comments on the current Montrose Blvd. Project. I am against the current plan to cut down trees and replace them with more concrete which will increase global warming and could create a heat island in Montrose. As an avid bicyclist who rides throughout the city there is no need for a 10 foot bicycle shared use path along Montrose. It would be duplicative and dangerous for bicycle riders and pedestrian due to the traffic on Montrose. There are already protected bike lanes on Waugh which is only one block away from Montrose. There are plans to extend the Waugh protected bike lanes to Alan Parkway. Further, the same groups that are pushing for a shared use bike lane are proposing the Pat Walsh Bikeway along Woodhead less than a mile from Montrose. Woodhead and Dunlavy are old "bike routes" on residential streets with less traffic and have a bike/pedestrian light to access the Buffalo Bayou bike trails. Instead of destroying decades old trees that provide shade to everyone and are environmentally beneficial, one alternative would be to put a walking/running crushed granite path down the median similar to the one on Heights Boulevard. This would have minimal impact on the trees and provide additional walking and recreational opportunity for the neighborhood.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
270	Divya	Pande	As long term residents of Montrose (currently residing on Avondale in our renovated historic home), we are very concerned about the live oaks being cut down along Montrose Blvd, in favor of more concrete. Please come up with a better plan!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
271	Laura	Caille	Dear Mntrose TIRZ, Houston City Council Member Abbie Kamin (District C), and Mayor Turner -- I am a Montrose resident and writing to you about concerns with the Montrose Boulevard Improvements project, the location of which is from Allen Parkway to West Clay Street. This is Phase One of a four-phase project and currently this phase of the project is estimated to cost around $14,000,000. I, like many of my neighbors and residents of The Montrose, was not aware of this project until recently. This fact has been stated in the news, was stated on numerous occasions by attendees at last night's TIRZ meeting (held at the Montrose Center on 401 Branard Street), and the TIRZ board has also recognized this. One communication idea I brought up during the public comment segment at last night's meeting was to post a notice on the area of land affected (similar to those notices required for variances, whenever the City has a Public Works project they are communicating/advertising, etc.). I believe there is some common ground around the goals of this project: the infrastructure needs to be updated/improved and increased and congested traffic needs to be addressed. Preserving the mature trees in the Montrose (and along Montrose Boulevard) and safe and easily accessible walking and biking routes are also both worthy goals which do not need to be mutually exclusive. After listening to and reading about information on the project, I didn't see where the project provided: •clear, consistent, and adequate answers about the viability, sustainability, and suitability of replacement trees, as well as a clear and specific maintenance plan for the trees •how this redesign will affect traffic to neighborhoods along Montrose Boulevard, especially if cross streets will be permanently blocked	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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272	Laura	Caille	•the ongoing maintenance program after project completion (e.g., to ensure the sidewalks remain safe and in good condition) The potential closure of cross streets (my understanding is that seven streets could be affected) also concerns me as there is a high probability that there could be an increase in neighborhood traffic due to these closures. Has a traffic analysis been done? I would suggest closing some of these identified streets for a short period of time (a week?) to test out what a new traffic pattern could be and how it would impact these neighborhoods where the streets are mostly narrow. It is a great idea to create a safe and walkable Montrose Boulevard but not to the detriment of currently safe and walkable, adjacent neighborhoods due to a strong probability of traffic diversion. How would these street closures affect emergency response vehicles from getting to a neighborhood on one side of Montrose Boulevard to a neighborhood on the other side of Montrose Boulevard? There were a lot of good points brought up at last night's meeting. I believe that the project could only be made stronger if you would seriously consider these points. The project goals are good ones; I don't believe it is at the final stage of execution yet. Thank you for considering my concerns.	There is additional analysis that is currently being performed for the W Clay Street intersection. The other intersections are in Segment 2, which is not under design yet.
273	Dmitry	Bazykin	TIRZ Board and Montrose Blvd Project Team, Thank you for hosting another informative meeting yesterday evening, and for the invitation to continue to ask follow-up questions. I have a question specifically about trees vs power lines on the east and west sides of Dallas to Clay segment. The argument for removing most of the current trees has always been that they interfere with power lines and therefore CenterPoint butchers them. Fair enough; however, I never understood how replacing existing live oaks with new live oaks planted in essentially the same spots would solve the problem long term. Surely as new trees grow, they will start interfering with the same power lines? Now yesterday the gentleman from the project team (his name escapes me) mentioned that the team is working with CenterPoint to relocate the lines to the other side of the sidewalk, away from the trees (and from the roadway). That sounds like an excellent idea, but I have not seen that solution described or mentioned in writing anywhere (other than Figure 2 of the 09/29/2023 project update memo). Could you please point me towards a document that discusses that solution? A second follow-up question, of course, is obvious: if power lines can indeed be relocated, why would the existing live oaks need to be removed at all? I am not talking about trees that are "unhealthy or constrained" - only about those that are "seriously compromised by overhead utility lines" (quotes are from the TIRZ project update from 09/29/2023, p.3). If the utility lines are moved, would it be possible to preserve that subset of current mature live oaks? I look forward to your reply.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
274	RT	Castleberry	You don't cut down beautiful old live oak trees, you monstrous assholes! And I don't give two shits if power company employees have to trim them. It's job security for those employees!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
275	Joe	Fasullo	Montrose TRIZ, I was unable to make a public meeting due to conflicts with work and while I have looked at the plans online they do not show what trees will be removed as part of the current plan. I have reviewed the final design and as a resident of Montrose the current plan is not what I want my tax dollars spent on nor do I feel it's a priority for the community. Please create a plan that saves mature trees along Montrose or doesn't focus on Montrose Blvd at all! What should be priority and i would like to see addressed is Westheimer between shepard and elgin. This is a highly walked area with terrible road conditions. This corridor is home to some of the best restaurants in Houston and people come to the area from all over Houston and the world. Improving the corridor will be an improvement to the entire city.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
276	Ryan	Monju	My family and I live on Eberhard St, 3 blocks west of Montrose. We are excited for the improvement plan for Montrose Blvd. We believe that it will make the area a better place for all who live nearby by increasing the safety, walkability, and infrastructure of our area . I hope that you will go forward with the plan as proposed. We have a 4 year old, who will be attending Wharton Elementary School next year. We are especially appreciative of closing off W. Clay as a thorough street at Montrose Blvd to make walking to school with our child a much safer experience. We visit Buffalo Bayou Park regularly, and are looking forward to using the multi-use trail and the proposed pedestrian bridge over Allen Parkway to have easier access to the park. Also, improving and widening the sidewalks will make it much safer for us to walk to local restaurants nearby. Contrary to some comments online that suggest people don't walk along Montrose Blvd, we do it quite regularly even during the summer. Yes some trees will need to be cut down, and in the short term we may lose some shade. The improvement in pedestrian safety alone is worth sacrificing some trees. But, with the plan to plant 137 trees to replace the 57 trees I think it is a very thoughtful and comprehensive plan. In the near future, as the trees mature we will have abundant shade and a drastically improved street in terms of safety and walkability for all who use it. Whether that is walking, biking, or driving. Our area also needs updates to its infrastructure. This project will also address that issue. Increasing the capacity of the storm water retention system under Montrose, will decrease the chances of our area experiencing flooding. I know that the project from Allen Parkway all the way down to 59 will cause a lot of disruptions during the construction process. I think ultimately it will be worth the short term sacrifice to improve Montrose and make it a boulevard that we can all be proud of. Once again I hope you go forward with the plan as proposed.	Thank you for your support!

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277	Alice	McCarthy	Dear TIRZ Board Member: While I enthusiastically support many long-needed and decades overdue Improvements to the neighborhood—and am a grateful, almost daily user of the TIRZ-installed sidewalks on Waugh and Commonwealth—there must be a pause in going forward at this point to allow for more public consideration and input. I have been politically active my entire adult life and active in my neighborhood association since 1981, but even so I was unaware of the full scope and its many implications, even though I had heard a rather superficial TIRZ presentation at one civic association meeting. This is almost certainly true of many other residents. I've heard legitimate concerns from my neighbors and, after attending the September TIRZ presentation meeting at St. Stephens, I have some concerns myself and respectfully urge the TIRZ Board to place a hold on this project to allow for more residents' input. Thank you for your consideration.	Thank you for your comment.
278	Kevin	Strickland	Hi Montrose TIRZ, We've put forward a proposal to the city to name the Pat Walsh Bikeway. Our goal is to have the Mayor and City Council approve this by year end and we need your help! You can find the details of our proposal here: https://atotb.org/pat-walsh-bikeway/ Please also find attached a letter of support from Bike Houston that you can craft as your own.	Thank you for your support!
279	Kirste	Reimers	Attached is a photo for a suggested solution to keep trees along the proposed sidewalk paths. Please consider gravel or crushed granite to replace the planned concrete just along the area of the trees (see attached image).	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
280	Isabel	Greiner	Dear TIRZ/RDA, I have lived in Montrose since I was 5 years old. I'm 33. This is my home. I bought a house here down the street from my family's home. I'm raising my two sons in it. I love it here. For many reasons. But the trees are CENTRAL to why it is a good place to live and visit. The shade during the blazing hot summers. The herons and birds and the wildlife they bring with them... I live on Kipling St. so a 6 *foot* water line was put down my street this past year. The work was shoddy and maddening. The city's contractor violated environmental permit after environmental permit, especially as pertained to the two massive 100+ year old live oaks on my easement. So I feel fairly up to date on how this whole circus of doing-what-they-say-they're-gonna-do actually unfolds. Every day, the contractors violated their environmental permits which expressly prohibited them from severing roots larger than 3" diameter to build sidewalks. Every day, I watched the workers take their breaks under the shade of the trees, and then return to their work of haphazardly destroying them. The mere fact that we are endeavoring to make sidewalks accessible per ADA implies that we are trying to make the sidewalks for *people* -- all kinds of *people.* But in this hot city, people cannot survive without shade--that is without *massive* old trees. How can this plan be so short-sighted?? For a city with such a bright future?? Don't you realize that the new trees you plant and any trees that survive this wrath will destroy the concrete sidewalks and roads you poured on their root systems in 5-10 years?? Again, I've lived with these trees. And I've lived with the concrete poured on them. And I'm only in my 30s! It. doesn't. last. long.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
281	Isabel	Greiner	How is there not a more creative solution? Which allows cars, accessibility per ADA, and thriving old trees? I will not accept that this is the best that can be done. Don't they teach these engineers about bridges in school?? Build sidewalks higher. Here is but one creative solution. Surely if anyone was encouraged to think outside the box, there would be many more. Build a wide raised boardwalk with railings that can almost touch the trunks of trees. You will be able to make it so wide! You will love it! Wildlife will thrive underneath it. Under the shade canopy of old trees, humans will walk and use their wheelchairs and however else they move about this world. And people will visit it! It will be like San Antonio's River Walk for oak trees! Come on. You can do better. I *know* you can!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
282	Ethan	Zuck	Hello, I am a resident of Montrose in Houston and I am firmly against the removal of Montrose's trees. Suzanne Simard, Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of British Columbia, in Finding the Mother Tree reveals just how interconnected mother trees--the trees that have been around for a long time) are with each other and with its surrounding foliage. Removal of these mother trees will be detrimental to the health and vibrancy of this city, not to mention a disgrace and an injustice against the trees themselves. Please reconsider this harmful act to our city.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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283	Celestina	Billington	Hello, I am a Houston native with long ties to the Montrose. I am asking you to STOP the implementation of the TIRZ plan. Not only will it contribute to the extreme heat of our city —a dire issue that literally kills and hospitalized Houstonians—it will make our neighborhood less beautiful. Removing our neighborhoods most attractive feature—our historic trees, will negatively impact businesses, area tourism and will essentially destroy a major component of what makes our neighborhood unique. Locals will not forget the devastation of a plan like TIRZ and will remember at the next local election, I guarantee it.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
284	Sari	Karki-Rajabi	Please review and revise the current plan for Montrose Blvd. There has to be a better solution than removing mature trees and replacing them with small new ones. I personally saw the news about the finalized plans to remove trees on Nextdoor page. I have never seen a meeting invite or drafts of the plans. Perhaps you all need to do better job in efforts to reach out the people that live in Montrose area. Please organize meetings and notify all Montrose residents and businesses so all are informed by proposed changes so we can be engafrom the start.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
285	Domingo	Velazquez	I am a homeowner. The street that I live in and a few blocks around West Webster and Mason are clearly excluded from the 4th Ward. Midtown TIRF identifies us as part of the Montrose area. Then, I just checked your map and we are also excluded from plans. Can you help us identify the area on one the groups and include us on the Montrose or Midtown TIRF's?	Thank you for your comment.
286	Nancy	Higgs	Rais grant did not get W Dallas and Mandell on sort hold Reinsert Center esplanade No left turn lanes Ellis shared cost Carnegie Wharton and Gregory Cherryhurst sidewalks Halfway to W Dallas Knows nothing about west sidewalk update Post oaks at cemetery sneeze at Relocate 6 trees - maybe where?? Putting in 137 - no note of size or type Westheimer and West Alabama on Kirby all thriving oaks Current oaks have lived their life	Thank you for the comment. See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
287	Nancy	Higgs	Definition of affordable income - median income of area Medhi barf really appreciated last week presentation Turns are changing Isn't done W clay high speeds Medhi Can't X trees Doesn't know who Knew I rode with James	Thank you for the comment.

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288	Lisa Marie Amir	Marubio Fayyazuddin	Dear Board of TIRZ, My husband and I am writing to you as former Montrose residents and as people who love Houston and hope to be able to come back to live there full-time again in the future. We were not able to attend meetings that take place in Houston but we wanted to let you know that we are strongly opposed to the current proposal of removing the mature oak trees on Montrose Avenue. Losing these trees will be heart-breaking and it will affect the carbon footprint, shade canopy and character of the neighborhood. We both separately signed the petition through Save Montrose Live Oaks and even though this might seem like we are coming to the table late, we assure you that we were not given sufficient advance information about this project. We are urging you to pause the project beyond Dallas Street and allow for sufficient time to understand the impact that removing trees would have. The full plans for all of Montrose Boulevard are not out and it is so important to see how the tree removal actually fits into all of it. It will also determine our future commitment and investment in Houston as we begin to plan our retirement. I cannot even imagine walking down Montrose without the shade that those oak trees provide. We hope to hear from you and hope that you take our concerns seriously. Thank you for your consideration.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
289	Kathleen	Terracina	I am a Montrose District resident asking you to please save the beautiful mature oak trees in Montrose! It's proven there is a direct benefit from trees to combat rising temperatures from global warming. This plan is very short sighted destroying trees to aid walkability and provide bike lanes. With all the additional bike lanes already created in the area my husband and I still feel unsafe biking on busy roads such a Waugh. It's a greater loss to all residents to aid a few.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
290	Tim	Janssen	Hello, I was excited to note the proposed sidewalk expansion project in Montrose. However, concerningly, others noted that this plan includes cutting down many oaks along this and possible future trajectories. I am concerned that this aspect of the proposal would undermine the project's success, as the canopy provided by these trees is integral to keeping the area cool enough to attract pedestrians. As the impact of climate change worden, we should expect to rely increasingly on the shade of older trees to keep outdoor spaces accessible. Please reconsider the necessity to remove older oak trees on a case by case basis, keeping the project's overall aims in mind.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
291	Roy	Smith	Let's not destroy our beautiful historic neighborhoods by continuing to go against the wishes of our residents. Stop these ill advised projects now!	Thank you for the comment.
292	Jaroslaw	Aronowski	I am strongly protesting the harm to Montreal oak trees. It is uncivilized to put in harm beautiful symbolic trees for the unnecessary commercial project!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
293	Stuart	Schofield	To whom it may concern, As a long-time resident of the Montrose area along the W Dallas corridor - between Waugh and Montrose - I am appalled at the way in which this massive project has been developed and communicated. I can understand the need for roadway and sidewalk repairs/upgrades along Montrose. But such upgrades should not necessitate the destruction of healthy, mature trees. I'm sure all here are aware - and hopefully can appreciate - that a significant differentiating factor for Houston versus Dallas, Austin, & San Antonio, is our canopy of beautiful old oak, live oak, and pine trees. These trees provide shade (protecting against our summer heat - reducing individual exposure and reducing energy bills), create oxygen (the very fresh air we need to breathe), and absorb carbon dioxide (helping reduce Houston's notable air quality issues). I find it ironic and hypocritical that a city administration that is constantly on the fight against climate change would propose the elimination of its tree canopy in favor of more concrete. In no way can you remove 57 mature trees that have grown for decades and replace them with 3-7 foot young saplings without negatively impacting the environment for many years to come. For the benefit of all residents of Houston, not just in Montrose, the city and Montrose TIRZ need to think hard about their priorities and values. This project should be scrapped in its present form and returned to the drawing board with extensive community input. Your roadway/sidewalk upgrades and re-design should be developed AROUND your beautiful trees, not THROUGH them.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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294	Patrick	Simmons	Hello All, The Montrose TIRZ project is exciting but some aspects are also very concerning. The large trees in the Montrose area make it a wonderful walking place but removing the trees is a big concern. It would be great if some compromise could be make like: DON'T BUILD A SIDEWALK ALONG THE HISTORIC GERMAN CEMETERY * Eliminate the sidewalk on the west side btwn Allen Pkwy and Dallas near the historic German cemetery * This very narrow area does not currently have a sidewalk. * It would save the oldest trees, it would avoid building a sidewalk of questionable value and it would save money that could be spent on better replacement trees, or even potentially moving some of the trees which are capable of surviving. What's more is that it preserves the dignity and sanctity of this historic German cemetery where Gus Wortham among other notable Houstonians is buried. BIGGER REPLACEMENT TREES * Use 6" replacement trees, like what was done on Bagby for a similar walk/bike path project * It makes a huge difference in how quickly the replacement trees begin to provide shade and how well they blend into the existing canopy of the surrounding areas My family and I moved to the Montrose area within the last few years and one of the reasons was the beautiful trees, which provide shade to make it a walk able place. Hopefully we can keep the larger trees or replace them with larger 6 in replacements.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
295	Paul	Herrera	The current plan based on the presentation on October 16th calls for a 10 foot sidewalk with a 6 foot buffer on the west side and a 10 foot shared use path with 6 foot buffer on the east side between Dallas and Clay. Whereas, from Dallas to Allen Pkwy. there is a 6 foot sidewalk with a 5 foot buffer on the west side and a 10 foot shared use path with a 5 foot buffer on the east side. Why is a 10 foot sidewalk and a 10 foot shared use path needed between Dallas and Clay needed and is a 5 foot buffer required on both sides? Quoting from your answers last April, "Shared use paths in lieu of first-last-mile sidewalks would only be feasible with significant tree removal". Due to the widening of the sidewalk and addition of a shared use path the median is going to be reduced from 30 feet to 20 feet. While the presentation states, "Median narrowing from 30-ft to 20-ft will not contribute to tree loss." the tree expert during the presentation mentioned that the narrowing of the median would have an impact on the trees in the median which would require additional maintenance. Again, quoting from your answers last April, "Montrose Boulevard is a key north-south vehicular, transit, and walking corridor. The Walking Priority Street cross-section meets the street's vehicular capacity needs while also providing a wide, tree- shaded sidewalk for pedestrians and First- & Last-Mile bicycle trips. Recent and future bikeway projects on parallel streets such as Yoakum and Stanford provide parallel routes for bicyclists on lower-volume, lower-speed streets." With these "recent and future bikeways" I don't see a need for a shared use path along Montrose, especially, since it requires removal of existing trees. Finally, the shared use path will only be a half mile long. While it connects to the Buffalo Bayou trails it then goes no where like many bikeways.	The 10 foot-wide sidewalk on the west side between Dallas and Clay is a high-comfort sidewalk width that is desired for greater walkability. The shared use path on the east side provides a crucial bike connection to Buffalo Bayou Park. The 5 to 6 foot buffer area is a suitable width for planting new trees that allow the roots enough room for proper tree development. It also provides a safety buffer for pedestrians and bicyclists The shares use path is intended to extend further south during the Montrose Boulevard Segment 2 improvements. See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
296	Troy	Fields	Sirs, I wanted to express my disagreement with the current plan to uproot trees along Montrose and request that it be changed to protect more trees. I sincerely believe a more comprehensive study is needed for traffic and the negative effects of closing streets and removing so many trees.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
297	Mary Ellen Tom	Whitworth	Please see attached comments on Montrose TIRZ Projects.	Thank you for your comment.
298	Steven	Henderson	Good morning, Please see attached comment for the sidewalk improvement project. Let me know if you have any questions.	Thank you for your comment.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
299	Jonna	Hitchcock	We were copied on this email, but I see that it was sent to the wrong address for Montrose tears so I am forwarding it so that you can include it in the official public commentary about the project. This gentleman, is part of a sizable group of rational cyclists, who, unlike the extreme factions within the biking community do not wish to see a shared use path on Montrose, and especially if the cost is dozens of trees. Even without the tree loss, they oppose the idea because they think that I shared his path there does not make sense, and will be more dangerous not less dangerous for both pedestrians and cyclists. Paul asks a very good question here about wanting to understand who and how many cyclists actually weighed in on that request which caused such a cataclysmic change to the project plan.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
300	Paul	Herrera	I listened to the presentation and public comments on October 16th meeting. I support improving the sidewalks. The only comment about bike use and the 10 ft shared use was in the presentation. There were no public comments in support biking on Montrose. Even Kevin Strickland did not support the shared use path. If the 10 ft shared use path were only 6 ft there would no need to reduce the median. Even the tree expert noted that reducing the median would impact the trees which would need more support. Who and how many in the public asked for the 10 ft shared use path?	Thank you for your support! The shared use path is desired by the community and was expressed by people in the previous Open House public meeting. See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
301	Katy	Hogan	Dear Sirs and Madams of the City of Houston: I would like to pass on a written public comment by a fellow Montrose neighbor and parent who wanted to make sure her voice was heard. My name is Sruthi Thomas and I am the parent of a child who walks to and from Wharton Dual Language Academy and a pediatric rehabilitation medicine physician in the medical center. I also speak on behalf of my husband, Ajay Thomas, a pediatric neurocritical care physician at the same institution. We are strongly in support of improving Montrose Blvd to facilitate safer walking. This is extremely crucial to improving our neighborhood and clearly a matter of public health. It will improve the safety of all individuals in Montrose, both children and adults, fight obesity and mental health difficulties while increasing access to the outdoors, and make our neighborhood more accessible to those who have movement impairments. We find it absolutely appalling that one of the criticisms of this infrastructure program is that a child has not yet died, so why make the changes? As physicians who directly care for children who have suffered brain injuries and polytrauma as a result of automobile-pedestrian accidents, death should not be the metric. Sometimes surviving is as devastating as death. We dare you to look at one of these children or their family members and still say that it is ok if one of our neighborhood children suffers a similar fate because of our inaction.	Thank you for your support!
302	Katy	Hogan	I understand the concerns regarding removing existing trees, especially in light of the perils of climate change. However, this proposal has thoughtfully addressed this aspect, by protecting live oaks and only removing diseased and space limited trees. It is also going a step further and planting twice as many new trees to improve our local ecosystem. I hope that this will allow you to see past some of the resistance to this infrastructure proposal. As a mother and a physician, I implore you to envision the collective well-being of our community, recognizing that safeguarding our children's lives extends beyond the bounds of mere statistics, but instead embodies the essence of compassion, foresight, and proactive care. Let us create a safer path for our future generations to walk upon, nurturing not only their physical safety but also their mental and emotional well-being, fostering a resilient and thriving neighborhood for all.	Thank you for your support!
303	Robert	Sheppard	As a long-time Montrose homeowner, I am disturbed at the lack of communication from the Montrose TIRZ regarding the plans for Montrose Boulevard. I am an active participant in our civic association and keep up with the neighborhood, but I was only recently made aware of what is going on with our tax dollars. For a project with such a broad impact on this community, the TIRZ has to do a better job. Regarding the tree destruction that has been planned, it's simply unacceptable. It is clear that tree preservation has not been a priority for this project. We have been told that the existing trees don't have space, but they've made space for new trees. We've been told that the power lines interfere with the existing trees, but they've also said Centerpoint can move the power lines for the new trees. Planting 3" caliper trees in any amount simply can't replace mature, established trees. This project can incorporate our existing trees and also provide walkable sidewalks for the community. It's not an either or situation. This phase of the project will set the standard for the remaining phases and allowing the wholesale destruction of these neighborhood trees will doom many other trees on Montrose Boulevard as this project expands. Please work with the community to come up with a plan that serves everyone's interests and does not destroy the trees that make our neighborhood unique.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
304	Cynthia Robert	Greenwood Molder	To the TIRZ board: I live very near the corner of Montrose Blvd, and I OPPOSE the plan to "improve" the walkability of Montrose Blvd. Montrose is not a safe or pleasant street to walk on anymore, as it used to be ten years ago. The plan as outlined will make increase traffic on Willard St., making life for residents extremely unpleasant, while jeopardizing the safety of our children and pets. Please save the mature oak trees and go back to the drawing board. This is a poorly conceived plan, which sacrifices the greatest asset of Montrose Blvd, and which will probably yield relatively few additional pedestrians. (I rarely see people biking on the new bike lanes on Waugh Drive. This proposed development will probably yield a relatively low number of pedestrians and will negatively impact the quality of life of my neighbors on the 1100 block of Willard.)	There is additional analysis that is currently being performed for the W Clay Street intersection. See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
305	Barb	Fingar	I'm concerned about the tree loss the Montrose project will bring, as currently designed. Please consider the following: DON'T BUILD A SIDEWALK ALONG THE HISTORIC GERMAN CEMETERY BUILD ONLY FROM ALLEN PARKWAY TO DALLAS FOR NOW, THEN PAUSE TILL THE SEGMENT 2 DESIGN IS IN KNOWN BIGGER REPLACEMENT TREES Use 6 inch instead of 3.5 inch trees Thank you for your consideration	The City of Houston desires a sidewalk on the west side along the cemetery for sidewalk connectivity. See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
306	Vincent	Di Cosimo	To all concerned: In a time where we need both the beauty and the co2 capture that these trees and other all provide, it is absurd that the TIRZ would consider cutting them down. Please reconsider and save the trees. Thanks,	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
307	Joyce	Frassanito	Dear Board, I am am appalled that the board would even consider the destruction of magnificent live oak trees on the boulevard. They give us a gorgeous natural canopy, cool shade, carbon absorption, beauty, and honor our history. Most civic organizations strive to add trees…trees that will take 50-100 years to equal what we already have. Please use your talents to preserve their natural beauty and our heritage	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
308	Phebe	Reasoner	Vote to save Montrose trees!!!!!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
309	Laura	Caille	Dear Montrose TIRZ, Houston City Council Member Abbie Kamin (District C), and Mayor Turner -- I am a Montrose resident and writing to you about concerns with the Montrose Boulevard Improvements project, the location of which is from Allen Parkway to West Clay Street. This is Phase One of a four-phase project and currently this phase of the project is estimated to cost around $14,000,000. I, like many of my neighbors and residents of The Montrose, was not aware of this project until recently. This fact has been stated in the news, was stated on numerous occasions by attendees at last night's TIRZ meeting (held at the Montrose Center on 401 Branard Street), and the TIRZ board has also recognized this. One communication idea I brought up during the public comment segment at last night's meeting was to post a notice on the area of land affected (similar to those notices required for variances, whenever the City has a Public Works project they are communicating/advertising, etc.). I believe there is some common ground around the goals of this project: the infrastructure needs to be updated/improved and increased and congested traffic needs to be addressed. Preserving the mature trees in the Montrose (and along Montrose Boulevard) and safe and easily accessible walking and biking routes are also both worthy goals which do not need to be mutually exclusive. After listening to and reading about information on the project, I didn't see where the project provided: •clear, consistent, and adequate answers about the viability, sustainability, and suitability of replacement trees, as well as a clear and specific maintenance plan for the trees •how this redesign will affect traffic to neighborhoods along Montrose Boulevard, especially if cross streets will be permanently blocked	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
310	Laura	Caille	•the ongoing maintenance program after project completion (e.g., to ensure the sidewalks remain safe and in good condition) The potential closure of cross streets (my understanding is that seven streets could be affected) also concerns me as there is a high probability that there could be an increase in neighborhood traffic due to these closures. Has a traffic analysis been done? I would suggest closing some of these identified streets for a short period of time (a week?) to test out what a new traffic pattern could be and how it would impact these neighborhoods where the streets are mostly narrow. It is a great idea to create a safe and walkable Montrose Boulevard but not to the detriment of currently safe and walkable, adjacent neighborhoods due to a strong probability of traffic diversion. How would these street closures affect emergency response vehicles from getting to a neighborhood on one side of Montrose Boulevard to a neighborhood on the other side of Montrose Boulevard? There were a lot of good points brought up at last night's meeting. I believe that the project could only be made stronger if you would seriously consider these points. The project goals are good ones; I don't believe it is at the final stage of execution yet. Thank you for considering my concerns.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments. There is additional analysis that is currently being performed for the W Clay Street intersection. Closing the median opening for a short period would not be an adequate representation of long-term changes in traffic patterns.
311	Dmitry	Bazykin	TIRZ Board and Montrose Blvd Project Team, Thank you for hosting another informative meeting yesterday evening, and for the invitation to continue to ask follow-up questions. I have a question specifically about trees vs power lines on the east and west sides of Dallas to Clay segment. The argument for removing most of the current trees has always been that they interfere with power lines and therefore CenterPoint butchers them. Fair enough; however, I never understood how replacing existing live oaks with new live oaks planted in essentially the same spots would solve the problem long term. Surely as new trees grow, they will start interfering with the same power lines? Now yesterday the gentleman from the project team (his name escapes me) mentioned that the team is working with CenterPoint to relocate the lines to the other side of the sidewalk, away from the trees (and from the roadway). That sounds like an excellent idea, but I have not seen that solution described or mentioned in writing anywhere (other than Figure 2 of the 09/29/2023 project update memo). Could you please point me towards a document that discusses that solution? A second follow-up question, of course, is obvious: if power lines can indeed be relocated, why would the existing live oaks need to be removed at all? I am not talking about trees that are "unhealthy or constrained" - only about those that are "seriously compromised by overhead utility lines" (quotes are from the TIRZ project update from 09/29/2023, p.3). If the utility lines are moved, would it be possible to preserve that subset of current mature live oaks? I look forward to your reply.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
312	Greg S.	LaGrande	I am writing as President of Neartown Association, on behalf of Neartown-Montrose Super Neighborhood 24, to express our support for the Montrose TIRZ 27 Montrose Boulevard Improvement Project and our concern that this project not be delayed. We are keenly aware of the controversy playing out recently in the media over this project, with claims that the Montrose TIRZ will unnecessarily remove numerous trees. We believe that expanding the tree canopy along the boulevard is a vital priority, but of equal priority are the need to mitigate frequent street flooding and the desire to increase safety and comfort for all users of the boulevard. As you know, Montrose Blvd. is the primary north-south street through the heart of our neighborhood. Neartown-Montrose is experiencing tremendous redevelopment and densification, putting increasing strain on our aging infrastructure. This TIRZ project promises to address much-needed upgrades that will enable the infrastructure to better accommodate the growth, as well as greatly enhance safety and comfort. Beyond the clear need for improvements, these factors lead us to strongly support the TIRZ Montrose Blvd Improvement Project: The proposed Montrose improvements have been guided by in-depth studies: oThe Montrose Drainage Study, which ranked Montrose Blvd. number one among potential drainage projects to begin to reduce street flooding in our area oThe Walk+Bike Study, which focuses on what's needed to make Montrose more walkable and bikeable oThe Montrose Livable Centers Study, in which Neartown actively participated, and which clearly demonstrates the community's interest in streets that are greener, safer, and more comfortable and attractive for pedestrians and cyclists	Thank you for the support!
313			• The TIRZ has invited community scrutiny and input and has been responsive. For example, the Board has held at least three public meetings on the project in the last year (which Neartown has publicized), including two in a format that allowed attendees to view detailed plans and talk directly to project team members. In response to community feedback, refinements have been made to the plans, e.g., adding a shared-use pedestrian/bike path where feasible, upgrading pedestrian signals, preserving median trees and planting many more trees. • The TIRZ is collaborating with METRO on its Montrose 56 BOOST line, which will mean a greatly enhanced major transit corridor through the neighborhood. We applaud the TIRZ Board's distribution of additional detailed information in response to the questions that have been raised on the tree plan. We look forward to continuing opportunities to provide support and feedback to the TIRZ and its project team and are eager to see the project proceed on its current schedule.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
314	Domingo	Velazquez	I am a homeowner at 1801 West Webster St, Houston, TX 77019. The street that I live in and a few blocks around West Webster and Mason are clearly excluded from the 4th Ward. Midtown TIRF identifies us as part of the Montrose area. Then, I just checked your map and we are also excluded from plans. Can you help us identify the area on one the groups and include us on the Montrose or Midtown TIRF's?	Thank you for the comment. We are unable to help at this time.

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315	Ryan	Monju	My family and I live on Eberhard St, 3 blocks west of Montrose. We are excited for the improvement plan for Montrose Blvd. We believe that it will make the area a better place for all who live nearby by increasing the safety, walkability, and infrastructure of our area . I hope that you will go forward with the plan as proposed. We have a 4 year old, who will be attending Wharton Elementary School next year. We are especially appreciative of closing off W. Clay as a thorough street at Montrose Blvd to make walking to school with our child a much safer experience. We visit Buffalo Bayou Park regularly, and are looking forward to using the multi-use trail and the proposed pedestrian bridge over Allen Parkway to have easier access to the park. Also, improving and widening the sidewalks will make it much safer for us to walk to local restaurants nearby. Contrary to some comments online that suggest people don't walk along Montrose Blvd, we do it quite regularly even during the summer. Yes some trees will need to be cut down, and in the short term we may lose some shade. The improvement in pedestrian safety alone is worth sacrificing some trees. But, with the plan to plant 137 trees to replace the 57 trees I think it is a very thoughtful and comprehensive plan. In the near future, as the trees mature we will have abundant shade and a drastically improved street in terms of safety and walkability for all who use it. Whether that is walking, biking, or driving.	Thank you for the support!
316	Ryan	Monju	Our area also needs updates to its infrastructure. This project will also address that issue. Increasing the capacity of the storm water retention system under Montrose, will decrease the chances of our area experiencing flooding. I know that the project from Allen Parkway all the way down to 59 will cause a lot of disruptions during the construction process. I think ultimately it will be worth the short term sacrifice to improve Montrose and make it a boulevard that we can all be proud of. Once again I hope you go forward with the plan as proposed.	Thank you for the support!
317	Mitchell	Young, M.D.	Longtime Montrose resident. Global warming, heat domes…Please DO NOT cut down trees in the Montrose. Bad idea from termites from outer space like the size of bugs from outer space in Men In Black. Less, not more concrete! Long live shade.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
318	Katharine	Chauvin	Please, PLEASE do not do this. Cutting these trees will ruin the look of the boulevard and raise temperatures. At a time when we should be looking for ways to make our cities greener, it is INSANITY to cut down the shady oaks we all love.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
319	Greg B.	Shannon	Montrose TIRZ board: I was not given sufficient advance information about this tree removal project and the tree destruction it brings. This really makes me angry. I request the project be put on hold beyond Dallas Street until the full impact to the trees and traffic can be thoroughly understood, and until the full plans for all of Montrose Blvd. are released. In summation, this appears to be a totally ill advised project that does not need to happen in any way whatsoever!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
320	Dana L	Bethancourt	Good afternoon, I am the school nurse at Wharton Dual language Academy. I also live in this community. I am very concerned about our students/families walking or riding their bikes to school. We need to create a safer avenue for our students and families to get to the parks and various green spaces as well. Last year Wharton had 209 students zoned to our school. Our zone is very small https://www.houstonisd.org/cms/lib2/TX01001591/Centricity/Domain/32468/boundarymaps/Wharton_K8.pdf. Within our zone many families drive to school because the sidewalks and crossings are unsafe. If we can make Montrose more walkable, we can decrease motorized traffic and lessen congestion before and after school. HISD has not funded crossing guards for our school. Parents are carrying their own stop signs so they can cross the streets with their children. Additionally, people with disabilities navigate around the sidewalks and go into the street to get to their destinations. Bottom line, I support what TIRZ is doing to improve the infrastructure on Montrose, Stanford, W. Gray and W. Dallas streets. Let’s be more concerned about safety and less about trees that continue to degrade our sidewalks, roadways, and driveways. Also, plant trees that are better suited for this environment and don’t have as large a root system.	Thank you for the support!

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321	Colin	McCulley	I support the proposed changes to montrose blvd. The road, drainage, utility, and sidewalk improvements are sorely needed. Please don't let the squeaky wheel protestors cancel the planned work.	Thank you for the comment.
322	Kristi	Santi	Not terribly pleased to have to hear about such a project through a volunteer organization. The city has failed the citizens in a big way! NO TRANSPARENCY = BAD GOVERNMENT. Also, what a lame excuse - can't tell if the signatures on a petition are valid?!?! Stalling and hiding - that is what this project is about. Where are flyers, emails, text messages (yes we all know the city has our information) informing people like me who live off Marconi about road closures? Parents need to use crosswalks - safety of their own child should be of paramount concern. Teaching bad habits should not be encouraged. Is anyone on this project a resident of this area? The traffic patterns are terrible, the city is allowing two houses to built on one lot, thus, no parking is available in neighborhoods anymore, and we have no say! https://www.change.org/p/save-montrose-s-live-oak-trees-preserve-our-shade-canopy/u/32028750?cs_tk=ArMO6R6RehiIHNjPP2UAAXicyyvNyQEABF8BvJOesMUabtTILQENq6YHPuY%3D&utm_campaign=b2e240fbc9d34f30a8907c24d1431b76&utm_content=initial_v0_6_0&utm_medium=email&utm_source=petition_update&utm_term=cs	Thank you for the comment. There is additional analysis that is currently being performed for the W Clay Street intersection.
323	Margaret	Miller	To the TIRZ Board: I am very distressed to hear that there are plans to remove many very old trees to make way for a sidewalk when other plans could implement the sidewalk and save these trees, which add value to the surrounding property and beautify this neighborhood. Please reconsider this plan. I understand that parents walking to school need a safe space for their children but sacrificing these trees cannot be the only way. Thank you for listening to the residents of this neighborhood.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
324	Clifford	Pugh	Dear Montrose TIRZ board and city officials, I am writing in regard to the first phase of the Montrose Boulevard project. There is still time to make improvements to the project. I hope you will consider these proposals, which are offered in the spirit of compromise. 1. Under the current plan, every single tree along both sides of Montrose from Allen Pkwy to West Clay will be cut down (excluding trees in the median). The entire proposed project will extend along Montrose Boulevard to the Southwest Freeway. If the 10-foot sidewalks extend all the way along Montrose Boulevard as the first segment proposes, that means that every live oak tree along the entire route will have to be cut down. It seems more reasonable at this point to build only the segment from Allen Parkway to Dallas and pause the segment from Dallas to West Clay so that a comprehensive design for the entire project can be established. We understand the need for the large sidewalk alongside the new Ismaili center, from Allen Parkway to Dallas, but wouldn't it make more sense to stop at Dallas for now until the remainder of segment 2 (up to Westheimer) can be better evaluated and with the tree and traffic impact well understood before proceeding? 2. Look into the possibility of not building a sidewalk along the small segment of the historic Houston German cemetery The two 150-year-old 25-26" caliper healthy Post Oak trees that guard the Magnolia cemetery entrance could be saved with some innovative thinking.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments. 2. The City of Houston desires the sidewalk along the cemetery for greater connectivity.
325	Clifford	Pugh	One of the main reasons it has been part of the design is because the City of Houston Public Work's department requires builders who are putting in a new street to have sidewalks on each side. Because the TIRZ project moves the entire Montrose Blvd east towards the Ismaili center site, this is considered a new road and hence a Public Works variance would be needed to forego building a sidewalk on west side We think it is very much worth pursuing that variance. It would save the oldest trees, it would avoid building a sidewalk of questionable value and it would save money that could be spent on better replacement trees, or even potentially moving some of the trees which are capable of surviving. It also preserves the dignity and sanctity of this historic German cemetery where Gus Wortham among other notable Houstonians is buried.3. Plant bigger replacement treesThe Deputy Chief of Staff for the Mayor, Walter Hambrick, suggested that we look at the replacement trees which were planted on Bagby near City Hall when they similarly had to remove some old growth Live Oaks for a shared pedestrian/bike path. He felt these replacement trees were not too bad, even though they are much smaller than many of the ones that had to be taken out. We agree! These trees are much better than what is being proposed for the Montrose project. Instead of 3.5"trees, they put in ~6" caliper trees on Bagby. It makes a huge difference in how quickly the replacement trees begin to provide shade and how well they blend into the existing canopy of the surrounding areas. We think committing to put in 6" replacement trees would be a big win for Montrose and the Montrose TIRZ.4. Look again at traffic considerationsResidents in Council Member Kamin's district recently learned that no traffic or safety studies were ever done for the residential side streets, only for Montrose itself. They committed to do a traffic study of Marconi and also Columbus on the east side, as we understand it.There was also a great suggestion put forward by a couple of people at the 10/16 TIRZ meeting to test the concept of closing the thru streets by doing it on a temporary basis first, to accurately determine the impact to the nearby neighborhoods and businesses, before proceeding with a permanent closure. There was no commitment one way or the other on this proposal.Another big traffic safety concern that came up is the placement of stop signs on the streets coming out to Montrose. The site walk team was told that the stop signs would be placed 16' back from where each side street meets Montrose, behind the 10' shared-use path and 6' buffer zone.This would mean that cars would stop at the stop sign and then need to move up to be able to see if it was safe to turn onto Montrose and to be ready to accelerate when they have an opening to merge into the Montrose traffic. Most of the day, cars will be blocking the envisioned path. Pedestrians of all mobility levels and cyclists will need to weave their way through however many cars are waiting for their change to turn. This plan is an accident waiting to happen and since safety is the goal of many of these changes, it is worth another review and perhaps a test to see if this is really a good idea. Many thanks for your help in looking into these issues. I look forward to your response.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
326	Aintre	Antonoff	I am vehemently opposed to the entire idea of tirz 27. Why are so many people running it that do not live in Montrose? Real Estate Developers? Stop advertising your meetings in free newspapers that arenot found in Montrose 'Community Impact.' I implore you to rethinkthe tree plan for the first phase of the Montrose ``improvement." Bald cypress trees do not provide 1/10 of the canopy that live oak trees do and are brown for a large part of the year. 3 inch trees will die shortly before their canopy can develop. Please note the 3 inch live oak trees planted along the Shepherd Street improvement at the What-a-burger corner. All dead. As to safety for school children at the dual language school. Please take note that the majority of children are driven to school which makes closing Clay a very bad idea.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
327	Matt	Latham	To Whom it May Concern: Greetings, my name is Matt Latham; I am an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist (TX-3737B) and Member in good standing with the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA). I am one of 5 BCMAs in the Houston Area, and 1 of 2 ASCA Members in the Houston Area. I've been in the Tree Care Industry for about 2 decades, and have been at least a Certified Arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture since 2010. Over the Years, I've seen and participated in every aspect of tree care including municipal and utility tree work and consulting, and have strived hard over the years to provide added value to the trees and people that I serve. As a competition tree climber, I frequently placed within the top 5 at the competitive level. As a consultant, I've been on boards of directors with the likes of Neil Sperry and several other big names in the industry, and for 3 years was the guest arborist on the Texas Home Improvement Show, broadcast weekly throughout Texas (Houston included). I've been hired by several universities and municipalities to help with various projects, and have been heavily involved in the successful transplanting, care, and management of many high-value trees and those of great historical value, including the 'Goose Island Big Tree,' which is estimated to be in excess of 1000 years old. All that being said, I'm just a regular guy who lives for God-Almighty and my family, loves people, and loves trees.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
328	Matt	Latham	I was recently contacted by some concerned citizens of the neighborhoods surrounding Montrose Blvd. about the impending construction project slated to begin in early 2024. I'm in the process of reviewing the plans and public information that has been put forth. Already in my beginning "discovery" phase of my review, I'm seeing some major flaws in the design work, and, it is my professional opinion that several small changes in the design could lead to the salvation of many majestic and historic trees along Montrose Blvd., as well as preserve the extreme economic value, property value, and environmental integrity that these trees bring to the great city of Houston. To my understanding, (with the recent changes) Houston is now arguably the 2nd largest city in the United States of America. and let's face it; Houston has some AWESOME trees! Unfortunately, within the local Arboriculture industry, Houston has historically been FAR behind the rest of the state in terms of proper arboriculture, and in terms of having a good balance of qualified professionals taking care of the unique historical trees within its borders. Quite frankly, we used to joke over a decade ago about how pitiful Houston Tree Care was, and I'm glad to have relocated to the area and getto be a big part of the overall improvement of Houston Arboriculture! In my professional opinion, This project does require the complete removal of some mature and historic trees by default. That being said, I know that, on the other hand, this project presents a unique opportunity for some creative problems solving to be made in a cost-effective manner that would greatly improve the preservation of as many trees as possible, and establish itself as a city that truly cares about it's trees, it's citizens, and the unique environments and ecosystems that call Houston their home!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
329	Matt	Latham	In addition, it appears as though there is a very large population that is "up in arms" about the plans to destroy many of the mature and historic trees that are currently in place. Making some simple changes to the plans, to allow for more trees to be saved, will give the citizens of Houston the impression that the TIRZ and the city as a whole, one that truly cares about the opinions of its citizens and the beautiful trees we own and manage. Again, I am in the beginning phases of my discovery on this project and will spend the next few week or so going over current plans with a fine tooth comb to see what kind of small changes can be made to vastly improve the project, the urban forests, and the city's relations with the citizens in the area. P.S. I consider myself a fairly reasonable individual, and know that some trees will inevitably need to be removed, especially considering the large-scale scope of the project. Please don't think that my intentions are to stop the project altogether. I'm in great support of much of the project, and feel that it will vastly improve the city as a whole; My goal in being involved is not to preserve every tree, but rather to find the best solution in meeting the goals and plans of the project while preserving the integrity of the Urban Forest along historic Montrose Blvd to be consistent with the surrounding trees and forests that Houston has! Please feel free to reach out to me directly at my cell phone number listed above should you have any questions or concerns.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
330	Jacob	Roche	Hello, as a resident of the immediate neighborhood (Stanford and W. Pierce)—who uses Montrose Blvd to walk to school, stores, and restaurants on a regular basis—I would like to express strong support for the current Phase 1 design for Montrose Blvd. Also, I would like to inquire about the Stanford Neighborhood Safe Street. When/how can I provide input on this project? I see it was scheduled for planning in the HTX CIP for 2023 and 2024. And construction is expected in 2024? I am excited about the potential improvements as we use this street EVERY DAY. There are minor improvements that would make the street much safer and I would appreciate the opportunity for public input before the design is finalized.	Thank you for the support!
331	Tamara		I am writing to protest the tree loss the Montrose Boulevard project will incur, as currently designed. The trees you want to cut down, took decades to grow and serve an important purpose in removing carbon dioxide and providing much-needed shade to the community. Houston is getting hotter and air quality is getting worse. We should not be cutting down the very things that help address both of these issues! Cutting the tress down to add more concrete is counterintuitive and counterproductive.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
332	Paul	Herrera	The three post oak trees at the entrance to the Magnolia Cemetery, a Texas Historical Cemetery, are estimated to be 100 to 150 years old. As such they have survived numerous hurricanes, floods, droughts, freezes, paving of Montrose, and a 5 alarm fire but now are being proposed to be removed for a sidewalk. Trees deserve historical preservation as much as any building. If as the TIRZ states that there is a City requirement to have sidewalks on both sides of a reconfigured street between Dallas and Allen Pkwy., then every effort should be taken to obtain a waiver to not require a sidewalk on the west side of Montrose. The TIRZ also states that these trees have "restricted growth space" so should be removed. The trees seem to have survived well in this restricted growth space for a long time. Instead of compounding earlier mistakes the City and the TIRZ should do all they can to preserve these trees for another hundred years.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
333	Stratos	Kinalidis	Resident of Montrose since 1987. This plan is not fully baked and definitely not transparent to the residents that are affected by it. As a family member of an avid cyclist, he knows to avoid busy streets when possible. Even if the sidewalks were wider, the cross traffic of Montrose would mean not only would it be inconvenient for him, it'd be more dangerous than a street like Commonwealth or the back streets to get towards the medical center or Rice. Finally, our neighborhood doesn't need less mature trees. This is a historic neighborhood and the trees are part of its identity.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
334	Jessica	Eskew	Hello, It has come to my attention that public petitions are not being considered against the planned destruction of 57 centurion oaks to allow installation of a sidewalk. I would like to reemphasize as a Harris county and downtown resident my stance against the removal of these trees. These old trees are one of the few things that makes Houston a beautiful green space, and no new sidewalk and young tree can replace them.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
335	Christopher Louis	Cooper	Hi, I would like to know more about how I can help with preserving the oaks of Montrose.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.
336	Montserrat	Bethancourth	Sufficient advance information about this project was NOT GIVEN. I only know about this because of the signs in peoples yards. I ask that the project be placed on pause beyond Dallas St until the full impact to trees and traffic can be understood and until full plans for all of Montrose Blvd street are released. I am a resident of Montrose and I DO NOT want the trees removed nor does anyone else who lives here. THEY PROVIDE SHADE, HABITAT, OXYGEN, SCENERY, HISTORY, and much more. I suggest the trees NOT BE CUT DOWN. FIND A WAY TO MAKE A SUITABLE BIKE/SIDEWALK WITHOUT REMOVING THE TREES OR CREATE A BETTER MITIGATION PLAN!!! Here are some other options: · Eliminate the sidewalk on the west side btwn Allen Pkwy and Dallas near the historic German cemetery · Use 6" replacement trees, like what was done on Bagby for a similar walk/bike path project · Build only to Dallas St for now to support the Ismaili center construction needs and schedule, but then pause until the full plans for the next segment to Westheimer are confirmed. I signed the petition and I know many others who did as well. RESIDENTS of Montrose.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments. The City of Houston desires the sidewalk along the cemetery for greater connectivity.
337	Penelope	Warrenwere	Keep the trees by .odofyong the plan the whole way to 6'!	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.

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Commenter No.	First Name	Last Name	Comment	Response
338	Robert	Gartner	I think your plans for decimating many trees along Montrose Blvd is poorly conceived and not properly noticed to the public. Please put your plans on hold and look for more input from the public.	See the top of this comment response matrix for the general statement addressing tree comments.