

MONTROSE BLVD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT - SEGMENT 1

MYTHS *and* MISCONCEPTIONS



There have been many misconceptions about Segment 1 of the Montrose Boulevard Improvements Project. Here is some information to clear up the facts.

MYTH: The Montrose Boulevard Improvements Project is being done unnecessarily.

Improving aging and undersized stormwater infrastructure was the key driver in prioritizing the project, beginning with a drainage study in 2019 to determine how to improve drainage and reduce flash flooding during rain events.

As currently designed, the project will significantly improve drainage by installing 10-foot by 10-foot box culverts to replace 48-inch and 54-inch circular pipes, which would accommodate a 2-year rainfall event, or 5 inches in 24 hours, to help mitigate flash flooding, adding 5 acre-feet of detention. This would be the first part of the drainage master plan into which future projects may connect for further drainage improvements, as Montrose Boulevard is a vital drainage corridor and is the primary outfall to Buffalo Bayou.

MYTH: The Montrose Boulevard Improvements Project is removing healthy, mature live oak trees for no reason.

As a result of improving aging infrastructure along Montrose Boulevard and bringing the corridor up to current code, trees and other vegetation will be impacted. However, the Montrose TIRZ is working to protect existing healthy trees and mitigate any necessary impacts.

As currently designed, Segment 1 of the Montrose Boulevard Improvements Project contains 14 ordinance-protected mature Live Oak trees with a 14-inch to 22-inch caliper. All 14 of these trees will be preserved and have an individualized tree protection plan designed by an urban forester. The existing trees in the public right-of-way to be removed are in locations where the trees are either seriously compromised by overhead utility lines or are in constrained planting areas, severely inhibiting root systems

The Montrose TIRZ has held multiple public meetings, developed multiple design concepts, and collected hundreds of public comments to avoid impacts to existing trees along Montrose Boulevard. The current project design reflects impacts to trees that were deemed necessary to maintain compliance with City of Houston design requirements.

MYTH: The Montrose TIRZ did not solicit public feedback in the development of the Montrose Boulevard Project.

The improvement plans for the Montrose Boulevard Improvements Project have been under development for more than 24 months, during which the Montrose TIRZ has held five public meetings specifically about project, elicited feedback, and responded to significant numbers of constituent questions and concerns.

MYTH: The Montrose TIRZ did not consider public feedback in developing the project design.

The Montrose TIRZ has incorporated several aspects into the project design as a result of public feedback, including:

- » Bicycle Facility: Incorporated as a Shared Use Path on east side
- » Shaded Pedestrian Realm: 137 new trees will be planted for shade
- » Pedestrian Safety at Intersections: Leading Pedestrian Intervals for signalized intersections.
- » Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) are not effective enough: Signals at intersections with closed medians are being used in lieu of the RRFBs.
- » Tree Preservation: Many median trees will be preserved.
- » The width of traffic lanes.

As a main transportation artery within the City of Houston and as one of the only north/south thoroughfares within I-610, the project design and its associated traffic lanes must allow for known and anticipated traffic volumes as well as access for emergency vehicles while maintaining compliance with City of Houston design requirements.

MYTH: The Montrose TIRZ designed the sidewalks without proper consideration of trees.

The project complies all the City of Houston's design requirements related to sidewalk improvements, drainage, reconstruction of the roadway, upgrade of all the utilities below the roadway, adding the larger safety zone to allow for proper tree plantings, and providing accessible routes for all while keeping the image of the Boulevard in our goals.

Visit www.montrosehtx.org or contact us at info@montrosehtx.org for more information.