

J: Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA)

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Harris County developed and applied for a Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area designation from HUD in its 2008-2012 Consolidated Plan submission for the Airline Community. The county partnered with the Airline Improvement District to create a Neighborhood Revitalization Plan for the Airline NRSA. This plan identified many issues within the community and outlined goals and recommendations toward alleviating problems and improving the residents' quality of life.

Airline Improvement District

The Airline Improvement District was created by House Bill #1458 during the 79th Texas Legislature and took effect June 17, 2005. The District's mission is to supplement government services to improve the overall quality of the District and its desirability for residents, consumers and businesses. To accomplish its mission, the District has worked diligently with Harris County, the Houston-Galveston Area Council, other agencies and community groups to seek out funding for planning and implementation of improvements.

Boundaries

The Airline Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area is located in unincorporated northern Harris County, just north of the City of Houston, south of Greenspoint Mall and within Precinct One. Airline's NRSA is bound by West Road, Hambrick Road, Lillja Road, and Aldine Mail Road to the north; the Hardy Toll Road, Bauman Road and the City of Houston city limits to the east; East Canino Road and Carby Road to the south; and Sweetwater Lane to the west consisting of approximately 2,809 acres. This area includes census tract 2216, block groups 1, 2, 3, and 4; census tract 2217, block groups 1 and 3; and census tract 2224, block groups 3 and 4. Airline NRSA is divided by two school districts with the northern two-thirds located in Aldine ISD and the southern third in Houston ISD.

Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community

The NRSA boundaries are also contiguous with a federally designated Empowerment Zone (EZ) with approximately 878 acres of the Airline NRSA's total acreage inside the EZ.

Land Use

Airline NRSA is primarily residential with a mixture of suburban and rural development typified by parcels/lots larger than 0.5 acres and mobile home communities. Development is generally clustered along the major thoroughfares and other arterials in the community. Over 75 percent (75.51%) of Airline residents reside in owner occupied housing while the remaining 25 percent (24.49%) reside in renter occupied housing.

Low-to-Moderate Income

The Airline NRSA is 69 percent low-to-moderate income residents and 18.6 percent are classified as below poverty according to 2000 Census Bureau data.

Public Consultation to Develop NRSA Strategies

To assist the community, HCCSD utilized a community planning process that engaged residents, business owners, civic leaders and potential investors. HCCSD, in partnership with State Representative Kevin Bailey and Harris County Precinct One Commissioner El Franco Lee, worked with Airline residents, business owners, and civic leaders to develop a community revitalization plan for the Airline area. The planning process began in May 2005 with the creation of the Airline Vision Team that partnered with HCCSD. Community meetings were held and these groups were asked to actively recognize community

challenges, visions, goals, and resources that could be utilized in the plan. The groups then worked with HCCSD and the Airline Vision Team to create viable solutions and develop a comprehensive community revitalization plan.

Incentives

To date, the Airline Community has not participated in any of the NRSA incentives to implement its Strategy.

Benchmarks

Benchmarks for the community have been identified key strategies and benchmarks on pages 24-29 of the Airline NRSA section under Key Strategies/Airline Projects and Recommendations. The PY2010 Annual Action Plan discusses goals for the NRSA on page 12.

Reporting

Activities within the Airline NRSA are being reported annually in Harris County's Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER). A wide range of activities have benefited the NRSA, including:

- Creation of the Airline Community Revitalization Plan in April 2006 that set forth goals and revitalization strategies
- In PY2007, the Airline Improvement District received a total award of \$117,875 in CDBG General Funds from Harris County to acquire land for Raymac Park.
- Airline Improvement District contributed \$50,000 towards Raymac Park.
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department awarded Airline a grant for \$200,000 toward Raymac Park.
- Houston – Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) partnered with the Airline Improvement District and completed a Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan in 2009
- Implementation of pedestrian and bicycle related improvements estimated to occur in 2012 with use of Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Funds
- Airline Improvement District applied for an H-GAC Livable Centers Study for 2011-2012 and was awarded \$120,000 to help create quality, walkable, mixed-use places that have multi-modal travel choices, improve environmental quality and promote economic development and housing choice.
- Airline Improvement District awarded \$720,000 PY 2011 CDBG Funds for the Northwest Service Zone #2 – Design (Phase I). Future Lift Stations/Force Main (Phase II) and Water/Sewer (Phase III) are expected to be funded in coming program years.
- Aldine Independent School District awarded \$133,100 in PY2011 CDBG Funds for a SPARK Park at Carroll Academy, located within the Airline NRSA.

Progress

Harris County has not received notification from HUD that there are any issues with meeting expected projections. The county is continuing to work with the community to develop activities and additional funding sources to leverage the funding received from HUD and other sources.

The creation of the Airline Community Revitalization Plan set forth the goals and strategies to begin the revitalization effort within the Airline NRSA. Actions within the community have been on track with the goals and recommendations outlined in the Revitalization Plan.

Recommendations under the Community Facilities and Public Service Section of the Revitalization Plan include locating new parks in Airline. Through the use of Harris County CDBG, Airline Improvement District and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department funds, as well as cooperation between these agencies and the Airline community, creation of Raymac Park is underway.

Other recommendations under the Transportation and Infrastructure Section of the Revitalization Plan call for the installation of sidewalks and crosswalks, better traffic management, improved pedestrian access and transportation alternatives. The partnership with H-GAC by the Airline Improvement District resulted in the creation of an Airline Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. The community will soon see the benefits of the partnership when construction of new sidewalks along major thoroughfares and improvements to crosswalks at major intersections begins. The area will also receive a raised median along Airline Drive for access management and to serve as a pedestrian refuge.

The recent Livable Centers Grant awarded to the Airline Improvement District from H-GAC, with assistance from Harris County, will serve to identify areas that need improvements in order to promote mixed uses, better housing, higher quality of the surrounding environment and multi-modal transportation choices. These areas will be priorities for future funding and serve to fulfill many recommendations in the Revitalization Plan under Housing, Transportation and Infrastructure, Economic Empowerment and Community Facilities and Services.

Finally the funds awarded to the Airline Improvement District and Carroll Academy in the Airline NRSA are an additional step towards making community improvements and following the recommendations of the Revitalization Plan. The Airline Improvement District's award will allow design work to begin on water and sewer infrastructure improvements. Funding for a new SPARK Park at Carroll Academy will improve the quality of the recreation facilities for school children during the day and create a new community park for residents after school and on weekends.

Amendments

No amendments to the original Airline NRSA Plan have occurred.