

Appendix D: Airline Community Educators Forum – August 23, 2005

The Airline Vision Team, in partnership with the Harris County Community & Economic Development Department, Office of Harris County Precinct One Commissioner El Franco Lee, and the Office of State Representative Kevin Bailey hosted the Airline Community Educators Forum, on Tuesday, August 23, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at Carroll Academy, 423 W. Gulf Bank Drive; Houston, TX 77037.

To announce the meeting to school administrators, the Harris County Community & Economic Development Department sent invitations to principals and district officials of Aldine Independent School District (AISD) and Houston Independent School District (HISD). Approximately 20 people attended the meeting. This is inclusive of residents, business owners, and educators.

School administrators from Aldine Independent School District (AISD) and Houston Independent School District (HISD) discussed the need for greater police traffic control during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up of students and patrols along major thoroughfares in the community. An administrator from Keeble EC/PK (AISD) addressed the need for larger and more visible signage of school zones along W. Gulf Bank Road. An administrator from Bussey Elementary (AISD) commented on the lack of pedestrian crossings for students and parents. Administrators from Sam Houston High School (HISD) commented about the lack of streetlights, police patrol and the use of the railroad during school hours that disrupts classroom instruction and poses as a safety hazard for students that must cross the railroad to attend school.

Administrators also conferred about the lack of active and passive park space for students. Middle school and high school administrators frequently discussed the dearth of social activities and community centers for adolescents and teenagers. Administrators suggested pregnancy education for adolescents and teenagers, gang violence and prevention programs, health education for students and parents, and more interaction between senior citizens and adolescents and teenagers.

Transportation and stormwater drainage issues were also discussed among school administrators. Administrators from Carroll Academy and Keeble EC/PK discussed the TXDOT expansion of W. Gulf Bank Road and its effects on morning and afternoon commutes for teachers, parents, students, and residents. Administrators also discussed the flooding issues on W. Gulf Bank and Interstate 45. The flooding in this area stops traffic along this major thoroughfare and prevents traffic from flowing freely. Administrators also questioned the stormwater drainage plans that TXDOT and the Harris County Flood Control District have for the Airline community as Interstate 45 and other major thoroughfares will be expanding in the coming years.