

City at Work: Projects Advancing to Support the Priorities of West U

By Mayor Bob Higley

I believe that West University Place is the best small town in America. This is due, in part, to the fact that West U is a city of innovation. Our City Council has consistently sought to build on our existing assets, enhance our high-level service model, and invest in the future of our community to best serve your needs as taxpaying homeowners.

Virtual Gate Security Camera System

Should West U be proud of its small-town feeling and safe community? Absolutely! To safeguard these qualities, the City Council is moving forward with the installation of our Virtual Gate project.

The Virtual Gate is a system of security cameras, strategically located around the city's perimeter. This system will help to deter and solve crime, as well as notify officers of vehicles listed as stolen or identified in amber alerts.

With seven locations operational in the city limits, this project is well underway. The remaining eight sites in Phase I are awaiting permit approvals from the City of Houston.

In total, 25 license plate readers and 12 live-feed cameras have been installed in West U. By continuing to pursue innovative measures such as the Virtual Gate system, City Council has prioritized upholding our quality of life, along with the safety of West U's homeowners, their families, and their property.

Wastewater Reclamation Project

The West University Place community has long emphasized the importance of our green and open spaces to our city. Building on our tradition of environmental stewardship, West U is moving forward with a wastewater reclamation project, which will help to conserve the region's water supply and limit our city's impact on the Buffalo Bayou watershed. This project will filter and divert up to a million gallons a day of West U's wastewater for safe, non-potable use outside of the city.

As the city will be compensated for this water, this initiative is a win-win for West U, the environment, and the region in general. Our City Council looks forward to awarding the contract for preliminary design work for this project soon.

Buffalo Speedway Rehabilitation – Above and Below

This City Council has consistently emphasized investment in the future of our community. As such, we are excited to break ground on the Buffalo Speedway rehabilitation project this month. This project will include both the complete replacement of the more than 65-year old road surface over its entire course through West U, and the installation of drainage improvements along the roadway.

The first phase of the subsurface drainage project will consist of drainage improvements near the playing field of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. Drainage work within West U is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2021. As part of this phase, this month, we will also begin the replacement of the waterline along the east side of Buffalo Speedway from Bissonnet Street to Amherst

Street. This waterline work will not be in the roadway and should not significantly impact driving.

Both transportation and drainage improvements have long been priorities of this Council.

Addressing both simultaneously, and from different directions, should prevent disruption to drivers and homeowners, reduce costs, and provide relief to homeowners during weather events.

Council is proud to uphold our city's twin pillars of financial stewardship and service delivery.

With long-term strategic plans to invest in our community, we can all take comfort in the fact that our city taxes are well spent, promoting a tangible public benefit to everyone.

Our City Council will continue to pursue innovative solutions to the challenges of today and tomorrow on behalf of every one of West U's taxpaying homeowners.