

Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council

www.pasadenacac.org

Summary of Thursday, August 23, 2018 Meeting

Beltway 8 Bridge Expansion

Matt Kainer of the Harris County Toll Road Authority shared plans for the expansion of the Beltway 8 Bridge over the Houston Ship Channel. When complete, the bridge will have four lanes in each direction instead of two, as well as shoulders. The ascent and descent will be less steep, and curves will be smoothed out so that vehicles may maintain 65 mph speed. Pylons will be built on land rather than in the water, as they currently are. This will allow more room for ships in the channel. During the first phase of construction, new southbound main lanes will be built. The current bridge will then be demolished, and a northbound sister bridge will be constructed. Southbound bridge construction has begun. Demolition of the existing bridge is slated for 2021, and northbound bridge construction should be completed by 2024. A new website soon will allow the public to track progress on bridge construction. www.shipchannelbridge.org

Air Alliance Houston Pasadena Community Project

Paula Torrado Plazas shared results of a project conducted by the Air Alliance Houston (AAH) in which the environmental research and advocacy organization conducted door to door community surveys in December 2017, held community meetings, performed community air monitoring, and is advocating an anti-idling ordinance. The group chose to focus on children and thus organized the surveys by school zones. The report contains findings from a health self-assessment, an assessment of school transportation obstacles, and questions asked about air pollution. Based on the benefits of reduced idling, AAH is promoting an anti-idling ordinance in Pasadena and is part of a national campaign to reduce idling by school buses. They also are promoting kids walking or bicycling to school, which exposes them to less pollution than being in idling buses. Details may be found in the attached slides.