

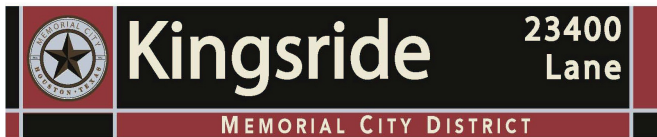
THE DISTRICT DISPATCH



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Sign of the Times

How does one form a sense of identity? The Memorial City District wants to facilitate a strong sense of identity, belonging and community. The first step to creating a unique sense of place is to let people know where they are. Newly designed street signs are going up at every intersection in the Memorial City District. This one of a kind sign is rich with color, easy to read and includes the Memorial City District star logo. The colorful street signs, which are scheduled to be installed by spring, are one of many new identity elements to be unveiled that will make the Memorial City District an exceptional place to work, live and visit.

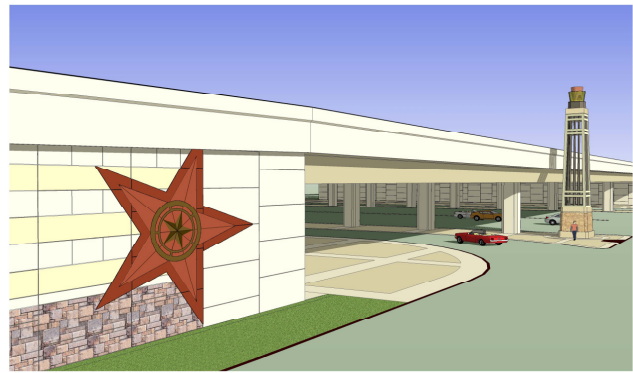


Katy Freeway Makeover

As part of TxDOT's Katy Freeway expansion, the District has developed hardscape and landscape plans for the Gessner and Bunker Hill overpasses. The enhancements include unique retaining wall designs, colored pavers, gateway markers, and scenic trees and shrubs with dedicated irrigation systems. All together,

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Courtesy: Kudela & Weinheimer

these enhancements will help the expanded Katy Freeway to blend with the already distinct look of the area. One noticeable amenity will be the four towering gateway markers to be located along IH-10 at the intersections of Gessner and Bunker Hill Roads. Each gateway marker includes a handsome rock pattern at the bottom, sleek iron cladding in the middle and an illuminated light at the top. Another appreciable asset at the two gateway intersections is the large star located on the IH-10 retaining wall. The stars are to be painted in a color complimentary to the new street signs, which will portray a distinguishable and consistent appearance throughout the Memorial City District. These enhancements will begin in the coming months and continue throughout 2009.

The Gessner Gateway

This bustling urban boulevard is undergoing a celebrated transformation with the additions of more lanes, wider sidewalks, improved drainage and picturesque landscape. The Gessner Widening Project is a joint effort between the TIRZ #17 and the Texas Department of Transportation to build a better street. The Memorial City District will fund and maintain the amenities of creating a signature entryway for people working in and visiting the Memorial City area.



I-10 Expansion Completion

Houston is a city in a hurry, a city of more than four million people perpetually coming and going. Many commuters zip right through the Memorial City District, from Beltway 8 to Bunker Hill, using the expanded Katy Freeway. Since June 2003, 23-miles of Interstate 10 between the Fort Bend County line and Washington Avenue, has been under construction as part of the largest and most expensive transportation project in Texas history. The \$2.7 billion project includes additional general use, or free lanes, and was expected to take ten years to finish. But it's now nearing completion after just five years. To celebrate this ambitious achievement a ceremonial ribbon cutting will take place October 28 at the I-10 at Beltway 8

Adding a fourth lane in each direction on Gessner, which runs parallel to the Memorial City Mall and the Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center, will improve traffic flow and adding a new network of eight-foot wide sidewalks will convert the roadway into a pedestrian friendly thoroughfare. Other scenic street designs to better accommodate pedestrians, shoppers and tourists alike include theater-style street lamps, improved signage, bus stop enhancements and landscape planting. More than 100 large shade trees, along with hundreds of shrubs and flowers, will transform this active city street into a scenic streetscape people will want to visit. Construction began in June and the project is forecasted to be complete by December 2009.

interchange to recognize the completion from an 11-lane roadway to 18-lanes. Texas Governor Rick Perry and United States Department of Transportation Secretary Mary Peters will participate in the ribbon cutting ceremonies. Beginning Spring 2009, the new High Occupancy and Toll (HOT) lanes, on both sides of a 12-mile stretch of the Katy Freeway will become fully operational.



Courtesy: TXDOT