

# DOWNTOWN HOUSTON+

## MAIN STREET PROMENADE FAQ

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## **1. What is the Main Street Promenade Project?**

This project is the second iteration of the City of Houston's temporary More Space: Main Street program. The promenade builds on the More Space: Main Street area that was designated in 2020 and extends 11 blocks, from Commerce Street at Allen's Landing to Dallas Street and Main Street Square. The City partnered with Downtown Houston+ to design, construct, and manage a permanent pedestrian promenade on Main Street.

Per City Council approval in 2023, Main Street Square and the 7 blocks between Commerce and Rusk will be closed to through traffic. Both sides of the 800 block by the JW Marriott and east side of the 900 block by the Holy Cross Chapel will remain open to cars.

## **2. What organization(s) is leading this project?**

Downtown Houston+ is partnering with the City of Houston to realize this project. Downtown Houston+ is the family of organizations that lead urban development projects and public realm maintenance in Downtown, including the Houston Downtown Management District, Downtown Redevelopment Authority, and Central Houston Inc.

## **3. How is this project funded?**

The Houston Downtown Management District funded the Conceptual Design Phase, which was conducted in 2023. The District will also oversee the maintenance, management, and public programming along the promenade when construction is completed in 2026. The Downtown Redevelopment Authority/TIRZ #3 will fund and manage the Engineering & Design Phase as well as the construction of the project. Funds from the Authority will go towards the maintenance and management costs.

## **4. Who will manage the space?**

Downtown Houston+ through the Houston Downtown Management District will manage and activate the space much like they do today with other successful, public spaces such as Market Square Park and Trebly Park. The District manages Main Street today, and after the promenade is completed, the level of service will receive at least 3x as much funding and staff to ensure proper care, maintenance, and activation of the promenade

## **5. How will businesses use the new promenade?**

Downtown Houston+ has already begun to include businesses into the design process of the future promenade and will continue to work directly with businesses and property owners along Main Street to design public spaces that are optimized for the adjacent storefronts, their patrons, and the public. The maintenance and management of the promenade will support the unique uses and needs of the promenade, ensuring the businesses are supported and not burdened by the new public spaces.

## **6. How is safety being addressed?**

Safety is a top priority for the new promenade on Main Street. Safety is being addressed through design, ordinance amendments and code changes to allow for more public sector

support, and Downtown Houston+'s commitment to bring at least 3x as much funding and staff for the management and maintenance of the promenade. The Houston Fire Department, Police Department, METRO, and various City agencies have been engaged throughout the design process to ensure the design is responsive to each respective group's safety needs. Downtown Houston+ is committed to funding and staffing the promenade with dedicated Downtown Public Safety Guides, Clean Team personnel, and safety officers as needed.

#### **7. What will happen to the existing outdoor dining spaces that were constructed through the original More Space program?**

The temporary outdoor dining spaces built through the original More Space: Main Street program will be incorporated and improved through the design process, or in other cases, be removed with the consent of the fronting property. Downtown Houston+ has been and will continue to engage businesses in this situation.

#### **8. Will access to my business be impacted during construction?**

Most of the construction will be cosmetic, or light touch, and will occur in the roadway. This means that the sidewalks will be minimally affected. Downtown Houston+ will coordinate and announce a construction mitigation plan for storefronts along Main Street to ensure businesses are supported and stakeholders are informed throughout the construction process. To learn more, reach out to Cassie Hoeprich, Director of Planning & Economic Development, at [cassie.hoeprich@downtownhouston.org](mailto:cassie.hoeprich@downtownhouston.org)

#### **9. How will storm drainage work?**

The Conceptual Design plan supports the current storm drainage system through the addition of trench drains along the existing curb and gutter and next to the METRO rail line. A drainage analysis will be conducted in 2024 during the Engineering and Design Phase to verify existing conditions and design the right water detention solutions.

#### **10. Will the east-to-west streets be closed to vehicles?**

The east-to-west streets will remain open to vehicular traffic and feature helpful signage for vehicles and pedestrians to ensure navigability, access to the promenade, and directions to parking nearby.

#### **11. How will I get to Main Street in the future?**

You will be able to get to Main Street by light rail, car, bike, rideshare, and foot! METRO's red line will drop you off in the middle of the promenade, and the Allen's Landing and Lamar Street bikeways will take you straight to Main Street. For those arriving by car, Downtown Houston+ is working with the City of Houston to create clear and easy rideshare zones conveniently located near the promenade and partnering with businesses and parking garages to make parking more visible and clear.

As a linear park promenade, cyclists will dismount and walk bikes through the space. The design will provide convenient and accessible parking along the promenade and safer access for pedestrians.

## **12. Will Main Street be accessible to those with disabilities?**

YES! Main Street today is a challenge for people walking and rolling—both with disabilities and without. It can be difficult to navigate poles and obstacles, as well as tripping hazards. The new Main Street Promenade will be designed to be a safe and welcoming space for everyone, with clear walking and rolling zones and safe and tactical crossings at intersections.

## **13. How will Downtown Houston+ interact with the unhoused population on the promenade?**

Downtown Houston+ has a robust and compassionate response to the homeless population in downtown. Today, the Downtown Houston+ team provides outreach services in coordination with the City of Houston across Downtown. Once the Main Street Promenade is complete, those services will be increased and complemented by safety guides and ambassadors to ensure that Main Street is safe for everyone.

Together with regional partners, we strive to make homelessness in Houston rare, brief, and non-recurring and pave the way to a secure life for all.

## **14. How will trash and deliveries work?**

Trash and deliveries will be handled at the east-to-west street intersections. This is the current arrangement today as this section of Main Street has been mostly closed since 2021 to vehicles. Downtown Houston+ runs a trash collection program that services most businesses along this corridor and will continue to run along Main Street.

## **15. What is the timeline for the project?**

The Conceptual Design Planning process occurred in 2023. The Engineering and Design Phase is currently underway and will conclude in 2025 with construction to follow in 2025-2026.

## **16. How can I stay informed?**

Sign up for our [e-mail list](#) on the Main Street Promenade [project page](#) to stay up to date on the project and check our website for regular updates.