



May 31, 2022

Eliza Paul, P.E.  
Texas Dept of Transportation  
District Engineer  
P.O. Box 1386  
Houston, TX 77251

Maria Aponte P.E.  
Texas Dept of Transportation  
District Engineer  
18671 FM 523  
Angleton, TX 77251

Dear Ms. Paul and Ms. Aponte:

Since its establishment in 1963, the Pearland Chamber of Commerce has supported the business community of Pearland. During this time, we have maintained a positive working relationship with the Texas Department of Transportation while serving as the voice of business for our community.

The Pearland Chamber has been working with impacted businesses since 2019 to address concerns on the expansion of FM 518 as well as work with TxDOT on a solution that will lessen the impact and burden on businesses. With respect, we request the following recommendations be reviewed and considered prior to further work on the section of FM 518 from Cullen Blvd to McLean.

#### **Need Scope**

The Pearland Chamber of Commerce requested in April 2019 for TxDOT to delay the proposed widening of FM 518 until the McHard Road expansion is completed and traffic patterns are established. The McHard Road expansion is currently set to be completed in late 2022; we request that a new traffic study is conducted after the completion to determine the continued need for the project.

#### **Proactive Business Engagement**

In speaking with businesses, most were not aware of the project changes presented at the April 26<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup> public hearing. Businesses were aware of the expansion, but there was no direct contact from TxDOT informing them that their property was now listed as “potentially displaced.” The lack of specificity from TxDOT about the future of their property left many property owners with limited information on the project, causing them to miss the May 13 public comment deadline. We request that TxDOT personally meet with the “potential displaced” property owners and answer questions and concerns on the proposed widening.

The Pearland Chamber of Commerce is still supportive of the reconstruction and widening from SH 288 to Cullen, but we request that TxDOT consider the above issues prior to additional work from Cullen Blvd to McLean.

With respect,



Jim Johnson  
President and CEO  
Pearland Chamber of Commerce



Sasha Costa  
Board Chair  
Pearland Chamber of Commerce

cc: State Senator Larry Taylor; State Senator Boris Miles; State Representative Ed Thompson;  
State Representative Ron Reynolds; State Representative Dennis Paul;  
State Representative Alma Allen; State Representative Cody Vasut;  
State Representative Greg Bonnen; Brazoria County Judge Matt Sebesta;  
City of Pearland Mayor Kevin Cole