

Fact Sheet



How can we make the most out of the existing and planned transportation network to improve Fulshear commuters' travel experience?

That's the central question driving the Fulshear Transit Feasibility Study conducted by Fort Bend County Public Transportation, which operates as Fort Bend Transit. The study is seeking input to improve the daily travel experience over the next 20 years for:

- Fulshear area residents that commute daily to jobs in Katy, Energy Corridor, Westchase, Texas Medical Center, and downtown Houston. As population growth continues at a significant pace, the current figure of 4,000 daily commuters will also increase.
- Non-driving residents seeking transportation to doctors, community centers, and stores.
- Employees of local businesses.

The study is exploratory, with no preconceived assumptions, but potential improvements may include:

- Express bus and commuter options to major employment centers.
- Local bus service within Fulshear.
- Transit service to and from surrounding communities.

Fort Bend Transit

Established in 2005, Fort Bend Transit provides over 380,000 passenger trips annually to residents in an 875-square-mile area, through:

- Commuter Park & Ride services along I-69 to the Galleria, Greenway Plaza, and Texas Medical Center from one Rosenberg and two Sugar Land location.
- Demand-response, an advance reservation shared-ride service available to anyone, which is frequently used for work, shopping, medical, and recreation destinations. This is the only service currently available to Fulshear residents — the Irene Stern Community Center is a popular local destination.
- Point deviation bus routes in Richmond and Rosenberg. This service entails specific stops at municipal offices and other popular destinations and can deviate up to .75 mile from a route, if scheduled.

An additional Park & Ride is scheduled to open in 2020 at Mason Road and the Westpark Tollway.

In 2017, Fort Bend Transit developed a long-range transit plan for the county to provide a road map for future public transportation needs. Fulshear's high growth in population and housing development, and the resulting increased commutes to Houston job centers, were cited as indicators of the need for travel options for area residents. The plan's recommendations included using the Westpark corridor as an east-west artery for expanded transit services and a future Fulshear Park & Ride location.

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Study Activities and Timeline

The Fulshear Transit Feasibility Study is taking the next step in local transit planning by exploring other options that will complement the City of Fulshear's other efforts to accommodate the community's growth and development.

An online survey and the first public meeting in January 2020 will provide forums for the public to identify future transit needs. The study team will analyze this input and projected growth trends to develop concepts for public review. Feedback from the second public meeting, slated for mid-2020, will be used to modify concepts and finalize recommendations.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why can't we ask METRO for a Park & Ride?

METRO serves Houston and 14 smaller member cities, all of which contribute 1% of their sales tax to fund the agency. Member cities include Katy and Missouri City, which are in both Harris and Fort Bend counties. METRO does not currently provide service in Fort Bend County beyond these cities; the closest Park & Ride is METRO's Grand Parkway Park & Ride, 10 miles away.

How is Fort Bend Transit funded?

The agency receives grants from the Federal Transit Administration, Texas Department of Transportation, and Houston-Galveston Area Council. Contributions from government entities and non-profit organizations — including the cities of Richmond, Rosenberg, and Sugar Land; George Foundation; and Lakewood Church — also fund transit services.

What about sidewalks and bicycle lanes?

The potential for sidewalk and bicycle lane improvements are not included in this transit study. However, the City of Fulshear is committed to providing a walkable and bike-friendly environment and understands their importance as connections to transit options. As development occurs, sidewalks and bike lanes are constructed per city standards and in line with the city's Parks and Pathways Master Plan, Livable Centers Study, and other relevant plans and studies as they are completed.

Contact

Comments are welcome at any time and can be submitted to: transit@fortbendcountytexas.gov, or Fort Bend Transit, Tennille Jones, Community Relations Manager, 301 Jackson Street, Richmond, TX 77469.