**Budget Listening Sessions
What Do You Want to See in 2022-2023?**

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| **Budget season is upon us, and we want to hear from you!**The City of Dallas will begin a new fiscal year in October. As we construct the budget for FY22-23, resident input is crucial. There are still multiple opportunities for you to participate in the budgeting process. **Attend a budget listening session this August** - There is still time to give input into the City's budget! Join us on August 20th or 22nd in order to make your voice heard. In the first listening session, we spoke with residents about property tax rates, converting city vehicles from gas to electric, and more!Sessions will be led by city staff and attended by members of multiple departments. Find out more information using the graphics below, and make sure to spread the word!**Stop the Speeding!**Hello D13 Neighbors, One of the most frequent concerns the D13 office hears about is speeding.  Speeding through neighborhoods, school zones, commercial areas, etc.   So I wanted to let you know that (#1) I absolutely want to hear from you if there are particular areas where speeding is frequent; and (#2) share how the City of Dallas responds to your concerns.Your concerns and details are shared with the City’s Transportation Department, which I spoke to CBS 11 about this past week about speeding on Harvest Hill: "They don't just take a cookie cutter approach. They're going to go and assess exactly what traffic counts are, what the behaviors currently are that need to be modified so they can come up with the best solution for Harvest Hill." This applies to all roadways. The city cannot place speed bumps, speed cushions, or signage arbitrarily, because consideration has to be given for easy access for emergency vehicles and other factors.  The City’s professionals will assess these factors and make recommendations specific to the situation.From a law enforcement standpoint, the City can place Speed Feedback signs that give drivers a real-time gauge of their speed limit.  This can also be followed with a DPD presence after this “warning period” to ticket those who are speeding.   That said, I heard an interesting story from a neighborhood that had this two-step approach—a resident called the Transportation Department to ask that DPD leave because “too many neighbors are getting tickets.”  In 2019 the Dallas City Council committed the City to a goal of ZERO traffic fatalities and a 50% reduction in severe injuries by 2030 as part of the global Vision Zero initiative.  These statistic slides are specific to Dallas and are from the Vision Zero Action Plan [found here](https://dallascityhall.com/departments/transportation/Documents/FINAL-Vision%20Zero%20Action%20Plan%20%28high%20res%29.pdf). So, let me close with asking YOU to do your part to achieve “Vision ZERO”—and to remind neighbors that they must do theirs as well. It's Back to School season -- let's keep our kiddos and teachers safe! Be mindful of the speed limit on the routes you drive and watch your own speedometer.  Take care & drive safely,Gay**Tornado-Damaged Traffic Signals** |

The City of Dallas had to wait eight months before ultimately learning that FEMA was not going to cover $1.3 million to replace three tornado-damaged traffic lights.  As such, the design and procurement process had to restart under Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief Program Fund criteria.  The existing lights were decades old, and the intersections were not ADA compliant, so out of this disaster came opportunity:  sidewalks and crossings up to today’s standards as well as traffic lights that have smart technology to be responsive to traffic flow and bring better communications ability for our emergency response vehicles.  These intersections were not uniform, so each required separate design.  It’s frustrating, I know.  The City Council approved a contract on June 22 for construction.

Due to supply chain shortages, the fabrication of poles currently takes 6 months from contract execution, however the City’s Transportation Department is keeping the pressure on to close this production gap where possible.  The three locations are:

* Killion/Midway
* Preston/Preston Royal
* Lenel/Walnut Hill.

**Fire Station 41 Update**

**Temporary Fire Station 41 at Royal & the Tollway**
The City of Dallas has never had to construct a temporary fire station before, and there are a lot of regulations that must be fulfilled before it can operate safely for Dallas Fire & Rescue personnel and our citizens.  Due to lot space limitations, a residential mobile home could not be used to house DFR responders—a mobile construction office had to be retrofitted with all that a stationary fire station would have for sleeping, shower, kitchen, office, etc.  DFR and the City’s ITS department are working to install the radio system, which is critical to responding to calls, so must go through extensive testing.  In the meantime, the multiple other stations in and around District 13 are serving residents having a fire or medical emergency.

**Fire Station 41**
Ordinarily a “no cost-escalation” clause in vendor contracts is prudent.  However in today’s environment of supply chain issues, inflation, etc., it can cause a delay or withdrawal if a contractor can no longer complete a project on budget.\*    The City has re-evaluated the project cap, received new bids (as required by law) and is expected to have the resolution for approval on the August 24 Council agenda, per Councilmember Willis’ request to have it come up for vote as soon as possible after bid receipt.   Once approved, a timeline for completion of the new station will be shared.

\*CM Willis has asked that the “no cost-escalation” clause be re-evaluated at least temporarily as the whole country, indeed the world, weathers the flux of material production, supply chain, inflation, labor shortages, etc.

**What to Do In August In Dallas**

Trying to beat the heat? Want to squeeze every last drop of summer fun out of your schedule? Simply want a good meal? [Check out Visit Dallas' recommendations for what to do during a Dallas August.](https://www.visitdallas.com/things-to-do/dallas-now/2022/07/what-to-do-august.html)

**Panhandling 101: Understanding the Issue and Best Practices**

The City of Dallas wants you to **Say No To Panhandling**. But why?  Most panhandlers are not homeless—they often have some form of housing.  Giving out money, food and clothing trains panhandlers to stay right where they are versus seeking any help they need from trained professionals at Dallas’ many reputable nonprofits.   Please don’t incentivize these folks to stay on street corners with “street charity” when more meaningful help is available.

What is the City doing to combat panhandling? Below is a short FAQ responding to some of the most common questions and concerns when it comes to panhandling.

**Q: What should I do when I see a panhandler?**
A: It is your/their First Amendment right to stand on the sidewalk and ask for money (free speech).  It is NOT permissible to step into traffic to ask for/receive money, food, water, etc.  Submit a panhandling service request to 311 by either[filing online](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdallascrm.force.com%2Fpublic%2Fservicetypes&data=05%7C01%7Cjames.anderson1%40dallas.gov%7C808f589d010846ffc2fe08da7c9ec371%7C2935709ec10c4809a302852d369f8700%7C0%7C0%7C637959318563165722%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=QKCQ%2Fkihs18aoer8Yg8cHyBs5IZLLv%2Fg4KFvSCsy7IY%3D&reserved=0), calling 311, or [using the mobile app](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdallascityhall.com%2Fservices%2F311%2FPages%2FMobile-App-FAQs.aspx&data=05%7C01%7Cjames.anderson1%40dallas.gov%7C808f589d010846ffc2fe08da7c9ec371%7C2935709ec10c4809a302852d369f8700%7C0%7C0%7C637959318563165722%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=K%2FKLfL65YhuHOt%2Bt57E2GVKTyiG2zYTYUTpk68xRYyc%3D&reserved=0). ***IMPORTANT: If the panhandler is violent, overly aggressive, or a danger to themselves or others, call 911.***
**Q: Should I offer money to the panhandler?**
A: No, you should not. Giving money to panhandlers anchors them to that location. In fact, some corners are described as *"lucrative"* - where panhandlers know they can make good money! Instead, give to local charities that provide sustainable alternatives to panhandling. You can get a list by emailing:  ohsinfo@dallascityhall.com or by [visiting this link](https://portal.cftexas.org/city-of-dallas-office-of-homeless-solutions).

**Q: What is the City of Dallas doing to combat panhandling?**
A: The city has several panhandling diversion initiatives, and City Council is considering an ordinance that would not allow people to stand on a median of less than 6 feet in width.  Those needing to cross the street can still do so, but you can’t just “park it” on a median to panhandle, etc.

The diversion initiatives include community court programs for panhandlers who are issued citations, which provide alternatives to jail time through neighborhood restitution projects, rehabilitative programs, and educational programs. Other initiatives include signs (pictured above) being placed at intersections where panhandling is common.   Feel free to copy this sign into your neighborhood emails or social media.

**Q: How can I help?**
A: Support local nonprofits and homeless service providers, such as MDHA's [Dallas Real Time Rapid Rehousing](https://www.mdhadallas.org/rtrr/) initiative, by volunteering or donating funds. MDHA also provides a real-time tracking of encampment cleanups, number of people housed, etc. [at this link](https://www.mdhadallas.org/community-dashboard-2/).

For more information, email ohsinfo@dallascityhall.com.

**DPD Northeast Patrol Division Meet and Greet**

Join us Tuesday, August 16th, for a meet and greet with the Northeast Patrol Division! Light refreshments will be served, and there will be a chance to ask questions of council members and police officers regarding public safety.

**Career Institute North Construction at Walnut Hill: An Update from DISD**

Dallas ISD has provided a schedule of Onsite Activities that will be performed over the next five weeks. This helps neighbors plan and anticipate what work will be done, and when. [Please click this link for an updated schedule, August 8th- September 11th.](https://dallascityhall.com/government/citycouncil/district13/Documents/CIN%20at%20Walnut%20Hill%20-%205%20week%20look%20ahead%20-%20August.pdf)

**D13 In The Community**

**If you are a District 13 neighborhood organization, crime watch group, or similar, please** **email District 13** **if you would like to invite the Councilmember or staff to attend.**

Below:

Council is back in session, and D13 is out and about! See what we have been up to below:

1. The first budget townhall in District 13 was held at the Walnut Hill Recreation Center. Residents  asked questions, heard from city staff, and provided input into the city's upcoming budget. Make sure you join us at the next ones, on August 20th and 22nd!
2. Mark Duebner, Director of Aviation for the City, answers a question about "fleet electrification" -- converting the city's vehicles from gas to electric.
3. Did you know Dallas' Indian immigrant community is one of the largest in the US? The Mayor recognized their impact on Dallas as public servants, business leaders, neighbors, and friends, as the City recognized India's 75th anniversary of their independence from Britain.
4. Dallas County Commissioner JJ Koch (County District 2) and the D13 team partnered with the City of Dallas' Office of Homeless Solutions to present a townhall on initiatives within the city and county to combat homelessness and panhandling. Thank you to all the residents who attended in person or watched online!
5. CM Willis poses with County Commissioner Koch and Ken Malcolmson, President of the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce, at the townhall event.
6. At the Midtown Improvement District board meeting, CM Willis provided an update on issues in the area, such as local street repair projects, public safety, and homelessness.
7. Council Liaison Jake Anderson represented the D13 team at the Dallas Regional Chamber's Congressional Forum. Here, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson accepts an award, recognizing her for her distinguished public service record over her lifetime.

**Council Member Willis' Mayoral Appointments:**
Ad Hoc Administrative Affairs (Chair)
Government Performance and Financial Management Committee (Vice Chair)
Public Safety Committee
Economic Development Committee
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
Legislative Affairs Committee
Judicial Nominating Committee
Visit Dallas Board of Directors
Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Advisory Council