

The MSN16 Infrastructure Committee met at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, with Clark Martinson, general manager of the Energy Corridor District, to discuss an application for the Greater West Houston Sub-regional Planning Initiative grant through Houston-Galveston Area Council.

Current and prospective committee members present were Robin Foster, Charles Burckle, David Nelson, Bill Hopkins, Patrick Ross, Robert Benz, Susie Edrington and Jerry Ramos.

According to Martinson, Energy Corridor, Memorial City and Westchase management districts and the city of Houston are applying for the sub-regional planning grant, with West Houston Association serving as an in-kind stakeholder. Deadline for the application is Jan. 21.

With local matching money, the grant would fund a \$500,000 study of traffic and land use in our area and help identify and prioritize transportation projects for the region along Interstate 10 from Fry Road to Bunker Hill Road and on Beltway 8 from Tanner Road to Bellaire Boulevard and in the commuter region within 10 miles of the Energy Corridor, Memorial City and Westchase management districts. The study would look at existing plans and examine multiple modes of transportation, including pedestrian and bike paths, highways, tollways and transit.

The group discussed how infrastructure projects are chosen for funding and agreed a cohesive plan would benefit our region. Particularly important will be to identify specific projects that are ready to be funded without further studies being required.

Martinson said city planners have suggested Memorial Super Neighborhood 16 will be elevated from a user group to stakeholder for purposes of the study. This role will give our coalition a greater voice in planning and prioritizing transportation projects for the region.

A motion was made by David Nelson, seconded by Charles Burckle, for the committee to write a letter of support for the grant application, subject to approval at the next meeting of the Memorial Super Neighborhood 16 Council on Jan. 24. The motion was approved unanimously.

Foster agreed to write the letter and seek approval from the MSN16 executive committee at its meeting Jan. 15 before submitting to the Energy Corridor District for inclusion in its final grant application.