



GENE WU

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ DISTRICT 137



Issue 6

July 2015

NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

Please join me at our upcoming **Post-Session Legislative Town Hall in District 137** on **Saturday, July 18th**. We will discuss the issues from the 84th Legislative Session, and take your comments, concerns and questions.

Bring your family, and feel free to invite your friends and neighbors. This meeting is open to anyone and everyone—especially those who live or work in Southwest Houston.

The program begins at 10:30am, but before we get started please come at 10:00am to visit with me and my staff over refreshments. We hope to see you there!

We are also pleased to share recent news and community announcements:

- Legacy expands its Southwest Clinic
- EVA Hello Kitty Shining Star Jet Lands in Houston
- METRO's new bus network starting in August 2015
- Houston Bike Plan asks for community input
- Preparing for Hurricane Season
- Rep. Wu reaction to Supreme Court ruling in King v. Burwell and Obergefell v. Hodges

Sincerely,

Gene Wu

Post-Session **Legislative Town Hall**

State Representative Gene Wu will discuss policy priorities, listen to concerns, and answer questions about the Texas Legislature and the 84th Legislative Session.

Saturday, July 18, 2015

10:00 am - 12:00pm

Program starts at 10:30 am

Sharpstown Community Center
6600 Harbor Town
Houston, TX 77036

Light refreshments will be provided.

Optional RSVP at:

District137.Wu@house.state.tx.us or 713-271-3900

Office Contact Info:

District137.Wu@house.state.tx.us

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Legacy expands its Southwest Clinic

On Friday, June 12 State Representative Gene Wu (Dist. 137) joined leaders from **Legacy Community Health**, including board members and donors, and community members, to officially kick off the demolition of the newly acquired facility next to the existing Legacy Southwest Clinic.



While still in the early planning stages for this new property, Legacy does plan to use the space to better serve patients in the Gulfton area and throughout Southwest Houston.

Since acquiring the clinic in 2010, Legacy has renovated the 20,000 square foot building four times to accommodate the growing patient population. In 2014 alone, the Legacy Southwest Clinic served more than 42,000 uninsured and underinsured patients – 300% growth since 2010.

Legacy is a full-service, Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that identifies unmet needs and gaps in health-related services and develops client-centered programs to address those needs.

EVA Hello Kitty Shining Star Jet Lands in Houston

On Friday, June 19 Representative Wu joined dignitaries to celebrate the arrival of the inaugural **nonstop Taipei- Houston flight**, and the brand new specially painted **EVA Air Hello Kitty Shining Star Jet**.

This direct flight to Taipei is a significant milestone providing easy connections to other major East and Southeast Asian destinations, and facilitating more business, tourism, and leisure travel.





In March 2013 METRO began the project of "Reimagining its entire local bus network. This project was a crucial step to ensure that METRO provided the best service for current riders and would be able to serve future riders as the greater Houston region grows.

The New Bus Network, **starting August 2015**, will greatly improve rider experience on transit throughout the service area. It will truly be a transit system that reflects the values of a progressive city of the future.

Pictured below are the [bus lines within District 137 and through southwest Houston](#). Click on the image to take a closer look at the notable changes.

Representative Gene Wu | District 137

Time Between Buses

- Peak Only
- 10, 12, or 15 Minutes
- 20 Minutes
- 30 Minutes

LEGEND

- METRO Service Area
- Transit Center
- Peak & Ride
- LRT Stations
- Red Line
- Green Line
- Purple Line

Notable Changes

2 Bellair
Service consolidated along Mission Bend branch as for west on Mission Bend TC. Westchase branch served by the 153 Horns Express. Service west of Mission Bend TC provided by the 75 Eldridge.

9 Gulfport
Most of route served by the new 9 Gullhorn/Holman. Service to Downtown provided by the METROBall Red Line and the new 82 Westheimer.

25 Richmond
Service ending Mission Bend TC branch. Branch to Sharpstown provided by the new 63 Fondren.

47 Hillcroft
No longer serves Hillcroft P&R. Instead is extended north to Northwest TC via Woodway and N. Post Oak Lane. Will no longer serve Dublin and Dunlap south of US 90A.

30 Chimney Rock
Service north of Bellair TC provided by the new 33 Post Oak. Service on Chimney Rock south of Bellair TC is discontinued. Service on Willow provided by the new 7 West Airport.

81 Westheimer - Sharpstown
Service along Westheimer replaced with the new 82 Westheimer. Service to Sharpstown provided by the new 8 Gullhorn/Holman, 47 Hillcroft, and 63 Fondren.

163 Fondren
Discontinued the 63 Fondren and will no longer serve Hillcroft P&R or Downtown directly. The new route will be extended north to Westheimer. Express service to Downtown requires a transfer to the 153/153 Horns Express of Fondren & Horns.

274 Westpark Corridor
Route renumbered 151 Westpark Express, and extended to Mission Bend TC via Horns.

Explore the changes coming to METRO's bus system using their interactive tools:

- [Interactive Dual Trip Planner](#)
- [New Bus Network interactive map.](#)

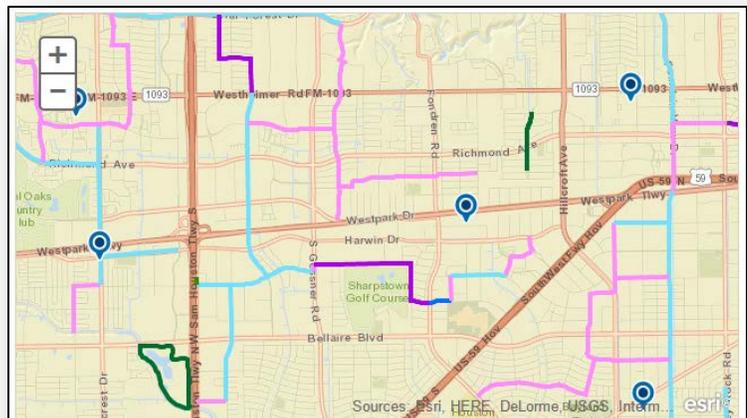
If you have any concerns or comments regarding the changes, please contact our office and share your feedback at District137.Wu@house.state.tx.us or 713-271-3900.



The City and the Houston region have made great strides in improving people's ability to bike to more destinations. In 2013, we earned a Bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community award from the League of American Bicyclist. New trails are being built along our bayous, new protected bikeways have been installed, and more people are riding all over the City.

Now is the time to create a citywide bicycle network. The Houston Bike Plan has been busy gathering public input at community meetings as part of a 12-month planning effort.

The City of Houston Planning & Development Department in coordination with the Public Works & Engineering Department and Houston Parks and Recreation Department is leading the update to the plan. The City will be working with these funding partners to develop the plan: BikeHouston, Houston Parks Board, Houston-Galveston Area Council, FTA, FHWA, and TxDOT. For additional information on the City's bicycle programs and projects please also visit the Houston Bikeways Program website.



Above: Image of the existing bike network in Southwest Houston. Click to take a closer look at the routes and different comfort levels.



Above: Photo from the brainstorming map at the June 23rd Public Meeting at Baker Ripley Neighborhood Center.

Recently, they came to Southwest Houston to talk about different types of cyclists, bike riding comfort levels, and the existing bike network. We looked at what bikeways are available right now in Southwest Houston, and where we'd like to see more routes.

We want District 137 to become a safer, healthier, more bike-friendly area. To make sure Southwest Houston isn't left out, please take the Houston Bike Plan Survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HoustonBikePlan>.

Preparing for Hurricane Season

Hurricane season is upon us and runs until November 30th. With the recent weather events, we want to make sure you and your family are prepared for any future storms.

Houston's last major hurricane was Ike in September 2008. Ike was a strong Category 2 storm that made a direct landfall in Galveston, Texas that brought high winds and water, and an extremely damaging storm surge. Thousands were left homeless or without power for weeks on end.

Make sure you and your family are always ready for a severe weather event.



Pre-Storm Preparations

- Make a plan
 - Assemble an emergency kit that includes essential documents, supplies and provisions.
 - Keep your vehicle gas tank above 1/2 full through the season in case you need to evacuate.
 - Review hurricane evacuation maps, and select a route for you and your family.
 - Contact 2-1-1 to register if you need transportation assistance to evacuate.
- Secure your property
 - Consider the purchase of flood insurance, even if outside of a floodplain.
 - Board up your windows or close storm shutters.
 - Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed.
 - Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
 - Unplug sensitive electrical appliances and turn off electricity at the circuit breaker if flooding is expected.
 - Do NOT turn off natural gas at the meter. If you choose to discontinue natural gas service, turn off gas at each appliance.

In the event of a power outage, CenterPoint Energy is responsible for restoring service no matter from which company you buy electricity. Because CenterPoint Energy owns and maintains the electric delivery system (poles and wires), they are the only company that can restore service during power outages. Visit CenterPointEnergy.com/StormCenter. You can report outages by phone at 713-207-2222.

Information gathered from the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#), the [Texas Department of Public Safety](#), the [Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management](#), the [City of Houston Emergency Information Center](#), [Ready.gov](#), and CenterPoint Energy.

Supreme Court decision in King v. Burwell upholds health care subsidies

"I am grateful that the Supreme Court of the United States recognized that the intent of the Affordable Care Act was to help millions of Americans obtain healthcare coverage that they would not otherwise be able to afford."

"This is an important step forward for affordable healthcare for all Americans, but we still have so much more to do. If you know someone who needs healthcare, encourage them to sign up during the open enrollment period beginning November 1, 2015."

- State Representative Gene Wu, District 137

Supreme Court decision in Obergefell v. Hodges rules that state bans on same-sex marriage are unconstitutional

"I applaud the high court's recognition that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to all, and urge our county clerks' offices to do what they need to do to begin issuing marriage licenses immediately.."

"Same-sex couples in Texas and across the nation deserve equal rights under the law, and I'm thrilled that the Supreme Court came down on the right side of history."

- State Representative Gene Wu, District 137