



## Urban Houston Framework

Values Workshop

December 4th - December 5th | 1475 West Gray Street, Activity Room 2, Houston, TX 77019



urban houston framework



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# Agenda

## Greeting

## Presentation

- Project Overview
- SAC Meeting #1 Recap
- Current Conditions
- Introduction to Urban Center Tiers
- Review of challenges

## Break-out session

- Refine characteristics of urban centers
- Discuss and prioritize characteristics

## Concluding Map Exercise

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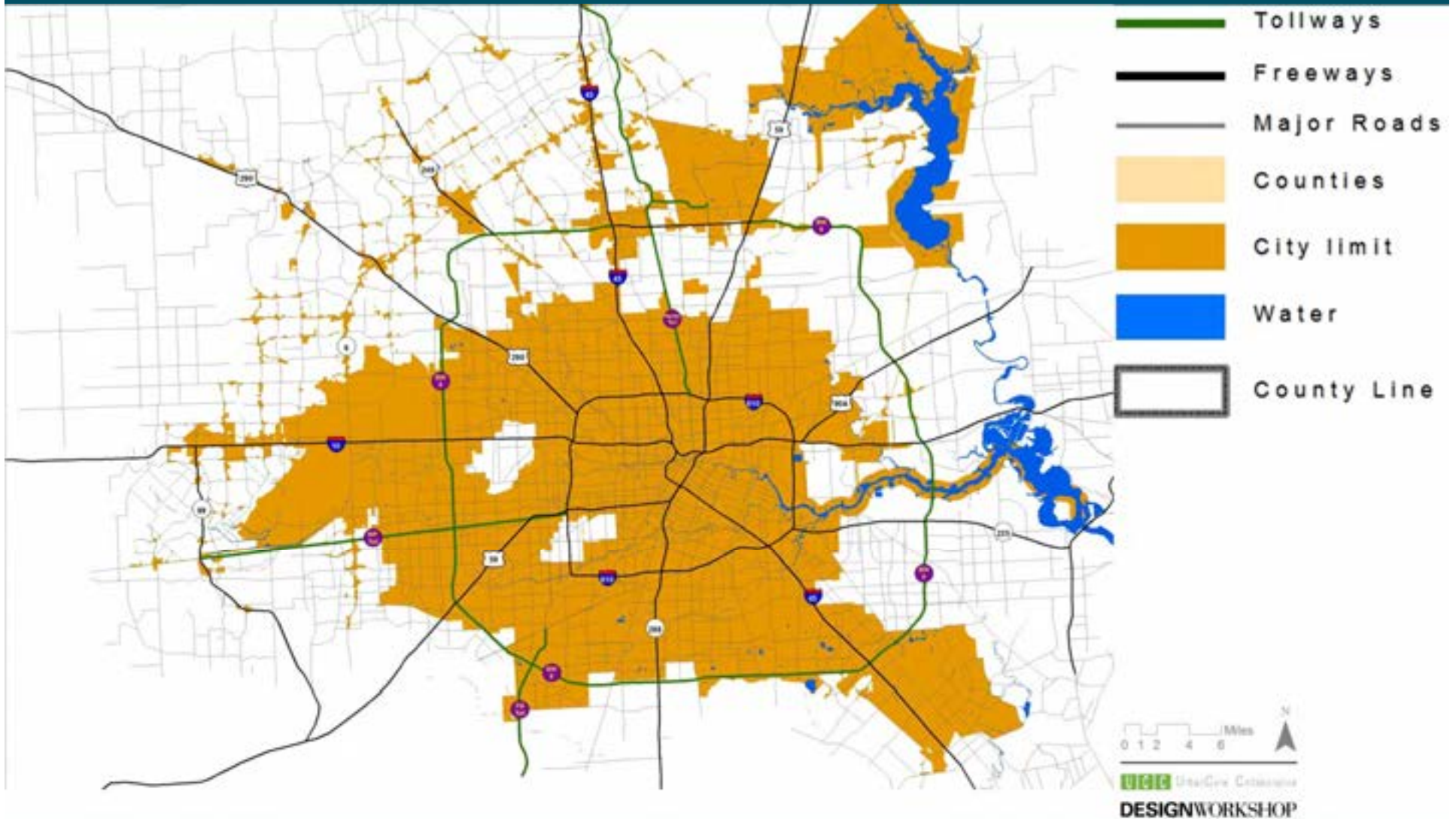
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# Project Overview



# Urban Houston Framework Study Area



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# Overview

## Purpose of Urban Houston Framework

- discuss “**urban centers**”
- **develop a framework** for urban areas that encompasses regional sustainability principles of **live, work** and **play**.

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# Overview

How is Urban Houston Framework different from the other recent H-GAC Livable Centers case studies?

- **considers challenges** to development throughout the corporate limits of the City of Houston
- encompasses a much larger area – **the entire city of Houston.**
- will include **existing and future urban areas** that are not on the currently planned Light Rail Transit Corridors

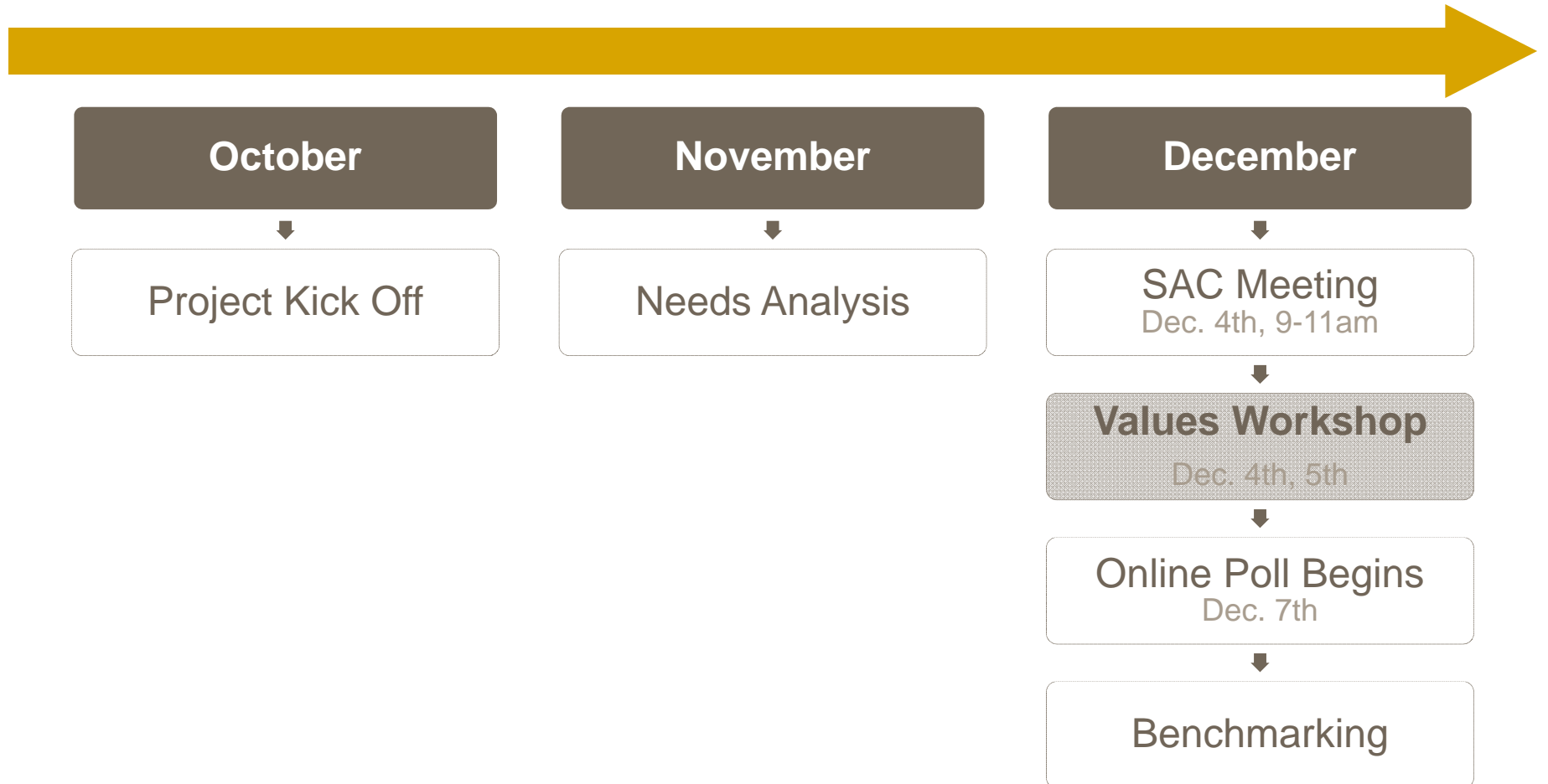
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# 2012 Schedule



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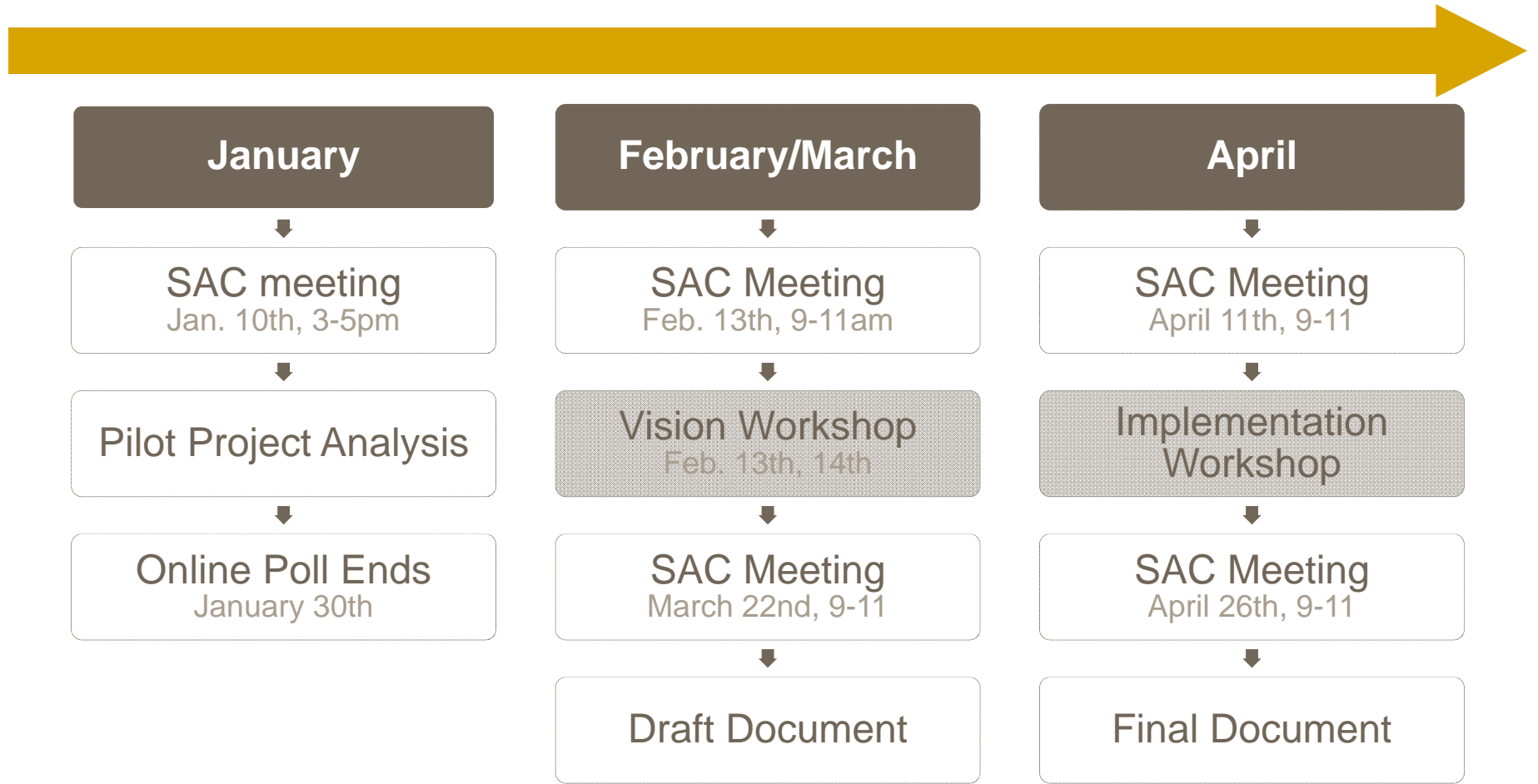
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# 2013 Schedule



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# Stakeholder Advisory Committee



# Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC)

## Who We Are

- **Linda Porrás-Pirtle**, Planning Commissioner (Chair)
- **Keiji Asakura**, Planning Commissioner
- **Antoine Bryant**, Planning Commissioner
- **Filo Castore**, AIA
- **Diane Schenke**, Greater East End Management District
- **Toy Wood**, GHBA
- **Jeff Taebel**, H-GAC
- **Ashby Johnson**, H-GAC
- **Veronica Chapa-Jones**, Housing and Community Development
- **David Crossley**, Houston Tomorrow
- **Bill Huntsinger**, HREC
- **Bob Collins**, HREC
- **Joshua Sanders**, HRG
- **Amanda Timm**, LISC
- **Kim Slaughter**, METRO
- **Clint Harbert**, METRO
- **Marlene Gafrick**, Planning and Development
- **Mark Loethen**, Public Works and Engineering
- **David Robinson**, Super Neighborhood President
- **Shon Link**, ULI
- **Irma Sanchez**, Westchase District

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# Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC)

## Why We Met

- confirm **framework goals**
- discuss **challenges and opportunities**
- confirm project **schedule**
- determine **next steps**



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# Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC)

## Next Steps for Values Workshop...

- **determine characteristics** of urban centers
  - major
  - regional
  - neighborhood
- **identify challenges**
  - policies
  - Infrastructure
- **discuss solutions**



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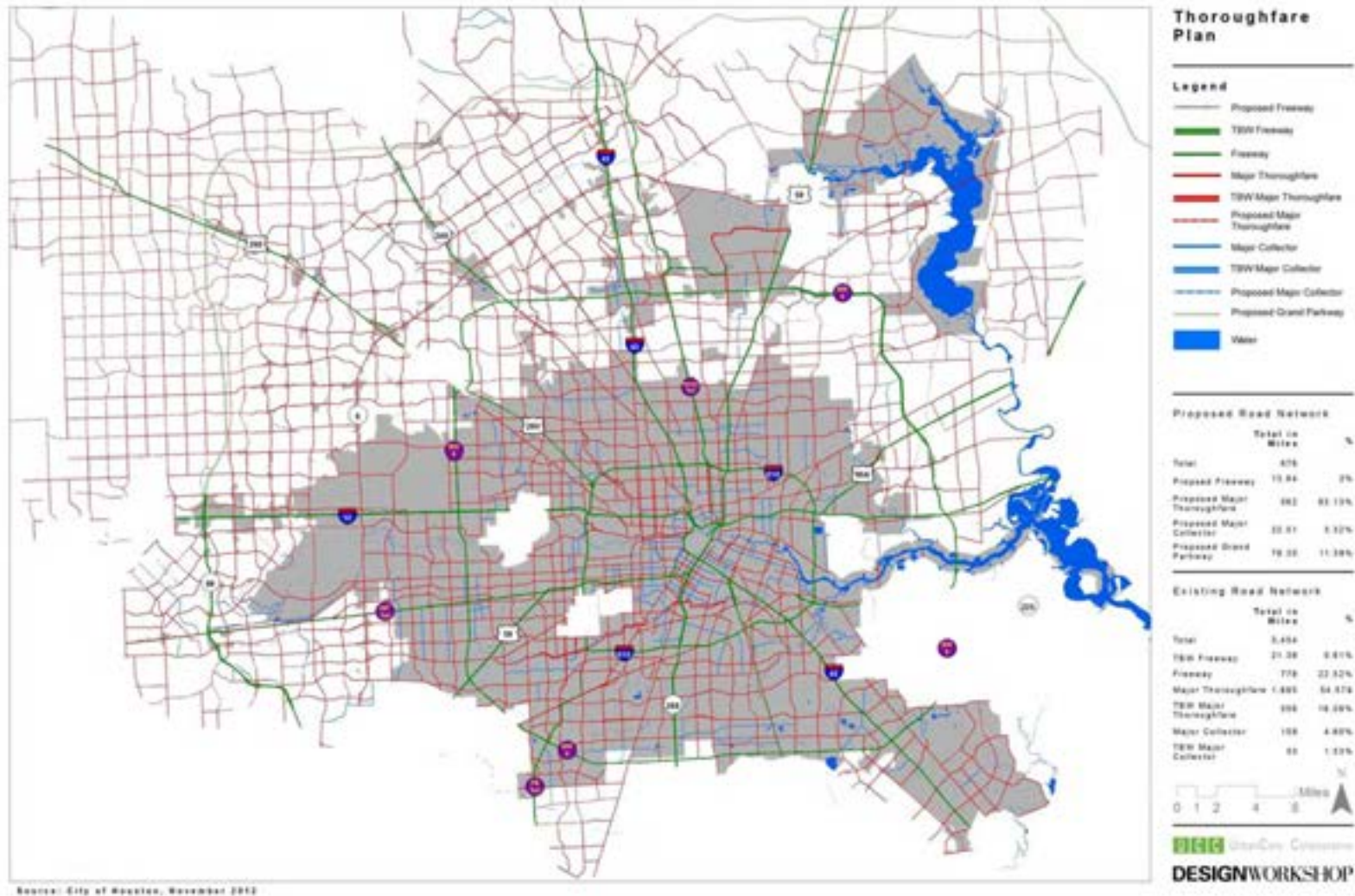
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# Current Conditions



# Thoroughfare Plan



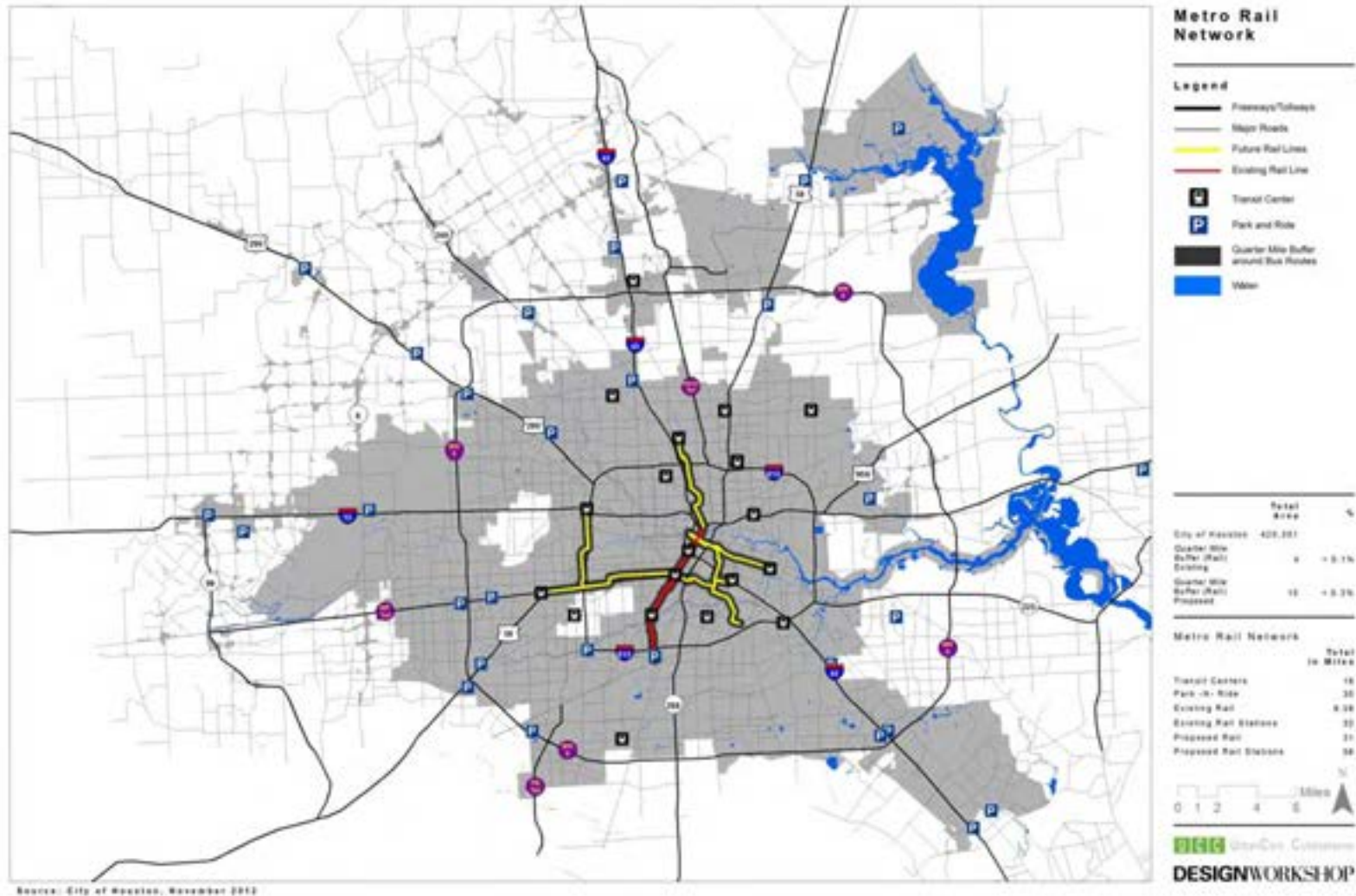
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# METRO Rail Service



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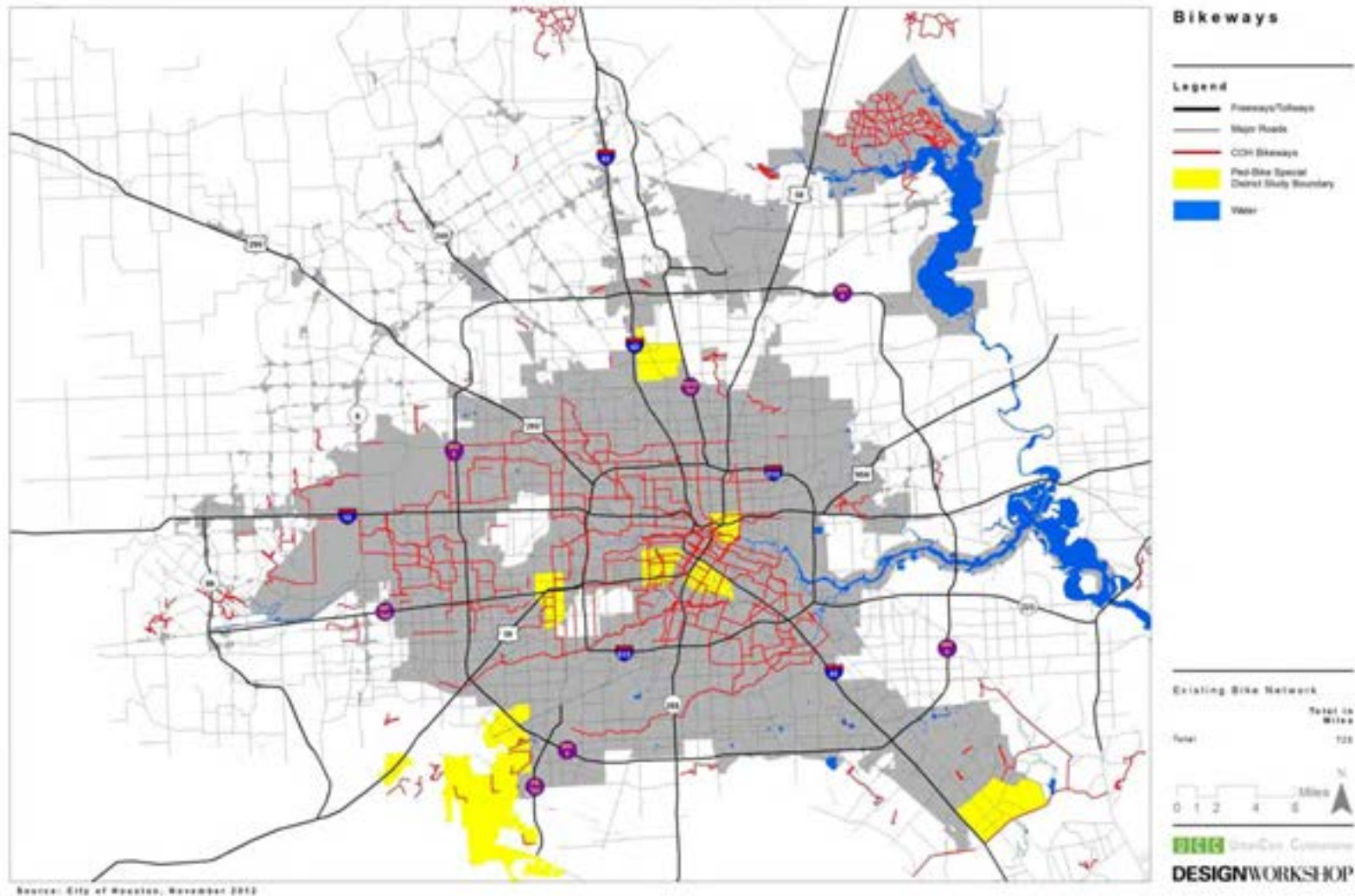
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# Bikeways



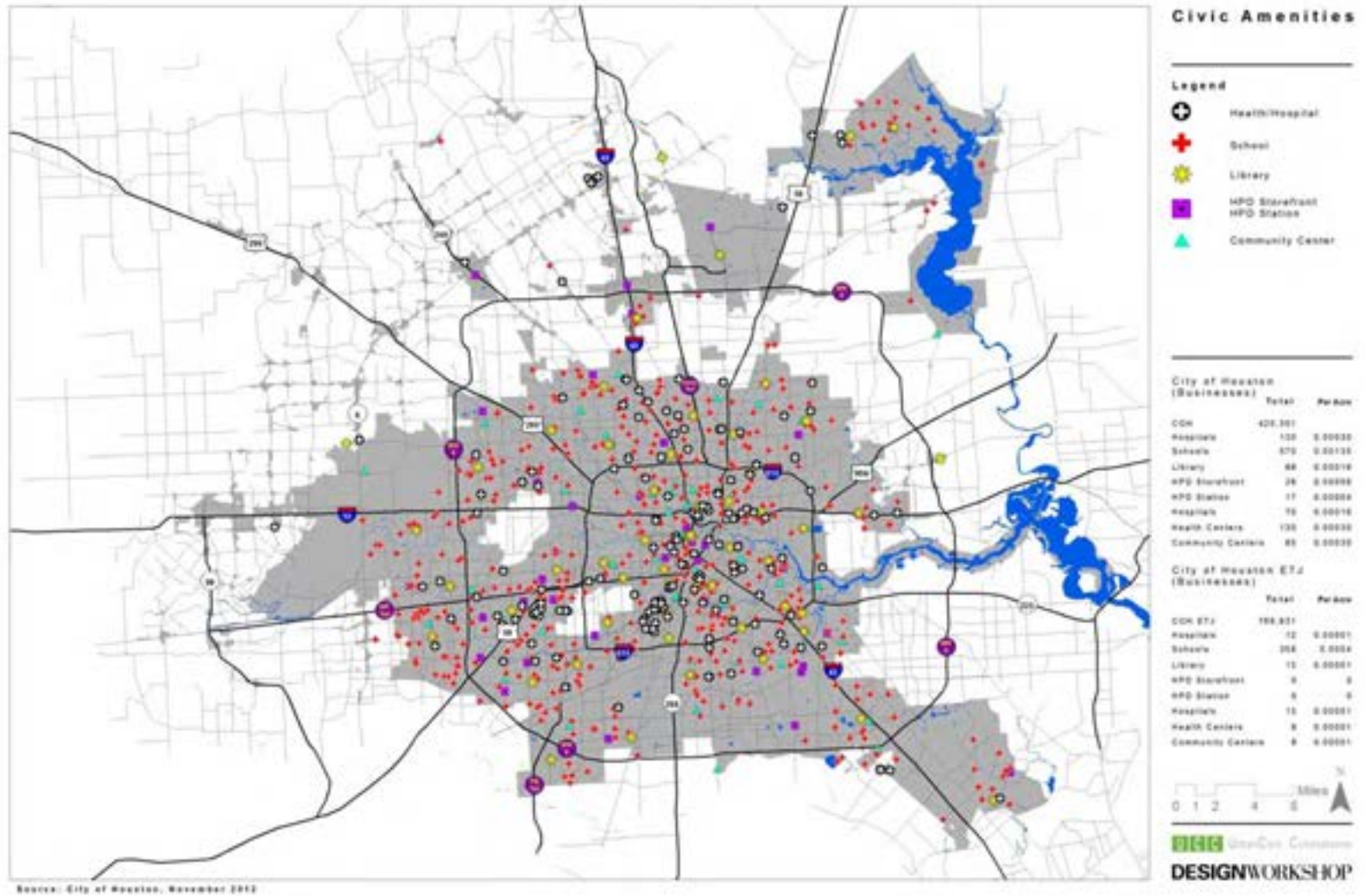
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# Civic Amenities



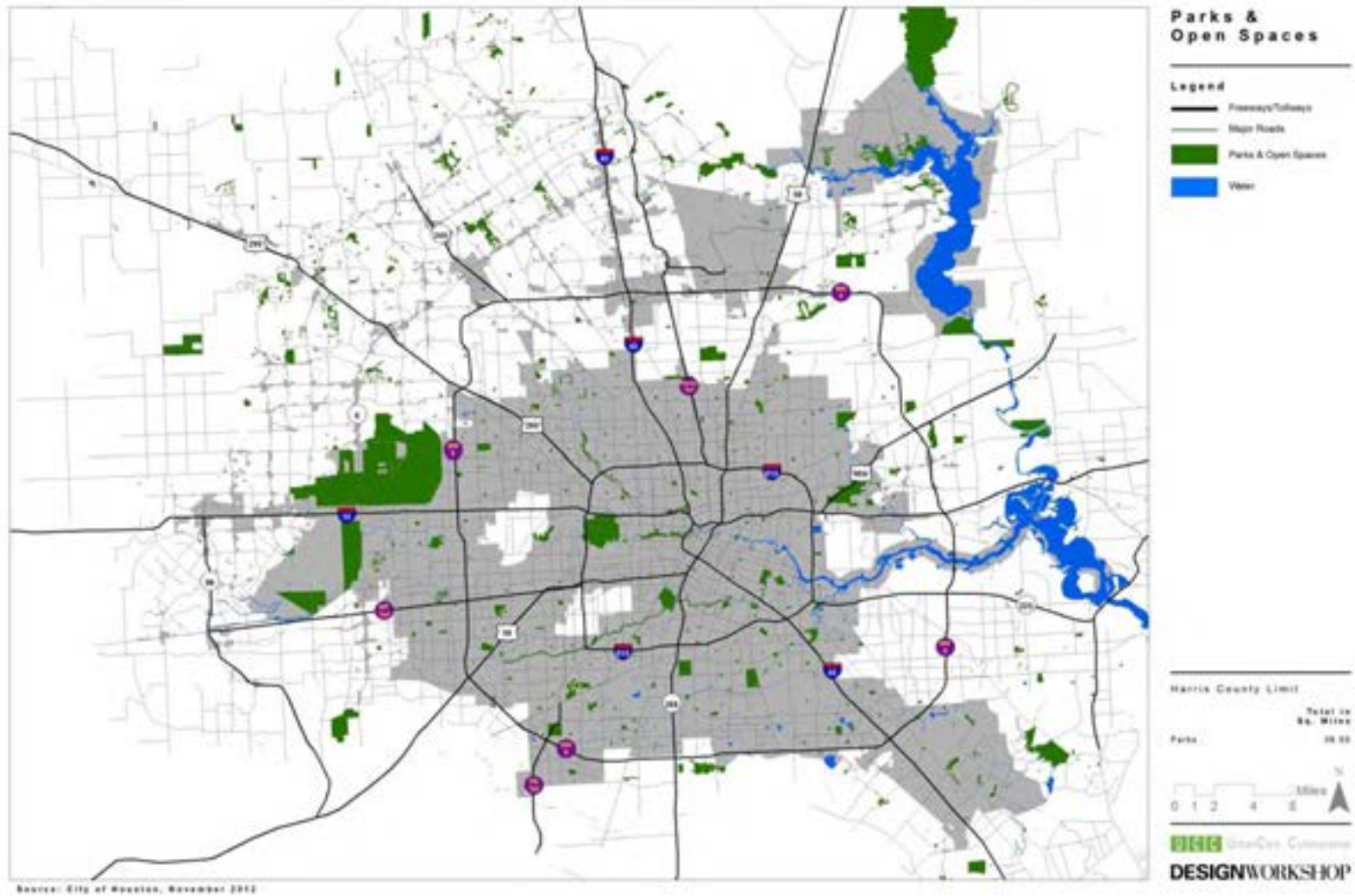
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# Parks



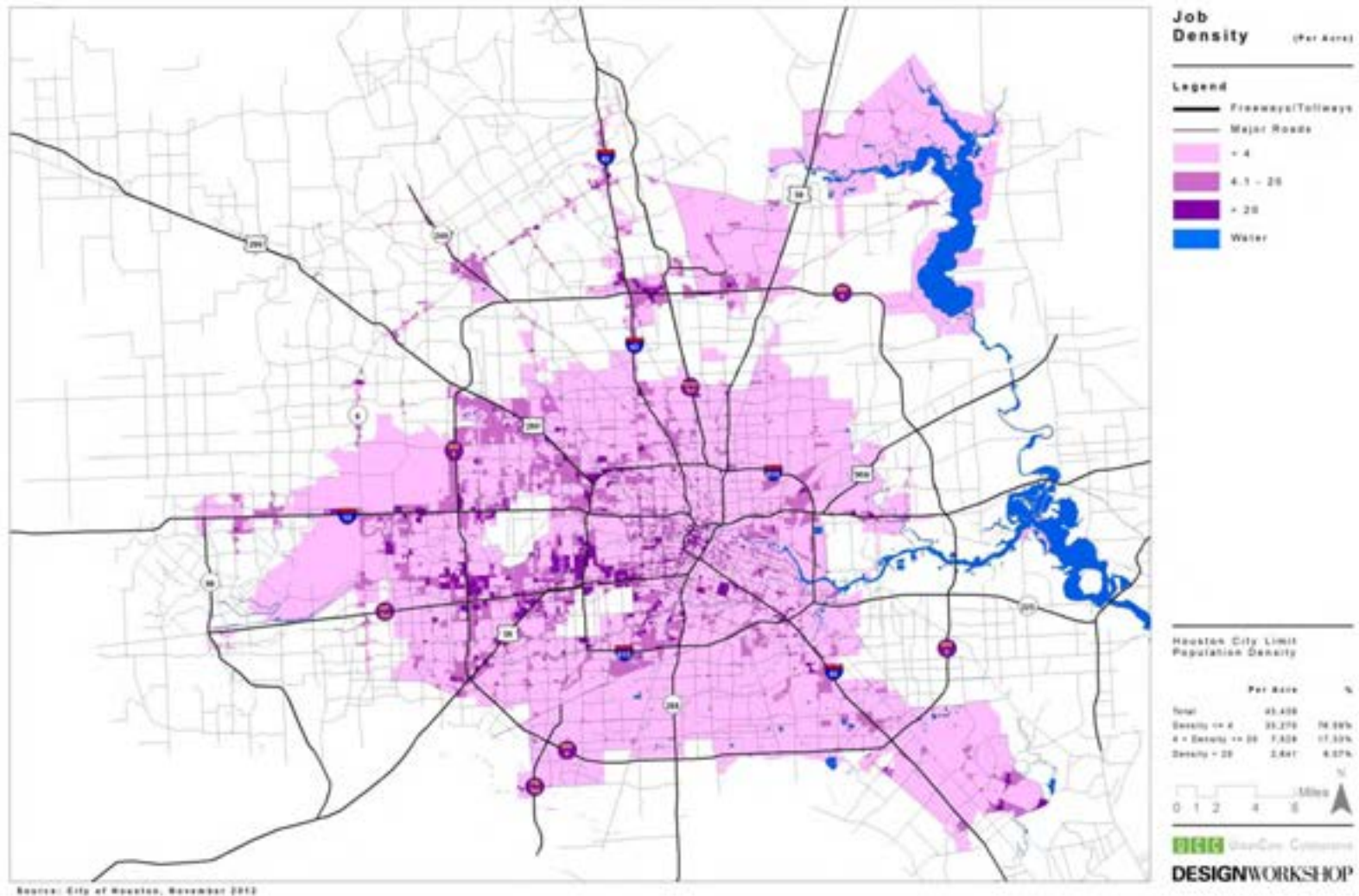
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# Jobs Density



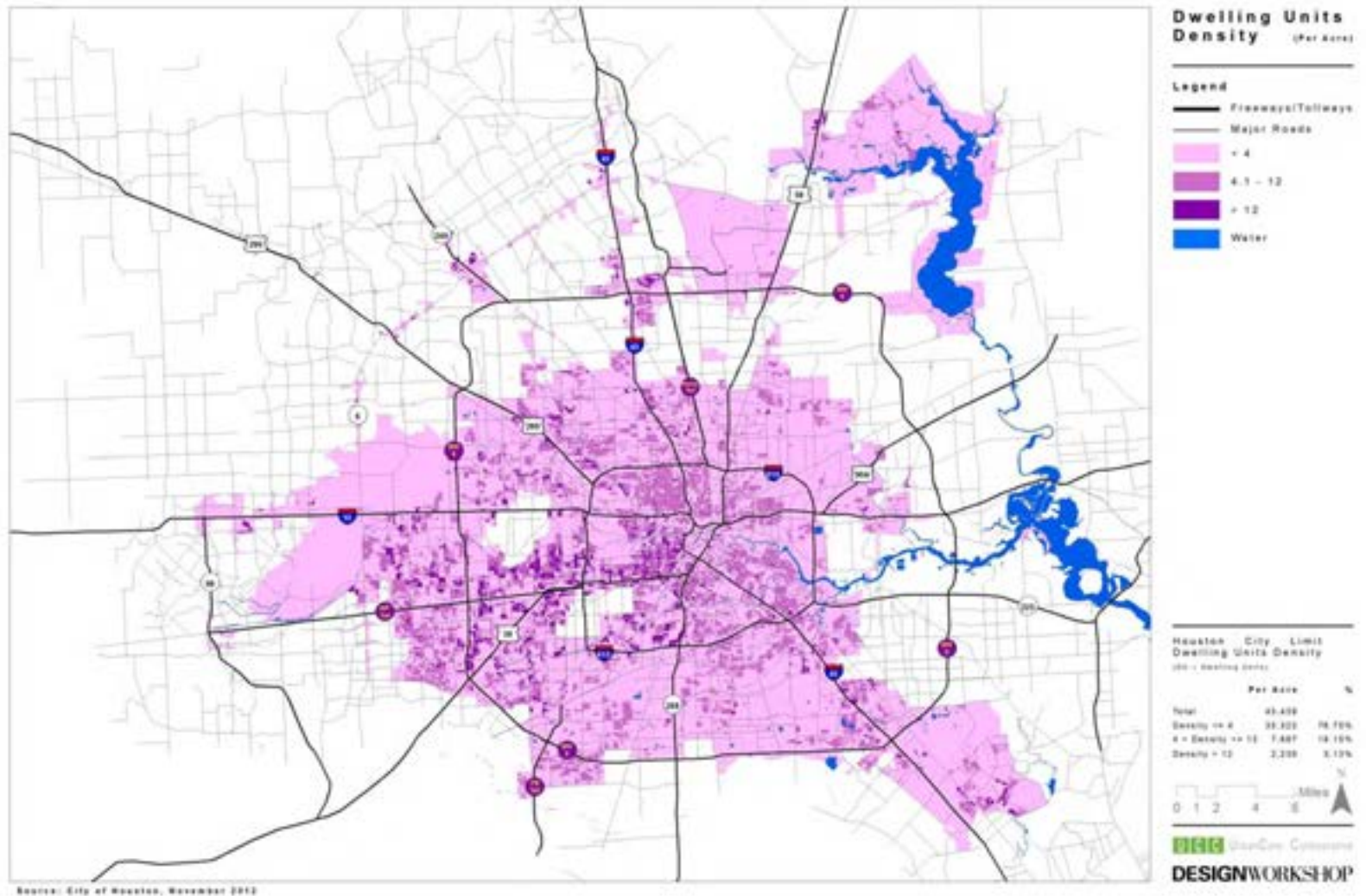
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# Dwelling Units Density



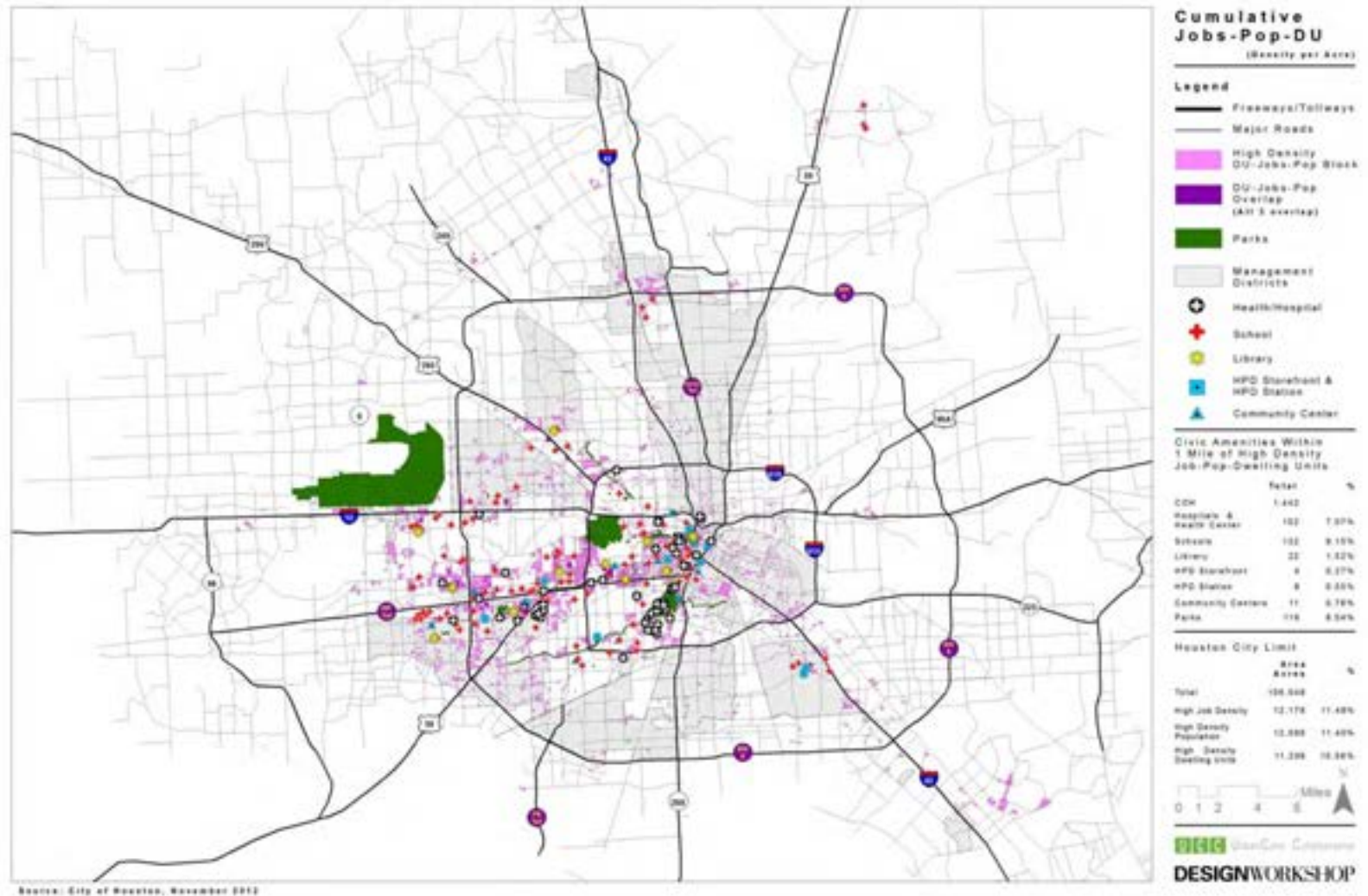
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# What happens when you overlay jobs and population?



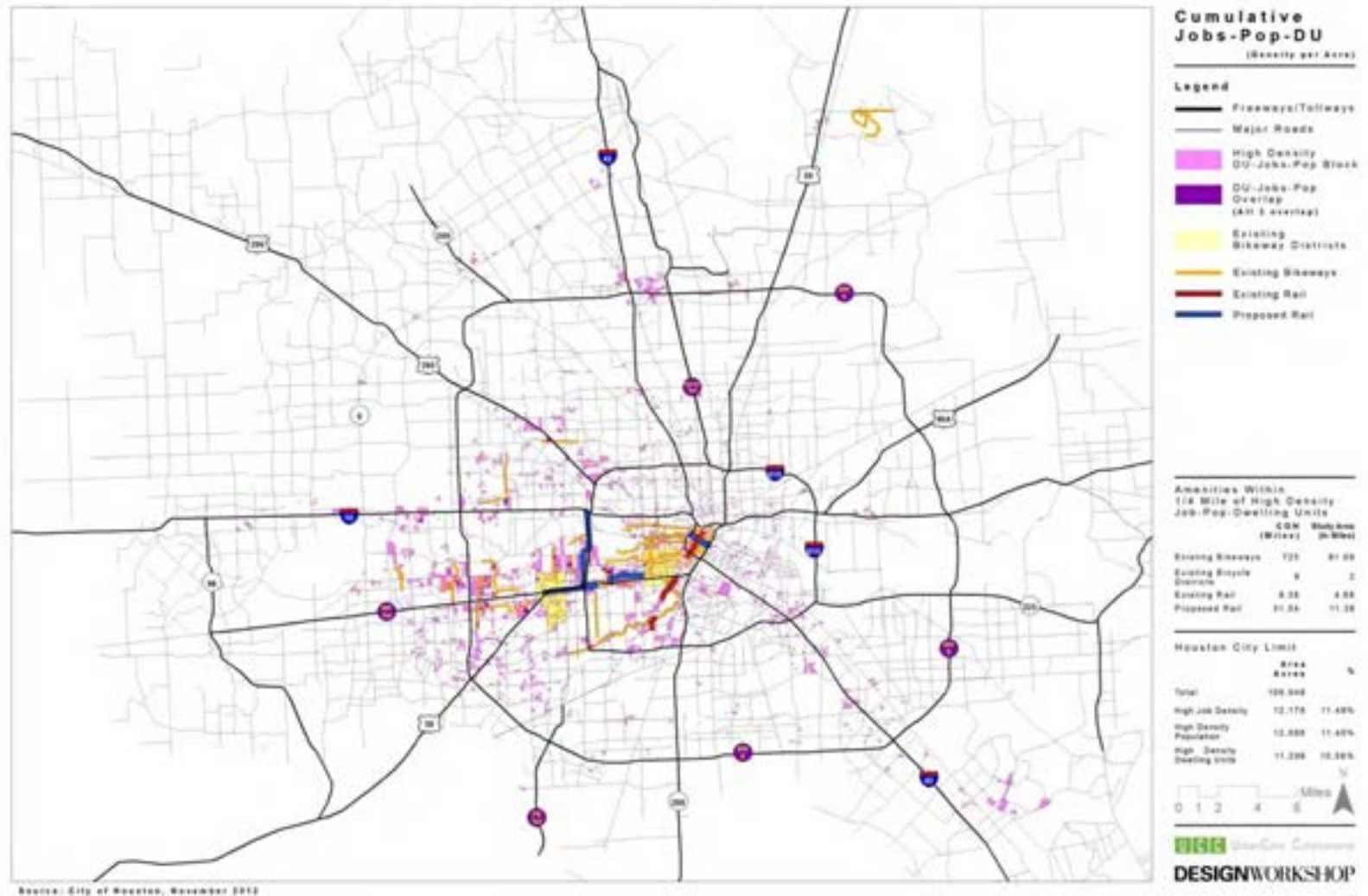
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# What happens when you overlay jobs/population/rail?



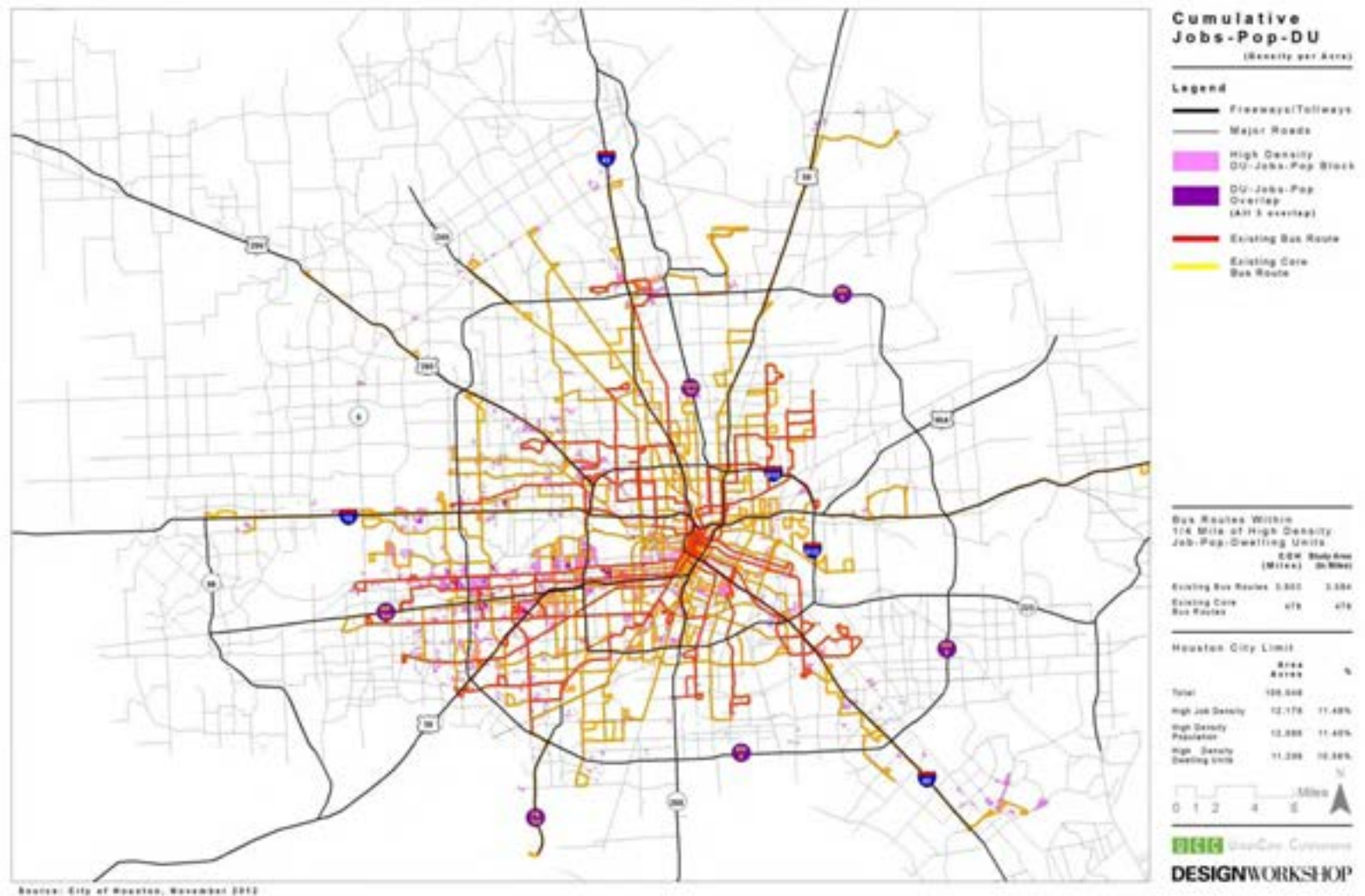
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# What happens when you overlay jobs/population/bus lines?



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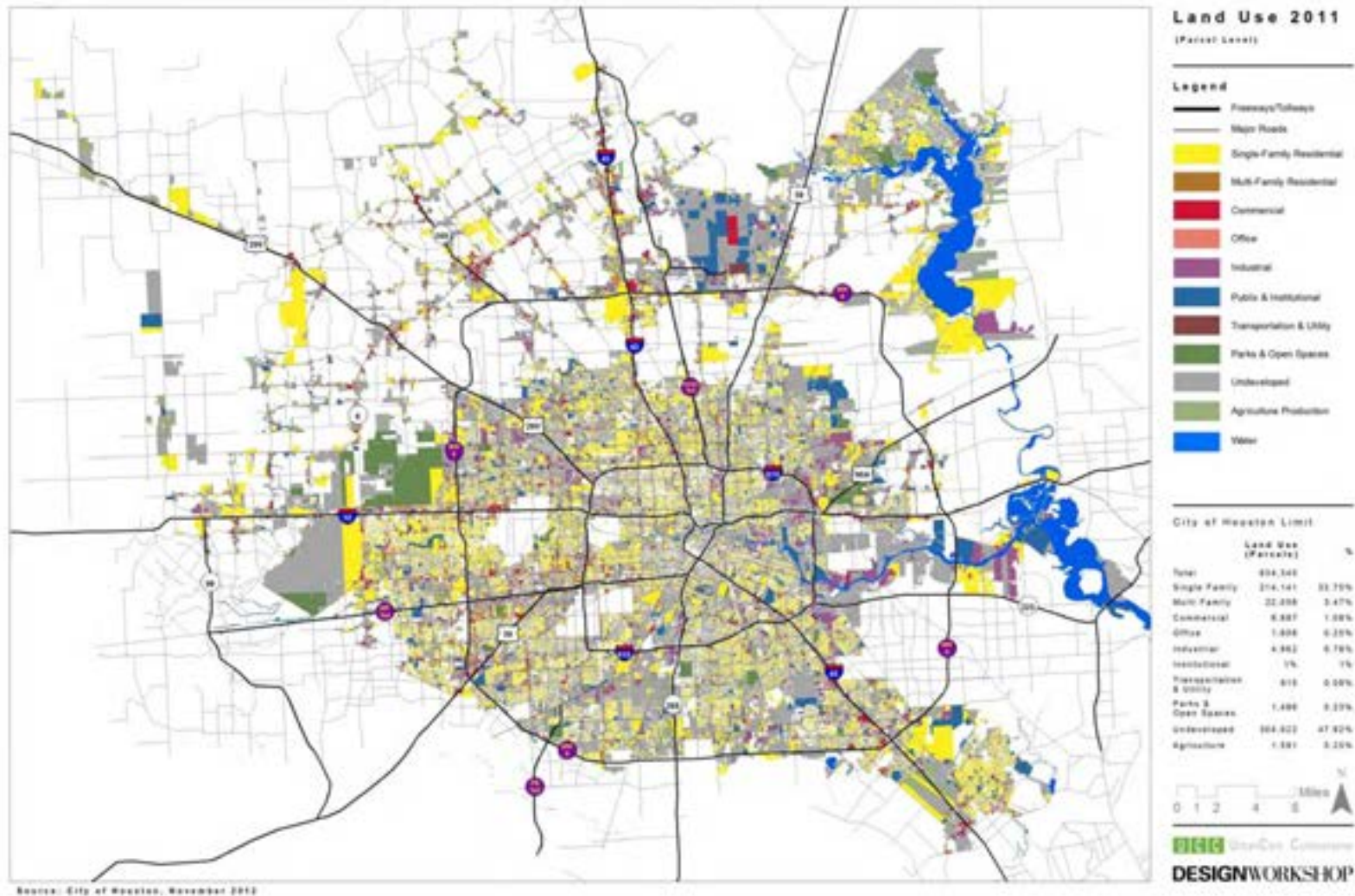
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# Current Land Use



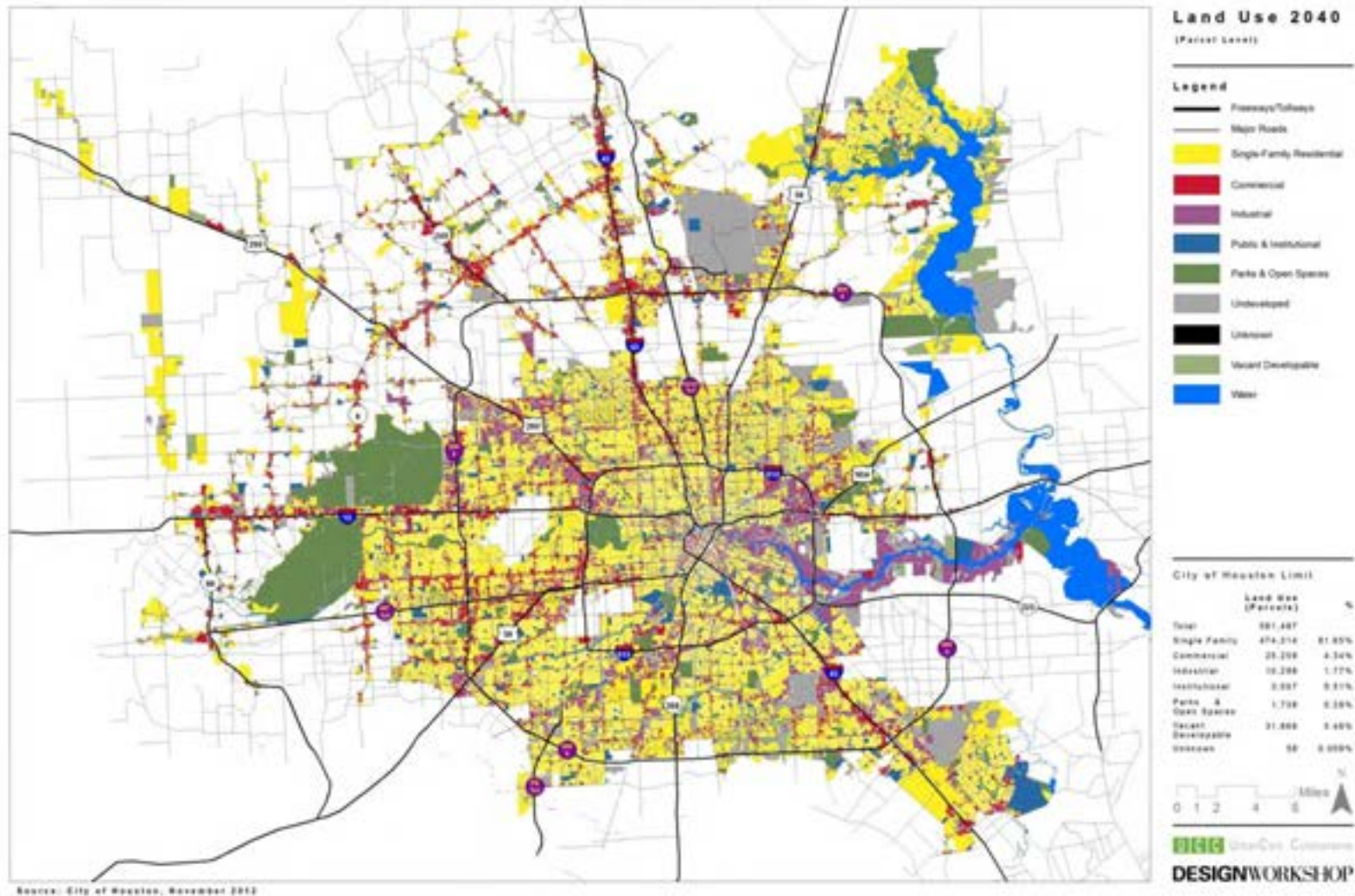
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# 2040 Land Use



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# Urban Houston Framework Goals - Community

A **diversity of housing choices** for:

- people of all ages,
- incomes,
- family sizes.

Better **quality of life** for different neighborhood types.

- walkability

Support to enhance existing **neighborhood character**.

Support for **existing communities** such as:

- transit-oriented, mixed-use development
- community revitalization.

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Are we on the right track with **community** goals?



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# Urban Houston Framework Goals - Economy

## **Economic competitiveness** by encouraging:

- reliable/timely access to employment centers,
- educational opportunities,
- services and other basic needs of workers, and
- expanded business access to markets.

## **Coordination of policies** to help:

- remove challenges to collaboration,
- leverage funding, and
- increase accountability and effectiveness of all levels of government to plan for future growth.

Added value to communities and neighborhoods by investing in **healthy, safe, and walkable neighborhoods**.

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Are we on the right track with **economic** goals?



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# Urban Framework Goals - Environment

A more **walkable** and **bikeable** network to connect:

- Jobs,
- Housing, and
- Recreational destinations.

Economical **transportation options** that:

- decrease household transportation costs,
- improve air quality,
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- promote public health.

Maintain or improve **water quality**

Limit **impervious surfaces** when applicable

Maintain and expand **green space**

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Are we on the right track with **environmental** goals?



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# Urban Center Tiers



# What is an Urban Center?



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# Urban Center Concept



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# Optional vs. Prerequisites

## Optional

- A characteristic that is recommended but not required.

## Prerequisites

- A characteristic that must be met prior to developing an urban center.

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# Tier-1: Major

**Draws in residents, shoppers and workers from outside the community**

## **Mixture of transit**

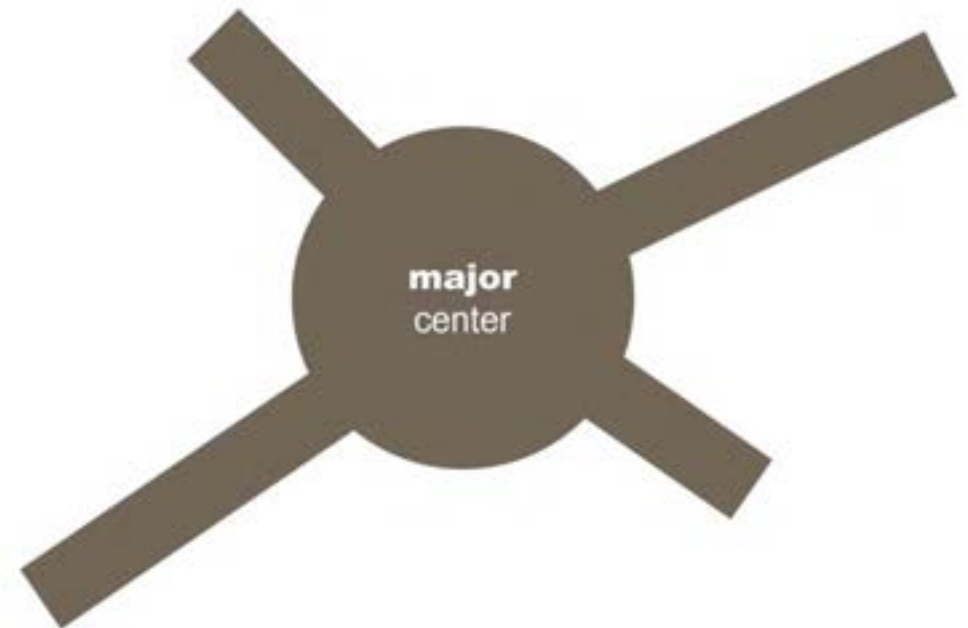
- heavy rail
- light rail
- bus

## **High density residential**

- multi-family housing
- high-rise condominiums
- dense single family (townhomes, brownstones)

## **Destination commercial, retail and civic uses**

- corporate office headquarters
- medical districts
- educational districts
- lodging
- entertainment (theaters, art galleries, clubs)



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# Tier-1: Major



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# Tier-1: Major



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# Tier-2: Regional

## Primary centers of economic and cultural activity in a city

### Mixture of transit

- rail
- bus
- bike

### Medium density residential

- single-family housing
- multi-family housing

### City-serving commercial, retail and civic uses

- anchor retail stores
- movie theaters
- medical offices



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## Tier-2: Regional



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# Tier-3: Neighborhood

## Local-serving centers of economic and community activity

### Mixture of origin and destination trips

- primarily commuter service to jobs
- multi-modal transit

### Low density residential

- primarily single-family housing
- some multi-family housing
- accessory dwelling units

### Neighborhood-serving retail, employment, and civic uses

- convenience stores
- locally owned cafes
- pharmacies



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# Tier-3: Neighborhood



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# Tier-3: Neighborhood



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# Review of Challenges



# Policy Challenges

- Failure to link higher-density development with transit system
- Limited mix of uses in high-density areas
- Prohibition of civic uses in certain areas
- Reduced lot coverage standards for parking and stormwater
- Limited access points on local streets and collectors
- Non-conforming buildings (building code or development standards change)
- Lack of affordable housing funds
- Lack of education about Historic Preservation strategies

**Help us brainstorm other challenges! What are potential solutions?**



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# Infrastructure Challenges

- Centers that are not in close proximity to each other are more self-reliant. Certain services may be available in one center that are not available in another.
- Introducing housing into predominantly employment uses
- Lack of infrastructure capacity

**Help us brainstorm other challenges! What are potential solutions?**



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# Transportation Challenges

- Lack of transportation choices between centers
- Travel times between centers can hinder movement
- Parking requirements for commercial and residential buildings drive up costs
- Lack of pedestrian, bicycle and transit connecting schools to neighborhoods where students live
- Improving transit access in commuter heavy areas



**Help us brainstorm other challenges!  
What are potential solutions?**

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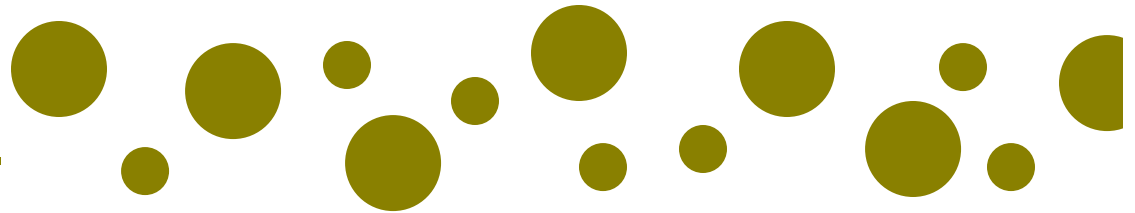
# Where are Urban Centers?



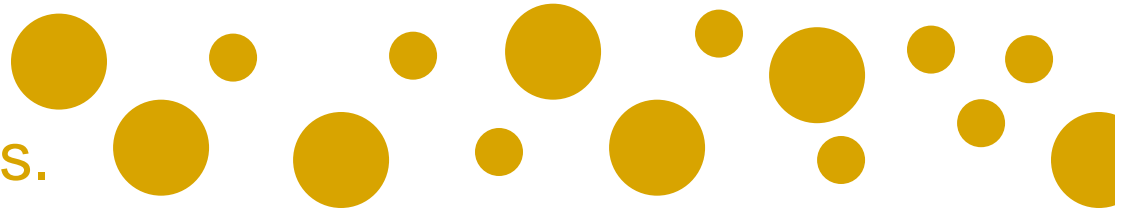
# Final Map Exercise – Potential Urban Center Locations

**Help us locate urban centers!**

Place **GREEN** dots for **CURRENT** urban centers.



Place **YELLOW** dots for **POTENTIAL** urban centers.



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# Next Steps



Upcoming events...

## Vision Workshop

Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

## Implementation Workshop

Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>

Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

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# Stay Involved!

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For more information contact:

**UrbanHoustonFramework@Houstontx.gov**



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