

BEN TAUB EXPANSION PROJECT

A Community Engagement
Report to the Harris County
Commissioners Court

Covering the period from Oct. 30, 2025,
through Jan. 20, 2026

**HARRIS
HEALTH**
Est. 1966

60

1502

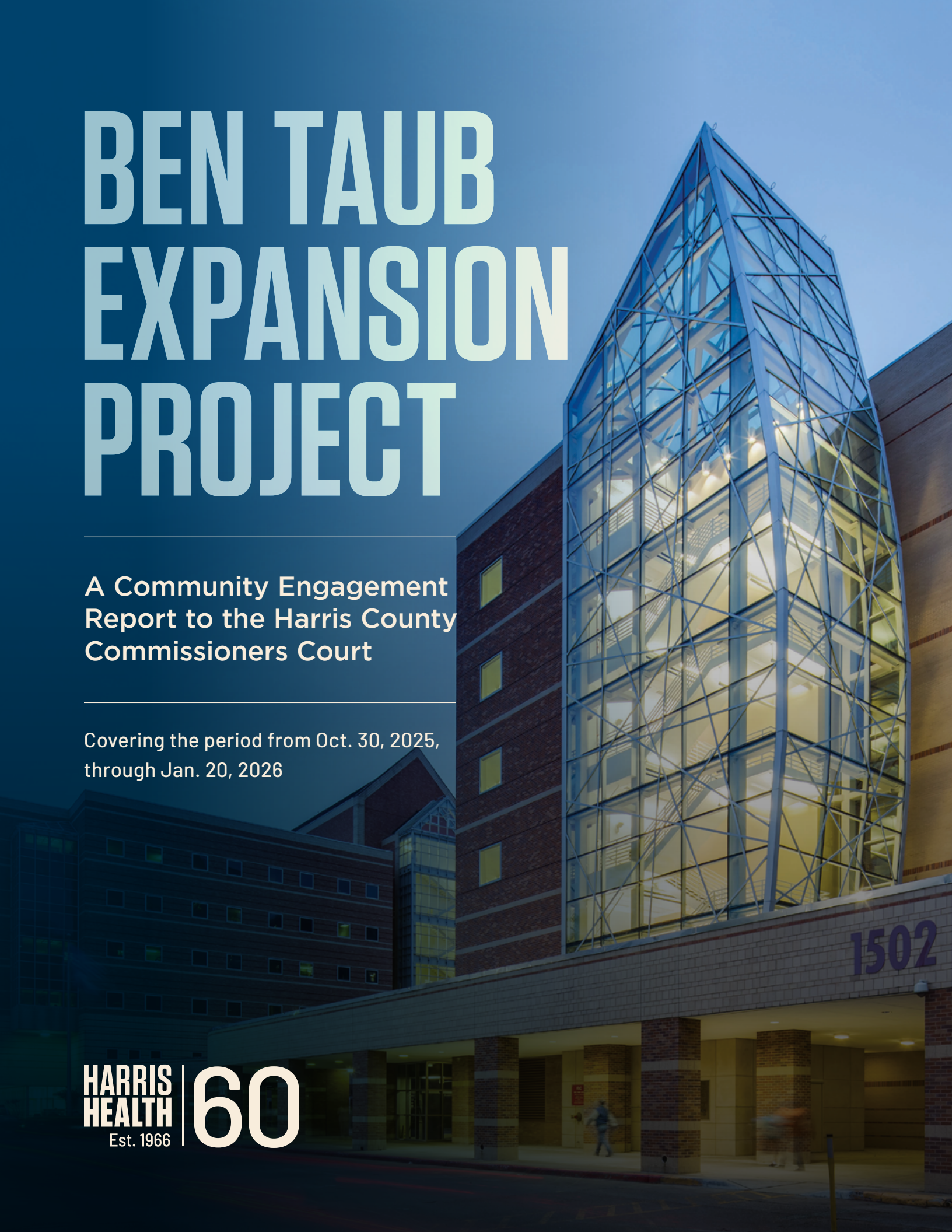


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Order of Harris County Commissioners Court	5
Harris County Precinct Town Hall Meeting Summaries	7
Precinct 1 Summary	9
Precinct 2 Summary	10
Precinct 3 Summary	11
Precinct 4 Summary	12
Community and Media Engagement	13
Community Feedback Summary	20
Letters of Support	25
Public Information Posted on harrishealth.org	47
Town Hall Meeting Materials	61

BEN TAUB EXPANSION PROJECT

Introduction

Harris Health respectfully thanks the Harris County Commissioners Court for its time, thoughtful consideration and ongoing leadership in advancing our community's health and safety. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this community engagement update and to work collaboratively with the Court and our stakeholders to ensure that Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital continues to meet Harris County's growing emergency and trauma care needs, now and in the years ahead.

HARRIS HEALTH BEN TAUB HOSPITAL EXPANSION PROJECT: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE



In compliance with the Order of Harris County Commissioners Court dated Oct 30, 2025, Harris Health respectfully submits this community engagement update regarding the proposed land acquisition of Bayou Parkland West necessary to advance the Ben Taub Hospital Expansion Project. This report is intended to provide a clear summary of work completed from Oct. 30, 2025, through Jan. 20, 2026, demonstrate compliance with required legal and public engagement processes and document the broad community input informing this effort as the Court considers the proposed purchase.

Ben Taub Hospital plays a critical role in Harris County and the region's health. As one of only two Level I adult trauma centers in the county, Ben Taub provides the highest level of emergency care for patients with life-threatening injuries and complex medical needs. Level I trauma centers are uniquely equipped to deliver immediate, comprehensive care 24 hours a day, including specialized surgical services, advanced imaging and multidisciplinary clinical teams. In counties of Harris County's size and population growth, national standards suggest the need for four to six Level I trauma centers. Today, Ben Taub is operating at or near capacity, underscoring the urgency of expanding its facility to meet current demand and prepare for future needs.

The proposed expansion is essential to ensure continued and available access to lifesaving emergency services and comprehensive healthcare for a growing and increasingly diverse region. Extensive analysis has determined that acquisition of the identified parcel, which is located directly across from the Ben Taub Hospital emergency and trauma center, is the only viable option to support the scale and configuration required for a modern hospital expansion. Although the property is part of Hermann Park, it represents less than two percent of the park's 445 acres and is physically separated from the park's primary features and attractions by Cambridge Street. A map illustrating the location and boundaries of the proposed land is included in this report for reference.

Throughout this process, Harris Health has followed the legal framework governing land acquisition, including the use of eminent domain, while remaining committed to transparency, public engagement and collaboration. Many community members have expressed support for Harris Health's expansion efforts, recognizing the importance of strengthening emergency and trauma services countywide. In addition, Harris Health has actively engaged with community members, elected officials and local organizations through town halls, community update meetings and ongoing stakeholder discussions and by sharing updates via social media and a public website to ensure concerns are heard and addressed.

The materials that follow document this progress, including letters of support from key community organizations and summaries of public meetings held across Harris County precincts, along with tracking information on a range of community engagement communications and activities. Together, they reflect Harris Health's commitment to responsible stewardship, legal compliance and partnership with the county and community as we work to preserve and strengthen access to critical care for Harris County residents.

BEN TAUB EXPANSION PROJECT

Order of
Harris County
Commissioners
Court

ORDER OF COMMISSIONERS COURT

The Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, convened at a meeting of the Court at the Harris County Administration Building in the City of Houston, Texas, on October 30, 2025 with all members present except Judge Hidalgo.

Commissioner Garcia introduced an order and made a motion that the same be adopted. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion for adoption of the order. The motion, carrying with it the adoption of the order, prevailed by the following vote:

Vote of the Court	Yes	No	Abstain
Judge Hidalgo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Ellis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Garcia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Ransey, P.E.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Briones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Commissioner Ellis thereupon announced that the motion had duly and lawfully carried and that the order had been duly and lawfully adopted. The order thus adopted follows:

IT IS ORDERED:

- To return to Commissioners Court on January 29th for presentation of community input and request a public hearing for March 19th.
- Coordinate with Court Offices to hold one community meeting in each Commissioner Precinct prior to January 20th with the following specifications:

The meetings must be advertised on Harris Health’s website and social media channels;

The meetings must be advertised via flyers distributed at Harris Health service locations and at other public locations;

Any advertisement of the meetings must clearly and prominently state that the subject of the meetings is the use of eminent domain to take a portion of Hermann Park for expansion of Ben Taub Hospital facilities, and no other subject may be listed;

Harris Health will advertise the meetings at least seven days before they occur;

Harris Health will provide advertisements to Court Offices to distribute and promote;

The meetings will occur on a weekday evening other than Friday and begin after 6:30 P.M.;

The meetings shall be in a publicly accessible location that is compliant with ADA;

Spanish interpretation must be provided at these meetings, along with any other language the Commissioner’s Office deems appropriate;

Informational materials provided at the meeting must be provided in English, Spanish, and any other language the Commissioner’s Office deems appropriate;

Signage such as yard signs should be placed near the meeting area;

The meetings shall be planned so that members of the public can provide their feedback for at least one and a half hours;

If a Commissioner declines to participate, Harris Health will not host a meeting for that Precinct;

A community engagement report is to be provided to Commissioners Court by January 23rd.

- For the Harris Health leadership team to meet with the Hermann Park Conservancy Board at least twice prior to January 20th and conduct regular meetings thereafter.

Presented to Commissioners Court

October 30, 2025

Approve: G/E

BEN TAUB EXPANSION PROJECT

Harris County
Precinct Town Hall
Meeting Summaries

HARRIS COUNTY PRECINCT TOWN HALL MEETING SUMMARIES

This summary provides a consolidated view of community outreach efforts associated with the four precinct-based town hall meetings related to the proposed Ben Taub Hospital Expansion Project. It reflects the combined reach and participation achieved through direct mail, digital promotion in English and Spanish, social media outreach and in-person meetings.

Taken together, these efforts demonstrate a robust and inclusive approach to informing the public and gathering community input. The cumulative results below provide context for the detailed, precinct-level outreach and engagement summaries that follow and help illustrate the overall scale of awareness, participation and feedback generated through this process.

DIRECT MAIL

89,133 Postcards mailed

DIGITAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE

English
434,902 impressions

Spanish
248,132 impressions

SOCIAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE

2,528
impressions on X

13,411
impressions on Instagram

32,916
impressions on Facebook

MEETING RECAP

442 attendees

307 questions/comments

Note: Detailed precinct-level results appear on the following pages.

RODNEY ELLIS, PRECINCT 1

Wed., Nov. 12, 2025 | 6:45 p.m.
 Commissioner Rodney Ellis Administration
 Building & Community Center
 2787 El Camino, Houston Texas 77054



Precinct 1 Town Hall Meeting Results

DIRECT MAIL

(targeting a two-mile radius from Hermann Park)

18,097 Postcards

DIGITAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE

(targeting 77002, 77030, 77004, 77025, 77021, 77054, 77098, 77006 and 77005)

English

64,173 impressions

Spanish

31,267 impressions

Harris Health Check-up Newsletter

12K emails

SOCIAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE

576

impressions on X

4,657

impressions on Instagram

4,373

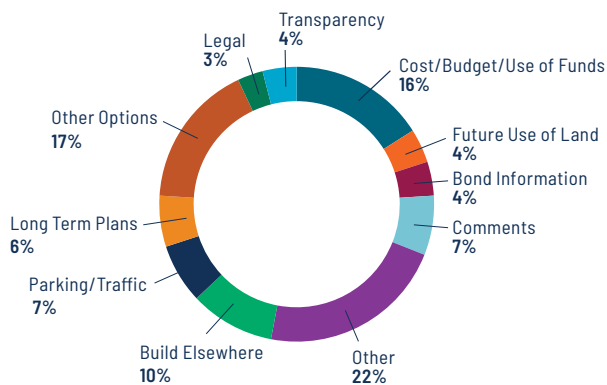
impressions on Facebook

MEETING RECAP

120 attendees

113 questions/comments

QUESTIONS GENERATED BY TOPIC



Attendees submitted questions on index cards during the Precinct 1 Town Hall. All questions submitted are retained by Harris Health and available for review upon request.

ADRIAN GARCIA, PRECINCT 2

Mon., Jan. 5, 2026 | 6:45 p.m.
 BakerRipley Ripley House Campus
 4410 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Texas 77011



Precinct 2 Town Hall Meeting Results

DIRECT MAIL

(targeting a three-mile radius from BakerRipley Ripley House Campus)

18,597 Postcards

DIGITAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE

(targeting 77012, 77020, 77087, 77029, 77011, 77003)

English

115,922 impressions

Spanish

98,518 impressions

Harris Health Check-up Newsletter

12K emails

SOCIAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE

415
impressions on X

2,419
impressions on Instagram

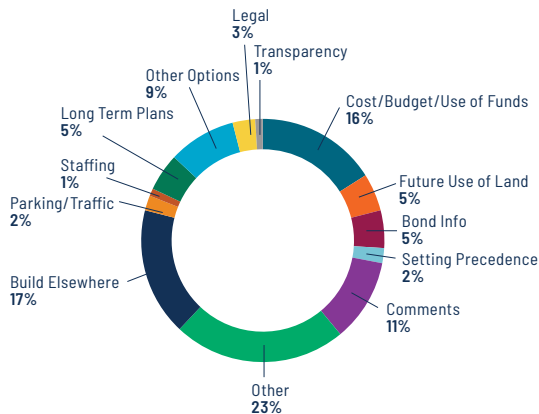
11,574
impressions on Facebook

MEETING RECAP

126 attendees

93 questions/comments

QUESTIONS GENERATED BY TOPIC



Attendees submitted questions on index cards during the Precinct 2 Town Hall. **All questions submitted are retained by Harris Health and available for review upon request.**

TOM S. RAMSEY, PRECINCT 3

Mon., Nov. 17, 2025 | 6:45 p.m.
 George H.W. Bush Community Center
 6827 Cypresswood Drive, Spring 77379



Precinct 3 Town Hall Meeting Results

DIRECT MAIL

(targeting 77379)

30,949 Postcards

DIGITAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE

(targeting 77379)

English

44,551 impressions

Spanish

21,148 impressions

Harris Health Check-up Newsletter

12K emails

SOCIAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE

626

impressions on X

3,822

impressions on Instagram

3,337

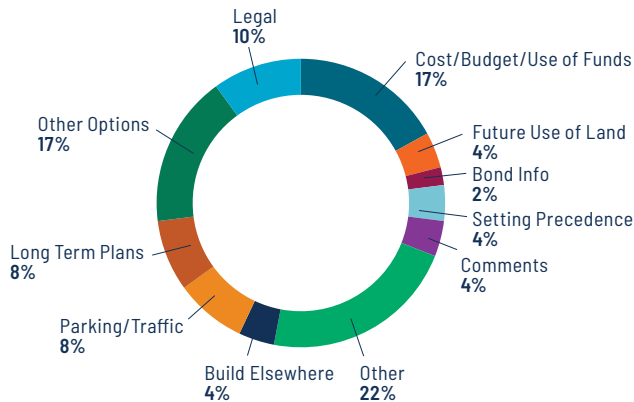
impressions on Facebook

MEETING RECAP

64 attendees

51 questions/comments

QUESTIONS GENERATED BY TOPIC



Attendees submitted questions on index cards during the Precinct 3 Town Hall. **All questions submitted are retained by Harris Health and available for review upon request.**

LESLEY BRIONES, PRECINCT 4

Tues., Jan. 13, 2026 | 6:45 p.m.
 Tracy Gee Community Center
 3599 Westcenter Dr., Houston, Texas 77042



Precinct 4 Town Hall Meeting Results

DIRECT MAIL

(targeting three-mile radius from Tracy Gee Community Center)

21,490

DIGITAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE

(targeting 77024, 77083, 77036, 77042, 77072, 77077, 77063)

English

210,256 impressions

Spanish

97,199 impressions

SOCIAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE

911

impressions on X

2,513

impressions on Instagram

13,632

impressions on Facebook

MEETING RECAP

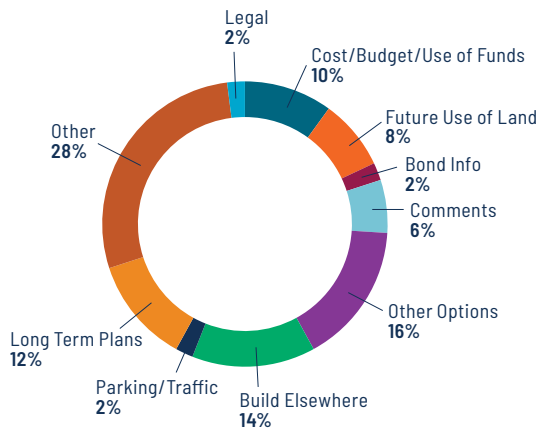
132

attendees

50

questions/comments

QUESTIONS GENERATED BY TOPIC



The Precinct 4 Town Hall offered a hybrid format allowing questions to be submitted on index cards and during an open mic session. **All questions were documented by Harris Health and are available for review upon request.**

BEN TAUB EXPANSION PROJECT

Community and Media Engagement

This report covers community and media engagement activities from Oct. 30, 2025, through Jan. 14, 2026.

Note: Harris Health held 65 meetings and/or media interviews regarding the Ben Taub land acquisition issue from June 10, 2024, through Oct. 30, 2025.

COMMUNITY AND MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Oct. 30, 2025, through Jan. 14, 2026

Date	Meeting
Oct. 30	Commissioners Court
Oct. 30	Univision interview
Nov. 5	CEO Town Hall at Ben Taub Hospital
Nov. 7	The Metropolitan Organization (TMO)
Nov. 10	Judge Hidalgo's staff, Cara Lambright and Donna Cole (Hermann Park Conservancy)
Nov. 10	Community advocates gathering at the home of Sebastian Solar
Nov. 11	Harris Health Strategic Fund Board
Nov. 12	Museum Park Super Neighborhood
Nov. 12	Precinct 1 Town Hall
Nov. 13	Neighborhood Connection Forum with District H Council Member Mario Castillo
Nov. 17	League of Women Voters
Nov. 17	Precinct 3 Town Hall
Nov. 25	Saeid Alavi with Marek Industries
Nov. 25	Scott Wise, CEO and CIO, The Cullen Foundation
Nov. 26	Cara Lambright, Donna Cole (Hermann Park Conservancy)
Dec. 1	Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association
Dec. 1	Hermann Park Conservancy Board
Dec. 3	CEO Town Hall at LBJ Hospital
Dec. 4	North America's Building Trades Unions - Houston Gulf Coast
Dec. 5	American Leadership Forum
Dec. 8	Commissioners Court Staff
Dec. 10	Commissioners Court Staff
Dec. 10	LULAC Council 60
Dec. 12	Houston Fire Department
Dec. 12	TMO
Dec. 13	Ben Taub Community Update at Ben Taub Hospital
Dec. 15	Texas Organizing Project
Dec. 16	City of Houston Councilmember Sallie Alcorn
Dec. 16	Harris Health Strategic Fund Board

COMMUNITY AND MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Oct. 30, 2025, through Jan. 14, 2026

Date	Meeting
Dec. 17	COO Town Hall at Ben Taub Hospital
Dec. 18	Hermann Park Conservancy leadership and design team
Dec. 18	Precinct 4 virtual Town Hall
Dec. 20	KTSA Houston Impact radio interview
Dec. 24	City Council Member Julian Ramirez
Jan. 5	Precinct 2 Town Hall
Jan. 5	KXLN-TV (Univision) interview
Jan. 5	KPRC-TV (NBC) interview
Jan. 5	KHOU-TV (CBS) interview
Jan. 7	CEO Town Hall at Fournace
Jan. 7	Herman Park Conservancy Town Hall
Jan. 8	Houston area FQHC Town Hall
Jan. 8	Hermann Park Conservancy leadership and design team
Jan. 12	Houston Business Journal
Jan. 12	League of Women Voters Houston Town Hall
Jan. 13	Fireside Chat at Marek Industries
Jan. 13	Precinct 4 Town Hall
Jan. 13	Houston Chronicle Editorial Board interview
Jan. 13	KXLN-TV Univision interview
Jan. 14	Hermann Park Conservancy Board

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

This report covers media engagement activities from Oct. 30, 2025, through Jan. 15, 2026. **Links to all news items are available online at harrishealth.org or directly from Harris Health upon request.**

Jan. 14-15

News: Harris Health continues to push for Ben Taub expansion that will cut into Hermann Park (Esmail Porsa, MD, president and CEO, Harris Health, makes presentation)

- **KPRC-TV (NBC)**

News [link](#) (website article)

News [link](#) (noon newscast Jan. 14)

News [link](#) (6 a.m. newscast Jan. 14)

- **KTRK-TV (ABC)**

News [link](#) (4 a.m. newscast Jan. 15)

News [link](#) (4 p.m. newscast Jan. 14)

News [link](#) (3 p.m. newscast Jan. 14)

Jan. 12

FM Industry

Promotion of Precinct 4 Town Hall on use of Eminent Domain to take part of Hermann Park for Expansion of Ben Taub Hospital

News [link](#)

Jan. 12-13

News: Promotion of Precinct 4 Town Hall on use of Eminent Domain to take part of Hermann Park for Expansion of Ben Taub Hospital

- **KIAH-TV (WB)**

News [link](#)

- **KHOU-TV (CBS)**

News [link](#)

- **KRIV-TV (FOX)**

News [link](#)

- **KTRK-TV (ABC)**

News [link](#)

Jan. 9

Community Impact

'Parkland is not replaceable': Hermann Park Conservancy weighs in on Ben Taub Hospital expansion (Esmail Porsa, MD, president and CEO, Harris Health, makes presentation)

News [link](#)

Jan. 8

KUHF-FM (Houston Public Media)

'Fight this': Harris County residents turn out to oppose Ben Taub Hospital expansion into Hermann Park (Esmail Porsa, MD, president and CEO, Harris Health, makes presentation)

News [link](#)

Jan. 6

Community Impact

Preview: Harris County to discuss 2026 election updates, Ben Taub Hospital expansion

- News [link](#)

Final 2 town hall meetings on proposed Ben Taub expansion set for early January

- News [link](#)

Houston Style Magazine

Harris Health shows Houston how public engagement is done

News [link](#)

News: Harris Health hosts Eminent Domain Town Hall to educate the public on Ben Taub Hospital expansion plans – promotion of meeting and coverage of meeting (Esmail Porsa, MD, president and CEO, Harris Health, presents)

Jan. 5

News Coverage

- **KHOU-TV (CBS)**
News [link](#) (10 p.m. newscast)
News [link](#) (4 p.m. newscast)
- **KPRC-TV (NBC)**
News [link](#) (10 p.m. newscast)
- **KTRK-TV (ABC)**
News [link](#) (6 p.m. newscast)
News [link](#) (5 p.m. newscast)
- **KRIV-TV (FOX)**
News [link](#) (9 p.m. newscast)
News [link](#) (10 p.m. newscast)
News [link](#) (5 p.m. newscast)
- **KXLN-TV (Univision)**
News [link](#) (10 p.m. newscast)

Jan. 4

News Coverage

- **KHOU-TV (CBS)**
News [link](#) (11 p.m. newscast)

Jan. 3

News Coverage

- **KTRK-TV (ABC)**
News [link](#) (9 a.m. newscast)

Jan. 2

News Coverage

- **KTRK-TV (ABC)**
News [link](#) (6 p.m. newscast)
News [link](#) (4 p.m. newscast)

Dec. 17

Houston Chronicle

Why the Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital expansion is urgently needed: Q&A with Harris Health CEO (Esmail Porsa, MD, president and CEO, Harris Health, interviewed)

Article [link](#)

Dec. 6

Community Impact

Front Page: Proposed hospital expansion could impact parkland (Esmail Porsa, MD, president and CEO, and Louis Smith, COO, Harris Health, quoted)

News [link](#): coverage appears on page 1 and pages 18-19)

Dec. 4

Houston Chronicle

Opinion: No, Ben Taub's expansion won't take 'the heart' of Hermann Park. More like the appendix. (submission by Paul Klotman, MD, president and CEO, Baylor College of Medicine)

News [link](#)

Nov. 17

News: Promotion of Harris Health Town Hall Meeting for Precinct 3 to discuss purchase of adjacent park land for expansion of Ben Taub Hospital

- **Community Impact**
News [link](#)
- **KHOU-TV (CBS)**
News [link](#)
- **KPRC-TV (NBC)**
News [link](#)
- **KTRK-TV (ABC)**
News [link](#) (4 a.m. newscast Nov. 17, 2025)
News [link](#) (8 a.m. newscast Nov. 16, 2025)

African American News & Issues

The Check Up-Fall 2025 Special Edition - Harris Health (focus on eminent domain initiative for Ben Taub Hospital expansion)

News [link](#)

Nov. 12-13

News: Harris Health hosts Town Hall Meeting to discuss purchase of adjacent park land for expansion of Ben Taub Hospital (Esmail Porsa, MD, president and CEO, Harris Health, and leadership team, participated in town hall)

- **KHOU-TV (CBS)**
News [link](#) (10 p.m. newscast Nov. 12)
News [link](#) (6 a.m. newscast Nov. 13)
- **KRIV-TV (FOX)**
News [link](#)
- **KTRK-TV (ABC)**
News [link](#) (10 p.m. newscast Nov. 12)
News [link](#) (4 p.m. newscast Nov. 12)
- **KUHF-FM (Houston Public Media)**
News [link](#) (website article)
News link (radio newscast Nov. 13)

Nov. 2

- **KRIV-TV (FOX)**
Harris Health pushes to seize part of Hermann Park for hospital expansion – What’s your point
News [link](#)

Oct. 30-31

News: Harris Health president defends seizure of Hermann Park land for Ben Taub Hospital expansion (Esmail Porsa, MD, president and CEO, Harris Health, quoted)

- **Houston Chronicle**
News [link](#)
- **KTRK-TV (ABC)**
News [link](#)
- **KUHF-FM (Houston Public Media)**
News [link](#)
Audio [link](#)
- **KXLN-TV (Univision)**
News [link](#) (11 a.m. broadcast) in Spanish
News [link](#) (5 p.m. newscast) in Spanish
- **MSN**
News [link](#)
- **The Leader**
News [link](#)
- **Que Onda**
News [link](#)
- **Yahoo News**
News [link](#)
- **KTRK-TV (ABC)**
Harris County commissioners want to hear from the public about plan to condemn part of Hermann Park
News [link](#)

BEN TAUB EXPANSION PROJECT

Community Feedback Summary

Emails sent to

bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org

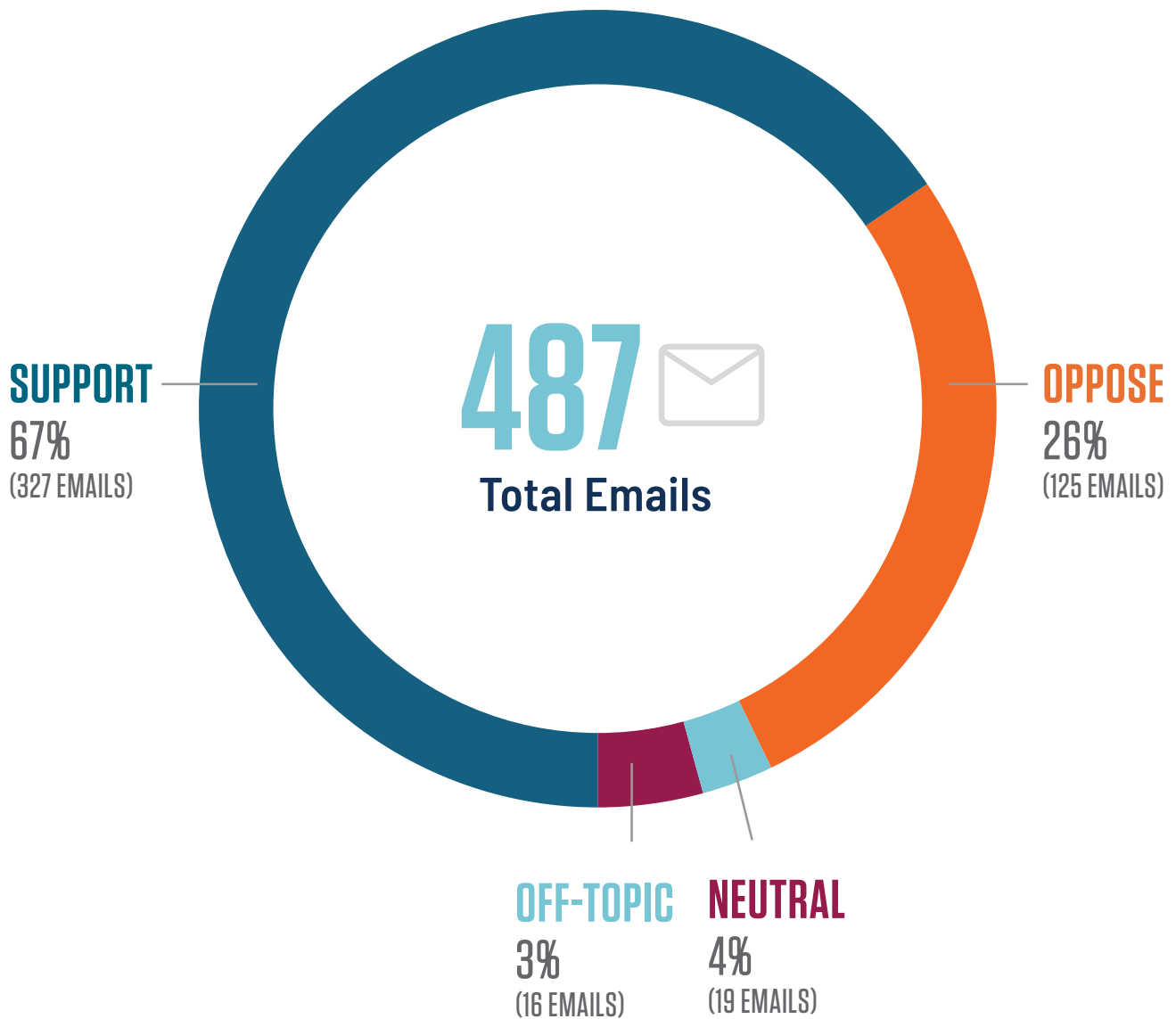
Nov. 3, 2025, through Jan 20, 2026

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SUMMARY

Harris Health received public email comments related to the proposed Ben Taub Hospital Expansion land acquisition over the reporting period. Each email was logged and categorized based solely on the position stated in the message: Support, Oppose, Neutral or Off-Topic. Categorization was determined by the substance of the comment rather than tone, length, formatting or the identity of the sender. Selected email excerpts presented here are reproduced verbatim. Off-topic comments have not been included. **All public email comments received are retained by Harris Health and available for review upon request.**

Email Counts by Category

12 weeks from Nov. 3, 2025, through Jan 20, 2026



SUPPORT



You guys have saved my life twice and my wife's life once so I'm all for Ben Taub's expansion to help more people in the Houston area...That land is rarely used by park goers.

...While I love Hermann Park - my husband and I were married in the park in 2023 and we've spent a ton of time enjoying the beautiful green space with our friends and family - I am fully in favor of the expansion of Ben Taub hospital. Green space in Houston is vital, but so is accessible health care for every member of our community...

...Our support of the critically needed Ben Taub hospital expansion extends beyond the desperate need for more "Safety Net" beds in the county, but to fully realize George Hermann's vision of charity health care "for the benefit of the poor, indigent and infirm residents of the City of Houston."...

...I strongly urge approval of this action, as investing in healthcare is the most powerful and moral investment a community can make.

Ben Taub Hospital's proposed expansion is a practical, community-first investment that strengthens trauma, emergency, and inpatient capacity for the entire region...Most importantly, it protects access for our neighbors who are uninsured or underinsured. When safety-net capacity is constrained, everyone feels it through longer ED waits, delayed admissions, and strain on surrounding hospitals...

OPPOSE



I am against the use of the park land. This is the biggest free space in the area. Please use another location. Expand in different areas of town like all the other hospitals do.

...While I fully recognize and support the importance of expanding access to quality healthcare, that goal should not come at the expense of permanently losing irreplaceable green space. Houston is a growing city, and there are other viable locations where expansion can occur without violating donor intent or setting a troubling precedent for the use of protected parkland...

... Hermann Park is...an irreplaceable hub for exercise, recreation, cultural connection, and respite from city stress...I urge the County and Harris Health to pursue alternative expansion options that do not involve the loss of public park land. Our community's well-being depends on having robust healthcare and thriving green spaces, not pitting one need against the other.

...I am strongly opposed to seizing any Hermann Park lands. First, it violates the terms and the spirit of the original land grant. Secondly it takes away valuable inner city green space which we are in short supply of. Thirdly it supposes that you have no other choice. This I disbelieve...Hermann Park BELONGS to the people of Houston.

Please do not allow corporations to seize precious land. Houston is a fabulous city. Green space matters, as it is minimal. From families who have lived in the nearby neighborhoods for decades, it is disrespectful, ugly, just plain wrong! We support the Houston Medical Center...Hermann Park is a jewel.

NEUTRAL



Hermann Park Conservancy should be compensated for the land that is appropriated for the hospital expansion. This will be land that is lost to the public for future use. Yes, the land is going to the expansion of medical services to the same public, the purpose and use of the land is changed permanently. A thoughtful plan of compensating the HPC should be implemented...

...I respect Harris Health's mission and recognize the vital role Ben Taub plays in serving Houston's healthcare needs, especially during a time of growing demand. At the same time, Hermann Park is one of Houston's most cherished public spaces—land that belongs to the people of this city. As stewards of that land, I believe that any use of public parkland for another public purpose should be accompanied by clear, measurable, and dedicated benefits for the Park and its users...

...Can you please share in your emails what part of Hermann Park will be for the Ben Taub expansion (i.e. a map) especially for those who cannot attend this town hall? I am all for increasing the hospital's footprint in the community, but I am wary of expansion into Hermann Park, also a valued community resource.

...Although my initial reaction was very negative, I understand from the information on your website (www.harrishealth.org/) that this issue is complex and that there is a need for expansion that is in the public interest. Therefore, I am writing to request that the Hermann Park Conservancy...be meaningfully compensated for the land seizure.

...While I understand that the healthcare ecosystem of Houston is vital to the city's economic growth and development, just as important is the vast green space that Houston maintains...Shrinking Hermann Park takes away public land that everyone enjoys and makes Houston so special. I ask that in exchange for the 9 acres, Hermann Park Conservancy is properly compensated for this land so that funds could be used to revitalize the park...

BEN TAUB EXPANSION PROJECT

Letters of Support

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Baylor College of Medicine
Baylor St. Luke's
Bee Busy Wellness Center
Boilermakers Local 72
Cullen Eye Institute
Greater Houston Partnership
Harris County Hospital District Foundation
Harris County Medical Society
Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez's office
Harris Health Strategic Fund
Houston Methodist
Houston Gulf Coast Builders and Construction Trade Council
Houston Police Officer's Union
Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association
Houston Recovery Center / Sobering Center
Houston Region Business Coalition
IBEW Local 716
Insulators Local 22
IUEC Local 31
IUOE Local 450
LULAC Council 60
Memorial Hermann Hospital
Mental Health America of Greater Houston
Senator Borris L. Miles
Pipefitters Local 211
Plumbers Local 68
SETRAC
SMART Local 54
Texas Children's Hospital
Texas Medical Center
The Metropolitan Organization (TMO)
Constable Silvia R. Trevino
UH Health Family Care Center
UTHealth Houston
State Representative Armando Walle

Phone
713.771.2292

Fax
713.771.2294

Board of Directors
Karlus Rubin, Chair
Frances F Carter, Co-chair
Jamie N Martin, Secretary
Timothy Kent, Treasurer

Edwin L Gibson
Vera Walker
Jean-Claude Nzamba
Maricela Salazar
Fredis Granados

Brays Oaks Location
8785 West Bellfort
Houston, TX 77031

WestWood Location
10039 Bissonnet St STE 250
Houston, TX 77036

Bay Area Location
1300 Bay Area Blvd Bldg A
Suite 200
Houston, TX 77058

Northwest Schools
13201 Northwest Freeway
STE 500
Houston, TX 77040

Website
<https://mybbwc.org>



BEE BUSY WELLNESS CENTER
MEDICAL • DENTAL • MENTAL HEALTH

January 20, 2026

Dr. Esmacil Porsa, MD, MBA, MPH, CCHP-A
4800 Fournace Pl
Bellaire, TX 77401

Re: Letter of Support – Ben Taub Expansion Project


Dr. Porsa,

It is with great pleasure that Bee Busy Wellness Center provides this letter of support for the Ben Taub Expansion Project to be constructed across the street from the Main Hospital Emergency Department. After hearing your compelling presentation regarding Ben Taub’s capacity challenges and the growing needs of the community, this expansion is both timely and essential. The addition of 100 new inpatient beds, along with expanded parking in an already overcrowded area, represents a prudent and forward-thinking investment in patient care and community health. Bee Busy Wellness Center values its relationship with Harris Health and looks forward to continued opportunities to partner in support of shared goals.

As a Federally Qualified Health Center, Bee Busy Wellness Center remains deeply committed to advancing health equity and expanding access to care. For nearly two decades, our organization has provided comprehensive, affordable services to more than 100,000 residents, including low- to no-cost screenings for breast, cervical, prostate, and other chronic conditions. We are also aware of Harris Health’s plans to expand health center locations in areas of identified high need. Bee Busy Wellness Center would welcome the opportunity to engage in dialogue regarding how these plans may impact not only our service delivery model, but those of other community health centers as well. We believe there are collaborative and mutually beneficial approaches to expanding access to care and resources for communities that are already under resourced.

We are eager to support this initiative by sharing program insights, participating in advisory efforts, and engaging our clinical providers in training sessions focused on updated clinical guidelines and culturally responsive care. We believe that collaboration of this nature will strengthen collective efforts and improve patient outcomes across the broader community.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or require additional information.


Norman Mitchell, CEO
Bee Busy Wellness Center

501(c)(3) Non-profit Agency | Fed Tax ID #27-0653014 | Federally Qualified Health Center





J. Timothy Stout, MD, PhD, MBA
Sid W. Richardson Professor
Margarett Root Brown Chair
Director, Cullen Eye Institute

January 12, 2026

Esmaeil Porsa, MD
President and CEO, Harris Health
4800 Fournace Place
Bellaire, Texas 77401

RE: Proposal to Expand Ben Taub Hospital

Dear Dr. Porsa,

The Department of Ophthalmology, at Baylor College of Medicine, is in full agreement regarding the need to expand Ben Taub Hospital. Expansion is vital to meeting the increasing needs of the population growth in the Houston area, especially considering the increase in the number of uninsured people. This anticipated increase will ultimately affect the timeframe of patients receiving care. A larger, modern facility will provide the required space and equipment necessary to provide quality care for more patients within a shorter timeframe. Dr. Porsa, the ophthalmology clinic at Ben Taub sees approximately 1,400 to 1,500 patients per month. Our current waitlist is 2,156. The proposed expansion will allow us to see additional patients and provide surgical and consultative care. The proposed expansion will substantially prepare Ben Taub to meet our needs and I heartily support. I'm happy to discuss this with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

J. Timothy Stout, MD, PhD, MBA
Sid W. Richardson Professor
Margarett Root Brown Chair
Director, Cullen Eye Institute
Chair, Department of Ophthalmology
Baylor College of Medicine
Chief of Service, CHI BSLMC
jtstout@bcm.edu

Cullen Eye Institute
Department of Ophthalmology

6565 Fannin, NC 205 Houston, Texas 77030 Tel. 713-798-5951 Fax 713-798-3026 www.bayforeye.org



December 18, 2025

Dr. Esmail Porsa
 President and Chief Executive Officer
 Harris Health
 4800 Fournace Place
 Bellaire, TX 77401

Dear Dr. Porsa,

The Greater Houston Partnership, representing the business community and leading institutions across the 12-county greater Houston region, supports the continued collaboration among Harris Health leadership and stakeholders from the City of Houston, Harris County, and the Hermann Park Conservancy regarding the proposed expansion of Ben Taub Hospital, including the addition of 100 patient beds on adjacent Hermann Park land.

As a city committed to transformation in service of the public good, we see this approach as a balanced solution, one that meets the region's critical health care needs while preserving public access to valued greenspace. This plan thoughtfully minimizes impacts to existing parkland and reflects a clear commitment to enhancing greenspaces that are vital to community well-being and quality of life.

Ben Taub Hospital is one of only two Level I trauma centers serving our region and a cornerstone of the Texas Medical Center. Its role in delivering advanced trauma care to residents and visitors alike are indispensable, often making the difference in life-saving outcomes. Expanding the capacity at Ben Taub will help ensure more patients receive timely, high-quality care when it matters most.

The Partnership appreciates the leadership demonstrated by Harris Health and the Hermann Park Conservancy in working toward a solution that advances their respective missions while serving broader public interest.

We stand alongside all parties engaged in this effort and support a path forward that strengthens Houston's health care system, protects community assets, and delivers lasting benefits Houstonians for generations to come.

Sincerely,

 Steve Kean
 President & CEO

www.houston.org

701 Avenue de las Americas, Suite 900 | Houston, TX 77010
 Austin | Brazoria | Chambers | Fort Bend | Galveston | Harris | Liberty | Montgomery | San Jacinto | Walker | Waller | Wharton



HCHDfoundation.org

Board of Trustees

4800 Fournace Place, 7th Floor West
Bellaire, TX 77401
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 301168
Houston, TX 77230-1168

(T) 713.566.6409

- Kristin Blomquist
Chairwoman
- Theodore D. Franklin
Vice-Chair
- Wea Lee
Vice-Chair
- Wendy Montoya Cloonan
Vice-Chair
- Michael S. Chadwick
President
- Cynthia Adkins
Vice President
- Jay R. Houren
Vice President
- Denis DeBakey
Vice President
- Donald G. Blake
Treasurer
- Peggy B. Smith, MA, Ph.D.
Assistant Treasurer
- Ewan Johnson, MD, Ph.D.
Assistant Treasurer
- Beth Young
Secretary
- Wanda LeBlanc
Assistant Secretary

- Patrick Blake
- Meredith T. Cullen
- Laura D. Dale
- Algenita Davis
- Marianne P. Fanning
- Elvin Franklin, Jr.
- Roland Garcia, Jr.
- Kenneth L. Mattox, MD, FACS
- Michael Mithoff
- Virginia Mithoff
- Matthew Plummer, Jr., DMD
- Regina J. Rogers
- Jennifer Tijerina

- Ex-Officio*
- Judge Lina Hidalgo
- Esmail Porsa, MD

- Emeritus*
- Dorothy Caram, EdD Carolyn Farb
- Barbara Schachtel, Ph.D. Marc J. Shapiro

- Vice-Chair Emeritus*
- Larry L. Mathis

- Honorary*
- Gerald D. Hines

- Past Chairmen*
- Quentin R. Mease
- H. Ben Taub
- Henry J.N. Taub II
- Theodore D. Franklin

Dr. Esmail Porsa
President and CEO
Harris Health
4800 Fournace Place
Bellaire, TX 77410

Dear Dr. Porsa,

The Board of Trustees of the Harris County Hospital District Foundation convened on September 10, 2025, and discussed the need for the expansion of Ben Taub Hospital, which consistently operates above capacity. This expansion ensures Harris Health can meet the projected needs of the region’s growing population.

Our board understands the importance and necessity for Harris Health to expand Ben Taub Hospital. With this expansion, Harris Health can meet the demands of a consistently rising population and provide the essential emergency services and health care needs of the residents of the City of Houston, Harris County, and surrounding counties.

After careful consideration of the demand for ever-increasing services, the Board voted unanimously in favor of supporting this critical initiative, recognizing that this is the only viable option for addressing the urgent need to provide continued care for Harris County’s most vulnerable populations and nationally recognized trauma care, all while building a better Ben Taub Hospital to continue saving lives for years to come.

This vote reflects the Foundation’s commitment to making a difference in the lives of the patients served by Harris Health as well as the doctors, nurses, and staff who care for them. While the Harris County Hospital District Foundation does not manage or oversee this expansion project, our overall work aims to enhance the quality of the workplace found at Harris Health facilities for all patients and employees. To that end, we are pleased to publicly express our support for Harris Health’s Ben Taub Expansion Project.

We also recognize that this expansion requires the repurposing of land within Hermann Park. The Foundation deeply values the importance of this historic green space to Houston’s residents and visitors. We also express our understanding and support for future projects that preserve, restore, and enhance Hermann Park so its cultural, recreational, and critical health benefits continue to thrive alongside the region’s healthcare growth. We encourage Harris Health to continue working with stakeholders to minimize impact on Hermann Park.

We urge Harris County leaders to join us in support of this life-saving investment in Ben Taub Hospital and the heart of Houston’s healthcare.

Regards,

Kristin Blomquist
Board Chair



October 16, 2025

Investing in Public Safety and Public Health

There's a simple question I ask myself before making any major decision as Sheriff of Harris County: Will this action make the people I serve safer? If the answer is a clear "yes," then I move forward with confidence. It is with great confidence, therefore, that I fully endorse Harris Health's thoughtful proposal to expand Ben Taub Hospital to keep the people of Harris County safe and healthy. Moreover, we know that the voters of Harris County also understand the urgent need to expand Ben Taub's capacity, because they overwhelmingly approved Harris Health's \$2.5 billion bond referendum and the \$400 million it set aside specifically for this project.

As Harris County's top elected peace officer, I work alongside the Harris Health team to serve our shared constituents every day. In this capacity, I witness firsthand the professionalism, expertise, and compassion that Harris Health medical providers consistently bring to treating everyone -- from defendants in the county jail to critically injured deputies airlifted to Ben Taub's world-class emergency room. I trust the people of Harris Health to deliver on their word, so I believe in their plan to acquire 8.9 acres of our beloved Hermann Park without harming our Houston Zoo, Miller Outdoor Theater, the golf course, or the serene gardens. They understand what a gem Hermann Park is in our community, and no one is more committed to guarding and protecting it for generations to come.

I encourage our city and county leaders to join Harris Health in bringing this much-needed Ben Taub Hospital expansion from blueprint to reality with all due haste. Will this action make the people we serve safer and healthier? Absolutely.

Ed Gonzalez
Ed Gonzalez, Sheriff
Harris County

"TO ENHANCE THE SAFETY AND PROTECT THE TRUST OF THE CITIZENS
OF HARRIS COUNTY BY ENFORCING THE LAW WITH INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONALISM."



PRESIDENT
Dwane G. Broussard, MD, FAAFP

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Harris County Medical Society (HCMS), we write in strong support of Harris Health's proposal to acquire 8.9 acres of land across Lamar Fleming Street to expand Ben Taub Hospital. As physicians who care for Houstonians every day, we know firsthand the strain on Ben Taub's capacity and the critical need for additional space to meet the growing demand for trauma care, specialty services, and medical education.

Founded in 1903, HCMS is the largest county medical society in the nation, representing more than 15,000 physicians and medical students. Our mission is to advocate for physicians, their patients, and the health of our community. That mission compels us to support projects that improve access to care, strengthen training for future physicians, and ensure that lifesaving services are available to all who need them.

Ben Taub Hospital is a cornerstone of Houston's health care safety net. Every day, it provides essential care for underserved patients, functions as a premier teaching hospital, and anchors the region's Level I trauma system. The proposed expansion—through a new patient tower made possible by this land acquisition—will allow Harris Health to deliver care more efficiently, train more physicians, and better serve the county's rapidly growing population.

HCMS members believe this project represents not just an expansion of a hospital, but a commitment to Houston's future. We respectfully urge city and county leaders to move forward with this proposal as an investment in the resilience, health, and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dwane G. Broussard".

Dwane G. Broussard, MD
President
Harris County Medical Society

Officers: Dwane G. Broussard, MD, FAAFP, *President*; Louise H. Bethea, MD, *President Elect*; Kulvinder S. Bajwa, *Vice President*; Carlos J. Vital, MD, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Executive Board: Hattie E. Henderson, MD; Brian M. Bruel, MD; Eddie L. Patton, Jr., MD; Felicity L. Mack, MD; January Y. Tsai, MD; Ana L. Leech, MD; Troy T. Fiesinger, MD; Yazan Abdeen, MD; Lan K. Nguyen, MD; Anush S. Pillai, DO; Stacy L. Norrell, MD; Brian C. Reed, MD; Olga O. Brusil, MD; Bhuvana Sagar, MD; Jessica Garcia, DO; Elizabeth A. Cloninger, MD; Libu Varughese, MD; Dharmal V. Vansadia, DO; Ashok Balasubramanyam, MD; Michelle C. Shen, MD; and Jonathan A. McCullers, MD.

John P. McGovern Building • 1515 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004-7126 • 713-524-4267 • Fax 713-942-7072 • www.hcms.org



September 22, 2025

Esmail Porsa, MD, MBA, MPH, CCHP
President and CEO
Harris Health
4800 Fournace Place
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Dear Dr. Porsa,

Standing with Harris Health in Support of Ben Taub Expansion

The Harris Health Strategic Fund (HHSF) proudly stands with Harris Health in advancing the Ben Taub Expansion Project. This initiative addresses not just an urgent need but a public health necessity that will bring life-saving benefits to Harris County.

When Harris County residents resoundingly voted in support of Harris Health's \$2.5 billion bond in 2023, the Harris Health Strategic Fund launched our \$100 million capital campaign - Investing in a Healthier Harris County - in support of the bond projects, including the expansion of Ben Taub through the creation of a new patient tower. This expansion project reflects our shared commitment to improving the health of those most in need in Harris County through quality care delivery, coordination of care, and education.

While we are not engaged in management of the project, we recognize its importance and commend Harris Health for its leadership and vision. I am very proud to chair this fundraising initiative and am grateful for the early and significant support of generous donors and volunteers across the city that have joined in this campaign to improve public health in Harris County. Like Harris Health Strategic Fund, our donors understand the great need and stand with us in support of the major upgrade to Harris Health's facilities.

I encourage Harris County and Houston leaders and partners to join us in endorsing and championing this effort. Together we can significantly improve the health of Houston.

Sincerely,

Beth Robertson
Beth Robertson
Board Chair

Board of Directors

- Ed Allday, Weinell Herron, Carol Paret, Sebastien Solar
Andrea Caracostis, MD, Sonny Messiah Jiles, Esmail Porsa, MD, Massey Villareal
Asif Dakri, Ginni Mithoff, Beth Robertson, Fred Zeidman

4800 Fournace Place
Bellaire, TX 77401

harrishealthfund.org

Houston Gulf Coast Building and Construction Trades Council

1301 W. 13TH ST., SUITE D • (713) 926-4433

DEER PARK, TEXAS 77536



December 10, 2025

Esmail Porsa, MD
President and CEO, Harris Health
4800 Fournace Place
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Dear Dr. Porsa,

Thank you for sharing your plans regarding the proposed purchase of Hermann Park land through eminent domain and the construction of a 100-bed facility connected to Ben Taub Hospital. We appreciate the transparency and the clear facts you provided about why this expansion is essential for the future health and safety of our community.

On behalf of the Houston Gulf Coast Building and Construction Trades Council (HGCBCTC), our Executive Board, and all affiliated unions whose members reside in Harris County and who overwhelmingly supported and voted for the Harris County Hospital bond, we proudly endorse your vision and strongly encourage our community to do the same. Our members and their families take great comfort in knowing that if they ever require emergency or trauma care, Ben Taub Hospital and Harris Health will be ready to provide lifesaving treatment without hesitation.

Representing tens of thousands of skilled construction workers across the region, our Executive Board joins in unified support:

- **Bryan Edwards**, President, HGCBCTC & Business Manager, UA Pipefitters Local 211
- **Lacy Wolf**, Vice President, HGCBCTC & Business Manager, Insulators Local 22
- **Wayne Lord**, Treasurer, HGCBCTC & Business Manager, UA Plumbers Local 68
- **Armando Aguirre**, Recording Secretary, HGCBCTC & Business Manager, SMART Local 54
- **Zach Popovich**, Sergeant-at-Arms, HGCBCTC & Business Manager, Boilermakers Local 72



HOUSTON POLICE OFFICERS' UNION

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE LODGE 110
1600 STATE STREET - HOUSTON, TEXAS 77007 - 832.200.3410



December 2, 2025

Dr. Esmail Porsa
President & CEO Harris Health
4800 Fournace Place
Bellaire, TX 77401

Dear Dr. Porsa:

In 2023, the Houston Police Officers' Union (HPOU) was proud to support Harris Health's successful \$2.5 billion bond referendum. As Harris County's only public safety net system, we understand the need to continue investing in our public health care facilities. Today, we are honored once again to stand in solidarity with you and submit this letter of support for the Ben Taub expansion project.

With Ben Taub Hospital being one of only two Level I trauma centers serving Harris County, it is imperative that Ben Taub be able to continue to provide critical and urgent care services to those most in need. Allowing Ben Taub to expand its capacity with a new patient tower that adds 100 additional beds will have valuable and immediate benefits. It will allow Harris Health to deliver medical services to patients in a timelier manner and help relieve the overcrowding Ben Taub currently experiences daily. This expansion will also help meet the increased demand for services as the population continues to grow in the region.

The value of the trauma care that Ben Taub Hospital provides for the public at large and first responders is immeasurable. HPOU is grateful for a resource such as Harris Health that provides urgent and critical care to our members during our most difficult and challenging times.

We thank you and all the doctors, nurses, and staff for their dedication to public health care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Griffith".

Doug Griffith, President



HOUSTON PROFESSIONAL FIRE FIGHTERS

ASSOCIATION LOCAL 341
EST. 1992

PATRICK M. LANCTON
PRESIDENT

ROY A. CORMIER
FINANCIAL DIRECTOR

BRIAN WILCOX
COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR

December 15th, 2025

Dr. Esmail Porsa
President and Chief Executive Officer
Harris Health
4800 Fournace Place
Bellaire, TX 77401

Dear Dr. Porsa,

On behalf of the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association, I am writing to share our support for the needed expansion project at Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital. As first responders, caring for the sick and injured in the backs of City of Houston ambulances, our firefighters and paramedics see the true value your system provides to the residents of our community every day.

When seconds matter, our firefighters and paramedics know they can rely on the medical expertise and resources found at Harris Health's Ben Taub and Lyndon B. Johnson hospitals.

As one of only two Level I trauma centers in Harris County, Ben Taub Hospital is unique in that it serves both the public and first responders. Firefighters routinely encounter situations where rapid access to advanced trauma care is the difference between life and death. The proposed expansion to provide an additional 100 beds will directly enhance our ability to serve the community and ensure that more patients can receive the high-quality medical attention your teams provide.

Ben Taub's expansion and the addition of the replacement trauma hospital on the Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital campus will help alleviate the significant overcrowding we encounter daily in our community's safety net hospitals. HPFFA deeply values the partnership between Harris Health and the Fire and EMS Services, and we recognize the immeasurable impact that your doctors, nurses and staff have on public safety and the health of our community.

The Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association steadfastly supports the Ben Taub Hospital expansion, and we look forward to our continued collaboration in responding to the emergency medical needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association, IAFF L-341

1907 FREEMAN STREET, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77009 PHONE (713) 223-9166 FAX (713) 237-0912
EMAIL ADDRESS: HPFFA@LOCAL341.ORG





January 15, 2026

Esmail Porsa, MD
President and CEO, Harris Health
4800 Fournace Place
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Dear Dr. Porsa,

The Houston Region Business Coalition's support for the expansion of Ben Taub remains steadfast. This investment is critical to our community, and the landmark institution Ben Taub Hospital must be allowed to fulfill its mission of serving all residents of Harris County and continuing to provide Level I trauma service to its residents and first responders.

Our organization and its members clearly recognize the value and benefit of Harris Health to always be prepared and provide our community with the best possible medical care when necessary. This is why supporting the Ben Taub Hospital expansion is so important to our coalition. Maintaining a robust and well-supported hospital and its elite Level I trauma care is essential to not only Houston and Harris County, but to the entire southeast region of Texas.

The closure of Ben Taub for any amount of time frame is unacceptable and why we support your efforts to secure this parcel of land which will allow Ben Taub to continue to serve this community while creating a new 100-bed expansion facility.

We further urge the rest of the residents of Houston and Harris County to lend their support and learn more about the Ben Taub Hospital expansion project. Forward-thinking Initiatives like this are extremely important to the continued growth and prosperity of our shared hometown.

Sincerely,

Houston Region Business Coalition



December 10, 2025

Esmail Porsa, MD
President & CEO, Harris Health
4800 Fournace Place
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Dear Dr. Porsa:

Thank you for attending our recent membership meeting and for your presentation regarding the Ben Taub expansion project. Your presentation was highly informative and clearly demonstrated the need for the expansion.

Unfortunately, Houston and Harris County are home to one of the largest uninsured populations, which places Harris Health at the forefront of providing access to public health care to those most in need. During peak times, having to place patients in hallways until a room becomes available is unacceptable. Any patient seeking care should receive equitable services and dignified care regardless of their socio-economic status.

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Council 60 we proudly submit this letter of support to Harris Health for acquiring the 8.9 acres of land through eminent domain to be used for a new patient tower and in the future a new Ben Taub Hospital.

In closing, we would like to express our gratitude to the staff of Harris Health for your commitment and dedication to public health care and serving those most in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rachel Cevallos de Gonzales'.

Rachel Cevallos de Gonzales
President
Historic LULAC Council 60



November 12, 2025

CHAIR

Asim A. Shah, MD

VICE CHAIR

Liz Swegart, PhD

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Deaune Sanders

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Assistant Chief Yasar Hashir

Tony Colunga

Mark Freeman

Haley Hernandez

Tej Harris, MD

Sani Karim

Christina Meineke

Assia Picco

Andrew Rensmeyer

Nayruddin Ripani

EX-OFFICIO

Joaquin Arellano

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Juan Alexander

Jim Melnyale

DIRECTORS EMERITI

Maureen Hackett

George Parnham

POSTUMOUS EMERITUS

Philip Durguières (2000 - 2016)

PRESIDENT | CEO

Renae Vania Tomczak

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Mental Health America (MHA) of Greater Houston, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for Harris Health's proposal to acquire 8.9 acres of land adjacent to Ben Taub Hospital. This expansion is not only timely—it is essential to meeting the growing and complex healthcare needs of Harris County, including those in the critical area of mental health.

As the region's leading nonprofit dedicated to advancing mental health through education, advocacy, and connection to care, MHA of Greater Houston has long worked alongside Harris Health and other community partners to strengthen the continuum of care. We know firsthand that Ben Taub Hospital serves as a lifeline for individuals in crisis and a cornerstone of our county's health care safety net. Yet it continues to operate at or beyond capacity, including within its psychiatric care unit. The shortage of mental health resources across our community—combined with rising demand—underscores the urgency of this expansion.

This land acquisition will enable Harris Health to grow its capacity, deepen the integration of behavioral and medical care, and strengthen the continuum of services for those most in need. This investment is a vital commitment to improving health outcomes and building a healthier, more resilient Harris County.

We commend Harris Health for its leadership, foresight, and unwavering commitment to community well-being. Mental Health America of Greater Houston strongly urges city and county leaders to approve and advance this proposal without delay. Together, we can ensure that lifesaving mental health services remain accessible, responsive, and sustainable for every individual and family in our community.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and well-being of Harris County residents. Should you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me at 713.520.3474 or renae@mha-houston.org.

Sincerely,

Renae J. Vania Tomczak, MBA
President & CEO

www.mha-houston.org

2211 Norfolk, Suite 810 • Houston, Texas 77098 • 713-523-8963 (p) • 713-522-0698 (f) • info@mha-houston.org (e)



The Metropolitan Organization (TMO)



September 22, 2025

Dr. Esmail Porsa, MD
Harris Health
4800 Fournace Place
Bellaire, Tx 77401

Dr. Porsa

We are writing to express the strong support of The Metropolitan Organization (TMO) for the efforts of Harris Health to expand the capacity of Ben Taub Hospital to better serve the needs of our community over the next several decades. During the Summer of 2023, before TMO decided to endorse the Harris Health bond election, our leaders discussed their experiences at Harris Health facilities, especially Ben Taub and LBJ Hospitals. The overwhelming response from our diverse base of leaders in congregations throughout the Houston Metropolitan area was that the care at these hospitals was excellent, but the overcrowding was at times excruciating for them and their loved ones.

As a result of these conversations, our leadership decided to endorse and work to pass the bond election. TMO leaders willingly distributed informational flyers at their own congregations and many others, made phone calls and texts to voters in the neighborhoods near their congregations, and walked door to door in certain neighborhoods in support of the bonds. We are gratified to see the new LBJ Hospital already rising in Northeast Houston and look forward to the day that it will begin serving our communities. We know there is a similar need to expand Ben Taub in the future in order meet the needs of our growing county where over 1 million people are uninsured or receive their health coverage from Medicaid or the Affordable Care Act.

While no one likes having to convert public park land into buildings and infrastructure, it is clear that this is the most cost-effective and responsible approach to take. The 8.9 acres you propose to condemn does not affect the use of the primary attractions of Hermann park including the Zoo, Miller Outdoor Theater, playscapes for children, gardens and the golf course. The location of this land across Cambridge Street from the existing Ben Taub means you can build new hospital bed capacity that is located in close proximity to the existing Level One Trauma Center, clinics and other services our community values in Ben Taub.

We wish you all the best and great success as you proceed through this process to renew and strengthen the Harris Health system.

Bishop John Ogletree
First Metropolitan Church,
TMO Clergy Caucus

Bryan Lopez
Assumption Catholic
TMO Executive Committee

Mary Koch
First Unitarian Universalist
TMO Executive Committee

www.tmohouston.org

713-807-1429

email.tmohouston@gmail.com



BORRIS L. MILES

STATE SENATOR • DISTRICT 13

COMMITTEES: CRIMINAL JUSTICE • HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES • NOMINATIONS • TRANSPORTATION

December 19, 2025

Dr. Esmaeil Porsa
 President and CEO
 Harris Health
 4800 Fournace Place
 Bellaire, TX 77410

Dear Dr. Porsa,

I am writing to you today to express my strong support for the Ben Taub expansion plan as unanimously approved by the Harris Health Board of Trustees.

This critical expansion will ensure Harris Health’s ability to meet the health care needs of people from Senate District 13, as well as Harris County and the larger Southeast Texas region for years to come. I sit on the Health and Human Services committee and am very involved in the health of my community. Therefore I am well aware that Ben Taub consistently operates at or above its 402 bed capacity. I am also well aware that demand for healthcare services from Ben Taub has increased year over year and will continue to in the future.

It has been all over the news that Medicaid is being cut at the federal level and Affordable Care Act subsidies will be ending this year. This means that thousands of Texans will lose health benefits and, with it, sorely needed access to health care. Additionally, due to Harris County’s current and projected population growth, I have been informed that Ben Taub expects demand to grow by as much as 18,000 emergency visits over the next 10 years. With this type of future growth, it seems that an expansion is clearly necessary.

This proposed plan seems to be a thoughtful, cost effective way to address this critical need in a manner that minimizes the impact on adjacent parcels of land, including the parcel slated for acquisition and eventual construction.

CAPITOL OFFICE:
 P.O. BOX 12068
 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
 (512) 463-0113
 FAX: (512) 463-0006
 DIAL 711 FOR RELAY CALLS

CENTRAL HOUSTON OFFICE:
 5302 ALMEDA ROAD, SUITE A
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004
 (713) 665-8322
 FAX: (713) 665-0009

NORTHEAST OFFICE:
 3300 LYONS AVENUE, SUITE 301
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77020
 (713) 223-0387
 FAX: (713) 223-0524

FORT BEND OFFICE:
 2440 TEXAS PARKWAY, SUITE 110
 MISSOURI CITY, TEXAS 77489
 (281) 261-2360
 FAX: (281) 261-4726

borris.miles@senate.texas.gov



Chairman	Dr. Brent Kaziny
Past Chair	Dr. David Persse
Vice Chairman Hospital Services	Sterling Taylor
Vice Chairman Pre-Hospital Services	James Campbell
Secretary	Walter Morrow
Treasurer	Lon Squyres
Officer-at-Large	Dr. Kevin Schulz
Chief Executive Officer	Lori Upton

SouthEast Texas Regional Advisory Council (Trauma Service Area Q)
Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Harris, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton Counties

January 20, 2026

Esmacil Porsa, MD
 President and CEO, Harris Health
 4800 Fournace Place
 Bellaire, Texas 77401

Dear Dr. Porsa,

The Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council (SETRAC) is proud to support the expansion plans by Harris Health to add a 100-bed facility to Ben Taub Hospital to increase patient capacity for the current and future needs of residents of Harris County and Southeast Texas.

As a registered nurse who spent 14 years working in the Level I trauma center at Ben Taub Hospital, I witnessed first-hand the extraordinary care and compassion of my medical and nursing colleagues on a daily basis. This care and emergency response truly saved lives. But even then, I saw how the community’s demand for medical care far outpaced the capacity available at Ben Taub Hospital.

Our mission at SETRAC is to develop and sustain a powerful coalition of providers, responders and other healthcare related partners united together to save lives and improve health outcomes through research, education and collaboration. Harris Health truly exemplifies our mission.

Harris Health continues to do incredible work under immense pressure and demand from an ever-growing population. For a regional perspective, the medical services provided by Harris Health and the teams at Ben Taub Hospital are essential to stabilizing our community’s medical infrastructure. The proposed expansion is not just a building, it’s a means to strengthen our trauma and emergency system, improve health equity and provide a secure safety-net that ensures timely and high-quality care for every resident in our region.

SETRAC therefore urges the community to support and advance the expansion plans for Ben Taub Hospital by Harris Health. Our patients, healthcare workers and our entire region depend on it.

Sincerely,

Lori Upton
 CEO
 Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council

5115 Rosslyn Road, Houston, TX 77018 | 281.822.4444 | Fax: 281.884.6076 | www.setrac.org



CONSTABLE SILVIA R. TREVINO

Harris County Precinct 6



December 15, 2025

Esmail Porsa, MD

President and CEO, Harris Health

4800 Fournace Place

Bellaire, Texas 77401

Dear Dr. Porsa,

I write to you today to fully support and endorse your proposed Ben Taub Hospital expansion plans to improve the health of our community. As a dedicated law enforcement professional with more than 38 years of experience, I know first-hand the importance of public service in our community. Access to high-quality medical care is a priority and vitally important to maintain a safe and thriving community.

I understand the concerns of some who oppose the use of parkland for this expansion. However, I cannot sit by and not share my strong position on why this expansion is good for all of Houston and Harris County.

I see the expansion of Ben Taub Hospital as a public health necessity. As a recent breast cancer survivor and a featured speaker at Harris Health's Pink Out Celebration in October, I saw first-hand the impact your health system has on the residents of Harris County.

As I shared my cancer journey, I saw and met women from all walks of life claiming their triumphs through stories of perseverance and determination thanks to your dedicated physicians and staff who make these miracles happen every day.

I have no doubt that your plans for the Ben Taub Hospital expansion are thoughtful and considerate with only the needs of our community in mind. As a Level I trauma hospital, Ben Taub Hospital needs to always stand strong for the needs of everyone.

I strongly urge my colleagues in law enforcement and the community to support this expansion project and learn more about its significance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Silvia Treviño".

Silvia Treviño

Harris County Precinct 6 Constable

5900 Canal Street | Houston, Texas | 77011 | Phone: 713-274-3400 | Fax: 713-437-4556

Public Safety Is and Always Will Be Our #1 Priority



September 23, 2025

A Shared Vision for the Future of the Texas Medical Center

Ben Taub Hospital is a lifeline to Houston’s most vulnerable populations and a national leader in trauma care and medical education. With our city’s rapid growth, the hospital is operating beyond capacity, putting access to lifesaving care and training of our future health care professionals at risk. Expansion of Ben Taub Hospital is not just a desire—it is an urgent public health necessity. This necessity was one of many reasons why in 2023 an overwhelming number of Harris County residents voted in support of Harris Health’s \$2.5 billion bond which included approximately \$400 million for the creation of a new patient tower for Ben Taub Hospital.

For more than 80 years, the Texas Medical Center and Hermann Park have stood side by side as symbols of Houston’s commitment to health, healing, and quality of life. Today, we face a pivotal moment to build on that legacy.

We, the leaders of the Texas Medical Center, fully support Harris Health’s proposal to acquire 8.9 acres of parkland across Cambridge Street from Hermann Park’s main footprint for the critical expansion of Ben Taub Hospital—one of our region’s cornerstone institutions. This land comprises less than 2% of Hermann Park and does not affect key public attractions like the Zoo, Miller Outdoor Theatre, golf course or gardens. Due to space limitations and operational needs, the land adjacent to Ben Taub Hospital is the only viable option for continued care of our community during construction and for the long-term needs of the Ben Taub Hospital.

This proposal honors both our commitment to public health and our responsibility to preserve community assets. We urge our city and county leaders to embrace this opportunity as an investment in a healthier, more resilient Houston.

Paul Klotman, M.D., FACP
Baylor College of Medicine

Debra Sukin, Ph.D.
Texas Children’s Hospital

Bradley Lembcke, M.D., M.B.A.
Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center

LaTanya J. Love, M.D.
UTHealth Houston

Marc L. Boom, M.D.
Houston Methodist

William F. McKeon
Texas Medical Center

David L. Callender, M.D.
Memorial Hermann Health System



January 9, 2026

Dr. Esmail Porsa
President & CEO
Harris Health

RE: Ben Taub Hospital Expansion

Dear Dr. Porsa,

On behalf of UH Health Family Care Center, I am pleased to offer this letter of support to Harris Health for the expansion of Ben Taub Hospital. As a federally qualified health center look-alike serving many of Houston's most vulnerable populations, we recognize Ben Taub Hospital as a critical cornerstone of the city's healthcare safety net and an essential partner in supporting our patients' needs.

Our health center is the heart of Third Ward, serving the surrounding medically underserved community. Many of our patients rely on Harris Health and Ben Taub Hospital for specialty services, inpatient care, trauma services, and complex medical needs that extend beyond the scope of primary care. The proposed expansion of Ben Taub Hospital represents a vital investment in meeting the growing healthcare demands of Houston and ensuring timely, equitable access to lifesaving services.

As patient volumes and needs for acute and specialty care, rise across the county, the expansion of Ben Taub Hospital will help alleviate these pressures by increasing access to specialty services, improving care coordination, and reducing delays in treatment for patients with complex and chronic conditions. These improvements are especially critical for communities experiencing persistent health disparities, where timely access to advanced care can significantly impact outcomes.

UH Health Family Care Center **fully supports** this expansion and appreciates the opportunity to partner with Harris Health in advancing a more accessible, resilient, and equitable healthcare system for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Neena Arora'.

Neena Arora
CEO/COO, UH Health Family Care Center
Assistant Vice President, Tilman J. Fertitta Family College of Medicine

4349 Martin Luther King Blvd. Suite 1001-E | Houston, TX 77204
713.743.9682 · Fax 713.743.1049 · uhfamilycarecenter.com

ARMANDO L. WALLE

CAPITOL OFFICE:
P.O. Box 2910
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910
(512) 463-0924



DISTRICT OFFICE:
2909 E. ALDINE AMPHITHEATRE DR., STE. 307
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77039
(281) 442-2206

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 140

October 24, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support of the Ben Taub expansion plan as unanimously approved by the Harris Health Board of Trustees. This critical expansion will ensure Harris Health's ability to meet the health care needs of Houston, Harris County, and the larger southeast Texas region for decades to come. Located in the heart of the world-class Texas Medical Center, Ben Taub Hospital consistently operates at or above its 402-bed capacity, and the demand for its healthcare services will only increase in the long, medium, and even short term.

With federal cuts to Medicaid and expiring premium subsidies for coverage through the Affordable Care Act, thousands of Texans will lose health insurance and, with it, sorely needed access to health care. Additionally, due to Harris County's current and projected population growth, Ben Taub expects demand to grow as much as 18,000 emergency visits over the next 10 years, making its expansion a clear necessity.

Through my work during the 88th Legislative Session, the State of Texas, with the approval of its voters, invested more than \$1 billion in the acquisition and conservation of parkland through the Centennial Parks Fund. I fully support the continued expansion of parkland in Texas; however, it is equally important to ensure that such investments are balanced with the region's critical need for accessible healthcare services. The proposed plan is a thoughtful way to address the critical need in a manner that minimizes the impact to adjacent parcels of land.

Throughout the process Harris Health has committed to robust community engagement and communication with all affected stakeholders, and it will continue to make good on that commitment long after the first shovel breaks ground.

I fully support Harris Health's Ben Taub expansion plan, ensuring the Texas Medical Center will remain open to vulnerable patients and especially those with complex trauma needs for decades to come.

Sincerely,

State Representative Armando Walle
House District 140
Harris County, Texas

DISTRICT 140 • HARRIS (PART)
ARMANDO.WALLE@HOUSE.TEXAS.GOV

BEN TAUB EXPANSION PROJECT

**Public Information
Posted on
harrishealth.org**

Proposed Land Acquisition Map

FAQ

Informational Video

PROPOSED LAND ACQUISITION MAP



FAQ: Ben Taub Hospital Expansion

Updated 1-20-26



Statement: Harris Health is a critical provider of healthcare and emergency services to residents of Harris County and surrounding counties. To ensure that these services are available to meet the growing trauma, emergency and healthcare needs of the population of Houston, Harris County and the greater southeast Texas region, it is necessary for Harris Health to expand the inpatient capacity of Ben Taub Hospital.

In 2023, Harris County voters overwhelmingly approved Harris Health's \$2.5 billion bond package to fund its multi-year strategic facilities plan, which authorized the expansion of patient bed capacity at Ben Taub Hospital. To accomplish this mandate, Harris Health plans to expand the hospital's patient bed capacity by building approximately 100 additional private patient rooms through the potential construction of an expansion facility on parkland adjacent to Ben Taub Hospital.

The Need to Expand

Why does Harris Health need to expand the patient bed capacity at Ben Taub Hospital?

Today, Ben Taub Hospital is consistently operating beyond its maximum patient capacity (402 beds). When demand exceeds capacity, patients are often placed in temporary hallway locations throughout the hospital until a room becomes available. While these patients receive necessary physician and nursing attention as they wait for a room, the situation is not ideal. The lack of available beds also requires the hospital to frequently alert Houston Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service partners to take patients to other hospitals. A concerted effort is made to keep trauma care access always available for the community.

How much more capacity is needed?

Based on an extensive analysis relating to needs, patient volume and increased population, Harris Health expects Ben Taub Hospital to see a demand for an additional 18,000 (22% more) emergency visits by 2031 that will require additional patient bed capacity for another 3,200 admissions. The lack of adequate patient bed capacity significantly affects the hospital's availability for patients needing crucial services from emergency to intensive care. Adding 100 patient rooms will accommodate the expected demand before a complete replacement can be funded in 20-25 years.

You talked about adding 100 more beds but expect at least 3,000 more hospital admissions by 2030. What good is 100 beds going to do?

The addition of 100 more beds will accommodate more than 3,000 projected hospital admissions. To put this into context, 6,000 hospital admissions per year with an average of five inpatient days per patient stay require about 30,000 additional inpatient days. Adding 100 beds will provide 36,500 additional inpatient days on an annual basis.

This will not only provide immediate relief for the urgent capacity needs that Ben Taub Hospital is

FAQ: Ben Taub Hospital Expansion

Updated 1-20-26



currently facing but will also create additional capacity for the surge of patients who are expected to seek our services in the coming months and years due to federal marketplace health insurance and funding changes.

The Hermann Park land that Harris Health is currently pursuing is simply one important piece of a complex puzzle to address the public healthcare needs of our community for now and for decades to come.

Related to the \$2.5 billion bond package approved by voters, is the expansion of Ben Taub optional?

No. As part of the bond package approved by voters in 2023, the public was told about the need to extend the life of Ben Taub Hospital and expand patient bed capacity to continue to effectively serve the community. The \$410 million investment to expand the hospital legally must be used for that specific purpose. Harris Health has evaluated many options, and the only fiscally responsible and operationally viable way to expand Ben Taub Hospital is by purchase through eminent domain of city-owned park land adjacent to the hospital and directly across from its emergency and trauma center.

Land Identified for Ben Taub Expansion

Where is the land that Harris Health wants to acquire?

Harris Health has identified 8.9 acres of city-owned park property for the expansion of Ben Taub Hospital. This property is located directly across from the Ben Taub Hospital emergency and trauma center, and is bordered by Lamar Fleming Avenue, Cambridge Street and South Braeswood Boulevard. [See map and photos here.](#)

Does Harris Health's plan to expand Ben Taub Hospital use land that is part of the Hermann Park Golf Course, Houston Zoo, Miller Outdoor Theater or other park attractions?

No. The proposed parcels of land are directly across from the Ben Taub Hospital emergency and trauma center and separated from the main attractions of the park by Cambridge Street and do not affect any access to the core park attractions. We propose that the land be used to build more patient rooms for Ben Taub Hospital. Although this property is part of Hermann Park, it represents less than 2% of the park's 445 acres.

What is the Hermann Park land that Harris Health is pursuing currently used for?

Currently, the land contains trees, limited walking trails and a few picnic tables. As per Hermann Park Conservancy's Master Plan, they have created conceptual plans to eventually place a parking garage on this land. [Learn more on their website here.](#)

What alternative options were explored before determining that Hermann Park land was the

FAQ: Ben Taub Hospital Expansion

Updated 1-20-26



only viable option?

Option	Determination
Vertical Expansion of Existing Ben Taub Hospital	<p>Harris Health has evaluated this issue with architectural engineering consultants as part of a condition assessment review of the hospital. When Ben Taub Hospital was built in 1989, it was simply not designed or built with structural and foundational support to accommodate vertical expansion within the facility itself. In addition, every infrastructural system in Ben Taub Hospital is fast approaching its end of useful life. Any efforts to add floors to the top of Ben Taub would require closing significant sections of the hospital to accommodate the construction, further reducing capacity for several years. Further, any new construction in the inpatient units of the existing Ben Taub Hospital will necessitate bringing the entire inpatient environment up to current hospital regulations which permit only single-occupancy rooms and other code requirements that would impact capacity. This would result in a significant net loss of beds since the current Ben Taub Hospital has double and quad occupancy rooms.</p>
Building on Another Location on the Existing Ben Taub Campus Footprint	<p>The current campus footprint is not conducive to building an expansion facility that maintains current healthcare standards. Physical space is an issue. Proximity to existing buildings with ongoing hospital operations, and limited space for cranes and construction staging would not allow for expansion on the current campus. Further, site constraints would likely result in a significant increase in construction costs and the standard operating ratio of total beds per floor would not be met if an expansion was attempted on the current campus.</p> <p>Attempting to construct an expansion facility on the existing campus would not provide sufficient room for future expansion nor does it address the long term need to replace the existing physical plant of Ben Taub Hospital.</p>
Building on Cabin Property	<p>Along Cambridge Street and adjacent to Ben Taub Hospital is a cabin on 1.6 acres of property serving as the San Jacinto Daughters of the Republic of Texas museum/chapter house. That property is an irregular shape and not suitable for a patient facility due to the following reasons: (1) the Ben Taub Loop Circle and Cambridge street configuration would require rerouting; (2) a facility fitting on this small property would not meet the required beds per floor for sustainable operational patient care; (3) site restrictions would increase cost per square foot due to the expected dimensions of the facility; (4) there is no space for construction staging and limited area for a tower crane; (5) the site would not provide for future expansion needs; and (6) it would be difficult to meet water retention requirements due to size and location of the site.</p>
Converting The Ben Taub Tower (BTT) or Neuropsychiatric Center (NPC) to Inpatient Use	<p>The BTT and NPC are built as outpatient facilities, which is appropriate for their current use. The buildings would essentially have to be gutted to meet the comprehensive construction standards for an inpatient hospital. The conversion of these buildings into hospital occupancy would be physically, financially, and operationally unfeasible.</p>

FAQ: Ben Taub Hospital Expansion



Updated 1-20-26

<p>Use Of Adjacent Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) Building</p>	<p>As of December 2025, BCM has confirmed that it is not relocating. BCM is expanding into TMC’s Helix Park and has no immediate or future plans to vacate the current medical school location. Additionally, BCM’s building is recognized as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, which comes with a certain measure of protection under state law.</p>
<p>Building Elsewhere in the Texas Medical Center</p>	<p>The Ben Taub Hospital expansion facility must be close enough in proximity to the existing hospital to allow it to connect via a sky bridge so that it can operate as part of Ben Taub Hospital under the same Level I trauma designation, and to prevent the need for costly duplication of ancillary services and physical space. Without a sky bridge connection to Ben Taub Hospital, the expansion facility would have to independently meet all hospital licensure standards relating to physical space and ancillary services, such as maintaining a pharmacy suite, an emergency department, and imaging and clinical laboratory departments. Ben Taub Hospital’s ancillary service departments already are available to meet the needs of the additional inpatients housed in an expansion facility.</p>
<p>Use of City of Houston building tract of land</p>	<p>The Ben Taub Hospital expansion land that Harris Health is currently pursuing needs to be in close proximity to the existing hospital to allow it to connect via a sky bridge so that it can operate as part of Ben Taub Hospital under the same Level I trauma designation and hospital license under state law. The City of Houston tract is simply not close enough to Ben Taub to allow for this connection.</p> <p>Also, the Ben Taub Hospital expansion facility is meant to be the first phase of the eventual replacement of Ben Taub Hospital with a much larger and more capable Level I trauma center. The City of Houston tract is about 3 acres, while the Hermann Park tracts are just short of 9 acres. At 3 acres, the City of Houston parcel of land is simply not large enough for a future replacement hospital. Indeed, this land would not be large enough for even the proposed expansion facility.</p>
<p>Relocation of Ben Taub Outside of the Texas Medical Center</p>	<p>A new facility not connected to the existing Ben Taub would have to be constructed as a stand-alone facility with all the required support systems and services to provide the breadth of hospital care. Essentially, a new hospital would need to be built. Unfortunately, Harris Health does not have the borrowing capacity to build another new hospital, which would cost approximately \$2.5 billion or more to complete.</p> <p>Additionally, operating at any location other than the adjacent location to the existing Ben Taub will require the new hospital to undergo the Level I trauma designation process that is, at best, a 3 to 5-year process. This could mean that Harris County may possibly go without one of its only two adult Level I trauma designated hospitals during the transition process to the new location. Harris County cannot afford the reduction in Level I trauma services that could occur if the replacement hospital is built elsewhere, nor could Harris Health afford to operate the existing Ben Taub Trauma Center and a new replacement Level 1 Trauma Center simultaneously for multiple years while a new hospital undergoes trauma designation.</p>

FAQ: Ben Taub Hospital Expansion



Updated 1-20-26

<p>Use of Harris Health’s hospital on the LBJ campus to address BT capacity issues</p>	<p>LBJ Hospital and Ben Taub Hospital currently operate under similar capacity constraints. When the new hospital on the LBJ campus opens in 2029, the additional beds will address LBJ’s (not Ben Taub’s) capacity issues. Further, the new hospital on the LBJ Hospital campus is being constructed as a Level I capable hospital but will not be a Level I trauma designated hospital when it opens its doors to the public; it will open as the same certified Level III trauma hospital as it currently exists. We expect a formal designation and upgrade to Level I status after several years of gradual increase in staffing, and the required accreditation from the American College of Surgeons and the Texas Department of State Health Services (the earliest possible opportunity is likely 2035).</p>
--	---

Why is Harris Health considering the purchase of park land and not opting to acquire another property?

The proximity of this property to Ben Taub Hospital makes it uniquely suitable for construction of much-needed patient beds in a potential hospital addition to be directly connected to Ben Taub Hospital via a sky bridge. The Ben Taub Hospital expansion facility must be close enough in proximity to the existing hospital to allow it to connect via a sky bridge so that it can operate as part of Ben Taub Hospital under the same Level I trauma designation, and also to prevent the need for costly duplication of ancillary services and staffing that Ben Taub currently offers.

Why do you need nearly nine acres of land?

The 8.9 acres of park land under consideration is meant to address two issues:

- **Short term:** The 8.9 acres will provide the space Harris Health needs for the creation of the expansion facility for adding around 100 additional inpatient beds to current Ben Taub Hospital capacity of 402 licensed beds.
- **Long term:** Harris Health has maintained that this expansion facility is meant to serve as the first phase for the complete replacement of Ben Taub Hospital in the future once Harris Health may be able to finance the construction of the replacement hospital, which is currently estimated to cost about \$2.5 billion. Harris Health must have the entire 8.9 acres so that we can have a thoughtful design of a future hospital that will incorporate the initial expansion facility into its design.

For context, the current, undersized Ben Taub hospital and garage sit on 11.43 acres. The new hospital and central utility plant on the LBJ campus sit on 11.84 acres (not including the existing outpatient facility, any parking garages or green spaces which total approximately 10 additional acres).

What are some of the resiliency plans Harris Health is considering as part of its planning for the expansion of Ben Taub Hospital?

FAQ: Ben Taub Hospital Expansion

Updated 1-20-26



Harris Health places a high priority on resiliency and long-term sustainability, particularly when addressing risks such as flooding, power grid interruptions, and utility failures. We are committed to building resilient structures as evidenced by the new hospital construction on the LBJ campus which incorporates many proven resiliency features, such as:

- an 8-million-gallon underground cistern;
- a first-floor level constructed more than five feet above the existing legacy hospital elevation;
- an additional crawl space underneath all buildings (hospital, central plant and garage) that achieves 8.5 million gallons of total water retention;
- a dual fuel capable central utility plant to ensure continuity of operations during power disruptions; and
- an impermeable underground utility tunnel designed to protect critical infrastructure from water intrusion.

That same level of care will guide the Ben Taub expansion facility and the future Ben Taub replacement hospital. Harris Health is committed to protecting these facilities from adverse weather events while also safeguarding the surrounding environment, including precious park land and other nearby medical facilities.

Harris Health has several in-house engineers with deep expertise in resiliency planning, and we also intend to seek guidance from third-party experts in resilient design and construction. We intend for resiliency to be integrated not only in the buildings, but also into the surrounding greenspace, ensuring the site contributes to flood mitigation.

Most of the Texas Medical Center is located within a flood plain. Harris Health will comply with all development, regulatory and permitting requirements associated with the development of the acquired land including drainage and flood mitigation requirements. Harris Health will ensure that the construction of the Ben Taub Hospital Expansion Project includes and complies with all required and appropriate drainage and flood mitigation measures and requirements. Additionally, Harris Health will work with the City of Houston, the Harris County Flood Control District and other state and local regulatory authorities to ensure that the construction of the Ben Taub Hospital Expansion Project is compliant with all licensing regulations and other applicable permitting and regulatory requirements.

[The Process to Acquire the Land](#)

What is the process for acquiring the land?

It is a multi-step process. The first step, which requires approval from the Harris Health Board of Trustees, has already occurred. Next, if approved by the Harris County Commissioners Court, following a Chapter 26 public hearing, Harris Health would purchase the property at fair

FAQ: Ben Taub Hospital Expansion



Updated 1-20-26

market value through eminent domain in accordance with Chapter 21 of the Texas Property Code. As part of the process, Harris Health will coordinate with the City of Houston, the Hermann Park Conservancy, the Houston Zoo and other stakeholders to ensure that the expansion of Ben Taub Hospital includes all reasonable planning to minimize impact to the remainder of Hermann Park, including exercising its best efforts to preserve and enhance the public's ability to safely and conveniently access the park's amenities.

Until the legal proceedings are complete and ownership is transferred, this land will continue to be used for park purposes by the City of Houston.

What action has been taken by Harris Health's Board of Trustees?

At its September 2025 meeting, the Harris Health Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a resolution containing the determinations and findings required by Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Code and authorized the purchase at fair market value through eminent domain of three parcels within Hermann Park consisting of approximately 8.9 acres. Formal notification to any holders of a property interest will follow any decision by Harris County Commissioners Court to approve eminent domain. The purchase through eminent domain also will adhere to the provisions of Chapter 21 of the Texas Property Code, Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code and in accordance with Section 281.050 of the Texas Health and Safety Code and all other applicable legal requirements.

What happens next in the process?

The September 23, 2025 Harris Health Board action has initiated a multi-step process, which includes Harris County Commissioners Court holding a Chapter 26 public hearing to consider approving eminent domain potentially on March 19, 2026. If approved, notification of all property interest holders — including all holders of a reversionary interest in these parcels — will commence according to statutory requirements. Harris Health remains committed to continuing discussions and working with relevant stakeholders to keep them informed throughout the process.

What is eminent domain?

In Texas, eminent domain allows certain public entities like Harris Health to acquire property for a public necessity, even if the owner doesn't want to sell, provided the owner is adequately compensated. This process does not require a public election.

Will all holders of a property interest in this land be contacted about this matter?

Any person or entity that has a property interest in the land that is subject to eminent domain, including any holders of reversionary interests, will be notified in accordance with Chapter 21 of the Texas Property Code if both the Harris Health Board of Trustees and the Harris County Commissioners Court approve the acquisition of the land. Review and approval by Harris County Commissioners Court remains pending at the time of this writing.

FAQ: Ben Taub Hospital Expansion



Updated 1-20-26

When will reversionary interest holders (family legal heirs) be contacted about the eminent domain actions?

If Harris County Commissioners Court decides in January 2026 to hold a public hearing (TBD: March 19, 2026) and, after the public hearing, finds that a public necessity exists to approve acquiring the land by purchase through eminent domain, only then will the reversionary interest holders be formally notified. Any efforts to notify those with reversionary interests at this early stage would be inappropriate until all approvals have occurred.

I have heard that the bond language passed by Harris County residents in 2023 excludes the use of bond funds for land acquisition and restricts the use of bond funds to only facility expansion and improvement inside the existing Ben Taub. Is that correct?

This is not correct. The bond proposition language clearly allows Harris Health to purchase land for the Ben Taub Hospital expansion and in no way limits the use of bond funds to facility improvements only inside the existing hospital. Our priority is facility expansion as it is the only way to meet the region's growing demand for trauma and acute medical care. Harris Health will evaluate the most financially responsible decision on how to complete the eminent domain purchase acquisition of the Hermann Park tracts at fair market value.

What ideas do you have to address and minimize park impact while maximizing benefit to the overall community?

This expansion project does not affect access to Hermann Park's core park attractions. For the Hermann Park tracts of land Harris Health is pursuing, we intend to preserve some key features on the land such as trees and walking trails, until such a time we can begin construction of a Ben Taub Hospital replacement facility in 20-25 years. All efforts will be made to minimize traffic disruptions and address flooding concerns through appropriate studies and mitigation measures.

Also, Harris Health's intent is to collaborate extensively with the City and Hermann Park Conservancy and to get guidance from park experts to ensure there are no impacts on the park's main amenities or the zoo, and to beautify the future hospital site by developing a healing garden and enhancing other public areas to aesthetically fit the overall park environment.

Why Not Relocate or Build Elsewhere

Why don't you build elsewhere? Does the patient addition have to be connected to the Ben Taub Hospital?

Ben Taub Hospital operates under a single Texas Health and Human Services Commission license, covering all the services provided on the hospital campus. By ensuring physical connectivity, a new inpatient expansion facility would qualify as an extension of the hospital license, thus avoiding regulatory complexity and delays. The Ben Taub Hospital expansion land must be in close proximity to the existing hospital to allow it to connect via a sky bridge so that it can operate as part of Ben Taub Hospital under the same Level I trauma designation and hospital license under state law. The proximity of this property to Ben Taub Hospital makes it uniquely suitable for construction of much-

FAQ: Ben Taub Hospital Expansion

Updated 1-20-26



needed patient beds in a potential hospital addition to be directly connected to Ben Taub Hospital via a sky bridge.

The proximity and physical connection of the expansion facility to Ben Taub Hospital also ensures critical services like diagnostic radiology, phlebotomy, lab, pathology, security and specialty services and staff are available to patients treated in the expansion facility.

For example, if a patient in the expansion facility requires an immediate surgical procedure, the skybridge provides the quick connection to surgical suites in the hospital and the necessary recovery areas. Likewise, if a patient in the expansion facility requires an emergency CT scan, the skybridge provides the quick and safe connection to the hospital's radiology department to perform the test.

If the expansion facility was built anywhere else, within or outside of the Texas Medical Center, it would be cost prohibitive to duplicate these, and other services, as well as the necessary staff who provide these services. An expansion facility elsewhere would have to independently meet all hospital licensure standards relating to physical space and ancillary services, such as maintaining a pharmacy suite, an emergency department, and imaging and clinical laboratory departments and would be cost prohibitive. Harris Health is not in a financial position to do this today. In 2023, voters approved a \$2.5 billion bond to add a new hospital to the LBJ Hospital campus, expand Ben Taub Hospital inpatient bed capacity, and add community clinics. This bond represents Harris Health's maximum borrowing capacity. Approximately \$410 million from the voter-approved bond package allows Harris Health to expand patient bed capacity at Ben Taub Hospital until a full replacement hospital can be constructed. When Harris Health has completed paying for its current bond, the system may consider asking voters for potential funding for a replacement facility for Ben Taub Hospital.

What is the maximum distance for a skybridge?

Texas regulations, including the Life and Safety Code, regarding the maximum distance of a skybridge or walkway connecting the inpatient expansion to the main hospital do not specify an exact number, but the general principle is that the distance should be driven by optimal operations for patients transfers and clinical logistics, particularly in case of emergencies. Additionally, the skybridge must meet fire and life safety standards, accessibility requirements and extend the Inpatient/Hospital occupancy to include the new tower. Maximum distance is driven by life safety, distance between rated structures, views and windows requirements for new and existing patient rooms.

Why is it important Ben Taub Hospital remain in the Texas Medical Center (TMC)?

As the only public safety-net hospital in the Texas Medical Center, maintaining Ben Taub Hospital in the Texas Medical Center sends a clear message to the community that in Houston and Harris County, equitable healthcare is available to everyone regardless of economic or insurance considerations. Patients at Ben Taub Hospital will continue to have access to advances in

FAQ: Ben Taub Hospital Expansion



Updated 1-20-26

technology, research and care available through the collaborations with medical school partners Baylor College of Medicine and other Texas Medical Center hospitals and institutions. Rotations, research projects, and cross-institutional programs benefit from this shared location, allowing seamless movement of students, residents and medical faculty. Patients will also benefit from the TMC’s significant infrastructure resiliency plan that supports the continued operation of TMC hospitals and their ability to provide essential services to patients during and after extreme weather events such as hurricanes.

Have Harris Health leaders met with Hermann Park Conservancy Board?

Harris Health met with the Hermann Park Conservancy Board on December 1, 2025, and January 14, 2026. Harris Health also met with Hermann Park Conservancy administrative staff on December 18, 2025, and January 8, 2026, with plans to meet again on January 26, 2026. Additionally, Harris Health participated in the Hermann Park Conservancy’s Town Hall meeting on January 7, 2026. Harris Health looks forward to continuing to meet with the Hermann Park Conservancy Board to learn more about their concerns and is committed to listening to the conservancy board and possibly collaborating on ideas that can mutually benefit both organizations and all County residents.

Harris Health also continues to engage in conversations with the City of Houston, the legal owner of the land, who will be a critical partner in these collaborations with Hermann Park.

Project Support

What organizations have provided a letter of support for this initiative?

- Baylor College of Medicine
- Baylor St. Luke’s Hospital
- Bee Busy Wellness Center - FQHC
- Boilermakers Local 72
- Cullen Eye Institute
- Greater Houston Partnership
- Harris County Sheriff’s Office
- Harris County Medical Society
- Harris Health Strategic Fund
- HCHD Foundation
- Houston Fire Fighters Association
- Houston Gulf Coast Building & Construction Trades Council
- Houston Police Officers’ Union
- Houston Recovery Center/Sobering Center
- Houston Region Business Coalition
- IBEW Local 716
- IUEC Local 31
- IUOE Local 450
- Insulators Local 22

FAQ: Ben Taub Hospital Expansion



Updated 1-20-26

- Memorial Hermann Hospital
- Mental Health America of Greater Houston
- The Methodist Hospital
- Texas State Senator Borris L. Miles
- Pipefitters Local 211
- Plumbers Local 68
- SETRAC
- SMART Local 54
- Texas Children’s Hospital
- Texas Medical Center
- The Metropolitan Organization of Houston
- Harris County Precinct 6 Constable Silvia R. Trevino
- University of Houston Family Care Center
- UTHealth Houston Medical School
- Texas State Rep. Armando Walle

INFORMATIONAL VIDEO

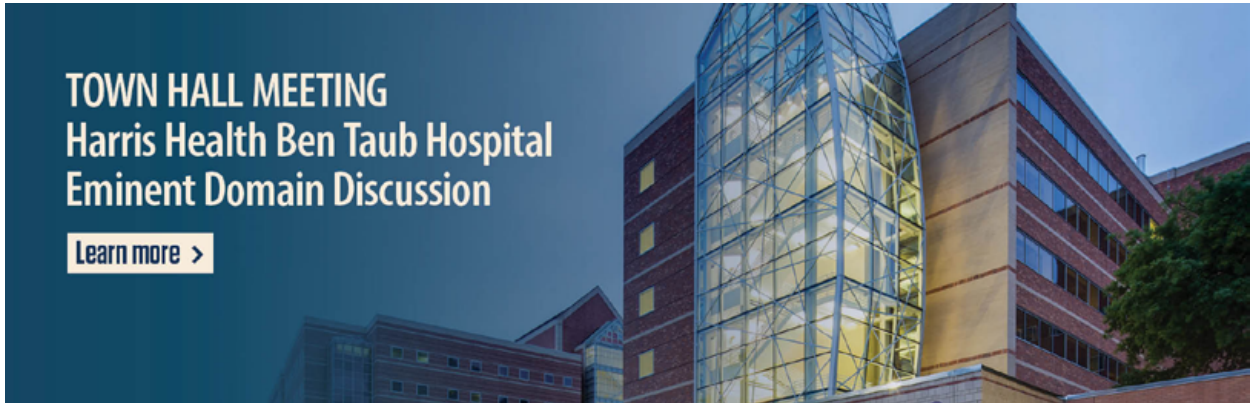
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWVo3peGJTE>



BEN TAUB EXPANSION PROJECT

**Town Hall Meeting
Materials**

Precinct 1 Town Hall Meeting Notices



Landing page rotator

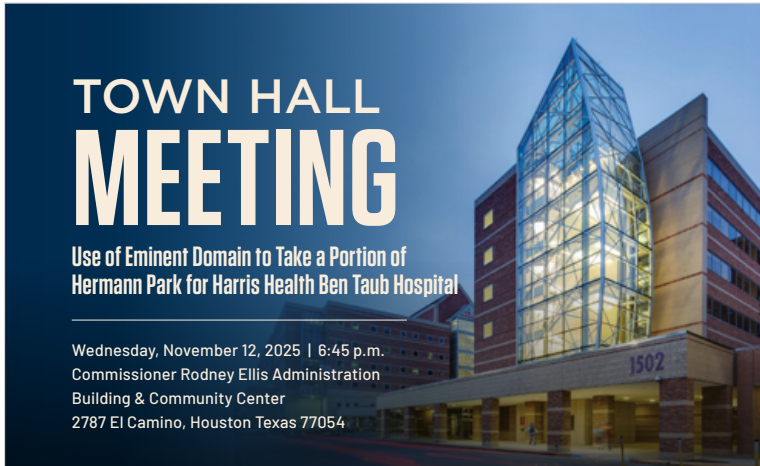


Digital Ads



Social Media

Precinct 1 Town Hall Meeting Notices



TOWN HALL MEETING

Use of Eminent Domain to Take a Portion of Hermann Park for Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 | 6:45 p.m.
 Commissioner Rodney Ellis Administration Building & Community Center
 2787 El Camino, Houston Texas 77054

Please join us for an informative meeting regarding the acquisition of 8.9 acres of Hermann Park land by eminent domain to support the expansion of Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital.

This is a great opportunity to hear about the proposed plans and why this expansion is necessary. To submit questions or comments about the land acquisition, email bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org.

Please visit harrishealth.org to learn more.



HARRISHEALTH

Flyer – English



REUNIÓN DEL AYUNTAMIENTO

Uso del dominio inminente para adquirir una parte de Hermann Park para Ben Taub Hospital de Harris Health

Miércoles 12 de noviembre de 2025 | 6:45 p. m.
 Edificio Administrativo y Centro Comunitario de la Oficina del Comisionado Rodney Ellis
 2787 El Camino, Houston Texas 77054

Les invitamos a una reunión informativa con respecto a la adquisición de 8.9 acres de terreno de Hermann Park mediante una medida de dominio inminente para apoyar la ampliación de Ben Taub Hospital de Harris Health.

Esta es una excelente oportunidad para conocer los planes propuestos y por qué es necesaria esta ampliación. Para enviar preguntas o comentarios sobre la adquisición de terrenos, envíe un correo electrónico a bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org.

Visite harrishealth.org para obtener más información.



TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS.
 Escanee para obtener más información.

HARRISHEALTH **WE LIVE THIS**
Nosotros lo vivimos

Flyer – Spanish

Precinct 1 Town Hall Meeting Notices



TOWN HALL MEETING

Use of Eminent Domain to Take a Portion of Hermann Park for Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital


Wednesday, November 12, 2025 | 6:45 p.m.
 Commissioner Rodney Ellis Administration
 Building & Community Center
 2787 El Camino, Houston Texas 77054

HARRISHEALTH **WE LIVE THIS**

Please join us for an informative meeting regarding the acquisition of 8.9 acres of Hermann Park land by eminent domain to support the expansion of Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital.

This is a great opportunity to hear about the proposed plans and why this expansion is necessary. To submit questions or comments about the land acquisition, email bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org.

Please visit harrishealth.org to learn more.



ALL ARE WELCOME.
Scan to RSVP.

HARRISHEALTH

P.O. Box 66769
Houston, Texas 77266-6769

Mailer

Precinct 1 Town Hall Meeting Notices



Yard Sign

Precinct 2 Town Hall Meeting Notices



Landing page rotator



Digital Ads

Harris Health's Post

Harris Health
December 30, 2025 at 9:45 AM

Please join us in January for Town Hall Meetings to discuss the acquisition of 8.9 acres of Hermann Park land by eminent domain to support the expansion of Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital. To submit comments about the land acquisition, email bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org. Please visit harrishealth.org to learn more.

Upcoming Town Hall Meetings:
 Town Hall/ Commissioner Adrian Garcia Pct. 2
 Monday, Jan. 5, 2026
 6:45 p.m.
 Baker/Ripley Ripley House Campus
 4410 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Texas 77011
 Harris County Precinct 2

Town Hall/Commissioner Lesley Briones Pct. 4
 Tuesday, Jan. 13
 6:45 p.m.
 Tracy Gee Community Center
 3599 Westcenter Dr., Houston, TX 77042
 Office of Commissioner Lesley Briones, Precinct 4

TOWN HALL MEETING
Use of Eminent Domain to Take a Portion of Hermann Park for Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital
Monday, January 5, 2026 | 6:45 p.m.
Baker/Ripley Ripley House Campus
4410 Navigation Blvd., Houston, TX 77011

Please join us for an informative meeting regarding the acquisition of 8.9 acres of Hermann Park land by eminent domain to support the expansion of Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital.

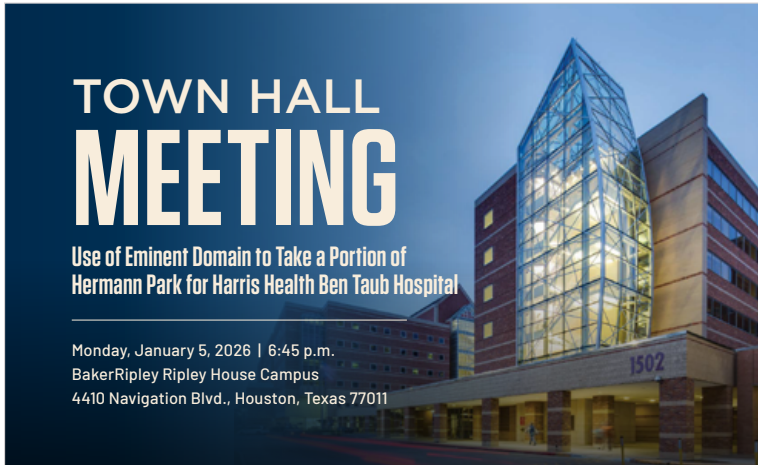
This is a great opportunity to hear about the proposed plans and why this expansion is necessary. To submit questions or comments about the land acquisition, email bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org.

Please visit harrishealth.org to learn more.

ALL ARE WELCOME.
We encourage you to bring a friend.

Social Media

Precinct 2 Town Hall Meeting Notices



TOWN HALL MEETING



Use of Eminent Domain to Take a Portion of Hermann Park for Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital

Monday, January 5, 2026 | 6:45 p.m.
 BakerRipley Ripley House Campus
 4410 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Texas 77011

Please join us for an informative meeting regarding the acquisition of 8.9 acres of Hermann Park land by eminent domain to support the expansion of Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital.

This is a great opportunity to hear about the proposed plans and why this expansion is necessary. To submit comments about the land acquisition, email bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org.

Please visit harrishealth.org to learn more.

HARRISHEALTH

Flyer - English



REUNIÓN DEL AYUNTAMIENTO

Uso del dominio inminente para adquirir una parte de Hermann Park para Ben Taub Hospital de Harris Health

Lunes, 5 de enero de 2026 | 6:45 p.m.
 BakerRipley Ripley House Campus
 4410 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Texas 77011

Les invitamos a una reunión informativa con respecto a la adquisición de 8.9 acres de terreno de Hermann Park mediante una medida de dominio inminente para apoyar la ampliación de Ben Taub Hospital de Harris Health.

Esta es una excelente oportunidad para conocer los planes propuestos y por qué es necesaria esta ampliación. Para enviar comentarios sobre la adquisición de terrenos, envíe un correo electrónico a bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org.

Visite harrishealth.org para obtener más información.

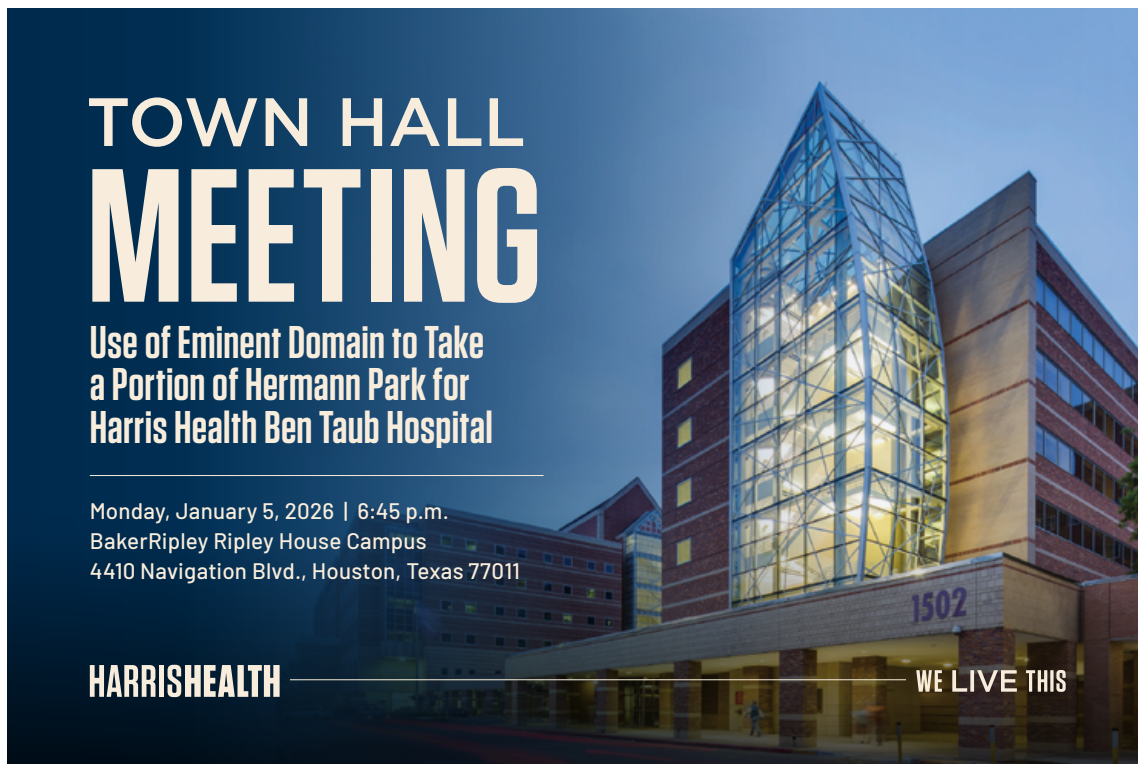



TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS.
 Escanee para obtener más información.

HARRISHEALTH **LO VIVIMOS**

Flyer - Spanish

Precinct 2 Town Hall Meeting Notices



TOWN HALL MEETING

Use of Eminent Domain to Take a Portion of Hermann Park for Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital

Monday, January 5, 2026 | 6:45 p.m.
 BakerRipley Ripley House Campus
 4410 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Texas 77011

HARRISHEALTH WE LIVE THIS

Please join us for an informative meeting regarding the acquisition of 8.9 acres of Hermann Park land by eminent domain to support the expansion of Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital.

This is a great opportunity to hear about the proposed plans and why this expansion is necessary. To submit comments about the land acquisition, email bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org.

Please visit harrishealth.org to learn more.

HARRISHEALTH

P.O. Box 66769
Houston, Texas 77266-6769



ALL ARE WELCOME.
Scan for more information.

Mailer

Precinct 2 Town Hall Meeting Notices



Yard Sign

Precinct 3 Town Hall Meeting Notices



TOWN HALL MEETING
Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital
Eminent Domain Discussion

[Learn more >](#)

Landing page rotator



REUNIÓN
DEL AYUNTAMIENTO

Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital
Discusión de Dominio Eminente
Noviembre 17, 6:45 p.m.

HARRISHEALTH

[Aprender más >](#)



TOWN HALL
MEETING

Harris Health Ben Taub
Hospital Eminent Domain
Discussion

Nov. 17, 6:45 p.m.

[Learn more >](#)

HARRISHEALTH

Digital Ads



Harris Health
November 5 at 10:05 AM

Please join us Mon., Nov. 17, at George H.W. Bush Community Center for a special Town Hall Meeting to discuss the acquisition of 8.9 acres of Hermann Park land by eminent domain to support the expansion of Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital.

Doors open at 6:15 p.m., program begins at 6:45 p.m. This is a great opportunity to hear about the proposed plans and why this expansion is necessary.

To submit questions or comments about the land acquisition, email bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org. Please visit harrishealth.org to learn more.



5

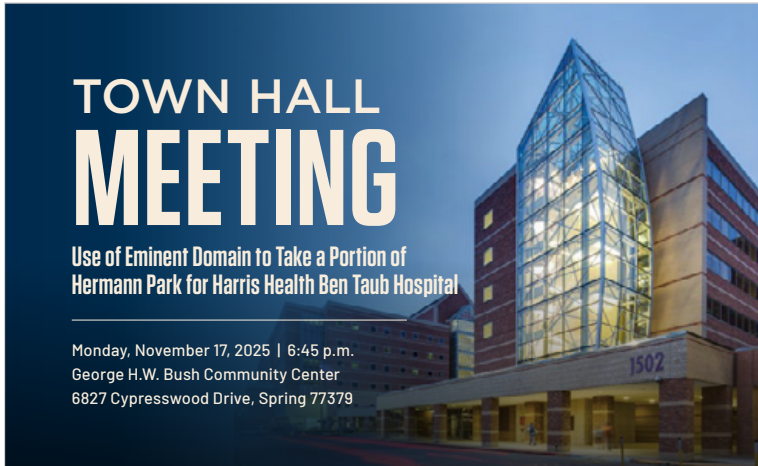
Like

Comment

Share

Social Media

Precinct 3 Town Hall Meeting Notices



TOWN HALL MEETING



Use of Eminent Domain to Take a Portion of Hermann Park for Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital

Monday, November 17, 2025 | 6:45 p.m.
George H.W. Bush Community Center
6827 Cypresswood Drive, Spring 77379

Please join us for an informative meeting regarding the acquisition of 8.9 acres of Hermann Park land by eminent domain to support the expansion of Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital.

This is a great opportunity to hear about the proposed plans and why this expansion is necessary. To submit questions or comments about the land acquisition, email bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org.

Please visit harrishealth.org to learn more.

HARRISHEALTH

Flyer - English



REUNIÓN DEL AYUNTAMIENTO

Uso del dominio inminente para adquirir una parte de Hermann Park para Ben Taub Hospital de Harris Health

Miércoles 17 de noviembre de 2025 | 6:45 p. m.
George H.W. Bush Community Center
6827 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, Texas 77379

Les invitamos a una reunión informativa con respecto a la adquisición de 8.9 acres de terreno de Hermann Park mediante una medida de dominio inminente para apoyar la ampliación de Ben Taub Hospital de Harris Health.

Esta es una excelente oportunidad para conocer los planes propuestos y por qué es necesaria esta ampliación. Para enviar preguntas o comentarios sobre la adquisición de terrenos, envíe un correo electrónico a bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org.

Visite harrishealth.org para obtener más información.




TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS.
Escanee para obtener más información.

HARRISHEALTH **LO VIVIMOS**

Flyer - Spanish

Precinct 3 Town Hall Meeting Notices



TOWN HALL MEETING

Use of Eminent Domain to Take a Portion of Hermann Park for Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital

Monday, November 17, 2025 | 6:45 p.m.
George H.W. Bush Community Center
6827 Cypresswood Drive, Spring 77379


HARRISHEALTH **WE LIVE THIS**

Please join us for an informative meeting regarding the acquisition of 8.9 acres of Hermann Park land by eminent domain to support the expansion of Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital.

This is a great opportunity to hear about the proposed plans and why this expansion is necessary. To submit questions or comments about the land acquisition, email bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org.

Please visit harrishealth.org to learn more.

HARRISHEALTH
P.O. Box 66769
Houston, Texas 77266-6769



ALL ARE WELCOME.
Scan for more information.

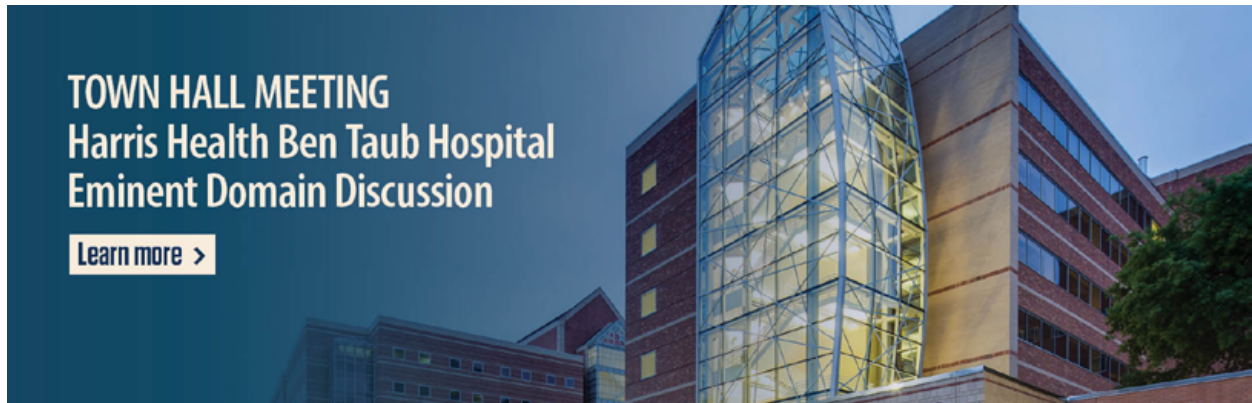
Mailer

Precinct 3 Town Hall Meeting Notices



Yard Sign

Precinct 4 Town Hall Meeting Notices



TOWN HALL MEETING
Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital
Eminent Domain Discussion

[Learn more >](#)

Landing page rotator



REUNIÓN
DEL AYUNTAMIENTO

Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital
Discusión de Dominio Eminente
13 de enero, 6-45 p.m.

HARRISHEALTH

[Aprender más >](#)



TOWN HALL
MEETING

Harris Health Ben Taub
Hospital Eminent Domain
Discussion

Jan. 13, 6:45 p.m.

[Learn more >](#)

HARRISHEALTH

Digital Ads



Harris Health
November 5 at 10:05 AM

Please join us Tues., Jan 13, at Tracy Gee Community Center for a special Town Hall Meeting to discuss the acquisition of 8.9 acres of Hermann Park land by eminent domain to support the expansion of Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital. Doors open at 6:15 p.m., program begins at 6:45 p.m. This is a great opportunity to hear about the proposed plans and why this expansion is necessary. To submit questions or comments about the land acquisition, email bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org. Please visit harrishealth.org to learn more.

TOWN HALL
MEETING

Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital
Eminent Domain Discussion

Jan. 13, 6:45 p.m.

5


Like

Comment

Share

Social Media

Precinct 4 Town Hall Meeting Notices



TOWN HALL MEETING

**Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital Expansion Project
Hermann Park Eminent Domain Discussion**


Tuesday, January 13, 2026 | 6:45 p.m.
Tracy Gee Community Center
3599 Westcenter Dr., Houston, Texas 77042

Please join us for an informative meeting regarding the acquisition of 8.9 acres of Hermann Park land by eminent domain to support the expansion of Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital.

This is a great opportunity to hear about the proposed plans and why this expansion is necessary. To submit questions or comments about the land acquisition, email bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org.

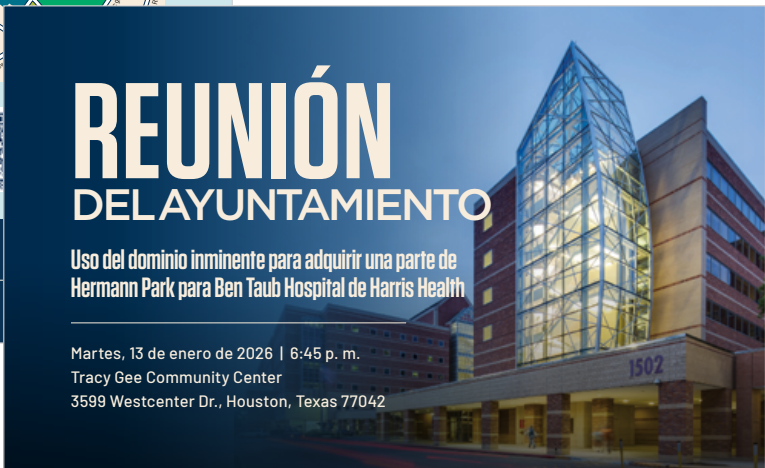
Please visit harrishealth.org to learn more.

Interpretation available in Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese.




HARRISHEALTH

Flyer - English



REUNIÓN DEL AYUNTAMIENTO

Uso del dominio inminente para adquirir una parte de Hermann Park para Ben Taub Hospital de Harris Health

Martes, 13 de enero de 2026 | 6:45 p. m.
Tracy Gee Community Center
3599 Westcenter Dr., Houston, Texas 77042

Les invitamos a una reunión informativa con respecto a la adquisición de 8.9 acres de terreno de Hermann Park mediante una medida de dominio inminente para apoyar la ampliación de Ben Taub Hospital de Harris Health.

Esta es una excelente oportunidad para conocer los planes propuestos y por qué es necesaria esta ampliación. Para enviar preguntas o comentarios sobre la adquisición de terrenos, envíe un correo electrónico a bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org.

Visite harrishealth.org para obtener más información.

Interpretación disponible en chino, español y vietnamita.




TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS.
Escanee para obtener más información.

HARRISHEALTH LO VIVIMOS

Flyer - Spanish

Precinct 4 Town Hall Meeting Notices



TOWN HALL MEETING

Use of Eminent Domain to Take a Portion of Hermann Park for Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital

Tuesday, January 13, 2026 | 6:45 p.m.
 Tracy Gee Community Center
 3599 Westcenter Dr., Houston, Texas 77042

HARRISHEALTH **WE LIVE THIS**

Please join us for an informative meeting regarding the acquisition of 8.9 acres of Hermann Park land by eminent domain to support the expansion of Harris Health Ben Taub Hospital.

This is a great opportunity to hear about the proposed plans and why this expansion is necessary. To submit questions or comments about the land acquisition, email bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org.

Please visit harrishealth.org to learn more.

HARRISHEALTH
 P.O. Box 66769
 Houston, Texas 77266-6769



ALL ARE WELCOME.
 Scan for more information.

Mailer

Precinct 4 Town Hall Meeting Notices



Yard Sign

Town Hall Meeting Presentation

Presented Jan. 13, 2026

Ben Taub Hospital Expansion: Addressing The Urgent Public Health Necessity

Esmail Porsa, MD, MBA, MPH, CCHP-A
President & CEO, Harris Health
Precinct 4 Town Hall Meeting
January 13, 2026

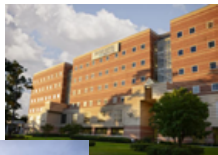


WHO IS HARRIS HEALTH?

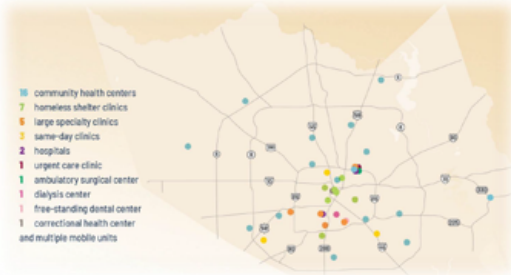

We are the ONLY public safety net health system
in Harris County

WE SERVE THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

Ben Taub Hospital



Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital



- 10 community health centers
- 7 homeless shelter clinics
- 1 large specialty clinics
- 3 same-day clinics
- 2 hospitals
- 1 urgent care clinic
- 1 ambulatory surgical center
- 1 dialysis center
- 1 free-standing dental center
- 1 correctional health center and multiple mobile units



Town Hall Meeting Presentation

Presented Jan. 13, 2026

WE TRAIN THE NEXT GENERATION



Residents ~2500

40+ Nursing Programs

Pharmacy & Physical Therapy
Residency Programs

School of Diagnostic Imaging
4 Programs

45% of providers licensed by the Texas
Medical Board in Harris County trained
at Harris Health facilities

4

HARRISHEALTH

WE HELP DRIVE THE ECONOMY

A MAJOR Employer and Economic DRIVER for
Our Community

10,000+ Employees

\$4.8B total
economic impact

Every \$1 Harris Health
receives in ad valorem
taxes generates \$5.89
for our community's
economy



Generates \$132.9M in state and local taxes

5

HARRISHEALTH

WE ARE AMONG THE BEST

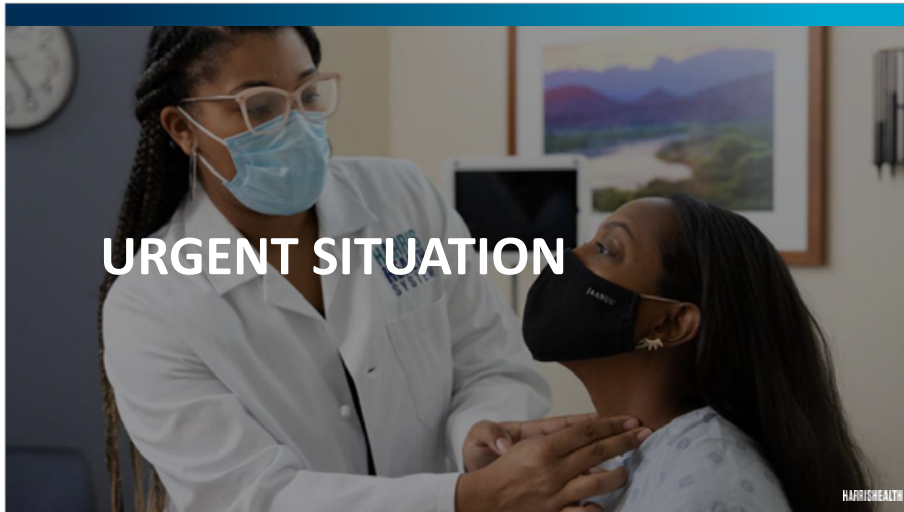


6

HARRISHEALTH

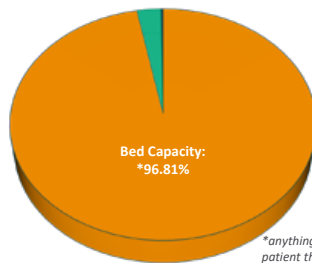
Town Hall Meeting Presentation

Presented Jan. 13, 2026



WHAT IS AT STAKE?

HOSPITAL STATUS
% Total Hours Last Five Years



**anything above 85% stresses hospital operations and patient throughput*

- Prolonged wait times in the emergency center (sometimes more than 24 hours)
- Prolonged wait times for getting into a patient room
- Overcrowded spaces impact hospital efficiency, safety and infection prevention
- Undue stress for patients and staff

4

HARRISHEALTH

BEN TAUB HOSPITAL - TODAY

The hospital operates at or above 100% capacity



7

HARRISHEALTH

Town Hall Meeting Presentation

Presented Jan. 13, 2026

BEN TAUB HOSPITAL - NEAR FUTURE

Current State

- 80,000 emergency room visits annually
- For Ben Taub Hospital this results in approximately 14,400 hospital admissions

Future State Needs (2030)

- Capacity for 18,000 (22%) MORE emergency room visits annually
- Capacity for 3,200 (22%) MORE hospital admissions annually

ER Visits by the Uninsured in Houston is Expected to Rise Dramatically

- OBBBA and \$1B cut to Medicaid
- DSH funding and \$800M cut to hospital funding in Texas
- ACA funding cuts leading to 1M Texans losing access to health insurance

14

HARRISHEALTH

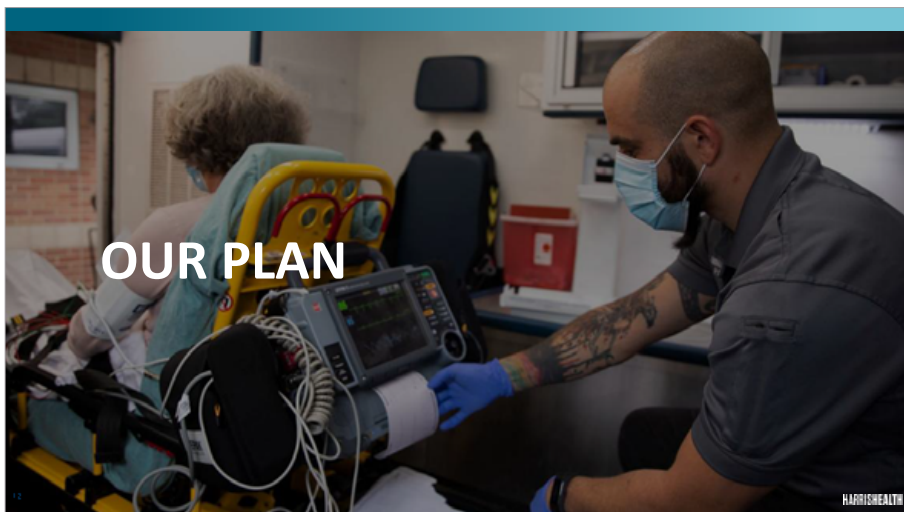
URGENT NOTICE

The expansion of Ben Taub Hospital is an URGENT PUBLIC HEALTH NECESSITY for our community.

The expansion of Ben Taub Hospital FULFILLS A PROMISE we made to Harris County voters to increase capacity at Ben Taub.

Harris County voters overwhelmingly supported Harris Health's \$2.5B bond request in November 2023 with \$410M allocated to expand Ben Taub Hospital.

OUR PLAN



HARRISHEALTH

Town Hall Meeting Presentation

Presented Jan. 13, 2026

DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISE

The proposed Ben Taub expansion facility will **provide the desperately needed capacity** by adding approximately 100 more inpatient beds and procedure areas.

The additional capacity added to Ben Taub Hospital will:


- Save thousands of lives in the coming years by providing time sensitive Level I trauma and critical care to our community when they need it most
- Reduce wait times in the Ben Taub’s emergency center
- Reduce the use of “hallway beds” to care for our patients

13

HARRISHEALTH

BUILDING ON TOP - NOT AN OPTION

Ben Taub and LBJ Facility Master Plan Phase I/II Assessments
Long-Range Strategic Master Plan 2040 Implementation



Phases 1 & 2 assessment of the existing BT Hospital Campus including:

- An analysis of the existing site conditions of the Campus to help assess patient/staff service needs, including infrastructure conditions with respect to site access vehicular and pedestrian including vertical transportation.
- An analysis of the various existing departmental conditions and growth projections based on existing service lines and provided data was completed and includes recommendations on:
- BT Campus Site Recommendations
- Scoping and Planning to document goals and vision for the campus
- Site Master Planning that will identify campus sustainability strategies
- Departmental information collection to identify projected departmental needs and concerns for a ten-to-fifteen-year period.
- The impact on patient/staff satisfaction/operability/energy analysis
- Infrastructure upgrades recommendations

Assessment Conclusions:
Based on the items identified in the Phase 3 report, it is the team's opinion that continued renovations and alterations within the current facilities, while providing for existing service needs, do not facilitate future requirements with respect to quality patient care and staff satisfaction, while there is limited opportunity for some vertical expansion between the existing hospital building and the HPC, the cost to benefit ratio is high, and investment in a vertical expansion is not feasible without major operational disruption because of



the buildings and other factors, offers a very limited footprint and by the time items such as elevators, stairs, MRI/CT required spaces, etc. are considered, the remaining footprint, is not supportive of the required area for beds, efficient workflow, staff, and patient satisfaction. Observations are based on the following conditions and considerations to help address future expansion and service needs for the next 5 - 15+ years:

- Majority of the existing facility is 30 years+
- Land locked by existing facilities/conditions/ utilities
- No space for horizontal expansion
- Vertical expansion, while possible, is restricted, expensive, and inefficient.
- Existing infrastructure past its useful life
- Many existing systems are past their useful life and are maintenance issues, MRI elevators, IT
- Only opportunities for growth require removal/allocation of existing space/functions
- Any new spaces/projects, subject to latest code requirements, which limit growth

14

HARRISHEALTH

BUILDING ON EXISTING FOOTPRINT - NOT AN OPTION

Ben Taub Hospital is **LANDLOCKED**



15

HARRISHEALTH

Town Hall Meeting Presentation

Presented Jan. 13, 2026

ANOTHER LOCATION - NOT AN OPTION

Another site that is separated from the current Ben Taub Hospital:

- Does not address the current and worsening capacity issue at Ben Taub
- Dramatically increases the cost by requiring duplication of support services and staff (services such as, emergency room, operating services, radiology, pathology, specialty services and many others)

16

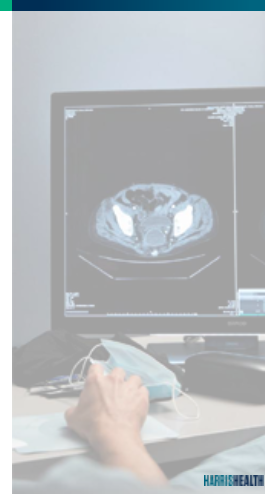


FINDINGS

- Building On Top Is Not An Option**
- Building On Existing Campus Is Not An Option**
- Building On A Distant Location Is Not An Option**

The Only Option Is To Acquire Adjacent Land

17



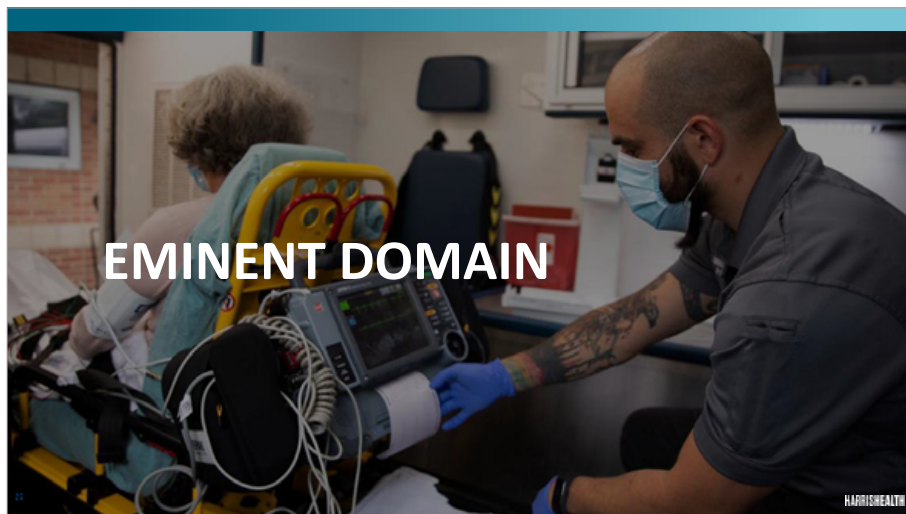
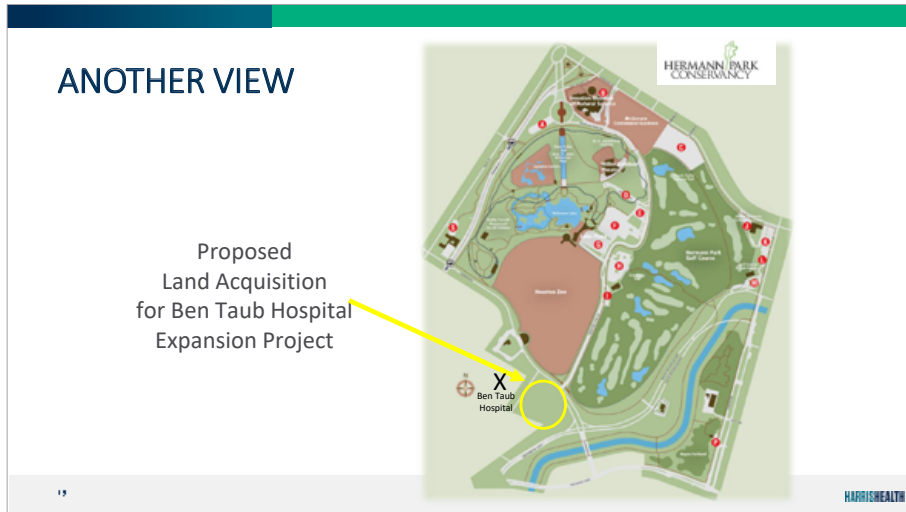
THE ONLY OPTION FOR EXPANSION

Proposed Land Acquisition for Ben Taub Expansion Project



Town Hall Meeting Presentation

Presented Jan. 13, 2026



Eminent Domain – the ability of a governmental entity to acquire property for a public purpose, provided the owner is compensated. The legal proceeding by which this happens is often referred to as eminent domain.

Purpose – only use when necessary to meet a public need

Compensation – all individuals with a property interest will receive fair market value for their ownership interest

Town Hall Meeting Presentation

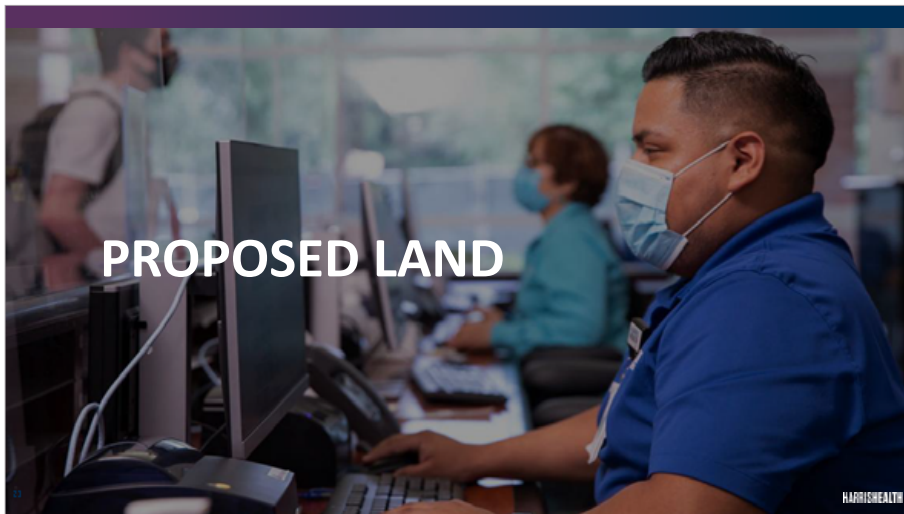
Presented Jan. 13, 2026

THE PROCESS

The approval of the resolution by the Harris Health Board of Trustees in September initiated a multi-step process:

- At the Harris County Commissioners Court October 30th meeting:
 - Commissioners requested four Town Hall meetings and for Harris Health to meet with Hermann Park Conservancy by January 20, 2026
 - Commissioners requested Harris Health report on all public engagement activities at the January 29, 2026 Commissioners Court meeting
- Commissioners Court may consider approval of Harris Health’s request at the March 19, 2026 Commissioners Court meeting
- If approved, interest holders of the parcels will receive offer letters, including all holders of a reversionary interest

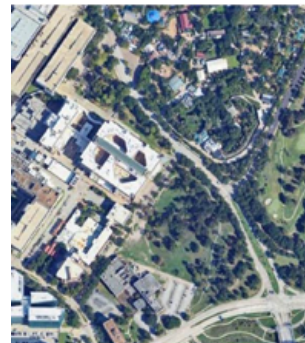
22



PROPOSED LAND TRACTS

The proposed site:

- Is owned by the City of Houston
- Is managed by Hermann Park Conservancy
- Is separated from main attractions of Hermann Park by Cambridge St and S. Braeswood Blvd.
- Located directly across the entrance to Ben Taub’s Trauma & Emergency Center
- Currently has no significant park attractions
- Does not affect the golf course
- Does not affect the Houston Zoo
- Does not affect Miller Outdoor Theatre, or any other public attractions



24



Town Hall Meeting Presentation

Presented Jan. 13, 2026

HERMANN PARK WARNECKE TRACT & BEN TAUB

Hermann Park Warnecke Tract



21

HARRISHEALTH

Hermann Park Warnecke Tract



Hermann Park Attraction



22

HARRISHEALTH

Hermann Park Warnecke Tract



Hermann Park Attraction

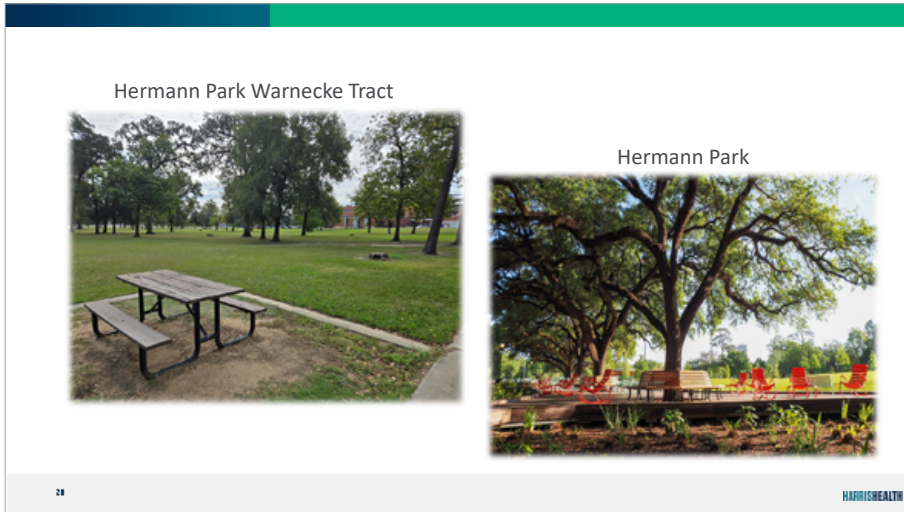


27

HARRISHEALTH

Town Hall Meeting Presentation

Presented Jan. 13, 2026



28

HARRISHEALTH

HARRIS HEALTH COMMITS TO

Designing thoughtfully to protect our hospital from adverse weather events while also safeguarding the surrounding environment, including precious park land and other nearby medical facilities.

Beautifying the land by developing a healing garden and enhanced public areas in consultation with Hermann Park Conservancy.

Improving walking paths for safe and convenient pedestrian access to Hermann Park.

Working with the City of Houston and Hermann Park Conservancy to help address near and long-term parking needs for Hermann Park.

29

HARRISHEALTH

BENEFITS OF THIS PLAN

The expansion facility connected to Ben Taub Hospital via a skybridge will:

- Operate under Ben Taub’s current license eliminating unnecessary and cost prohibitive duplication of services/staff if the project were moved elsewhere
- Allow Ben Taub to continue to provide uninterrupted service while the expansion facility is being built
- Allow Ben Taub to remain in the TMC so that it can continue to take advantage of the education, training and research opportunities that the TMC has to offer
- Improve Ben Taub Hospital’s ability to better serve the adult Level I Trauma needs of Harris County

30

HARRISHEALTH

Town Hall Meeting Presentation

Presented Jan. 13, 2026

MAIN POINTS

- The proposed Ben Taub expansion will address the **urgent public health necessity** of the desperately needed additional capacity to Ben Taub Hospital.
- Acquisition of land adjacent to Ben Taub Hospital and directly in front of the entrance to Ben Taub Hospital emergency center is the **only fiscally responsible and operationally viable option.**

~\$400M vs ~\$2.4B

31

HARRISHEALTH

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- Baylor College of Medicine
- Baylor St. Luke’s Hospital
- Boilermakers Local 72
- Greater Houston Partnership
- Harris County Medical Society
- Harris County Sheriff’s Office
- Harris Health Strategic Fund
- HCHD Foundation
- Houston Gulf Coast Building & Construction Trades Council
- Houston Methodist Hospital
- Houston Police Officers’ Union
- Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association Local 341
- Houston Recovery Center/Sobering Center
- IBEW Local 716
- Insulators Local 22
- IUOE Local 31
- IUOE Local 450
- LULAC Council 60
- Memorial Hermann Hospital
- Mental Health America of Greater Houston
- Senator Borris L. Miles
- Pipefitters Local 211
- Plumbers Local 68
- SETRAC
- SMART Local 54
- Texas Children’s Hospital
- Texas Medical Center
- The Metropolitan Organization
- Constable Silvia R. Trevino
- UH Health Family Care Center
- UTHealth Houston Medical School
- Representative Armando Walle


32

HARRISHEALTH

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Town Hall Meeting Presentation

Presented Jan. 13, 2026



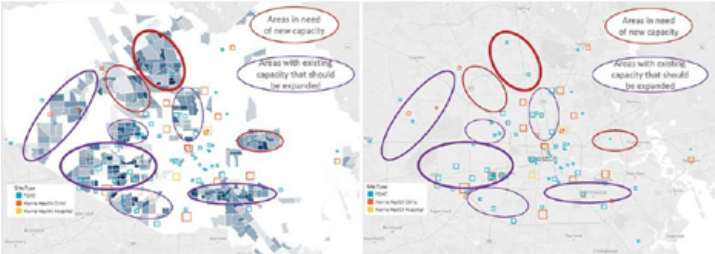
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

More Information: harrishealth.org
Comments: bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org

24 HARRISHEALTH

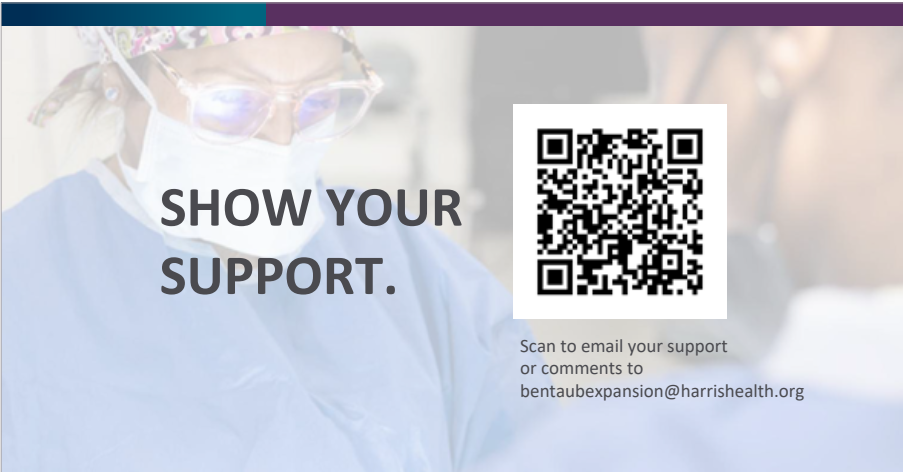
OTHER BOND FUNDED INITIATIVES

Primary Care Need in Harris County




The map on the left shows areas with higher unmet primary care need (density of blue) circled with thickness of line showing the amount of need within the circled area. The map on the right shows the same areas with roads and towns visible.

25 HARRISHEALTH



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT.



Scan to email your support or comments to bentaubexpansion@harrishealth.org

26 HARRISHEALTH