



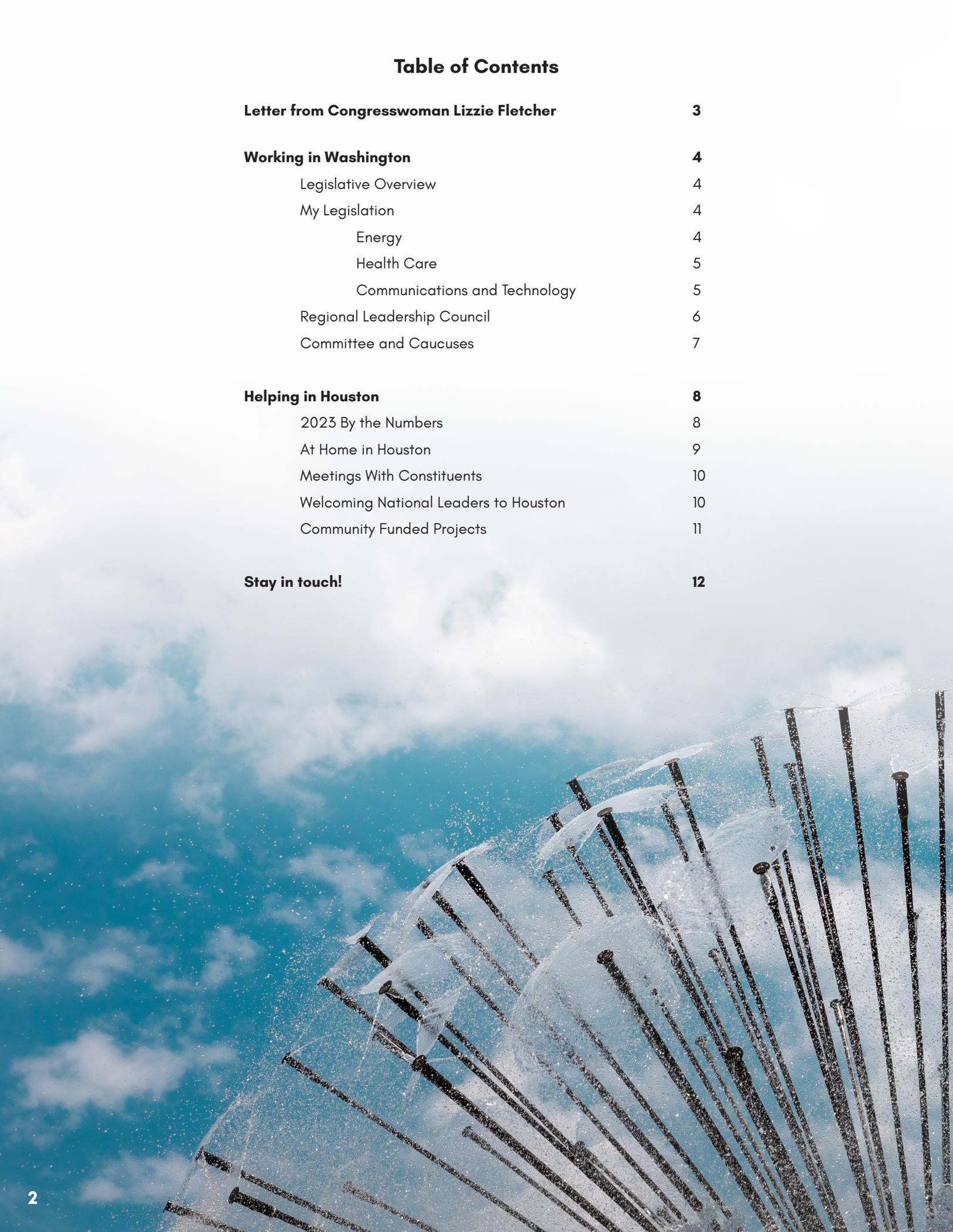
CONGRESSWOMAN
LIZZIE FLETCHER
REPRESENTING TEXAS' SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2023 MID-YEAR REPORT



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Dear Neighbor,

I am glad to share with you this Mid-Year Report of my work on behalf of Texas' Seventh Congressional District.

From introducing legislation important to our community, to ensuring implementation of major pieces of legislation signed into law in the last Congress, to welcoming national leaders to Houston and showing them what our community is all about—2023 has already proven to be a busy and productive year. I am delighted to share some of the highlights of the work that my team and I have done for you so far this year.

As always, I am honored to represent you and I am here to help you. Please call my office at (713) 353-8680 or (202) 225-2571 or email me at fletcher.house.gov/contact at any time to ask for assistance or share your thoughts. My team and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Lianne Fletcher



WORKING IN WASHINGTON

My priority continues to be to bring the voice of Texas' Seventh Congressional District to Washington. Since January, I have introduced 14 bills to address issues of critical importance to our community—from working to secure our energy independence and energy security, to protecting reproductive rights, to ensuring Americans have access to broadband, wherever they live. Learn more about my legislation, bills I have co-sponsored, and how I've voted by clicking [here](#) or reading below for highlights.

Bills & Votes

Bills Introduced	14
Bills Co-Sponsored	86
Bills Voted On	106



MY LEGISLATION

Below is a partial list. A full list of my introduced legislation is available [on my website](#).

ENERGY



Reinvesting in Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems (RISEE) Act

In Texas, we know all too well the impacts of natural disasters. I reintroduced the *RISEE Act* to help protect coastal communities by creating a new stream of funding for coastal infrastructure and resiliency projects, and to incentivize new clean energy projects.



American Gas for Allies Act

Helping reduce Europe's reliance on Russian natural gas—now and in the future—is an important part of our response to Putin's unprovoked and unjustified war in Ukraine. I re-introduced the *American Gas for Allies Act* to expedite exports of American LNG to Europe.



Carbon Limiting Emissions at Refineries (CLEAR) Act

We must work collaboratively and creatively to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions. That is why I reintroduced the *CLEAR Act* to identify and invest in technology to reduce refinery emissions—helping to get these projects off the ground.

HEALTH CARE



Ensuring Women's Right to Reproductive Freedom Act

Women in Texas who are able to do so have been traveling out of state to obtain abortion care. In response to this exercise of the constitutional right to travel, lawmakers and others in Texas—and in states across the country—are threatening to take away that right, too. I reintroduced this bill to protect the constitutional right to travel across state lines, including for reproductive health care.



Affordable Care Coverage Expansion and Support for States (ACCESS) Act

Keeping our communities healthy by expanding access to health care is essential. I introduced the *ACCESS Act* to create a federal Medicaid program for states that have not yet expanded their Medicaid program to close the coverage gap and expand access to quality, affordable health care.



Protecting Reproductive Freedom Act

It is critical to preserve the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) independent authority to approve safe and effective medication, including mifepristone. Congressman Pat Ryan (NY-18) and I led the push to reaffirm the FDA's authority while protecting the health, dignity, and freedom of women and families.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY



Broadband Incentives for Communities Act

Broadband infrastructure is essential infrastructure. In order to close the digital divide across the country, we need to support communities as they upgrade and expand their broadband capabilities. I have introduced the *Broadband Incentives for Communities Act* to provide grants to local governments navigating the process to make the internet accessible to all.



FirstNet Reauthorization Act

I reintroduced the *FirstNet Reauthorization Act*, to permanently reauthorize FirstNet. FirstNet is a public-private partnership that promotes public safety by ensuring first responders can communicate with each other in times of crisis. First responders in all 50 states and 6 territories use this program. Without reauthorization, it will expire in 2027.



Reforming Broadband Connectivity Act

To allow for expanded access to broadband and other telecommunications services, Congressman Joe Neguse (CO-02), Congresswoman Angie Craig (MN-02), and I reintroduced the *Reforming Broadband Connectivity Act* to improve funding for the Universal Service Fund (USF). The USF expands access to affordable broadband service for underserved families, schools, and libraries.

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



During the previous Congress, my colleagues and I passed transformative legislation to invest in our country's infrastructure, lower the cost of prescription drugs, protect our communities, and so much more.

I am proud to serve as one of 12 members of the Regional Leadership Council, where I work with President Biden and his administration on implementation of the historic laws we passed to ensure they touch every corner of the country, and in particular, Region 6, consisting of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, which I represent.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to implement, inform, and ensure that people across our country benefit from this work every day.



COMMITTEE

I serve on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, where we have jurisdiction over a broad range of matters important to TX-07, including energy, health care, telecommunications, consumer protection, food and drug safety, public health and research, the environment, and interstate and foreign commerce. Videos of my questions and observations during committee hearings and markups are available on YouTube [here](#).

House Committee on Energy and Commerce

- Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security
- Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

Committee Stats

Hearings	14
Markups	8
Total	20



CAUCUSES

This year, I have taken on some new leadership roles in Congressional caucuses, including as Whip of the Pro-Choice Caucus and Vice Chair of the Equality Caucus.

- New Democrat Coalition
 - Trade Task Force, Chair
- Pro-Choice Caucus, Whip
- American Canadian Economy and Security (ACES) Caucus, Co-Chair
- Flood Resilience Caucus, Co-Chair
- Equality Caucus, Vice Chair
- Natural Gas Caucus, Co-Chair
- Access to Legal Aid Caucus
- Animal Protection Caucus
- Asian Pacific American Caucus
- Black Maternal Health Caucus
- Childhood Cancer Caucus
- Gun Violence Prevention Task Force
- NASA Caucus
- Oceans Caucus
- Oil and Gas Caucus
- PFAS Task Force
- PORTS Caucus



HELPING IN HOUSTON

Our district team assists residents with matters before federal agencies, including obtaining benefits from Social Security, Medicare, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as addressing matters before the Small Business Administration, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Internal Revenue Service, and others. I am thrilled to share that as of this month, our office has successfully resolved more than 11,000 cases on behalf of TX-07 residents. I am grateful to our neighbors who have put their trust in me and my team to help with some of their most pressing needs and resolve their issues.

Working for Constituents

(Numbers for all time unless otherwise stated)

Cases Resolved	11,323
Federal Grant Funds Returned to TX-07	\$587,585,446
Federal Dollars Returned to Constituents from Federal Agencies	\$4,007,051
Phone Calls Received (2023)	1,582
Correspondence Received (2023)	19,046



Constituent Advocate Fatimah with TX-07 residents she helped

A note from a neighbor who our constituent advocates helped:

The non-profit named after my son needed our federal registration renewed in order to continue receiving grant funding to serve the community and honor [my son's] legacy.

During our attempts to renew, we experienced technical errors and were unable to get technical support to resolve the issue. With the renewal deadline approaching, we were at risk of having to lay-off employees and stop services to the community.

We were anxious and afraid and sought help from Rep. Fletcher's team. Rep. Fletcher's team in Houston and D.C. were kind, patient, and advocated for us.... Within days, the technical error was resolved, and we were able to move forward with the renewal process and meet the deadline. We are so grateful for the advocacy and support. Resolving the error has saved 45 jobs and 2,000 families continuing to receive education and mental health services.

Thank you, Rep. Fletcher, and your team!

Katherine B.

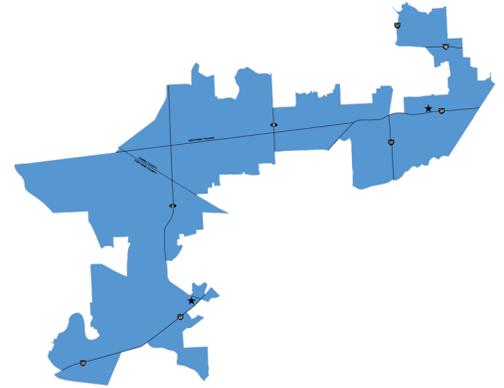
If you need help with a federal agency, click [here](#).

AT HOME IN HOUSTON



Across the Aisles

My program to talk to neighbors throughout TX-07 at area Kroger stores continued with visits in Montrose and Sugar Land. I appreciate the opportunity to meet with residents from our district, discuss the services my office provides, and talk about issues important to the community.



Town Halls

This year I have held two town halls, to update neighbors on the work in Congress, one at University of Houston at Sugar Land and one by telephone.



Roundtables

TX-07 is home to a diverse and dynamic community. I have convened a number of roundtable discussions with our neighbors, including discussions on relevant issues marking AAPI Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, and Women's History Month.



In the Community

My team and I are glad to host events across the district, including those recognizing TX-07's student artists and military service academy nominees, welcoming our neighbors to our newly opened Sugar Land office, and delivering valentines to our veterans.

At Home in Houston

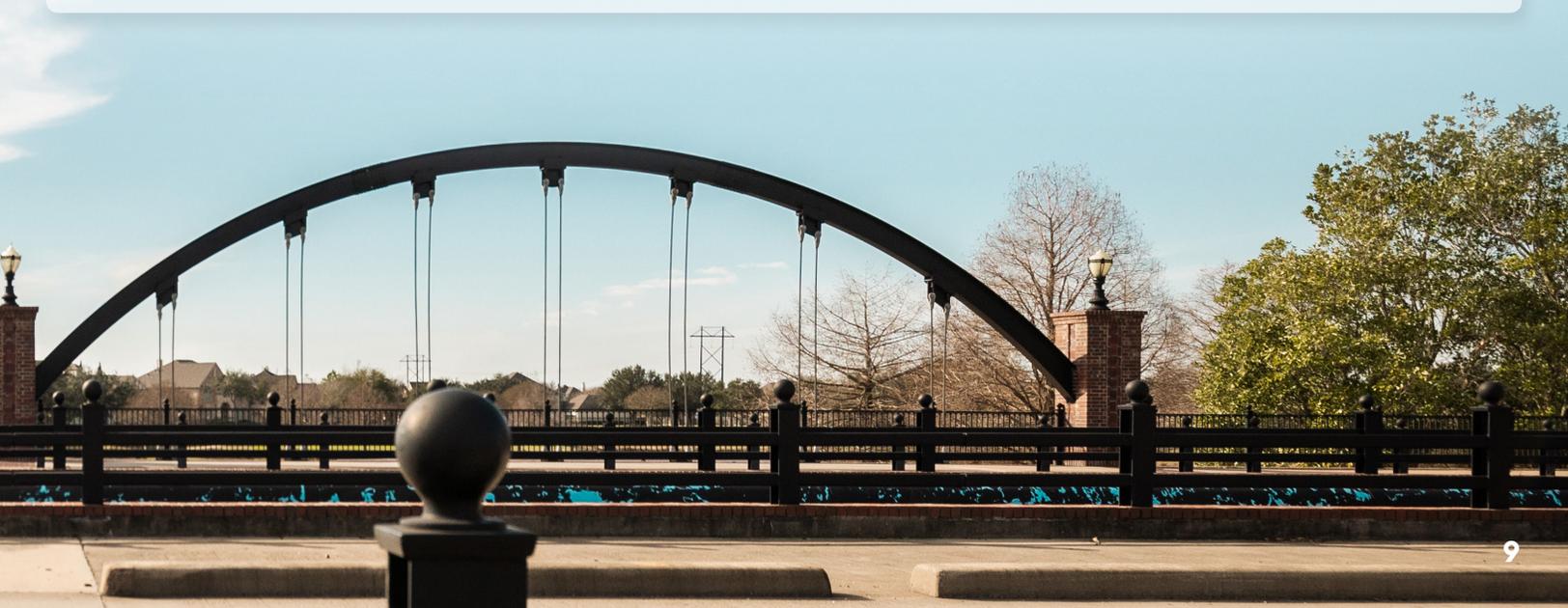
Town Halls	2
Across the Aisles	2
Roundtables	3
Press Conferences	3
Other Events <i>(Open Houses, Receptions, Constituent Outreach)</i>	4
Total	14

A continuing list of my events is available at:

fletcher.house.gov/events

To receive emails about upcoming events, sign up at:

fletcher.house.gov/newsletter



MEETINGS WITH CONSTITUENTS: 1,123 (and counting!)

Team TX-07 and I have taken 1,123 meetings with constituent groups this year. From meeting with advocates for health care, energy, and social issues in our Washington office, to attending superneighborhood and chamber meetings in Houston, our priority is to hear from you and bring your voice to Washington, D.C.



WELCOMING NATIONAL LEADERS TO HOUSTON

I have enjoyed welcoming leaders from the Biden administration to Houston and showing them our community. Together, we have seen firsthand how TX-07 has benefitted from major pieces of legislation passed and signed into law in the last Congress—from utilizing Small Business Administration (SBA) programs to cleaning up orphan well sites.

Among those who visited TX-07 are Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff, SBA Administrator Isabel Guzman, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai, and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Deputy Administrator Tristan Brown.





COMMUNITY FUNDED PROJECTS

The Community Funded Projects process in Congress allows members of Congress to request funding for specific projects in their districts through a transparent process. At the end of 2022, Congress passed the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023*, which included all 15 of the projects I requested on behalf of our community, totaling \$31.1 million for TX-07 priorities, including:

- **\$9,880,000 for Harris County Flood Control District** to reconstruct Poor Farm Ditch in West University Place and Southside Place, reducing flood risk by improving capacity and enabling future maintenance.
- **\$5,000,000 for Houston METRO** to improve the 82 Westheimer bus route, an east-west crosstown bus route with the highest ridership in the METRO system and in all of Texas. Improvements will consist of bus stop enhancements, new bus shelters, improved passenger information, easier boarding platforms, and safe all-door access.
- **\$1,000,000 for Harris County Public Health's ACCESS** (Accessing Coordinated Care and Empowering Self Sufficiency) Harris to identify the county's most underserved residents and develop coordinated strategies through an integrated care coordination model to improve their well-being, self-sufficiency, and recovery.
- **\$1,431,174 for a Harris County Public Health** pilot program to study Harris County's high maternal mortality rate and improve Black maternal and child health.

For more details on these projects and the other community projects Congress has funded at my request for 2023, click [here](#). To view my 2024 requests, click [here](#).

Houston Public Media | February 22, 2023

METRO receives \$5 million in federal funding to improve 82 Westheimer line

U.S. Rep. Lizzie Fletcher (TX-7) and officials from Houston Metro announced Wednesday a \$5 million award from the federal government to the Metro Boost Project.

The grant comes as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, which President Biden signed into law in December. The bill allocates \$800 billion in non-defense related appropriations, including \$542 million in Transit Infrastructure Grants and projects around the country.

The \$5 million grant will be used to improve the 82 Westheimer Metro line, a line which runs East-West across the city from downtown through Montrose, Greenway, the Galleria area, Westchase and out to West Oaks. The 82 Westheimer is the most ridden bus line in the city of Houston and the state of Texas.

"If you want to travel the world, all you have to do is ride the 82 Westheimer," said Sanjay Ramabhadran, chair of the Metro board of directors. "You will experience the cuisines and languages of the entire planet."

Funding will go, in part, toward improving accessibility at bus stops on the line.

"The funds will help in making sure there are

easier boarding platforms and safe, all-access doors," said Fletcher. The \$5 million is also expected to go toward new bus shelters and bus shelter enhancement, such as increased lighting and digital signage will show the time of next-bus arrival.

Fletcher said she hopes the funds will make transit and transportation in the Houston area accessible, affordable and efficient.

The total cost of the Metro Boost project is projected to be upwards of \$30 million.

Ramabhadran says the project is currently going through the design and permitting process, and he expects it to break ground this summer.



STAY IN TOUCH!

Washington Office

346 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-2571

Central Houston Office

3700 Buffalo Speedway
Suite 610
Houston, TX 77098
(713) 353-8680

Sugar Land Office

1600 Highway 6
Suite 455
Sugar Land, TX 77478
(713) 353-8680



@RepFletcher

FLETCHER.HOUSE.GOV

