

# LINK HOUSTON

February 24, 2021

Gwen Sims  
Harris County Public Health Interim Director  
2223 W Loop S  
Houston, TX 77027  
*Delivered electronically.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Amanda Timm  
Chair

Bill Fulton  
Vice Chair

Adrienne Mangual  
Treasurer

Elizabeth Love  
Secretary

Richard Petty  
Immediate Past  
Chair

Dr. Denae King

Janis Scott

Michael Skelly

Berenice Yu

James Llamas

Tobias A. Cole

Oni K. Blair

Dear Ms. Sims,

On behalf of LINK Houston, I write this letter to urge to you to include non-car access to the FEMA COVID-19 community vaccination site, set up in partnership with Harris County at NRG in Houston. People with disabilities, people who do not have access to a vehicle, and aging persons who no longer drive are among the many people who cannot reach a “drive through” vaccination site. Equitable access to the vaccination distribution must include many mobility options – walking, wheelchair, transit, and even bike access -- for those who do not and cannot drive to reach the designated site.

While Harris County has several smaller vaccination distribution sites that can accommodate people outside of a vehicle, the FEMA site at NRG offers the largest COVID-19 vaccine distribution in our region. As Harris County Public Health, in partnership with FEMA and other entities, considers future vaccination distribution at NRG and brings additional sites online, we strongly urge you to consider these transportation options:

- Allow walk-up access with clear, safe routes for people walking or using a wheelchair to proceed to the appropriate location on site;
- Place vaccination distribution sites near existing transit locations, especially near high-frequency bus routes providing service every 15 minutes or faster.
- Designate a location for people on bikes to park;
- Ensure that police or other traffic-safety personnel are aware of people walking, rolling, biking, and using transit and ensure their safety as they approach the site; and
- Continue to advise residents if there is a vaccination distribution site closer to their current location where they can ensure access.

LINK Houston advocates for a robust and equitable transportation network so that all people can reach opportunity. We believe transportation – how we get where we need to go – should not be a barrier to accessing COVID vaccines, jobs, education, healthcare, food, or anything else we need in our lives. People should be able to reach such opportunities safely and with dignity by walking, rolling, biking, and riding transit.

We appreciate your consideration and urge you to address these concerns immediately.

Respectfully,



Oni K. Blair  
Executive Director

