

Election 2021: Incorporation & Biking
Prepared by Bike The Woodlands Coalition, October 2021

How will incorporation impact bicycle riders in The Woodlands? This year, in addition to our annual survey of Township board candidates, Bike The Woodlands Coalition has conducted interviews with local officials and researched local laws to provide community members with insights on some key bicycle- and pedestrian-related incorporation topics.

To be clear, we are not endorsing a position for or against incorporation. We recognize that there are many factors to consider, and we hope to surface potential impacts to pedestrians and bicycle riders by describing current operations and how they would change with incorporation.

Whether our community is a special purpose district or a city, the ability to progress bicycle- and pedestrian-related improvements is dependent on the willingness of those with authority and control to pursue initiatives and funding. To help, Bike The Woodlands Coalition will continue to advocate for policies and infrastructure improvements with the appropriate authority to prioritize bicycle and pedestrian safety for all. **We hope that our elected officials will recognize that the infrastructure and amenities we advocate for are a valuable part of what makes The Woodlands a special place to live, work, and play.**

Special Purpose District: The Woodlands Township		Incorporation: City of The Woodlands
No direct control. Control and maintenance by counties.*	Roads & Shoulders <i>(e.g. bike lanes, design standards)</i>	Direct control and maintenance.
Mostly local control and maintenance.**	Shared-Use Pathways	Direct control and maintenance.
No direct authority. Authority and enforcement by counties.*	Ordinances <i>(e.g. setting speed limits, designating "no thru trucks" routes)</i>	Direct authority and enforcement.
Directly eligible for funding in limited situations. Otherwise, represented through counties.*	Federal, State & Grant Funding <i>(e.g. bicycle & pedestrian infrastructure projects)</i>	Directly eligible for funding in more situations. Eligibility for direct representation in decision-making bodies (e.g. HGAC) that grant funding and set regional policy.

*Counties and relevant local authorities include: Harris County Precinct 4 (Village of Creekside Park), Montgomery County Precincts 2, 3, & 4 (all other villages). An exception is SH-242 (College Park Blvd), which is controlled and maintained by the Texas state government.

**Dependent on pathway location and right of way/easement ownership.