



what's the big dig all about in Houston?



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In Houston, the **Big Dig** refers to the **North Houston Highway Improvement Project**, a **\$13 billion** infrastructure overhaul of **I-45** that began groundbreaking in late 2024 and is expected to be completed by **2042**.

Key aspects of the project include:

- **Burying Highways:** The plan involves trenching and capping sections of **I-45** and **Highway 59** through downtown to reconnect neighborhoods like the **First Ward**, **Montrose**, and **Midtown** that were previously severed by elevated freeways.
- **Flood Resilience:** A primary engineering goal is to create flood channels and protect the corridor from rising waters in **White Oak Bayou**, ensuring emergency services remain accessible during major storms like Hurricane Harvey.
- **Safety and Freight:** The project aims to replace unsafe merge lanes and curves while preserving **I-45** as a critical route for national and international freight and cargo transport.
- **Urban Renewal:** By eliminating elevated structures, the city aims to reduce the "halo" of crime around downtown and facilitate pedestrian connectivity, with the convention center adjacent to the capped sections undergoing expansion.

Note: This is distinct from Boston's "Big Dig" (Central Artery/Tunnel Project) and "Dig World," a construction-themed adventure park in Katy, Texas.

AI-generated answer. Please verify critical facts.

