

Longest Commute in Houston MSA — ALEX Intelligence 2026

Four Corners Has Longest Commute in Houston MSA

38.6-minute average — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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THE DATA

38.6

Mean Commute to Work by City, in Minutes (2024)

Four Corners leads the Houston metro in average commute time.

This 38.6-minute average is not a statistical artifact—it is a true mean derived from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2024 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. It reflects a growing pattern: suburban development in the outer ring of the MSA is proceeding without commensurate investment in transit or mixed-use corridors. The absence of suppressed data points suggests these figures are reliable, not skewed by small sample sizes.

01

Commute Length as Urban Design Proxy

This ranking reveals that Houston's growth is not evenly distributed. The outer MSA is expanding faster than its infrastructure can support, creating a new class of 'commute deserts' where daily travel time is a structural burden, not a variable.

02

The Hidden Cost of Sprawl

The real estate market must begin pricing in this cost. Properties in areas with shorter commutes—especially those with access to transit corridors or mixed-use hubs—will gain a premium not because of location alone, but because they offer time equity. The future of value is not just in square footage, but in time saved.

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