



Museum Area Municipal Association
P. O. Box 66735, Houston, Texas 77266

Congressman John Culberson
10000 Memorial Drive
Suite 620
Houston, TX 77024-3490

July 11, 2006

Dear Congressman Culberson,

In routing the University Corridor rail line for Houston's future mobility, it is important to plan in such a way that twenty years from now residents will appreciate the efficiency and utility of the overall design. That requires study, balanced thinking and resistance to short-term thinking.

With this criterion in mind, as well as the best interest of our own neighborhood, the membership of the Museum Area Municipal Association supports construction of the University Corridor along Richmond west of Main St.

The route is direct, logical and straightforward in its geographic connection of the major employment centers of the universities, Greenway Plaza and the Galleria. Indeed, twenty years from today, riders will appreciate the good sense of this plan. They will not ask, as they would if the Westpark route were to be selected, why the route veers away from this direct connection.

Our neighborhood also objects to the Westpark route because of the adverse impact in our area of a rail line running along the back property line of residents on Autrey and Vassar, from Montrose to Shepherd.

MAMA urges a construction plan that includes the following:

- Incorporation of "lessons learned" during Main Street rail construction, regarding impact on business and traffic flow
- Rapid construction techniques that avoid undue obstruction to access to businesses along Richmond
- Careful engineering of traffic flow and timing on the north-south arteries that will cross this route (Montrose, Graustark, Mandell, Dunlavy, Woodhead, Hazard, Shepherd, Kirby, Buffalo Speedway, etc.)

The University Corridor rail line is important to the future mobility of all the urban neighborhoods along its route, and the 1100 households in MAMA's area, as well as its businesses, will benefit from this project. We look forward to continued dialogue on the plan and hope this letter conveys strong support for the logical location of the line along Richmond.

Sincerely,

Julia Smith Wellner
jksmith@rice.edu
MAMA President

cc: University Place Association
Vassar Place Civic Club
Boulevard Oaks Civic Association
Richmond Rail