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August 9, 2006

The Honorable John Culberson
United States House of Representatives
1728 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4307

Dear Congressman Culberson,

As you know, light rail expansion is a key initiative of the Greater Houston Partnership's Strategic Plan. The METRO Solutions Plan will contribute \$2.9 billion in investment and create 60,000 jobs towards the Partnership's goal of 600,000. A large percentage of those jobs will occur in several of the busiest centers in the region, most of which are in the 7th Congressional District or adjacent to it. How large numbers of additional people will move in and out of those centers is a crucial mobility issue for the region.

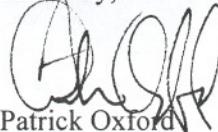
METRO has made a considerable effort to hear from the public before determining route alignments. The federally mandated analysis process is not scheduled to be completed until December. Therefore, premature elimination of any alternative route may be deemed not in compliance with the required federally mandated process. On April 5, 2006, the Greater Houston Partnership's Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution supporting METRO's use of the federally mandated process to select preferred LRT/BRT route alignments.

The Greater Houston Partnership will continue to support METRO as it completes the analysis. We encourage METRO to select the most financially competitive, technically competent alignment that maximizes ridership potential to best serve the greater Houston community. Once alignments are chosen, we will continue to advocate for full federal funding of the expansion.

We believe that transit options are essential to the growth and quality of life in our region, and we are dismayed to witness hundreds of millions of federal dollars going to Dallas and other cities so they can expand their successful transit systems, putting us at a competitive disadvantage. We need your support for our transit system and the federally mandated process that METRO is following.

If you have any questions regarding the Greater Houston Partnership's standing on the METRO Solutions Plan, please do not hesitate to call my office.

Sincerely,



Patrick Oxford
Chairman, Transportation and Infrastructure Advisory
Committee

Enc.

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cc: Senator John Cornyn, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Congressman Kevin Brady, Congressman Al Green, Congressman Gene Green, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Congressman Michael McCaul, Congressman Ron Paul, Congressman Ted Poe, Mayor Bill White, Houston City Council, David Wolff, Frank Wilson, Chip Carlisle, Jeff Moseley