



RICHWOOD PLACE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Member, Greater Houston Preservation Alliance, Historic Neighborhoods Council

PO Box 980262

Houston, Texas 77098-0262

February 5, 2007

Mr. Frank J. Wilson
President and Chief Executive Officer
Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas
1900 Main Street
P.O. Box 61429
Houston, Texas 77208-1429

Re: Metro Solutions Phase 2 University Corridor

Dear Mr. Wilson,

On behalf of the Richwood Place Civic Association we are contacting you to express our support of a Richmond Rail alignment and our vehement opposition to an alignment along the north side of Highway 59 for the western segment of the University Corridor.

Richwood Place is a historical neighborhood bordered by Highway 59 on the south, Richmond Avenue on the north, South Shepherd on the west and Dunlavy on the east. Our neighborhood has been an important part of Houston history since its inception in the 1920s.

Recently Metro's Board of Directors approved three route options with which to continue more refined analyses for the western segment of the University Corridor. Richwood Place is included in all three of the proposed alignments.

Based upon the final three options approved for further analysis by Metro for the western segment, Richwood Place Civic Association fully endorses and supports the "Cummins" option.

We believe that rail on Richmond Avenue through our neighborhood offers the most benefit to the greatest number of residents and stakeholders within Richwood Place.

The Cummins option best supports our desire for neighborhood friendly rail, maximizes ridership and appears to be the most cost effective solution.

On the contrary, Richwood Place Civic Association finds the Montrose/US 59 option to be the total antithesis to neighborhood friendly rail and as a result, vehemently opposes this selection. An elevated rail structure along US-59 would destroy our historic neighborhood through property condemnation as well as destroying the quality of life for the remaining properties. Our neighborhood borders the north side of highway 59. Any light rail over the freeway would also be over historical homes. This option should be removed from the table immediately as it does not preserve neighborhoods. Over 100 homes border the 59 freeway between Montrose and Kirby and the majority of these homes were built approximately seventy years ago. Any option that would destroy that much of Houston's history is irresponsible and unacceptable.



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When Richwood Place was founded, we were connected with the homes that are now on the south side of 59. In 1961, the 59 freeway was constructed, taking homes and the street Danville. Our neighborhood gave up homes and streets for the benefit of the entire city of Houston and state of Texas. It is unreasonable to ask us to give up anymore homes for an alignment that is not best for the city and would destroy our neighborhood.

Richwood Place Civic Association supports rail that will provide for urban mobility and will enhance our quality of life, benefiting our city for generations to come. The Montrose/US 59 option provides neither.

As each of the remaining options will directly impact our neighborhood, it is crucial that Metro works closely with the Richwood Place Civic Association and our residents to address important issues which concern our neighborhood.

We are committed to preserving our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Laura Mullen
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cc: David S. Wolff, Chairman
METRO of Harris County, Texas
1900 Main Street
P.O. Box 61429
Houston, Texas 77208-1429

cc: The Honorable Bill White
Mayor
City of Houston
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, TX 77251

cc: Congressman Gene Green
256 N. Sam Houston Pkwy. E., Suite 29
Houston, TX 77060

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

cc: Congressman Nick Lampson
10701 Corporate Dr #118
Stafford TX 77477

cc: Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee
1919 Smith Street, Suite 1180
Houston, Texas 77002

cc: Congressman Dave Obey
First Star Plaza
401 5th Street, Suite 406A
Wausau, WI 54403-5468

cc: US Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
1919 Smith Street, Suite 800
Houston, Texas 77002

cc: US Senator John Cornyn
5300 Memorial Drive, Suite 980
Houston, Texas 77007

cc: Council Member Ada Edwards
900 Bagby, 1st Floor
Houston, TX 77002

cc: Council Member Sue Lovell
City Hall Annex
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cc: Council Member Peter Brown
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cc: Council Member Anne Clutterbuck
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cc: Council Member Ronald C. Green

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cc: Council Member Michael Berry
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cc: Council Member Jarvis Johnson
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cc: Council Member Addie Wiseman
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cc: Council Member M.J. Khan
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cc: Council Member Adrian Garcia
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cc: Council Member Pam Holm
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cc: Council Member Carol Alvarado
City Hall Annex
900 Bagby, 1st Floor
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cc: Council Member Toni Lawrence
City Hall Annex
900 Bagby, 1st Floor
Houston, TX 77002

cc: Texas State Senator Rodney Ellis
440 Louisiana, Suite 575
Houston TX 77002

cc: Texas State Senator Dan Patrick
11451 Katy Fwy, Suite 209
Houston TX 77079

cc: Texas State Representative Ellen Cohen
4950 Bissonnet #100
Bellaire TX 77401