

**Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the  
Metropolitan Transit Authority University Corridor**

**Background**

The development of the University Corridor Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) started with Scoping meetings in the summer of 2006. Over 50 alternative alignments were identified and evaluated during the fall of 2006. In December 2006 the METRO Board approved a short list of build alternatives to be evaluated in the DEIS. The development of the DEIS culminated in July 2007 with its publication and a public hearing on August 27, 2007. During the time the document was being prepared, over 100 meetings with stakeholders, citizens, and elected officials were conducted. The comment period for the DEIS ended on September 17, 2007.

**Current Situation**

At their October 18, 2007 meeting, the METRO Board made a series of decisions that were required before the Final Environmental Impact Statement can be prepared. These decisions were in regard to a Build versus a No Build alternative; technology (LRT vs. Bus Rapid Transit-Convertible); and a locally preferred alignment. The result was at their October meeting the METRO Board adopted a Build alternative as the locally preferred alternative for the University Corridor as follows:

- Technology - Light rail
- Alignment – The alignment begins at the Hillcroft Transit Center and proceeds east in the Westpark railroad right-of-way to Cummins Street where it crosses US 59, then turns east on Richmond Avenue to the Wheeler Station on METRO's Red Line. The alignment continues east on Wheeler Street to Ennis Street, to north on Ennis Street to Alabama Street, to east on Alabama Street to Scott Street. An extension continuing north on Scott Street to Elgin Street, then east on Elgin Street to the Eastwood Transit Center is to be evaluated for cost effectiveness and feasibility.

**Action Requested**

Request the locally preferred alternative for the University Corridor be approved and incorporated into the Houston-Galveston Area Council's 2035 Regional Transportation Plan, and that the University Corridor project included in the FY2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program be identified as light rail technology.