



Houston-Galveston Area Council

July 9, 2008

The Honorable Peter Brown
Council Member
City of Houston
P. O. Box 1562
Houston, TX 77002

RE: Comments on Commuter Rail Connectivity Study

Dear Council Member Brown:

Thank you for your comments as outlined in your letter dated July 1, 2008. Your call for expeditious planning and implementation of commuter rail services is shared by many who are also concerned our region needs additional transit alternatives for long distance commuters.

Your letter notes the need to resolve negative impacts of our increasingly congested freight rail system. Our report has given careful consideration to freight issues raised in TxDOT's recent regional freight rail study, particularly where freight bottlenecks (and the problems they create for adjacent neighborhoods) could be reduced through investments required to facilitate commuter rail service. Where benefits can be gained for the public and private sectors, a public/private partnership with our freight rail carriers will be essential to cost effective commuter rail service.

Reducing the growth in vehicle miles traveled within our region and the City of Houston will be an important contributor to continued sustainable growth. I appreciate your support of transportation strategies which will support these strategic community, environmental, and economic goals.

Your comments are very much appreciated and will be shared with the Transportation Policy Council as part of the H-GAC public involvement process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan C. Clark', written in a cursive style.

Alan C. Clark
MPO Director

The Honorable Peter Brown

July 9, 2008

Page 2

cc: Mayor Bill White, City of Houston
Council Member Anne Clutterbuck, City of Houston
Council Member Sue Lovell, City of Houston
County Judge Ed Emmett, Harris County
Commissioner El Franco Lee, Harris County Pct. 1
Commissioner Sylvia Garcia, Harris County Pct. 2
Commissioner Steve Radack, Harris County Pct. 3
Commissioner Jerry Eversole, Harris County Pct. 4
Mr. Frank Wilson, President and CEO, METRO
Mr. David Wolff, Chairman, METRO Board of Directors