

METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SOUTH HIGHWAY 288/BRAZORIA COUNTY PARK & RIDE

PUBLIC HEARING

Church of the Harvest

Manvel, Texas

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

6:30 p.m.

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1 engineer. I couldn't function without him.

2 And at that, I'll turn it over to Pat from HGAC. This lady
3 does enough work to make the Energizer bunny look like they're working
4 at a slow pace.

5 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Thank you. I appreciate it.

6 Thank you for being here. I know you have lots of other
7 things you could be doing. We appreciate your taking the time to come
8 out here tonight. I also want to introduce a few more people. We're
9 very fortunate tonight to have a whole consortium of people from
10 different agencies. You'll hear more about this project and it
11 really is a partnership among a lot of different agencies, and we hope
12 it will be a partnership with you as well.

13 We have Clint Harbert, Jon Branson from Pearland, Connie
14 Westfall from Connect Transit, and we're very honored to have George
15 Grenias, the president of METRO here as well and (indiscernible) from
16 Houston-Galveston Area Council.

17 Before we get started, I'm going to ask --

18 Commissioner (indiscernible) or Reed, would you like to make
19 any comments to the audience before we get started?

20 **COMMISSIONER RHODENBAUGH:** Thank you, Pat. Thank you
21 HGAC for hosting this Park & Ride meeting. I am the Brazoria County
22 commissioner, Precinct 4, and I would like to say that I personally
23 am in favor of a Park & Ride somewhere, not only for the citizens of
24 Manvel and Pearland but all of those who live south of Highway 6 and
25 south of FM 1426, because it will be a great advantage for us as well.

1 And I hope that we can come to some agreements and compromises about
2 where the very best place will be for the most people.

3 And thank you for coming out tonight. It's wonderful to see
4 people come and speak what they feel are their concerns and have their
5 questions answered, maybe misunderstandings resolved, and thank you
6 for coming tonight.

7 **MAYOR REED:** I'm Tom Reed, mayor of the city of
8 Pearland. As you probably know, we have 7,000 of our citizens doing
9 their work in the Medical Center. That's a lot of transportation
10 going along 288, and combine that with the growth of -- south of
11 Pearland and also the people going in through Houston that don't
12 necessarily go to the Medical Center, get on 288 in the morning. And
13 one of the ways to reduce that is to have a Park & Ride. The city
14 of Pearland is very desirous of us having one.

15 We've been trying to obtain a Park & Ride for a number of
16 years. I think this is something that all of you could benefit from,
17 as well as everybody south on 288. We are developing, as you know --
18 the City of Houston has been challenged with the fact that we're going
19 to have something in the Houston area -- something like the population
20 of Los Angeles -- over the next 10 or 15 years. We're going to have
21 our share of that, so we need to start planning to protect ourselves
22 in the future.

23 I'm very happy to have your comments. Thank you for showing
24 up. This is very important and will be a benefit for all of us. Thank
25 you so much.

1 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Thank you, Commissioner and Mayor.

2 This evening we have a short presentation that we want to go
3 through and tell you a little bit about the Park & Ride lot and get
4 to all of your questions and concerns. One thing I want to say, too,
5 is that we put a time limit on the meeting, but we're here for as long
6 as you want us to be here. We'll try to answers as many questions
7 as you have or find the person that can. This is your meeting, not
8 ours.

9 First of all -- next slide, please -- I mentioned it before,
10 but this really is a partnership of our agencies. It's been a long
11 time in the making. Gulf Coast (indiscernible), Connect Transit is
12 their provider. They've secured grant funding, and these are federal
13 grant funds to operate a Park & Ride service. The Gulf Coast Center
14 will contact with Houston METRO to provide the service, and this is
15 being coordinated through the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

16 This project has been in the making for a long time. It's
17 been included in a regional transportation plan for a number of years.
18 That's the plan for this whole Houston-Galveston-Brazoria region.
19 Our region covers eight counties -- Harris and seven others. It
20 covers over 8,000 miles, and there are a lot of different
21 transportation needs within that large region. And at
22 Houston-Galveston Area Council, it's our job to try to figure out how
23 to address those needs and to work with our local governments, to work
24 with the State and the counties to come up with solutions that serve
25 you all.

1 This project was included in a study that HGAC and the
2 Transportation Department conducted a few years ago. We did a
3 feasibility study on the Highway 288 corridor, and one of the
4 recommendations from that study was Park and Ride service to the Texas
5 Medical Center, so that's kind of where the idea was originated. And
6 since that time, like I said, we've been working together to try to
7 develop this service in Brazoria County.

8 Next slide, please.

9 So for this meeting what we want to do is -- well, let me back
10 up. When you came in, you saw the boards along the walls and there
11 were people at the boards, stationed at the boards to answer
12 questions. After this meeting we will have people at the boards to
13 answer questions again. Anyone wearing a name tag will try to help
14 you or answer the questions or get to the right person. We're going
15 to go through a short presentation. Then we'll have a question-and-
16 answer period. Again, you can go back to the boards if you have
17 specific questions that you want to ask about a specific part of the
18 project, but we'll try to get to all the questions.

19 As you came in, you should have received a card, a bright
20 yellow card. If you wouldn't mind writing down your comments on that
21 card and during the presentation if you jot a note down, if you raise
22 it up, someone will collect that from you, and we'll go through all
23 of those after the presentation.

24 Next slide.

25 So we're going to talk about -- little bit about the

1 background of the project, the needs' assessment, the description of
2 the project, what it is, where we are today, what the next steps are,
3 and then get to your comments.

4 Next. Let's skip on to the next one.

5 As I mentioned, this project really originated several years
6 ago.

7 Next slide, please.

8 In the TxDOT Houston-Galveston Area Council feasibility
9 study -- in addition to that the Texas Medical Center has identified
10 the 288 corridor as a priority for a Park & Ride. You heard the mayor
11 say there are about 87,000 people who would use this service -- or
12 who travel to the Texas Medical Center every day. This was supported
13 by area stakeholders, local governments, community organizations.
14 We had a number of meetings, and the consistent message was, yes, we
15 need more transit service in this area and a Park & Ride service would
16 be very good. So HGAC, the city of Pearland, Connect Transit are
17 financially supporting the project through the grant process.

18 What makes us think we need this Park & Ride service out here?
19 As I mentioned, this Park & Ride service is intended to provide service
20 from northern Brazoria County into the Texas Medical Center, and
21 that's because there are so many people working in that region. I
22 drove out here on the highway 288 corridor, and for those of you who
23 drive it every day I feel for you because "sluggish" would be
24 complimentary way to describe it. It's a nightmare, very slow.

25 Looking at the growth in the area, it doesn't take a genius

1 to figure out that work needs to be done in that corridor, but there
2 isn't one magic bullet that will solve the problem. It's going to
3 take a lot of different transportation solutions, and the Park & Ride
4 service is just one of those, but it will provide another travel option
5 for those living in northern Brazoria County wanting to travel into
6 the urban core of Houston. It will request (indiscernible). That's
7 really key -- in all the studies and surveys we've done, that's what
8 we hear -- more transit options.

9 Next slide, please.

10 I missed one point. This service will connect not just to
11 the Texas Medical Center, but that connection in the Texas Medical
12 Center gives you access to the transit system in the City of Houston
13 and the -- in particular the North or Main Street line into downtown.

14 So we talked a minute about growth and the congestion on the
15 corridor -- State Highway 288 corridor. Again, those of you who've
16 lived here a while don't need to be reminded that this area is growing
17 at a phenomenal rate. Very few areas in the entire country have
18 experienced the kind of growth that we've seen in this Houston region.
19 This northern Brazoria County area, Pearland, Manvel have had
20 phenomenal growth. We don't think that's going to end any time soon.
21 That's good news. We have a vibrant economy, we've fared the economic
22 downturn pretty well. It's a great place to live, access to jobs,
23 and there's no reason to think you're not going to see continuing
24 growth and development.

25 That brings lots of challenges. I mentioned the South

1 Highway 288 corridor. Those of you who (indiscernible) on State
2 Highway 6 is another one we're looking at and how to address
3 (indiscernible). There are a lot of things that have been addressed.
4 What you see here is phenomenal growth. I'll give you some numbers
5 quickly.

6 Brazoria county from the period 1990 to 2010, 62% rate of
7 growth. Manvel, 92% rate of growth. Pearland, 361% rate of growth
8 in that period. That's enormous.

9 Next slide.

10 Since 2003 there's been 108% increase in Texas Medical Center
11 employees living in three zip codes -- the three surrounding the
12 proposed Park & Ride location. Again, phenomenal growth that you
13 don't see in other places of the country.

14 Next slide.

15 What would this Park & Ride service do? Main thing is
16 provides an alternative to single-occupant vehicle travel so you
17 don't have to get in your car and drive by yourself to the Medical
18 Center. Gives you an opportunity to take a bus. These are nice buses
19 too. You have an opportunity to work, read, sleep on the bus. I know
20 this personally. I don't have access from a Park & Ride to get to
21 my work location, but my husband takes the Park & Ride every day from
22 our home and loves it because he reads the paper, and it gives him
23 an opportunity to do that. He's much less stressed out than I am when
24 I get home, so he's much easier to be around than what I typically
25 am at 6:00 o'clock in the evening. So it does give you more

1 opportunities to do other things besides just drive.

2 Next slide.

3 So what are we talking about, and where are we in this process?

4 Next.

5 Right now we're trying to identify a location. We have a
6 proposed location in mind, and what we're also trying to do is identify
7 how you all feel about that proposed location and what its impacts
8 may be on you. So that's why we're here tonight, to solicit your
9 input, to see what concerns you have, what issues you'd like to see
10 addressed, what things you think could be done better in terms of Park
11 & Ride service.

12 We'd like to gather all those comments. We need to package
13 it up and document everything and send it off to the Federal Transit
14 Administration. They're the ones who approve the dollars for the
15 service and for the development of the site. And we have to wait on
16 their approval before anything is done. And I'll tell you right now,
17 they're not going to approve it if they have angry homeowners saying
18 we don't want this service and we don't want it here. So they're
19 waiting for us to tell them what you all have to say.

20 No purchase has been made of the property. That would all
21 come after the property is environmentally cleared and we have sort
22 of an okay to go ahead.

23 Next slide.

24 So we are talking about a Park & Ride facility. It's located
25 at the southwest quadrant of State Highway 288 and County Road 59,

1 just across from the Southfork development. The site will provide
2 initially 600 -- roughly 600 spaces, and there will be places to drop
3 off and -- so someone can -- you can drop off your husband or wife
4 or whomever and just exit the lot without having to park. There will
5 be disabled parking spaces. It will serve the cities of Pearland,
6 Manvel, Iowa Colony, and the surrounding Brazoria County. It will
7 provide direct Park & Ride service to the Texas Medical Center, which
8 offers connections then to other places in the urban area. I keep
9 saying "urban area," but northern Brazoria County is getting pretty
10 urban, Pearland in particular.

11 Next slide -- you're there. Sorry.

12 So why this site? Well, this particular site meets all of
13 the criteria for a Park & Ride lot, so it has site visibility, it has
14 access to State Highway 288, proximity to potential passengers. It
15 has all -- Park & Ride locations have -- because they're big buses,
16 right? So they have a lot of requirements for room. The buses have
17 to be able to turn and maneuver. That kind of limits a lot of spaces
18 because they have to be able to provide that space for the buses to
19 operate. So this location meets all those criteria, and in addition
20 it has a willing seller. That really is key.

21 We've looked at other sites, a number of sites -- four, five
22 different sites. Each of those sites has some problem, and it may
23 be, oh, it has big drainage problems or it doesn't have adequate access
24 or in some cases just haven't been able to negotiate a deal with the
25 seller. And I need to remind you that we're all public agencies, and

1 we're dealing with public dollars, so these are your tax dollars that
2 we're talking about.

3
4 And we have to be very careful about making sure that you get value
5 for those dollars.

6 So we're not going to be able just to accept any offer. We
7 would (indiscernible) like you or I would in purchasing a vehicle or
8 in purchasing a home. We want to get the best deal that we can and
9 in fact have certain fiduciary responsibilities to do that because
10 they are public dollars. So that's a very important criteria.

11 Next slide.

12 I think you all have had a chance to look at -- there's a board
13 back there in the corner that's much easier to read than this one is,
14 but this just shows the proposed site at that location. And there
15 is, as you go -- for those of you who live in the neighborhood know
16 this. That section at the top of the track with the windmills and
17 decorative fence -- we're not talking about doing anything in that
18 section. That section stays. That's the entrance to your
19 neighborhood and identifies the entrance to your neighborhood.
20 What's being talked about is this portion in yellow, which is a little
21 bit south of there where right now I think there's some kind of
22 fencing, but it's not the decorative wood fencing.

23 Next slide.

24 So here's the proposed layout, also on a board in the back
25 that you can see better. But it just shows where the buses would be

1 queued. The buses would line up to get passengers. I heard one
2 person ask earlier if the buses were going to be queuing on Southfork
3 Drive. The answer is no. When you look closer at this particular
4 slide, you can see the location where they would queue and pick up
5 passengers.

6 Next slide.

7 This is a proposed rendering, a conceptual view of what the
8 area would look like. And this is basically on a model that METRO
9 has used in other locations, in particular up in Kingwood, where it
10 has, you know, decorative landscaping and blends into the
11 neighborhood. And that's really the key, is to integrate it so it
12 doesn't look like, oh, there's a Park & Ride lot over here but in fact
13 that it fits in with the neighborhood visually.

14 Next.

15 The service and operating plan. The buses would depart about
16 every 12 minutes. This is morning -- a.m. and p.m. service, about
17 every 12 minutes starting at 5:15 until 8:15. In the afternoon
18 starting in the Medical Center at about 3:15 to 7:00 o'clock. It's
19 weekday service only. Again, as I mentioned, it would be landscaped
20 and fenced. There would be security cameras -- monitored security,
21 and also -- and this is important -- METRO does have a program called
22 the "Guaranteed Ride Home Program" so that if you're working during
23 the day and your child needs to be picked up from school because of
24 an emergency or event, you can call METRO and make arrangements to
25 get back to your Park & Ride lot during the midday.

1 Next slide.

2 So in sum, this service would provide access to jobs between
3 the Texas Medical Center and Brazoria County during the peak periods.
4 It provides travel options, and it integrates with other planned
5 street improvements that we can talk about in a minute, what those
6 specifically are. And it offers, as I mentioned before, a direct
7 connection to the larger transit network.

8 Next slide. And the next one.

9 So where are we? Well, we're here tonight conducting this
10 meeting. There's another one on Thursday night in Pearland at the
11 Hilton Garden Inn, which is just off State Highway 288 by Southfork --
12 or Shadow Creek. Sorry. Thank you. Shadow Creek Parkway. And as
13 I mentioned before, we want to get as many comments as we can and take
14 a look and see what those comments have to tell us. We'll be
15 submitting those to the Federal Transit Administration if -- this is
16 a big if -- this is assuming it looks okay to you all and you think
17 it would be a good service for your area. Then we think construction
18 could begin as early as April on this site, and that service would
19 then begin in about October of next year.

20 Next.

21 So this our contact information at HGAC. If you, after this
22 meeting or any time in the next couple weeks -- you have another
23 comment or question, then please just submit it. You can e-mail it
24 to publiccomments@hgac.com. That goes directly to me, and I'll give
25 you an answer. If I can't answer it, I'll get someone who can answer

1 that for you. You can also write to us. The address is there. For
2 some reason we have a fax number here but not a telephone number.
3 You're welcome to call as well, and I can give you that number if you
4 think you want it. Please talk to me afterwards, and I'll make sure
5 you get that phone number.

6 With that, we're going to then take a look at the questions
7 that you have written down. What I'm going to do is try to go through
8 the questions, and we have the staff here from METRO and Pearland and
9 Brazoria County who are going to help answer the questions. There's
10 other agency staff in the audience that I didn't name here, but again,
11 anyone wearing a name badge will try to help you.

12 Let's give them a minute to gather these up.

13 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** (Indiscernible).

14 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Can we have a --

15 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** I guess I have a comment first.

16 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Council Member, do you want to stand
17 up here.

18 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** I guess I have a comment. I have
19 ridden one of the bus Park & Rides. I loved the service. I got to
20 study for my PhD while I was working for it. I'm not a nurse, but
21 this is a question for a lot of nurses. They weren't able to ride
22 the Park & Ride because they get off after 7:00 o'clock. They get
23 out of the building around 7:15, so they weren't able to make the bus
24 time. I notice that this may stop at 7:00 and may lose some nurses.

25 I wondered if we could get some consideration because this

1 is the Medical Center. As a city council member, I know it's an
2 inconvenience and hassle. What I've also noticed is ambulances are
3 trying to get to the Medical Center in the morning.

4 My question is, what can we do to get a dedicated lane to an
5 HOV. If it's a bus stuck in traffic it won't have its appeal. That's
6 a nuisance and hassle, but as an elected official, I want to take it
7 to a public safety concern so that assistance can make it up to the
8 Medical Center during the rush hours for two hours in the morning.

9 MS. WASKOWIAK: This is John Sledlak, vice president
10 of METRO.

11 MR. SLEDLAK: The service plan that's been outlined
12 here is the concept of the operating service, morning peek service
13 and afternoon peek service. You're right. Medical staff have hours
14 that sometimes go beyond what a normal work force would work. We work
15 closely with the Texas Medical Center. We have a representative here
16 this evening. What we would do is take a real hard look at that
17 service because, exactly as you say, staff leaving their shift at 7:00
18 o'clock -- they'd miss that last bus, so maybe we need to have in a
19 case like this -- look at a bus that leaves at 7:15 and would provide
20 that kind of service.

21 That's something again -- as we plan the service and go into
22 more precise planning we would look hard at that.

23 The other aspect you asked about was what kind of priority
24 treatment could a transit vehicle have when they have to mix in with
25 three lanes of congested traffic. I've driven 288 many times before

1 and sat in the same thing the residents do. We've been working with
2 TxDOT and discussing what can we do in terms of trying to incorporate
3 a diamond lane which would be on the inside shoulder of the freeway.
4 In most of the area along 288, all the way from Manvel here up to the
5 610 Loop, there is some shoulder space, sometimes wider than others,
6 sometimes narrow as four or five feet, sometimes as wide as 12 feet
7 or greater.

8 We've done some investigation of that. We would want to do
9 more investigation of that and get TxDOT's cooperation in
10 implementing a diamond lane. There would be the potential of car
11 pools so you can move traffic more efficiently than today. With the
12 growth we're experiencing, that's going to be important. I hope
13 that's a help.

14 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Yes, sir?

15 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** (Indiscernible).

16 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** We're going to play this by ear. What
17 I have to do -- I expect a lot of the questions will be the same.

18 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** (Indiscernible).

19 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** We want to go through the questions,
20 and we'll try to answer any of those concerns or try to address what
21 the questions are. If you still have concerns or comments that you
22 want to make, then we'll allow you that opportunity as well. Some
23 of your comments, what you might want to say will be, I think,
24 addressed by the questions. So we're going to play this by ear and
25 try to go through. But again, you know, we're here to listen to you

1 all, so if you want at the end to say, "I still want to make comments,"
2 you will be welcome to.

3 I should say we have a court reporter who's here trying to
4 capture all this information as well, so if you bear with me, I think
5 we can get through all this and get you your answers.

6 Ma'am, if you'll wait --

7 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** I cannot give my question --
8 another -- there's a lot of talk about partnerships. We're an
9 unincorporated area, and I'd like to know -- we have a Manvel mailing
10 address, but we're not a part of Manvel and not a part of Pearland --
11 Southfork.

12 Who -- we're part of the county. Okay? But who represented
13 Southfork? And that's the person to whom I would like to address my
14 questions because I would like to know their opinion, what was their
15 position? What stand did they take? What role do they play in
16 bringing this project to our community? And if you'll tell me who
17 that is, I'll put this question down.

18 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Let me try to address that. First of
19 all, there is no project. There is a proposal on the table, and the
20 representatives for this area have been Brazoria County, Manvel,
21 Pearland. Also, as I mentioned Houston-Galveston Area Council -- we
22 serve an eight-county area, so it's not just a particular neighborhood
23 but really this whole northern Brazoria County area. I want to, you
24 know, get to that a little bit more, but I just want to make sure that
25 everyone understands that today no land has been purchased.

1 This is a proposal, and the reason that we're here tonight
2 is to hear what you all have to say about the proposal. You are
3 representing yourselves in this process here tonight, and you are the
4 ones who are going to make the decision about whether this service
5 happens at this location or not. So don't feel like no one's hearing
6 you. We are here to hear what you have to say for a reason. We all
7 have better things to do this evening too, but we're here because we
8 need your input. No one wants to build a Park & Ride lot if every
9 person, every resident in the neighborhood is up in arms about it.
10 That doesn't serve anyone's purpose.

11 So if you'll bear with me, we're going to try to go through
12 these questions or comments on the cards. Then we'll see where we
13 stand. If you want to make comments, you can come up to the podium.
14 We'll ask you to do that.

15 Everybody with me?

16 Let's start. I've been looking through them quickly. One
17 of the questions that seems to come up repeatedly is regarding the
18 traffic management, traffic improvements on County Road 59 and State
19 Highway 288 that might be needed. Now I've kind of messed up the
20 cards, but for example this one says, "Traffic flow. Residents that
21 work can't get in and out of our Southfork subdivision. Buses on 288
22 without HOV will slow traffic. (Indiscernible). This does not add
23 up for the inconvenience of the residents."

24 Let me direct that to Gerald and Jon. Perhaps you can talk
25 about how you would manage that.

1 **MR. ROBERTS:** If this comes about this location,
2 there's obviously going to have to be infrastructure improvements on
3 County Road 59 at the entrance to Southfork. Apparently there was
4 some long-range plans for that intersection, and the County and City
5 of Manvel will work together to provide those improvements which would
6 be to expand the four lanes from the -- where the concrete ends there
7 at the overpass out through this intersection with a full, four-lane
8 intersection with a traffic signal. Obviously, if we're going to
9 have a lot of traffic in and out of there, we've got to provide
10
11 access, and the traffic signal is a way to do it with a intersection
12 that has turn lanes and medians.

13 That's a project that will have to be done if this site becomes
14 reality. We've already been discussing this with the City of
15 Pearland and the City of Manvel as to how we might be able to do this.
16 There's no reason to make decisions at this point because until it's
17 a reality that project won't be needed.

18 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Jon, do you want to add any
19 (indiscernible).

20 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** Can I ask a question?

21 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** If you'll wait because I think your
22 questions will be answered.

23 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** It's related to something
24 (indiscernible) said. We have an existing problem now because this
25 work was just done (indiscernible).

1 **MR. ROBERTS:** I know when 518 was extended across by
2 the town center there was an extensive study done by TxDOT on the
3 traffic city controls. I'm sure as traffic warrants these will all
4 be circumvented -- the traffic. Could be additional lanes, those
5 kinds of things that might be a possibility, but you don't work those
6 details out until you select your site. Then you try to work that
7 out, but obviously as fast as this area is growing, the east/west
8 thoroughfares are becoming more important.

9 Pearland is connecting to Southfork, which is an extension
10 of county road 59 all the way to Pearland parkway on the other side
11 of the high school over there. We're trying to get more mobility on
12 east and west and, 59 is one of the thoroughfares that will eventually
13 get upgraded to a four-lane boulevard. (Indiscernible) because of
14 the school that's out there. All of you are probably aware, Alvin
15 is going to build a junior high school out there as part of the Rodeo
16 Palms. You're not going to see anything but getting worse. The
17 growth is coming, and we've got a plan for it now, like Mayor Reed
18 said. We can't wait until we get everybody in line with each other
19 to make some of these improvements.

20 So as far as any concerns you have about the traffic signals,
21 anything to do with the TxDOT, you'll have to deal with TxDOT.
22 Anything that's coordinated in the city would be Pearland. This
23 signal -- since the county doesn't do red lights, the signal will be
24 operated and maintained by the City of Pearland. I assure you they'll
25 try to cooperate to make sure the signals are timed where people can

1 move.

2 MS. WASKOWIAK: Our next question -- I think this is
3 a good one. Does METRO have a Park & Ride in a neighborhood like the
4 one proposed in Southfork? If so, how did it affect safety and home
5 values for that neighborhood?

6 Looking to see -- Mr. Sedlak.

7 MR. SEDLAK: METRO has 27 lots across Harris County
8 today, and I can speak personally of a lot in Kingwood which has
9 residents, single family homes immediately across a street from the
10 Park & Ride lot. The Park & Ride lot is fenced and landscaped and
11 not only vehicles parking there through the day but vehicles park
12 there at night. A lot of van (indiscernible) also park at that lot.
13 (Indiscernible) serves as a community center for a lot of functions.

14 The Boy Scouts use it where they distribute material.
15 Recycling takes place there a lot. It also works as a community
16 facility, and METRO has worked in many locations where there's a
17 community location for some need on the weekend because there's
18 available parking, and it could be opened up and used for community
19 purposes.

20 I'll give you another example -- the Kingsland Park & Ride
21 off I-10. The neighborhood has grown up around that lot. That's
22 taken place, and that lot has had to be expanded more times -- one
23 of the more popular and (indiscernible) lots in the system.

24 MS. WASKOWIAK: Also, Chief Lambert, METRO police
25 chief, is here as well, and we were talking about experience at the

1 Kingsland lot and Park and Rides in general.

2 **CHIEF LAMBERT:** From a safety standard, it takes a
3 community effort from law enforcement. In Kingwood we park 1,034
4 cars in that lot. We've had a total of 6 incidents in 2009. It
5 happened on one day, same individual did it, and we arrested him. We
6 use technology at the Park & Ride lines. We have Houston TranStar.
7 We have cameras where we can get feedback at TranStar. We have
8 analytic software that lets us know when things are out of place, and
9 we can appropriately respond. I would emphasize it's been successful
10 and safe because the neighborhood has taken ownership. As we design
11 facilities, we have crime prevention for environmental design and how
12 we're designing facilities from the start to make sure safety and
13 security is part of that. We believe the system is safe.

14 If you look at Kingwood for the last 5 years where you've had
15 the opportunity to park some 250,000 cars, we've had 14 incidents
16 where cars have been broken into or theft on that lot. We think if
17 we try to design it, working with the community, law enforcement
18 partnerships -- because that's what it takes to make a neighborhood
19 safe and transit as well.

20 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Next question is, "What impact
21 assessments have been done -- environmental or infrastructure
22 assessments for the particular location?"

23 **MR. GRENIAS:** We have done a preliminary analysis on
24 this site, studied a number of environmental factors for FDA and
25 federal funding. These include noise, vibration, drainage, traffic

1 impacts. We look at a whole slew of other impacts -- wetlands,
2 cultural, historic. Try to remember some of the other --
3 specifically, traffic was the -- one of the major concerns, and we
4 did conduct what we call a "Traffic Impact Analysis" on the site. We
5 looked at the existing conditions and proposed conditions with the
6 site in place.

7 Vince can speak to the TIA that was done. I think that would
8 be of some benefit, to have someone talk about what those impacts were.

9 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Mr. Vince Obregone with METRO.

10 **MR. OBREGONE:** Thank you. The traffic impact -- what
11 we show back here -- there are some tables that show a level of
12 service. That's how we analyze the quality that traffic impacts at
13 the intersections. What you have today with the stop sign, we're
14 operating at a Level of Service C. Since we have a project within
15 a project working with the County and City of Pearland, once they
16 improve the County Road 59 and put the signal there, you'll actually
17 see improvement up to Level of Service B based on what you see today.

18 So overall, look at the two projects together, you'll see
19 improvement at that intersection based on the delays you see moving
20 through the intersection.

21 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** I'm sorry. I need to bring a point.
22 There's been a functioning stoplight there for at least several
23 months, and it does back up in the mornings. Just want to make that
24 clear.

25 **MR. OBREGONE:** Okay. We'll look into that.

1 **MR. ROBERTS:** The only service light is
2 the (indiscernible).

3 Is that what you're talking about?

4 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** Either I'm confused or maybe all
5 of us are confused.

6 Are you talking about putting another light at the front
7 of the neighborhood, like (indiscernible)?

8 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** Are you saying you installed --

9 **MR. ROBERTS:** We're talking about the current entrance
10 of Southfork, where we're going to build another intersection with
11 a traffic center.

12 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** That's about 50 feet from where it
13 exists.

14 **MR. ROBERTS:** It's 6, 700 feet.

15 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** All right. Let's back up for a second.
16 I can see that the questions aren't going to work. The questions were
17 an attempt -- weren't an attempt to not give you answers. It's a big
18 group. We're trying to get to the questions and get you out of here.
19 But again, we're here for as long as you want to be. If you want to
20 stay and talk, we're going to do that.

21 So what I'm hearing is that you're worried I'm choosing the
22 questions carefully. I wasn't. I was just trying to group them.
23 But again, this meeting is your meeting, so what we'll go to now is --
24 we'll let you to ask the questions, and we'll ask you to keep them
25 brief, and then we'll direct them to those who can answer.

1 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** Can you repeat the question
2 after --

3 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Yeah. We'll be happy to do that.
4 Since we do have a court reporter here, I'll ask you to say your name
5 and ask you to say your questions. Would that be acceptable? I think
6 that will work better than what we've been doing.

7 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** Also -- excuse me --

8 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** In the interest of everyone hearing the
9 questions, if you'll come up to the microphone and just state your
10 name. Ask your question, and then (indiscernible). Sir, you're on.

11 **TODD:** My name is Todd. I'm a resident. There's a
12 major flood issue in that area, especially at that intersection.

13 What are your plans to address the drainage issues? Because
14 you're going to be putting 12 acres on the ground. Are you going to
15 be draining in the retention pond? Can you explain that?

16 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** I'm going to ask (indiscernible).

17 **MR. OBREGONE:** We had been -- I'm an Aggie. Sorry.
18 We have been working with Brazoria County Transit System Number 4.
19 This area was updated -- the (indiscernible) plan was done, and we
20 have incorporated -- this area has been incorporated into the final
21 master plan as this section -- for its ultimate development -- is
22 included retention pond to the south. This area, when it's finally
23 designed, the (indiscernible) will drain to the central pond.

24 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** Will the whole neighborhood flood?

25 **MR. OBREGONE:** There were some points brought up, but

1 we'll have to look into it when we get to final design. This is a
2 concept. The Drainage Number 4 master plan shows that the retention
3 pond and central pond has incorporated this area for its ultimate
4 condition.

5 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

6 MS. WASKOWIAK: Drainage is an issue. We work in
7 transportation.

8 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Can't hear you.

9 MS. WASKOWIAK: Everything we do in this eight-county
10 region.

11 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Not hearing the mike.

12 MS. WASKOWIAK: Everything that we do in this
13 eight-county region has a drainage issue. It's because of where we
14 live, so whenever a project goes through the development phase, as
15 it goes through that, that's one of the major issues that has to be
16 addressed.

17 You all know about the Katy Freeway reconstruction that was
18 completed in '08. I think it was about -- somewhere close to \$500
19 million that was spent just addressing drainage in that corridor. So
20 it's not something that anyone can overlook.

21 Yes, sir?

22 MR. BOOTH: Well, my name is Jason Booth. I live in
23 Southfork subdivision. In looking at the presentation, I was looking
24 at your reasons for selecting the site. You were talking about
25 proximity to, you know, commuters, and although I'm noticing the --

1 most of the commuters you're wanting to service would have to come
2 south to come to the subdivision. What you've done is picked the
3 smallest subdivision in an area and placed the Park & Ride inside of
4 it. And I wish the -- the slide's up there, but if you look at the
5 diagram back there, you'll notice that where the buses come in is one
6 of only two entrances two the subdivision.

7 There are only two ways into the subdivision, a street along
8 59 and the one right there. It shows how the buses would come in and
9 have to turn to take an entrance into the Park & Ride. That -- where
10 they're turning is a residential street. Oh, yes. If you look up
11 there, actually -- that's fine. Go to the next slide. There you go.

12 If you look, the buses would be turning left into the Park
13 & Ride. You see there's a street on the right. That's a residential
14 street. There are houses, children that play there, that ride
15 bicycles up and down the street. There are people who walk along the
16 street. There are houses along there.

17

18 Why in the world would you take this thing with all the
19 land available in this area? Across the street there's 40 acres. A
20 good site. For sale. Why would you put this inside a subdivision?
21 It's not safe.

22 You have all these buses coming through at the time the school
23 buses are coming through and picking up children in that same spot.
24 You have parking for 650 cars in that area -- in a residential
25 neighborhood. It doesn't make any sense. Plus, as we see the artist

1 rendition of the lighting that's going to be there, directly across
2 the street all these houses in people's back yards. It just doesn't
3 make sense. I don't understand the reasoning that went into this.

4 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** One of the things that I mentioned
5 previously that we'll come back to is this is one of a number of sites
6 that have been looked at. Every site, no matter what it is, has an
7 issue with it. And in this particular case, I mentioned a willing
8 seller but also a seller who is willing to negotiate a market rate,
9 and that is a key as well. Again, these are public dollars. They're
10 your dollars, so there's a responsibility to get --

11 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** (Indiscernible).

12 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** I'm not saying he wants to sell it too.
13 I'm saying market value. In the other location that you mention, that
14 has been the issue -- is that we're not getting

15
16 a deal that we find is acceptable for public dollars. Now, you can
17 argue that --

18 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** (Indiscernible).

19 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** What I'm saying is every site has its
20 problems. This site has its issues as well. So the question is --

21 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** (Indiscernible).

22 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Right. But the question is if it's not
23 here, then where? There's always going to be -- hold on one second
24 too. The other point that we keep reiterating is that, again, this
25 is not a done deal. Other sites are still being looked at, but this

1 is the one that's on the table today. And I don't want to mislead
2 you either to say, well, if this doesn't happen we'll find some other
3 place. We'll continue looking and we may or may not find another
4 place. So, you know, that's really where we are today. But --

5 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** If you don't have A, B, C, it's going
6 to be (indiscernible).

7 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** You also heard from others as well, the
8 Park & Ride lot does operate successfully within neighborhoods within
9 this area. I actually live about two minutes from one. It is right
10 across the street from --

11 **(Several people speaking simultaneously)**

12 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Does anyone want to add to the traffic
13 issues?

14 **MS. GRANHAM:** My name is Debbie Granham (phonetic). I
15 live in Southfork. I do commute to the Medical Center. I don't like
16 the idea of this being put in my front yard, but what I have is a
17 question or request for the gentleman who presented us with the times
18 ending for the last bus.

19 (Indiscernible) mentioned that you were going to try to get
20 the last bus -- after 7:00 to get that last shift home. If you have
21 a bus, that will take home my unit alone. I think if you can extend
22 the service, you will need a whole bunch of buses to get the 7:00
23 o'clock people home.

24 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Ma'am?

25 **MS. GRANT:** My name is Allison Grant, and I'm a resident

1 of Southfork. It's one thing to have a Park & Ride across or next
2 to a neighborhood. You're talking about in our neighborhood where
3 we walk our dogs and our children. That's intruding on our space.
4 That's in our neighborhood. Imagine your neighborhood, your
5 children, your grandchildren.

6 Would you want a Park & Ride where they could walk to?

7 He said it all. You said you're here to hear what I want to
8 say. Maybe it's the elephant in the room and maybe I'm crazy, but
9 I think it's a crazy idea to put a Park & Ride in a neighborhood.
10 Nobody wants to be here on Tuesday night. That's why we're here, so
11 you see how upset we are and how crazy ridiculous it is that it's even
12 a suggestion. Please tell me

13
14 something that will make me feel better, but this seems crazy to me.

15 **MR. GRENIAS:** I'm glad you're all here. METRO is
16 talking about helping do the project because of the requests of the
17 community and the Medical Center. There's a need here. The lady
18 preceding you said (indiscernible) we need more service. We all need
19 to work together to figure out the best solution. One thing I haven't
20 heard is a Park & Ride lot -- Park & Ride service is a good idea.

21 **MS. GRANT:** Absolutely.

22 **MR. GRENIAS:** The issue is let's talk about this site.
23 This is one proposal on the table. But we cannot go forward even if
24 we wanted to go forward if there's significant community opposition.
25 The Federal Transit Administration listens carefully.

1 **MS. GRANT:** What do we have to do?

2 **MR. GRENIAS:** You're doing exactly what you're
3 supposed to do.

4 **MS. GRANT:** I will e-mail, I will do whatever.

5 **MR. GRENIAS:** Take a deep breath.

6 **MS. GRANT:** You have to understand where we're coming
7 from. It's not in your neighborhood.

8 **MR. GRENIAS:** Just so you have my background, before
9 I had this job I was a district council member for Houston for six
10 years. One of the issues I had to deal with was neighborhoods with
11 Park & Ride lots. I lived in a neighborhood where they're talking
12 about building a 25-story tower. All we need to know tonight, what
13 are the list of concerns so we can go back and say one thing we've
14 heard -- one thing I've heard clearly -- if you see this as an invasion
15 of your neighborhood, if you see it as not being next to or across
16 the neighbor but in the neighborhood, we need to understand that.

17 What I'd ask tonight is to please be as explicit as possible,
18 not that we're here to challenge it but to hear about it. Again, I
19 think the issues we're going to think in this area is how are we going
20 to get a service everybody seems to want? But let me put it this way,
21 the more you talk about this -- if we were not going to do this
22 location, you're going through the concerns helps us think, given the
23 concerns, what would be an acceptable location?

24 Regardless of what we do on this location, you need to give
25 us the information, whether it's a spoken comment, note, phone call.

1 Given what we've heard from folks in the area, what would constitute
2 an acceptable site for the area? Tell us by --

3 MS. GRANT: Just not in my neighborhood.

4 MR. GRENIAS: As you see it, it's in your neighborhood.

5 MS. GRANT: It is.

6 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It is.

7

8 MR. GRENIAS: I'm not disagreeing. I'm making
9 sure I (indiscernible).

10 MS. GRANT: I say -- do you see the fence, windmills,
11 cattle? That's my neighborhood. That's part of the appeal of the
12 neighborhood. It gives it appeal. We bought a house there in
13 October. You might as well take the ponds away, you might as well
14 take everything -- the HCRA. It's a rustic place, which is why we
15 chose it. You could have the best of both worlds.

16 MR. GRENIAS: For most folks -- for most folks, your
17 home is your biggest single investment.

18 MS. GRANT: Absolutely. That's why I'm spending my
19 Tuesday evening here.

20 MR. GRENIAS: I'm kind of offended by that. I'm glad
21 to be here.

22 MS. GRANT: Call me crazy.

23 I guess that's all I have to say. I just want my opinion to
24 be heard, that I think it's absurd that it's an option on the table.

25 MR. GRENIAS: You'll help if you can give those kinds

1 of comments. I might add that homes are the single biggest
2 investment. You know what the single biggest expenditure is?
3 Transportation.

4 **MS. GRANT:** I see both sides. I understand. I think
5 we need a Park & Ride, just not there.

6 **MR. GRENIAS:** Keep that in mind. Let's hear the rest
7 of your concerns.

8 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** Southfork resident also. Two
9 issues. When we purchased here, our understanding was that section
10 of land was to be preserved -- that was within the original
11 agreement -- and that the contracts were already in place.

12 Second issue is that if that does come to be the location,
13 I think one of the biggest concerns -- it would still be distasteful
14 having it on our front steps, but the issue about the traffic of the
15 buses right in the entry to the subdivision would have to be dealt
16 with and moved (indiscernible).

17 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Let me ask you about that.

18 If the buses did (indiscernible) an exit off the frontage
19 road, is that acceptable?

20 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** Better but unacceptable.

21 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** My name is (indiscernible). My main
22 concern is -- I know it's a lot of traffic, but (indiscernible)
23 Southfork with the kids. When I leave out in the morning, especially
24 when the time changes, kids are standing outside. When people come
25 in the neighborhood -- anybody can say let's just drive through this

1 neighborhood. The first time something happens then our
2 neighborhood will be in fear.

3 Say we have an accident and nobody can get out right or left.
4 Now they have to ride through the neighborhood. Then you never know
5 what you're going to get after that. It's kind of like of course you
6 want to buy this and that -- of course money isn't everything, but
7 you can't buy another kid.

8 **MS. HENRICK:** Hello. My name is Angelia Henrick
9 (phonetic). I am for a Park & Ride but like it's been said, not inside
10 my neighborhood. I called KUHf about this statement and somebody at
11 METRO had to deal with Wendy Siegle also. She's a wonderful person,
12 but I'm sure she asked a number of pointed questions. I think it may
13 be a good point of reference for the transportation administration --
14 whatever they are.

15 I don't disagree with anything that has been said about the
16 safety and (indiscernible), but I want to address a few issues about
17 money just in case we go forward on this. I'd like to know if the
18 parties that are putting this together, since Southfork residents
19 have not been included in this at all -- and also I might add they
20 pretty much didn't know this meeting existed. There were no public
21 (indiscernible). They're not interested in putting notices on the
22 mailbox or letting us know that this meeting is being held.

23 You can see where there's a lot of emotion and feelings of
24 deception and betrayal. We're all emotional when it comes to lives
25 and safety of children and that sort of thing, anyway. But on the

1 issue of money, I'd be interested to know if the parties involved in
2 this would be interested in getting an appraiser out there to let us
3 know in a professional opinion how much they think the property values
4 would drop or raise in our neighborhood over X period of time so you
5 can consider compensating us (indiscernible) and everybody else we
6 pay taxes to based on our property values.

7 I'd also like to know about the road improvements. Who's
8 going to pay for them? Who's going to maintain the roads once you
9 have umpteen buses and cars coming in on roads not built for these
10 things?

11 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** (Indiscernible).

12 **MR. ROBERTS:** If the county and the cities decide to
13 fund this infrastructure, that's going to come out of your taxpayer
14 dollars that you pay -- city taxes and county taxes.

15 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** We pay no city taxes.

16 **MR. ROBERTS:** You're not in the city. I agree. So
17 primarily it will be -- the county can do interagency agreements with
18 the cities. So it will be determined what percentage the county would
19 pay, what percentage the cities would pay. Once an agreement is done,
20 the city would pay out of the city funds for their share of this.

21 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** Which is likely to involve some tax
22 increases, so now we've lost property value and paying extra money
23 for roads that we don't need there.

24 **MR. ROBERTS:** Not necessarily.

25 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** "Not necessarily." I appreciate

1 your political deception there.

2 MR. ROBERTS: I'm not a politician.

3 MS. WASKOWIAK: That hasn't come up. You're asking
4 for an assessment of how it would impact your property values.

5 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Here's my theory. There's no way in
6 the world I would have bought my house if I even thought
7 (indiscernible). The value on my house will almost definitely go
8 down, as it will in the rest of the neighborhood.

9 MS. WASKOWIAK: I don't know if I agree with that.

10 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes.

11 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes.

12 MS. WASKOWIAK: Your concern is that your property
13 values will decrease if a Park & Ride lot is built.

14 Are you concerned about that with any other kind of
15 development at that location?

16 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes.

17 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Of course.

18 MS. WASKOWIAK: Any development there, you're
19 concerned about how it impacts your property. I don't know if
20 (indiscernible) assessment in that regard.

21 MS. SLAUGHTER: It's not the nature of a Park & Ride
22 lot that would decrease property values. A transit project is seen
23 as an increase to your property value. That is nationwide
24 statistics.

25

1 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** Where did you get those
2 statistics?

3 **MS. SLAUGHTER:** I think your concerns are very valid.
4 That's what we want to hear. I think that Pat said earlier that we
5 need to walk away with -- we have not made a commitment to build
6 anything in this location. You are participating. That's why we're
7 having this meeting tonight. Your opinion is very important to us
8 and what you tell us based on this meeting and the other meeting about
9 where you want your Park & Ride location, where you don't want your
10 Park & Ride location will help you determine how we move forward.

11 This is exactly why we are here. You are doing exactly what
12 we need you to do.

13 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** I have one more question for you.

14 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** That was Ms. Kimberly slaughter with
15 METRO.

16 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** I may not have all the facts correct
17 here, but when I was talking about this proposed development to some
18 people I know that live in Harris County, they got rather upset. They
19 were concerned for me and my neighborhood, but they were also
20 concerned because they pay sales tax to pay for METRO, and they were
21 of the opinion we're outside METRO service area and thus we were
22 stealing their tax money.

23 **MS. SLAUGHTER:** That's an excellent one, and one that
24 should be addressed. This particular service is not being paid for
25 with Harris -- METRO service area taxpayer dollars. The service is

1 being paid for by the City of Pearland and Connect Transit. We --
2 with the fares that -- it's set by the fares that are collected by
3 the service as well as grant dollars provided by the Federal Transit
4 Administration. We're able to build outside of the service area.

5 Let me clear -- you are outside the service area. We have
6 (indiscernible) a regional partner. We can build the facility and
7 have the asset outside the service area, but the service is paid for
8 by you. Okay?

9 MR. SEDLAK: Let's be clear: We have major activity
10 (indiscernible).

11 MS. SLAUGHTER: That is key. The major focus is trying
12 to provide transit access for Texas Medical Center employees. There
13 is such a significant concentration of Texas medical facility
14 employees in this zip code that we are trying to find other options
15 for them to travel to work. It also affords people that work in the
16 downtown area to transfer to the light rail to get downtown.

17 I am a Shadow Creek resident myself. My husband and I both
18 work downtown. We travel 288 every single day. I've seen the
19 traffic deteriorate over the last six years. It is a

20
21 growing problem. We just need to determine what's the best location
22 to provide a solution for the most people.

23 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

24 MS. WASKOWIAK: We did look there. Number of sites
25 have been looked at. For whatever reason they haven't come to

1 fruition. Doesn't mean there's not another site out there. Once
2 another site is located, we'll have the same meetings regarding that
3 site. This is an ongoing process, but it could be that there is no
4 other site. So that -- we're talking about one tonight.

5 Yes, ma'am?

6 **MS. JONES:** I'm Carolyn Jones, and I'm a native
7 Houstonian. I want to thank you for this opportunity for giving us
8 an exercise in democratic government. I wanted to say that because
9 I see Mr. Grenias over there, and I followed his career. I lived in
10 the City of Houston, and I know his heart. I know we have a wonderful
11 mayor in the City of Houston. And my mom, 95 years strong, still lives
12 at 2337 Wentworth since the 1950s. Okay?

13 Now, that's part of my pedigree, but I'm also interested in
14 conservation and have won national awards for that working with the
15 City of Houston and whatever. I have been out here since it was a
16 plane. I was going to move to Katy. There was no Silver Creek, no
17 man -- none of this. I have seen some things that none of you have
18 seen. One of the things I know about this area is that it is a lowland.
19 It used to be called a swamp -- swampland because I live on the
20 American Canal. It was built in such a way that the water would flood
21 over on our side to water the rice patties, et cetera. I've seen what
22 I felt were wetlands covered by the builders who've come in here.
23 Okay?

24 They've put sand out there. We used to have frogs. We don't
25 have frogs anymore. There used to wetlands that stayed around all

1 year round. I've seen that since I've been out here. I've also
2 watched the construction engineers come in and look at where the water
3 table started. You hit water eight feet under my house, which I did
4 not know when I moved out here. When we put the retention ponds out
5 there we asked -- I go to city club meeting because I keep calling,
6 and they tell me when we're going to have them.

7 If you live in Shadow Creek, you know what we have looks like
8 nothing. We do not have adequate drainage here. Water was coming
9 up into some of our yards the last (indiscernible). Okay? You will
10 landlock us. We have the American Canal running behind us. We have
11 bridges over very, very shallow -- I think you could --

12 Maybe five feet, neighbors?

13 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** (Indiscernible).

14 **MS. JONES:** Okay. Very inadequate. We've got all
15 this new building. We don't know what it's going to look like when
16 (indiscernible) finishes out the other side. Every time it rains
17 we're in fear in this neighborhood, and I hope you're aware of that.
18 And I'm not Kingwood. We cannot do the kind of diligence that they
19 can do because their houses face maybe the Park & Ride. That's the
20 back -- you know, the houses in that little area, that strip. That's
21 the back of those houses. People are working. I happen to be
22 retired, but these people are working. They can't sit out there and
23 figure out (indiscernible). They can't.

24 The only public area we have for our children is right over
25 there across from where you're going to go. They can't go to the pool

1 by themselves. We have walking trails all along in front of where
2 you're going where they now can ride their bikes with (indiscernible)
3 safety because neighbors go in and out. It's not like we have a whole
4 bunch of different people coming in and out of the neighborhood.
5 And --

6 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

7 MS. JONES: We have an Alzheimer's facility there, but
8 anyway -- then we have another gazebo close to that. The children
9 fish. I have 13 grand kids. They come visit. You put this here,
10 they probably won't let them come much to visit me because we don't
11 who's coming out and down the streets in the neighborhood.

12 I think you're all good people. You can relate to what we're
13 saying. On a human basis we plead with you for the sake of our
14 children, and I, as an older person, for the sake of these young people
15 who are buying their first homes. Most of our residents have only
16 moved in in the last year. This is really something that we would
17 like to have you pass on this particular location because of the impact
18 it has on people, and I think -- I understand economic
19 (indiscernible), market value. You've got to have a willing buyer
20 and a willing seller.

21 So let's not talk about that, and if you're going to
22 compensate us, there needs to be a sliding scale because always --
23 if you look at the data on property values in this subdivision, they
24 have fallen much lower than any other area in Brazoria County. We've
25 had a lot of turnover here because they gave them that no-paperwork

1 kind of mortgage. We've had a lot of turnover in this particular
2 neighborhood, and our property values have fallen significant lower.
3 You see?

4 When we go in to negotiate our taxes -- and we pay high
5 taxes -- they'll take the 10% off because of the law. But our values
6 fell 14%. That didn't happen in these other areas. The impact --
7 we are already suffering with certain economic impacts that are
8 indigenous to this particular location. Okay? And then I just feel
9 that if we settled with something else and you had a willing buyer
10 come up here and say -- if she saw that bus there she would not be
11 a willing buyer.

12 I'd want to get out of here, see my grandkids, but I don't
13 know who's going to buy the house under those circumstances.

14

15 So let us think about people too and pray that we find a good
16 resolution.

17 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Yes, ma'am?

18 **MS. LANCING:** Hello. Good evening. Thank you for
19 taking the time to be here. Sheila Lancing, resident of Southfork.
20 To all my neighbors and friends, when I was standing out like a crazy
21 lady hanging out fliers, took a lot of guts for me to do that, and
22 I appreciate you supporting this.

23 Solutions -- my predecessors said everything. I think
24 that's well spoken as to how we feel as a community. You said
25 specifics. You wanted to know specifics, and I think that there are

1 a few good options. There might not be as willing of sellers as I
2 heard. However, I think taking everything into consideration and
3 considering it is our money that is also going to support this, that
4 we should have an equal say in that. And I believe there's this little
5 area to the north of us which all the traffic, like we talked about --
6 Medical Center is a key area where the project is moving and trying
7 to move traffic to -- this little area called the "Water Lights
8 District." Industrial, industrial, industrial. And it's on -- the
9 pathway we're going.

10 If you could ask for a bigger, more perfect -- you have all
11 the space you want, and I'm sure they're willing to negotiate since
12 nobody bought that.

13
14 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** The property, as I understand, it is
15 in foreclosure right now.

16 **MS. LANCING:** There you go.

17 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Hold on. It's something that's on the
18 table, but again, it is in foreclosure, which can be a pretty long
19 process. As I mentioned earlier, other sites are being looked at.

20 **MS. LANCING:** I just think it would be very
21 shortsighted, to be honest -- I think that would be shortsighted to
22 put in 600 spaces for right now when you could really plan and do it
23 properly and not have traffic jams in and not in a community where
24 we have our children. We would show up in droves to support that.
25 (Indiscernible).

1 **MS. SLAUGHTER:** Thank you. There were two things you
2 stated that I want to comment on.

3 Water Lights District from the surface looks like a great
4 location. It's not the foreclosure that's an issue; it's the fact
5 that buses would have to try to enter the frontage roads into
6 traffic -- fast-moving, heavy traffic.

7 **MS. LANCING:** Stoplight.

8 **MS. SLAUGHTER:** Let me finish. We're looking at other
9 locations. Probably something entering from the Kirby side is more
10 feasible than to enter from the frontage roads. We have other options
11 that we will look at strongly if this is not the preferred location.
12 From I what I'm hearing, I'm thinking maybe it's not. But I want to
13 say the Water Lights District I know -- they've built some new access
14 roads in there, and it looks like a good location, but there are big
15 problems with that particular location. But it was on the table. It
16 was something that was on the table.

17 Second was a comment about why build it at 650 spaces to start
18 with? One, because this area has never had Park & Ride service. It
19 is a new market, and we wanted to build something where we could
20 establish the demand for the service. We can calculate and make
21 estimates and project that it would be a fairly successful location,
22 but we want to not oversize it from the beginning but give us the
23 ability to expand if it was warranted. So the idea is to size it where
24 we can establish demand and the need for service.

25 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** My name is (indiscernible). My wife

1 and I just moved into the neighborhood last May. We just purchased
2 our home and we had --

3 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Congratulations.

4 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** We had no idea that this was coming
5 into the neighborhood. That would have played a role. I commute
6 into town every single day. To me, it's not worth it to have inside
7 our neighborhood.

8 I'm also concerned about the expense and security. I work
9 in accounting so -- from what I understand, we are not in the city
10 limits, so we do not have our own police that protects our
11 neighborhood. I think we're covered by the sheriff's department.
12 We are not -- in Manvel we don't have a police department. To me,
13 that plays a factor into our security.

14 We don't have the -- we don't have that protection, and also,
15 the other thing I had was -- I'm guessing there is a possibility the
16 project will be over-budgeted or go beyond its budget. What is the
17 projection of the taxes going up because of that, because the city
18 and the county need it to cover the expenditure of additional
19 projects -- additional infrastructure that maybe at this point we
20 don't realize is necessary but once it does get into effect will become
21 clear?

22 **MS. SLAUGHTER:** I'll speak to the safety issue. If you
23 want more details, we have our chief of police here tonight.

24 METRO has its own police department, and this facility would
25 be a METRO asset, and we would be responsible for providing the safety

1 and security.

2 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: For our whole neighborhood?

3 MS. SLAUGHTER: No your neighborhood is provided
4 safety and security by whatever entity provides it today. For the
5 Park & Ride it would be our METRO Police Department.

6 CHIEF LAMBERT: Let me just --

7 MS. WASKOWIAK: Chief Lambert.

8 CHIEF LAMBERT: We're here to listen. We've got to
9 decide what that site is going to be. Then you look at security for
10 the facility. We believe in partnering. That would be with Brazoria
11 County Sheriff's Department. We talked about the technology.
12 There's an advantage that our buses are ready-equipped. Every
13 operator can report back to central dispatch. It's an emergency
14 whether it's transit related or not, and we do this every day. When
15 an operator sees an emergency, they report it. Anything on our
16 system, we have technology to detect.

17 Baytown -- we run Park & Ride out of Baytown. We partner with
18 the police department and sheriff's department in that area.
19 Pasadena -- we partner with Pasadena. But the point I'm trying to
20 get to, once the site is decided and as the process works its way
21 through, we'll work with the engineering staff that safety and
22 security factors into it -- in, out, and how you handle it from that
23 standpoint. There's more work to be done on that, but there's got
24 to be more partnering with the Brazoria County Sheriff's Department
25 and other agencies as well.

1 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** I guess that's my point: All the
2 spots you mentioned are inside city limits and have their own police
3 that protect them, but we don't. We have the sheriff's department,
4 but we don't have our own police.

5 **CHIEF LAMBERT:** Again, that would be the
6 responsibility of Brazoria County's Sheriff's Department, and we
7 would work with them.

8 There's still more discussion that needs to be had. Once we
9 decide where the site would be, part of it has to include the working
10 relationship and the partnering with the sheriff's department and
11 wherever we take it.

12 Let me give you one other example: Because technology is so
13 good, we could have the cameras go back to the sheriff's department,
14 should they choose to want to do so. There's some opportunities to
15 work on. I think we need to get the site selected. Then we'll work
16 with the community and law enforcement agencies (indiscernible).

17 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Ma'am, would you mind coming up so we
18 can hear you, if you don't mind.

19 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** I'll be nice.

20 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Your name?

21 **LEAH:** Leah (indiscernible). You're talking about
22 the -- that doesn't affect (indiscernible) into our subdivision. We
23 do not have police -- our own police. We have the sheriff that comes
24 up. So all this talk and talk about safety is just from the facility.
25 What does that do for our subdivision? Nothing. You can look at a

1 video, but it's not going to show anything happening in the community.

2 **CHIEF LAMBERT:** I'm probably not the best to answer the
3 law enforcement for your community.

4 **LEAH:** You're saying it's going to have great security
5 for the facility but as far as --

6 **CHIEF LAMBERT:** There are some ancillary benefits if
7 you have more patrols coming through. Enhance the quality of the
8 site, you get benefits from it. But there are opportunities that you
9 have to work with your existing resources.

10 **LEAH:** I understand that. I don't want it there.
11 It's a great idea, but it should be industrial. Shouldn't be part
12 of people's lives, their children, grandchildren, parents --
13 enjoying life. Not a good idea.

14 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Did you have another comment?

15 **LEAH:** Just about the tax burden.

16 How (indiscernible) -- who does the accounting for Brazoria,
17 like an independent assessment of what the project will cost and if
18 it will be over budget, and who will pick up the tab if it is over
19 budget and whether the projection for our tax is going up based on
20 (indiscernible).

21 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** The project has been paid for, as
22 Ms. Slaughter mentioned, out of federal grants and by Connect Transit
23 and the City of Pearland. So you're not in Pearland's jurisdiction,
24 but I'll let Mr. Branson, Pearland assistant city manager, answer
25 that.

1 **MR. BRANSON:** Thank you, Pat.

2 As she described, the project itself is grant-funded. It's
3 being supported by the City of Pearland for operating expenses and
4 being supported by Connect Transit. At the current time, there isn't
5 county funds associated with the project and isn't any Manvel funds
6 associated with the project. From a taxpayer's assessment, I don't
7 see a situation where it would have an effect on our taxes because
8 those entities are not contributing to the project.

9 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** You've been very patient.

10 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** I hope I have as much patience for
11 the project. My name is (indiscernible).

12 Pertaining to your comment about this being a test case, I
13 don't want to be a test case where it may or may not work. If it does
14 not work, we (indiscernible). That's one issue.

15 The next one is when we go to have questions or comments about
16 issues that we may or may not be having at the facility, it's a joint
17 (indiscernible). So METRO says TxDOT; TxDOT says call Manvel.

18 The other question is, I understand you said our comments are
19 being heard, it's part of the process. All we want is the bottom line.
20 What do we need to do to halt the process and get the results we need?
21 That's what we want. All we need to know is what you need -- a
22 thousand signatures, five thousand signatures? We'll get it done.
23 We're proactive. Tell us what you need to stop the process, and we'll
24 execute.

25 That's all.

1 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Thank you.

2

3 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** My name is (indiscernible). I've
4 been a resident here for (indiscernible) stop it.

5 How can we stop it?

6 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** The question is how can you stop
7 this process. You are doing it tonight.

8 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** No.

9 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** I'm serious. Listen to me. I don't
10 know how many cards are sitting there, but there are a number of them.
11 There are a number of you here in the audience. There's a court
12 reporter over here writing down your comments. All of this is public.
13 All of this information is going to be on HGAC's website. All this
14 information is going to be transmitted to the Federal Transit
15 Administration. Your city and county leaders are sitting here.
16 Mayor Martin is right here. Commissioner Rhodenbaugh, Mayor Reed.
17 They are hearing what you're saying, and don't think for a minute that
18 they're going to endorse a project that you all are saying that you
19 don't want.

20 They are sitting here tonight, listening to all of this for
21 a reason. So this is the process. You are making your comments and
22 your concerns known. We are hearing them. I do these kind of public
23 meetings all over the region, and I will tell you that your comments,
24 your voice has an impact on what happens. I've seen projects killed
25 because business owners, residents didn't want them -- projects

1 that transportation staff, like myself, were saying from a
2 transportation perspective it's great. But the residents and the
3 business owners were saying no, and the project went away.

4 Mayor Reed has seen that happen directly. He serves on the
5 Transportation Policies Council that is funding this project through
6 the federal process, and again, you all are making your comments
7 known. You're doing what you need to do here tonight. There's no
8 magic, nothing that says we have to have 5,000 comments. We're
9 getting the message loud and clear, and please know that, that we're
10 hearing what you have to say here this evening.

11 **BILL:** My name is Bill (indiscernible). I've been
12 here five years. What I hear everybody saying here -- we're
13 proactive. We want to know who we can talk to above you guys. What
14 agency in the state of Texas do we need to e-mail to make sure we don't
15 get this Park & Ride here inside our subdivision? Can we get that?

16 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** We'll put it back up on the screen.
17 Houston-Galveston Area Council.

18 **BILL:** I'm talking about the state agency.

19 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** The Houston Galveston Area Council is
20 designated by the governor of the state of Texas.

21 **BILL:** You mentioned a Texas agency you have to deal
22 with? That's the one --

23

24 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Mayor Reed serves on the
25 Transportation Policy Council. That council --

1 **BILL:** Politician -- ma'am? All I asked you
2 for --

3 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** That's the answer.

4 **BILL:** No, you're not -- you're skirting the issue. I
5 want to talk to somebody at the state level, not at the Galveston
6 level. You mentioned an agency.

7 **MR. SEDLAK:** If I did, maybe I misstated. We work with
8 TxDOT. I'm with METRO and in terms of a state agency, there's not
9 an overarching state agency that controls this particular activity.
10 This is an activity of a series of partners coming together, elected
11 officials that represent the cities, the county, and METRO as a
12 facilitator to try to develop something if in fact the community
13 desires that to be done.

14 So what Pat is saying is we're taking the comments -- the
15 formal comments go to a federal department, Federal Transit
16 Administration.

17 **BILL:** Where is it? Could I have that e-mail --

18 **MR. SEDLAK:** Sure, absolutely. We'll get it and post
19 it and make sure we get it to your elected official.

20 **BILL:** The residents here, we need to communicate with
21 those folks.

22 **MR. SEDLAK:** Sure, absolutely.

23 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Yes, ma'am?

24 **DONNA:** My name is Donna (indiscernible). I live in
25 Southfork, been under the weather lately. Hope you can hear me good.

1 I don't think you've heard anything positive tonight from us about
2 this ordeal. We don't want it. We think it's eventually going to
3 be an eyesore, bring pollution, going to be a safety hazard. And one
4 of the things I did want to tell the other neighbors of mine is that
5 I'm one of the people in the community that you can contact, and I
6 have an e-mail list. So I can put you on the Southfork neighbors'
7 e-mail list so that when something comes up in our neighborhood I can
8 let you be aware of it.

9 Some of you have just recently found out about it. Some of
10 us have known for a while that this was a possibility. So if you would
11 like to be informed a little bit quicker about things going on in our
12 neighborhood, just be sure to give me your e-mail address when the
13 meeting is over.

14 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Thank you.

15 Yes, sir?

16 **MR. RAYNE:** My name is Ken Rayne. I'm a resident of
17 Southfork. I agree with everybody, what's been said here. My
18 question is kind of looking outside of Southfork.

19 Everybody's asking what do we need to do to stop it? You're
20 saying we're doing the right thing by telling everybody, but there's
21 also a second meeting. Probably that second meeting will attract the
22 Shadow Creek residents, and they're probably for it. We're a small
23 minority compared to the Shadow Creek residents. That's not the way
24 it should be.

25 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Well, as I said, there's no magic

1 number and no comparison between, oh, we got --

2 **MR. RAYNE:** Basically what you're saying is you're
3 going to take the whole, overall thing. So if they outnumber us, then
4 granted it's (indiscernible).

5 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** What we're saying is we're listening.
6 What I've heard is there are real concerns about traffic in and out
7 of the neighborhood, safety for children and other residents in the
8 neighborhood, viability of the site over the long term, the impacts
9 that it may have on property values, the long-term consequences for
10 your county of Texas -- whatever you're currently responsible for
11 now. I think those were the five key things. I'm not sure if I missed
12 anything.

13 Those are five major concerns, and we've heard those, and
14 those will be the things that we transmit to the federal agency that,
15 you know, these are the concerns of the neighbors in this particular
16 neighborhood.

17 **MR. RAYNE:** Okay. Thank you.

18 **MS. SLAUGHTER:** That's what I wanted to state to you.
19 You are the residents that live in close proximity to this particular
20 location. What you say about the location is very important and very
21 influential to the process. We may go to another meeting on Thursday
22 night and they say, "Yes, we want a Park & Ride location." That will
23 be what we hear, but if we
24 have the comments here that we don't want it next to Southfork, that
25 plays into the decision process.

1 You're the residents living next door to it. That is
2 significant to us. We will not locate a facility somewhere not
3 desired by the community directly impacted. That is a key that we
4 document for the Federal Transit Association. So while -- that's why
5 we're recording everything that you're saying, because we need to
6 document that and demonstrate whether you said, "Yes, we think this
7 is the best location in the world," or, "No, we do not agree with this
8 location."

9 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** My name is (indiscernible). I'm a
10 Shadow Creek resident. We do want a Park & Ride, but we see ourselves
11 as a larger community, not just of Southfork and South Gate and
12 Southern Trails and what have you. We're all parents. I belong to
13 the Nolan Ryan Booster Club, Westside Library, and all of us have
14 concerns where we want or don't want things. And I would say if I
15 were you guys, I wouldn't want it in my backyard either.

16 I want a Park & Ride. I would not want that traffic at my
17 entrance, and I do feel like you would have people wandering through
18 your neighborhood. And I would think you would support us as well,
19 so I'd like to say I'm fairly sure several Shadow Creek residents would
20 be on your side. I think it's a majority of what is best for the
21 community. I'm sure we can count on these lovely politicians and
22 gentlemen at the table to understand that it's an issue with
23 entrances, especially with Southfork, because you have to come in that
24 one section, (indiscernible) Kirby.

25 If it is a traffic issue there and somebody has a wreck,

1 they'll go through the neighborhood. Same thing with us when Almeda
2 wasn't finished. They were coming back by my house (indiscernible).
3 I didn't want that, but it occurred. Now that the street is open,
4 it's not an issue. I think we all understand, and there will be
5 several people at the meeting on Thursday that will agree with you,
6 but it wouldn't hurt for there to be representation there as well.
7 I would just hate for (indiscernible) and voice as (indiscernible).

8 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Yes, sir?

9 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** Good evening. My name is
10 (indiscernible). I will try as much as I can to talk clearly because
11 of my heritage.

12 There is one thing that I'm going to say here tonight that
13 hasn't been talked about. (Indiscernible) size and need for us to
14 let you nice people, beautiful people understand (indiscernible). I
15 would employ you to please put yourself in our perspective. Myself
16 and my beautiful wife, who just bought our house not quite seven months
17 ago -- if there was a crystal ball that this was coming, we would have
18 run as fast as our legs take us.

19 We do not think -- I personally support Park & Ride. I work
20 in Freeport. I don't like Park & Ride, but I believe people should
21 (indiscernible) that we have. But I also believe that you don't mix
22 (indiscernible). There are two things that doesn't mix. Please,
23 for heaven's sake, everybody has spoken. Use your good office to help
24 us look into this. I want to raise my nice -- my son and children
25 in the neighborhood, but with a Park & Ride, I don't think that will

1 be possible.

2 And also, the property you guys say (indiscernible) is good
3 investment. If Park & Ride there, I don't know what will happen.
4 There's enough uncertainty in this world. This is just a chance. I
5 do not want another one to be added to it. Like I said
6 (indiscernible), please use your good (indiscernible) to help us.

7 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Thank you, sir.

8 Anyone else?

9 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** My last question -- I haven't heard
10 anybody talk about the options. I haven't heard not one option.

11 What are the other options?

12 **MR. SEDLAK:** One of the options is absolutely not to
13 build on this particular site. I think we've heard a fairly --
14 unanimous, if not very focused, comments coming to us that you don't
15 want it on this particular location, so that is an option, not to build
16 there.

17 Another option is to find another site.

18 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** That's what I'm saying. I haven't
19 heard another site.

20 **MR. SEDLAK:** There have been other sites that have been
21 examined -- some of them commercial sites that might be a interim
22 solution, something that has some property where a bus could pull in
23 and afford the parking to take place and allow that demonstration of
24 the Park & Ride to take place. That is another option.

25 Another option is locate another site an another location.

1 That has been the difficulty. This process has gone on for several
2 years. Without question, we're hearing loud and clear what the
3 community is saying. That's going to be registered with very clear
4 comments provided, and we have other -- we'll have to examine other
5 options.

6 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** Right. My other question is --
7 other sites. I haven't heard another site except for Southfork.
8 That's it.

9 **MR. SEDLAK:** One of the sites mentioned tonight was the
10 Water Works site -- Waterlights location. That's been mentioned by
11 the City.

12 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** They say it's (indiscernible).
13 That's why you picked us. Somebody told me that back there. They
14 said it was too high. I don't know who it was. They told me it was
15 too high we can't get Southern (indiscernible).

16 There's no more options?

17 **MR. SEDLAK:** We'll have to continue (indiscernible).

18 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** That's not (indiscernible).

19 **MS. SLAUGHTER:** We don't have a list with us tonight,
20 but the market is different. What's available is different as of
21 today compared to what it was several years ago. What we will do as
22 part of this process is start looking at other available sites in the
23 area. We've already started this conversation with the City of
24 Pearland. We'll bring it back with our stakeholders on this project
25 with the City of Manvel and Brazoria County and do another real estate

1 research and look at what is available now and do some preliminary
2 screening on those locations so we can have another pool of locations.

3 You have to remember, this has been done over the last four
4 to five years of analysis. So there was a list. We don't have it
5 for you tonight, don't have it displayed. We haven't dealt with some
6 of those in a while, but it will not go back to Southfork just
7 because --

8 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** Southfork or bust.

9 **MS. SLAUGHTER:** That is not the scenario, not at all.

10 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Thank you.

11 **MS. SLAUGHTER:** I'd like to say that that's not

12
13 completely accurate about (indiscernible). It's still one of the
14 options.

15 **MS. HOWSER:** My name is Katy Howser (phonetic). I've
16 been in Brazoria County for 32 years. I've seen 288 go up. I've been
17 out here like the other lady.

18 After this meeting and the meeting on Thursday, when will the
19 decision be made as to what the location will be and what will we do?
20 I knew about it because I work at the Medical Center.

21 How will -- where will it be posted? How will we know?

22 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Well --

23 **MS. SLAUGHTER:** We will summarize the comments from
24 both meetings, from tonight's meeting as well as Thursday's meeting.
25 We can post the results of the public meetings on the HGAC website.

1 We have the City of Pearland, City of Manvel, Brazoria County, and
2 METRO -- we can post at all the sites.

3 MS. HOWSER: That's a good thing, but what will the
4 decision be? Who --

5 MS. SLAUGHTER: I don't know. I can say pretty
6 confidently the decision is not in Southfork, but what we'll do is
7 we'll have to come back to another public meeting, if it's adjacent
8 to another public area. This is something that people are proud to
9 deliver. It's infrastructure to the community, it's a benefit. We
10 want you to know about it, which is why we're having these meetings.

11 We will -- I get a lot of calls from reporters, both
12 television and newspaper. We -- one of the reasons we've held off
13 is we're trying to find the site location, so you'll start to see more
14 news stories on it because we had a potential site. You will get a
15 lot of buzz about that information, but we will try to work through
16 what we're considering so you'll know what's next.

17 MS. WASKOWIAK: I will say there are community leaders
18 here tonight who will know what the decision is, and they will also
19 have that information to share with you.

20 MS. HOWSER: That's good, but I'm like everybody else:
21 I'm not in the city.

22 MS. WASKOWIAK: You're in the county. Is
23 (indiscernible) here?

24 MS. HOWSER: I've been here 32 years, and I've been in
25 Pearland (indiscernible). 20 years it was (indiscernible). I think

1 they're trying to now. That's some issues. That's another story.

2 The other thing is the Brazoria County Sheriff's Department.
3 We use them when we need them, but I'll be honest with you, they are
4 stretched really thin. I'm telling you really thin because I called
5 them a number of times over accidents or anything else going on, and
6 you can't get somebody out there in two minutes, three minutes, five
7 minutes like you can in Houston, Harris County. We don't have a City
8 of Pearland police department and don't have Manvel, so we're kind
9 of stuck out there by ourselves about that.

10 The other thing about the Park & Ride -- we've had Park & Rides
11 but not METRO. We (indiscernible). Why those went away, I don't
12 know. But the one at Highway 6 is still there --

13 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** The (indiscernible).

14 **MS. HOWSER:** It's not METRO. If that gives you some
15 idea, that's what goes on out there.

16 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Thank you.

17 **MR. HOWSER:** My name is Rod Howser (phonetic). I guess
18 one of the questions I have is on County Road 59 we get a lot of through
19 traffic from Sugar Land/Missouri City that add to the burden of
20 traffic on that road.

21 My question is, if we do have this METRO lot here, do y'all
22 consider that this is going to add more to the burden of County Road
23 59, which is a two-lane road? And it does still flood in two spots.
24 It just flooded recently in one of our last biggest rains we had.

25 **MR. ROBERTS:** As I've indicated previously, County

1 Road 59 is on the thoroughfare plan. It's one to have thoroughfares,
2 and it's planned to extend. There's been no current funding
3 appropriated for improving County Road 59. It's not designed, not
4 studied, or anything other than it needs to be -- I'm sure in time
5 it will be (indiscernible) because it is on the thoroughfare plan.

6 Another thing that could add to (indiscernible). They just
7 built two lanes of Kirby. We're aware of what's going on out there,
8 and it is a thoroughfare, and it is on our radar. It's just not funded
9 at this time, so we'll continue to be looking at it and see how that
10 road can be developed.

11 **MR. HOWSER:** One final question I have, a couple years
12 ago we went to a TxDOT meeting. They discussed a new 288 tollway
13 coming from the Medical Center through here.

14 Do you know if that's still in play?

15 **MR. ROBERTS:** Yes, sir. The 288 managed lanes,
16 determined to be a toll road, not an HOV lane. There would be two
17 lanes planned in the existing direction -- in each direction in the
18 existing median. There's some places along there that four lanes
19 won't fit. There's a project that TxDOT started where they did
20 preliminary engineering.

21 There's been two public meetings -- one in Brazoria County,
22 one in Harris. I attended both meetings. Brazoria County has a toll
23 road authority. I know our commissioners considered (indiscernible)
24 as their highest mobility priority. We are almost daily trying to
25 figure out ways we can get HCTRA interested in doing our part. Our

1 part's not feasible until Harris County does their part.

2 We've been trying to work the project from state Highway 6
3 to 59 -- that's the one that's been worked on by TxDOT and the one
4 we're trying to develop some kind of partnership with.

5 Transportation funding is not there right now. There's no federal
6 bill, no -- not sufficient state funding. With redistricting and
7 health and human service issues going on, the legislature is not going
8 to be able to pay much time to transportation. That word is from
9 Austin. I would encourage all of you to contact your representative
10 and say mobility is important to us and we need to keep it moving.

11 I think our county has been proactive in 2006 or -- we put
12 a \$50 million bond issue out for mobility projects. Part of the
13 outcome of that for this area is connecting 101 to 288. TxDOT has
14 partnered with us on the overpass at 288. Pearland extended Bailey
15 Road, which is an extension from Veterans over to Highway 35. You
16 can go all the way through to Pearland Parkway on that road as an
17 east/west thoroughfare.

18 These are some of the priorities we were trying to use the
19 \$50 million to advance, (indiscernible) funding. We're still
20 working on these mobility projects that were identified by -- in
21 Brazoria County. We're spending a lot of time trying to figure out
22 how we can advance some of these projects. We awarded the
23 construction of County Road (indiscernible). Some of you see the
24 right-away's been cleared. We've got it closed because we're trying
25 to (indiscernible) that intersection before school starts.

1 Mobility is a priority. We have one of our projects that we
2 have state and federal funding supposedly scheduled for County Road
3 48 to Highway 6. That's scheduled for January of 2012. We're trying
4 to create mobility. As part of the 58 project, as you're aware,
5 drainage is almost nonexistent in that area. We're digging two huge
6 drainage ditches. So we're doing this with the other agencies.
7 Drainage District 4 is -- kind of been the oversight on the drainage
8 issue.

9 We're providing regional detention so it's not in somebody's
10 yard. There are mobility issues on the front burner in Brazoria
11 County. I assure you that. The service roads between 518 and McCard
12 we used some bond money on. The improvement to Cullen, we used some
13 of the bond money on. The improvements to Dixie Farm Road from 35
14 over to 518, we used some bond money on that. So I think I delivered
15 about
16 \$6 million in checks. They were still -- I didn't want to put them
17 in the mail, so I hand delivered them.

18 We are very concerned with the growth and providing mobility,
19 and we're trying to plan for it. The managed lanes and the toll road
20 is our highest priority, and we're working on that daily.

21 **MR. HOWSER:** I guess one final question I have is does
22 Pearland have any proposals of taking over this area and putting a
23 Pearland City area?

24 **MR. BRANSON:** That's not in our territory
25 jurisdiction. We would not have that possibility.

1 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** One quick statement to follow: I
2 know the *Manvel Reporter* and the *PearLand Reporter* are
3 covering if you want to follow those two newspapers. They're local,
4 and that way you can get the information.

5 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** (Indiscernible).

6 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** They'll actually mail them to you.

7 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Anything else?

8 Yes, sir?

9 **DENNY:** I'm Denny (indiscernible). I'm a Southfork
10 homeowner.

11 Is it common practice for the HGAC to contact a homeowner's
12 association that may be affected by a proposed Park & Ride location?

13 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Yes and no. We try to -- we have a
14 database of residents all across the region. Whenever we have a
15 public meeting or something going on to notify citizens about
16 something, we use that database. We're also trying to expand it.
17 That's why we have the sign-in sheets where we ask you to put contact
18 information so that we can add you to that.

19 Do we do a great job of getting the message out to everyone?
20 Not always. We do the best we can, and we look for ways to recruit
21 that. But if we can and we have the information, we try to get it
22 out to whoever needs to know about it. And that's what we tried to
23 do at this meeting. We worked with the different agencies to try to
24 post information on websites and look for a variety of ways to let
25 you all know the newspapers, talked to several reporters in the last

1 few days about these meetings.

2 **MR. ROBERTS:** Legal way -- we notify folks, but the
3 newspaper is the legal way, and I think in this case we used the
4 *Pearland Journal* and *Houston Chronicle*. Lot of people work in
5 Houston, see the *Chronicle*, have access to the website. I don't know
6 how many of you check the public notices every day in the newspaper,
7 but that's where it is.

8 **UNKNOWN SPEAKER:** (Indiscernible).

9 **MR. ROBERTS:** You did ask for this one. But also the
10 sign's a good idea. When we did the public meetings for County Road
11 38 and -- 48 and 58, we posted signs all up and down. I'm sorry we
12 didn't put one or two in Southfork. Those are county roads -- some
13 of them. We hope more will be coming soon, right?

14 But anyway, that is the legal way that we do it, is through
15 the local newspaper and typically that word seems to spread around
16 pretty good. I'd encourage you, if you're interested in public
17 issues in your area, check the public notices in your newspaper.

18 **MS. WASKOWIAK:** Anything else? One last chance. You
19 have been a terrific audience, and I thank you for staying here so
20 long today.

21 One message I want to leave you with, though -- we have heard
22 what you've said tonight. Don't think your time has been wasted.
23 It's on the record. It's been recorded. Please check our website,
24 hcag.com. Again, thank you for coming.

25 Mayor Martin, is there anything you would like to add?

1 **MAYOR MARTIN:** Other than -- thank you for coming. I
2 do support Park & Ride. I have to admit, this was not my favorite
3 location. We need to find a location that works. I have been in
4 contact with Joe Catania of Southern Ford. He seems to have opened
5 his door, and pray that we can make it work. Thank you all for coming,
6 and have a safe trip home.

7 **MR. ROBERTS:** Brazoria County has a website.
8 Brazoria-county.com. Over on the left, the departments are listed.
9 You'll see "engineering." You can communicate with me through that
10 website.

11 **MAYOR MARTIN:** Several of you residents have contacted
12 me at City Hall -- dmartin@cityofmanvel.com. I'll share whatever I
13 know, and your residents can tell you what I've done. So call me.
14 I'm there.

15 **(Proceedings Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.)**

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22 THE STATE OF TEXAS:

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24 COUNTY OF HARRIS:

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1 I, Jennifer Myers, Registered Professional Reporter in and for the State
2 of Texas, do hereby certify that these proceedings were taken by me in machine
3 shorthand and later transcribed from machine shorthand to typewritten form by me.

4 I further certify that the above and foregoing transcription, as set forth
5 in typewriting, is a full, true, and correct transcript of the proceedings.

6 Given under my hand and seal of office on this, the 1st day of August 2010.

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Jennifer Myers, RPR
RPR No. 23862
Expiration 9/30/10