

# SH 288/Brazoria County Park & Ride Public Meetings Summary Report

July 2010



**SH 288/Brazoria County Park & Ride  
Public Meeting Summary Report/  
Stakeholder Committee Decision**

**Tuesday July 20, 2010 – The Church of the Harvest, Manvel TX  
Thursday July 22, 2010 – Hilton Garden Inn, Pearland TX**

**PUBLIC MEETINGS SUMMARY**

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC), in close coordination and cooperation with the City of Pearland, Brazoria County, the City of Manvel, Connect Transit (Gulf Coast Center), Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), hosted two public meetings in the SH 288 / Brazoria County corridor. The objective of these two meetings was to serve as a listening session for the project partners to discuss the project and hear public input and concerns regarding the proposal to develop the SH 288/Brazoria County Park & Ride facility on a site southwest of the SH 288 and CR 59 intersection.



Public meetings for the proposed SH 288/Brazoria County Park & Ride were held on Tuesday, July 20, 2010 at the Church of the Harvest, 7505 Wilson Road, Manvel, Texas and Thursday, July 22, 2010 at the Hilton Garden Inn - Pearland, 12101 Shadow Creek Parkway, Pearland, Texas. Elected Officials in attendance at the meetings included Pearland Mayor Tom Reid, Manvel Mayor Delores Martin, Brazoria County Commissioners Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh and Stacy Adams, Pearland City Councilman Scott Sherman, and Manvel City Councilman Mack Ivy. Mayor Martin, Mayor Reid and Commissioner Rodenbaugh addressed the attendees at the public meetings. Moreover, Mayor Reid and Commissioner Rhodenbaugh expressed their support for the proposed Park & Ride and the location. The proposed SH 288/Brazoria County Park & Ride location encouraged great interest and concern in the neighborhood adjacent to the proposed lot (Southfork), and in the surrounding areas. Approximately 103 individuals attended the Tuesday July 20, 2010 public meeting in Manvel and 109

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people attended the Thursday July 22, 2010 public meeting in Pearland (sign-in sheets are attached).



The meeting commenced at 6:30 P.M. with an open house. The attendees were able to visit informational stations related to the proposed Park & Ride location. The informational stations included artistic renderings, conceptual layouts, comparable neighborhood integration, service benefits, traffic analysis, and related information for the proposed site. Representatives from partnering agencies were available at each station to give an overview of the related information and answer any questions or concerns. At 7:00 P.M., the formal presentation convened. Patricia Waskowiak, H-GAC's Transportation Program Manager, facilitated a formal presentation which detailed the project and proposed project components. The presentation discussed background information about the project, description of the project, purpose and need, site selection criteria, and next steps in the process. Additional staff from the project partners in attendance to respond to stakeholder questions and concerns at the meetings included George Greanias (METRO-Acting President & CEO), John Sedlak (METRO-Executive Vice President), Kimberly Slaughter (METRO), Vince Obregon (METRO), Jon Branson (City of Pearland-Assistant City Manager), Kari Hackett (H-GAC), Gerald Roberts (Brazoria County-Engineering), Mike Christley (TxDOT) and Connie Elies/Rick Elizondo (Connect Transit).



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A stenographer was in attendance to capture questions, comments, and concerns from everyone in attendance at both public meetings. The attendees were given an opportunity to voice their concerns, leave a written comment, or post a comment on the H-GAC website (written comments received are attached). Several attendees choose to verbally express their concerns, and have their questions addressed during the meeting. There was overwhelming opposition to the proposed Park & Ride location at both public meetings by the area residents. Traffic congestion was identified as a growing concern of residents and stakeholders at the two meetings, however, it was also conveyed by many that the implementation of a Park & Ride would be a viable transit solution. While most attendees agreed that a Park & Ride in Brazoria County would be a benefit to Brazoria County, the location of this proposed Park & Ride was the foremost reason for opposition. A majority of the attendees provided verbal comments expressing their preference for locating the transit facility within the City of Pearland's corporate limits. Additional reasons for opposition are as follows:

- 1) Traffic Congestion (in and outside of the neighborhood)
- 2) Safety of children
- 3) Potential for crime
- 4) Safety Issues
- 5) Police service
- 6) Flooding and drainage problems
- 7) Vehicle accidents due to congestion
- 8) Impacts to property values
- 9) Increase in taxes
- 10) Preservation of the project site in its pristine natural state
- 11) Emission from idling buses would create a negative impact to the air quality in the immediate vicinity of the park and ride facility, particularly to the children of the Southfork Subdivision.
- 12) The location of the Park & Ride is too far south and may deter residents located near or north of FM 2234 from driving to this site
- 13) Visual aesthetics



### **Public Meeting Outcome**

Following the public meetings, staff members from the partnering agencies evaluated notes and comments from the meetings and decided the best approach to Park & Ride service in the Brazoria County. The consensus was to remove from consideration the development of park and ride service at CR 59 and SH 288, adjacent to the South Fork Community. Notably, many residents expressed support for Park and Ride service in general, but were specifically opposed to service at this particular location. The partners will continue to search for an appropriate site to develop Park and Ride Service to serve northern Brazoria County. In addition, all public comments will be submitted to the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) for review.