



Update on the North Corridor Planning Study

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) is pleased to announce upcoming public involvement activities to complete the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the North Corridor (from Downtown to Northline Mall).

During the last few years METRO, on behalf of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), has been conducting detailed planning studies of future transportation needs for the North Corridor. A major component of these studies has been input from the public, which METRO has solicited at every stage of the process. The public input process for the North Corridor began in early 2002 with scoping. This is an outreach procedure that allows agencies and public to comment on, and help define, transportation issues and alternatives specific to the corridor.

The DEIS evaluates the alternatives proposed for the North Corridor transit project and assesses the environmental impacts of these alternatives on neighborhoods and businesses, traffic grade separation needs, the interface between the proposed project and local bus service, ridership, capital and operating costs, and economic development and natural environment.

METRO, in close consultation with the FTA, also has been reviewing and refining options for the best technology in the North Corridor. This interactive review process with FTA ensures that METRO implements not only the best alternative for the corridor, but the most cost-effective, and user-friendly system that is possible, with station locations that will complement the North Corridor.

METRO is also working closely with the neighborhoods along the North Corridor. We have incorporated previously expressed comments and concerns into the proposed project. As a part of completing the DEIS study, METRO will hold additional public and workshops, stakeholder meetings and one-on-one meetings. At the conclusion of the DEIS phase, a public hearing will be held.

The upcoming meetings are scheduled as follows:

- Stakeholder and one-on-one meetings will begin January, 2006 and continue through May, 2006
- Public workshop:
February 25, 2006, Saturday
Jeff Davis High School
1101 Quitman, Commons Area
9:00 am to 12 noon

At the workshop METRO and its project staff will be available to discuss the North Corridor DEIS, as well as refined alignments and technologies. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss potential effects to the social, economic, and natural environment, including Section 106/historical properties, that could occur due to the North Corridor project.

- **Public Hearing: Spring/Summer 2006.**

After the receipt of formal public comments at the Public Hearing and a 45-day circulation period, the DEIS phase will end and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) will be prepared along with the completion of the Preliminary Engineering (PE). The FEIS is designed to reassess and mitigate any environmental impacts identified in the DEIS. PE is the phase of the study in which a higher level of detailed engineering work on the alignment is prepared.

METRO invites you to participate in the public meetings, public workshops, stakeholder meetings and one-on-one meetings and discussions. For more information or questions please refer to the resources below.

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