

North Corridor Public Hearing

May 17, 2008

Jefferson Davis High School
1101 Quitman
Houston, Texas

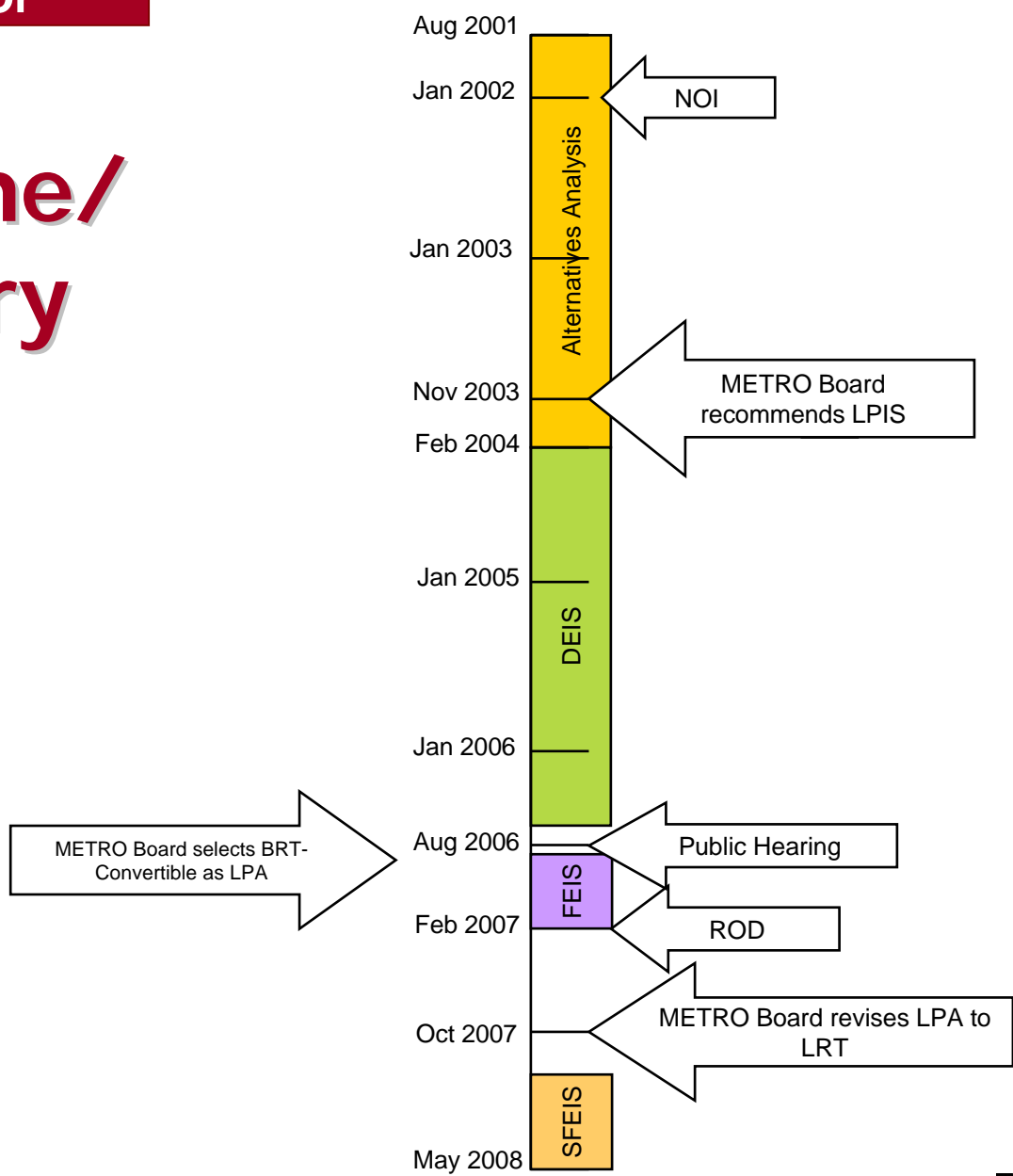
Purpose of Today's Hearing

- Status of the Project & Changes since February 2007
- Present the Revised Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA)
- Provide Opportunity to Comment on the Revised LPA

What is an SFEIS?

- Evaluates and documents social, economic, and environmental impacts and mitigation measures for the Light Rail LPA now being considered for the North Corridor.
- Facilitates review of the project by Federal, state, & local agencies & the public.
- The SFEIS is being circulated for a 30-day review & comment period.
- Following circulation and public review, responses will be prepared to address comments offered during the review period & included in the Record of Decision (ROD).

Timeline/ History

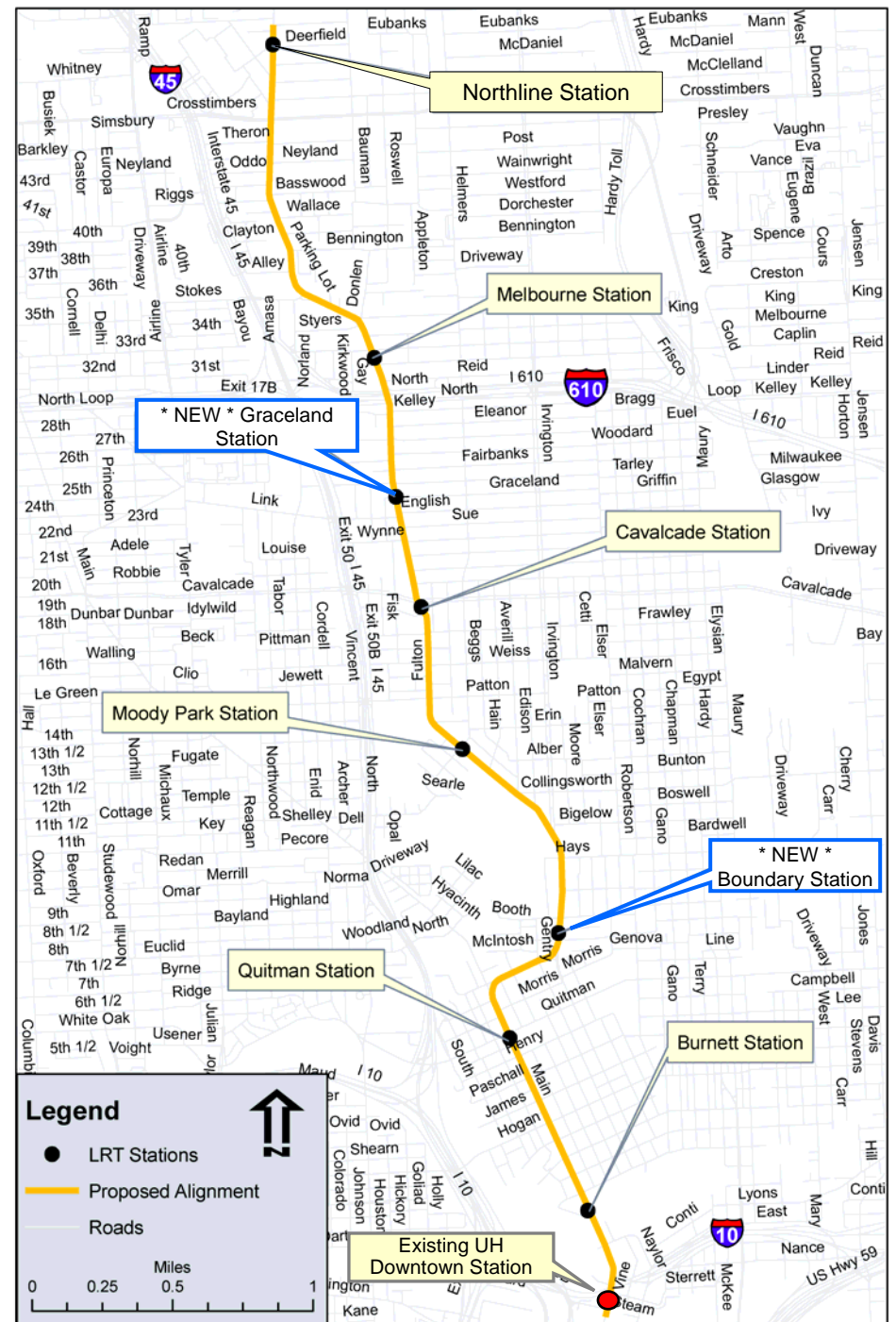


North Corridor

Changes in the Design Since February 2007

- Light Rail instead of BRT-Convertible
- Typical Section reduced to minimize right-of-way impacts
- Less right-of-way needed
- Less impacts to historic properties
- Two new stations
- Adds five traction power substations

Note: The LPA Alignment has not changed



Example of a Traction-Power Substation



Effects & Mitigation

- No Adverse Effects to Social, Air Quality, Parkland, Geology, Soils, Hazardous & Regulated Materials, Parking, Freight Rail or Trucking
- Land Use
 - Displacement & Relocation of 10 Residences & 16 Commercial properties
 - Mitigation - Property Acquisition & Relocation will be guided by the Uniform Relocation Assistance & Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (49 CFR Part 24), as amended
- Noise
 - Impacts at 9 locations (impacting a total of 30 residents)
 - Mitigation - Noise walls & bell orientation
- Vibration
 - 1 impact at a non-residential location
 - Mitigation - If reasonable & feasible
- Visual Quality & Aesthetics
 - Some visual intrusion
 - Mitigation - Landscaping & screening, where feasible & consistent with safety requirements
- Ecosystems
 - Relocation of 2 large trees
 - Mitigation - Development of Tree Preservation Plan in compliance with the City of Houston Tree & Shrub Ordinance

Effects & Mitigation

- **Hydrology & Water Quality**
 - One floodplain will be impacted
 - Mitigation - Excavation of an equivalent amount of earth along White Oak Bayou
- **Historic Resources**
 - Property to be acquired from 6 historic properties & displacement of properties
 - Mitigation - METRO has drafted an amended Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Texas Historic Commission & FTA, which outlines mitigation measures
- **Safety & Security** - Hardscape elements in the median, signage, signalization improvements at key intersections, safety education programs
- **Transit Conditions**
 - System-wide transit ridership increased of 9,050 riders per day for linked trips & 18,850 per day for unlinked trips
 - Savings of 5 to 15 minutes along the entire corridor compared to the No Build
- **Highway & Roadway**
 - 1 intersection reduced by 2 LOS levels in the evening peak; 8 intersections reduced by 1 LOS level in the morning peak; 9 intersections reduced by 1 LOS in the evening
 - Mitigation - Improvement at the current intersection geometry at the Fulton Street & Crosstimbers Street intersection plus signage & signalization improvements at key intersections
- **Bikeways & Pedestrianways**
 - Impact to bicycle lanes on Fulton Street between Irvington Boulevard & Crosstimbers Street
 - Bicycle lanes will be relocated along Irvington Boulevard

Tentative Project Schedule

- Environmental Approval: Summer 2008
- Acquire Right-of-Way: 2006 to 2009*
- Begin Construction: Late 2008
- Open for Service: 2012

* Following the February 2007 ROD, METRO began purchasing right-of-way for the project & to date has purchased property associated with 26 addresses.

Submission of Comments

- On-line
- Submit Comment Form or Letter to:
Ms. Rhonda Boyer
Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County
P.O. Box 61429
Houston, Texas 77208-1429

Comments Must be Postmarked by
June 9, 2008

Today's Public Hearing Process

- An Elected Official or Representative from Each Local Government will be Allowed to Provide a Statement
- Speakers will be Called Based on Returned Speaker Forms
- Following Registered Speakers, Unregistered Speakers will be Allowed an Opportunity to Comment
- Comments will be limited to two minutes per person
- Simultaneous Spanish translation is available

Public Comment Period

Please Step to the Microphone &
State Your Name & Address