



**NEARTOWN**  
*Association*

February 17, 2007

Mr. Frank J. Wilson  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas  
1900 Main Street  
P.O. Box 61429  
Houston, Texas 77208-1429

Re: Metro Solutions Phase 2 University Corridor

Dear Mr. Wilson,

In January 2006 Neartown Association conveyed to you our support of the University Corridor (the "Corridor"), specifically supporting a Richmond Rail alignment for the western segment of the Corridor.

As you know, Neartown Association is a non-profit "umbrella" civic organization representing an area of over 20 neighborhood associations, businesses, non-profit and educational institutions and over thirty thousand residents. We are designated as Super Neighborhood Number 24 by the City of Houston. Our borders are roughly Taft on the east, Highway 59 on the south, S. Shepherd on the west and Allen Parkway on the north.

Over the past year, Neartown has worked actively with Metro through the planning and decision-making process to ensure our concerns would be addressed. We believe Metro has worked with us in good faith and has substantially addressed and incorporated our concerns into their planning process. We have also continued to be supportive of the process itself, allowing Metro to review all options for the proposed western segment of the Corridor to determine which alignments made sense from a rider ship and cost effectiveness perspective.

Recently Metro's Board of Directors approved six route options with which to continue more refined analyses for the University Corridor, three of which pertained to the western segment of the Corridor which includes Neartown. The western options include Richmond from Wheeler Station to Cummins to Westpark, terminating at Hillcroft Transit Center (commonly referred to as the "Cummins" option), Richmond from Wheeler Station to Greenway Plaza Drive A to Westpark, terminating at Hillcroft Transit Center (commonly referred to as the "Greenway" option) and Richmond from Wheeler Station to Montrose to north US-59 frontage road (elevated) to east of Kirby to Westpark, terminating at Hillcroft Transit Center (the Montrose/US-59 option). Neartown's