

# 33: Rail Relocation

## *Reubicación de Ferrocarril*

### Description:

The Union Pacific Terminal Subdivision, part of the rail line between New Orleans and Los Angeles, cuts east-west across Houston just north of Downtown. This line is split into two single track lines. Both, have major impacts on traffic and neighborhoods. The northern line, known as the “freight main,” runs down the middle of Winter Street, a residential street in the First Ward, and crosses Houston Avenue at grade. The southern line, known as the “Passenger Main,” crosses San Jacinto Street at grade in Downtown and crosses Lyons Avenue at grade just north of I-10.

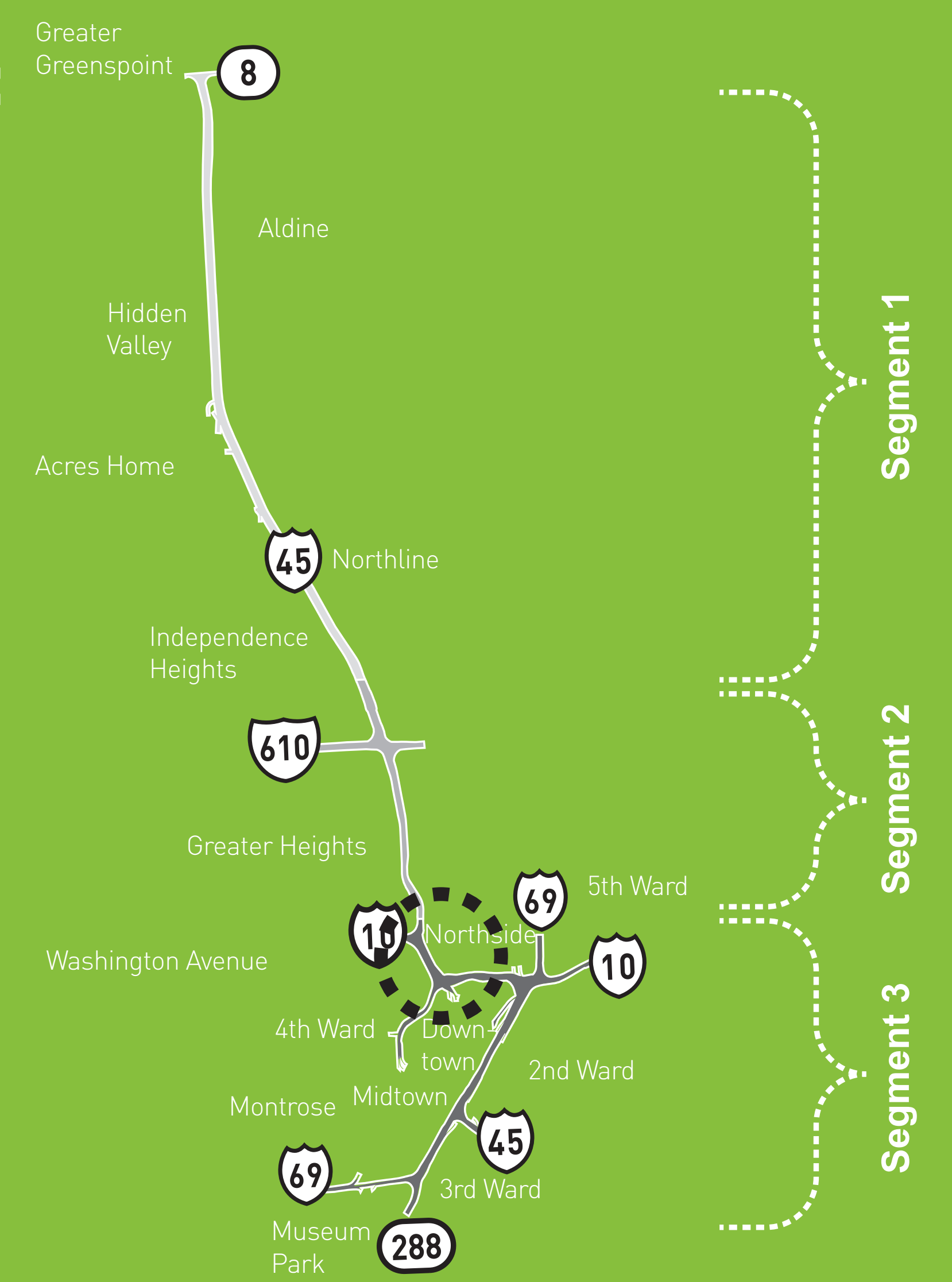
### Also Addresses:

Traffic

### We Heard:

This rail realignment would have numerous connectivity, safety, and noise-reduction benefits for central city neighborhoods plus improved economic development potential.

### Key:



## TxDOT Proposal: Current Connectivity

The I-45 project crosses the Terminal subdivision in multiple places: the main lanes of I-10 and I-45 cross twice, the Downtown spur crosses once, and four Downtown off-ramps pass under the tracks. TxDOT proposes to rebuilt rail bridges where necessary, but not change where the rail line is.

**PROS**  
- No impacts on current rail operations

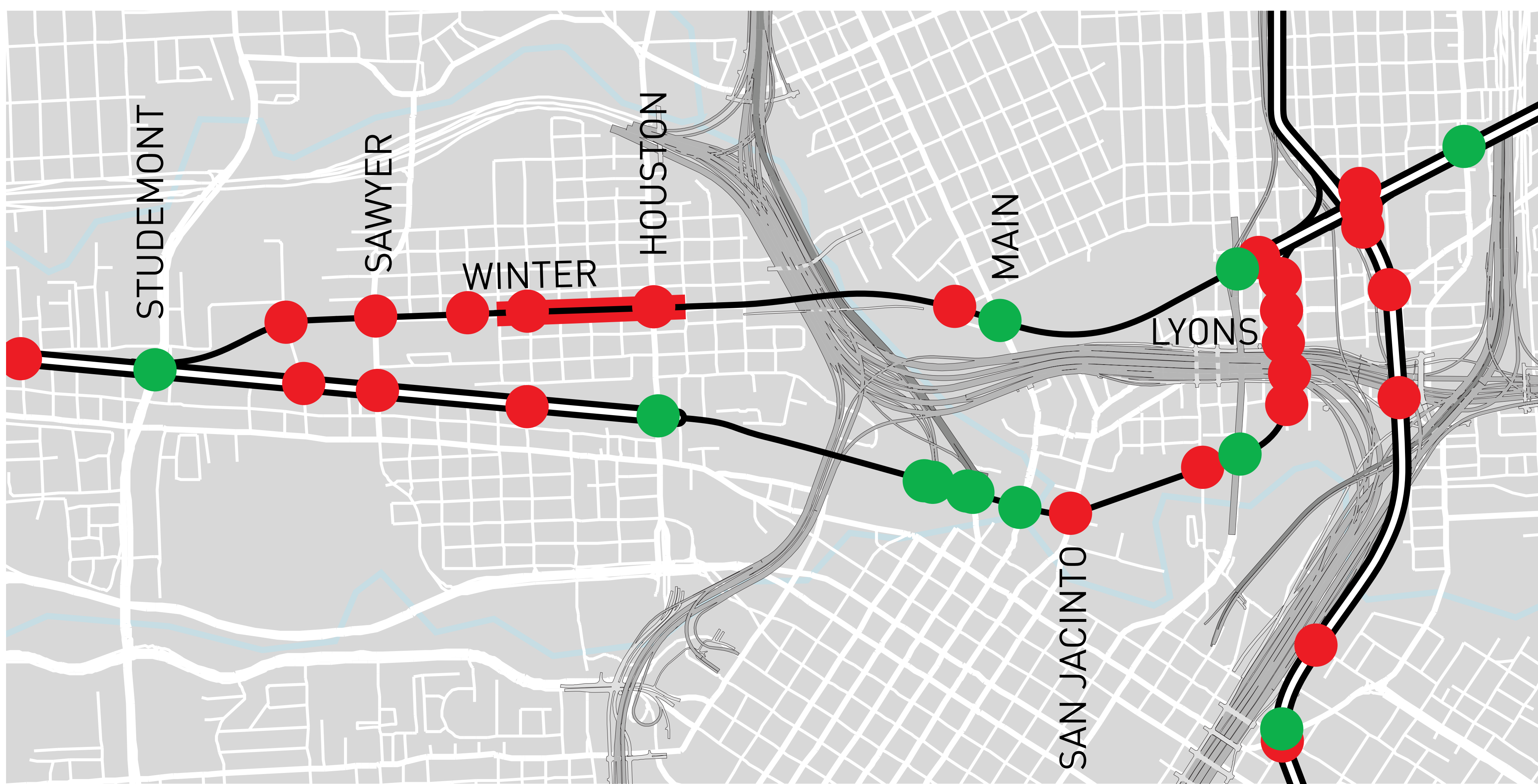
**CONS**  
- Trains continue to regularly block traffic on Houston Ave., San Jacinto St., and Lyons Ave.  
- Downtown off-ramps at Travis, Milam, Smith, and Louisiana streets must slope down to get under the tracks, causing them to be low enough to flood regularly  
- The North Canal flood control project requires a new rail bridge

### Give us your input.

Put your #33 sticker on the alternative you prefer.

#### TxDOT Proposal

Grid of 100 circles for input on TxDOT Proposal.



● Grade crossing  
● Overpass or underpass

## Alternate 33.01: Rail Relocation

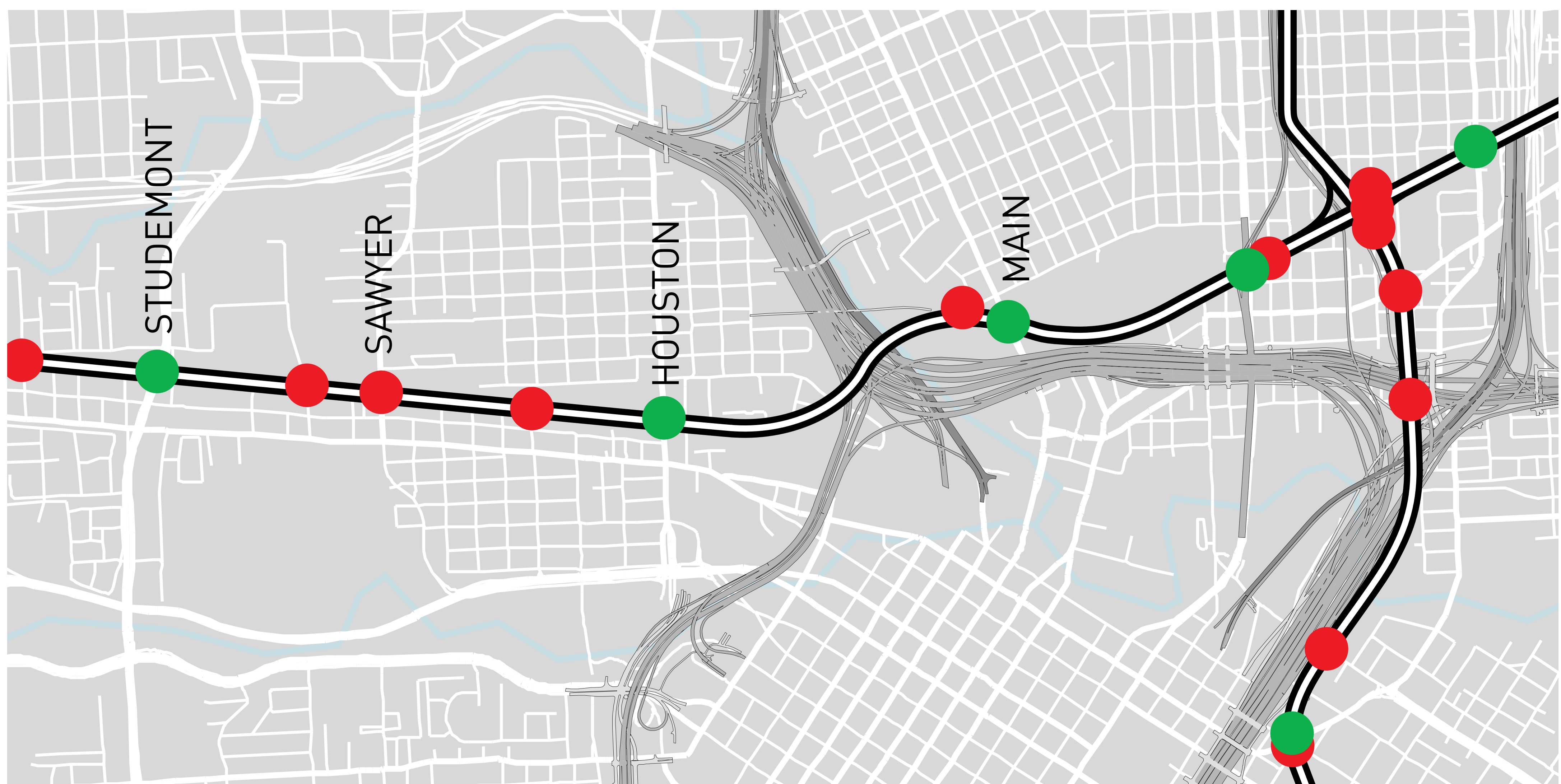
With a new connecting segment at the I-45/I-10 interchange, the least obtrusive parts of both lines could be combined into a single double-track line.

**PROS**  
- No tracks on Winter Street  
- No grade crossing on Houston Avenue  
- No grade crossing on San Jacinto Street  
- No grade crossing on Lyons Avenue  
- Downtown off-ramps at Travis, Milam, Smith, and Louisiana Streets can be elevated to reduce flood risk

**CONS**  
- Additional cost  
- Difficult railroad coordination  
- Requires a section of new right-of-way on the edge of the First Ward and across UH Downtown land.

#### Alternative 33.01 - Rail Relocation

Grid of 100 circles for input on Alternative 33.01 - Rail Relocation.



● Grade Crossing  
● Overpass or Underpass