

# PRELIMINARY REPORT

**2013-20 to 2013-29**

## **METRO – University Corridor Light Rail Transit**

**APPLICANT:** Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County

**KEY MAP:** 491W,X,Y,Z; 492W,X,Y,Z;  
493W,X,Y,Z; 494W; 530D; 531A; 533D  
**LAMBERT:** 5056, 5156, 5256, 5356

**JURISDICTION:** City of Houston  
**DISTRICT/PRECINCT:** City Council: C, D,  
G, J; Harris County Pct.: 1, 3, 4

**PROPOSAL:** The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County is requesting to designate certain streets along the proposed University Corridor Light Rail alignment as transit corridor streets. University Corridor includes the following street segments:

- |                    |                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Westpark Drive  | Hillcroft Avenue to South Rice Avenue |
| 2. Westpark Drive  | Newcastle Street to Cummins Street    |
| 3. Cummins Street  | Westpark Drive to Richmond Avenue     |
| 4. Richmond Avenue | Cummins Street to Main Street         |
| 5. Wheeler Street  | Main Street to Hutchins Street        |
| 6. Hutchins Street | Wheeler Street to Cleburne Street     |
| 7. Cleburne Street | Hutchins Street to Dowling Street     |
| 8. Dowling Street  | Cleburne Street to Alabama Street     |
| 9. Alabama Street  | Dowling Street to Scott Street        |
| 10. Elgin Street   | Scott Street to IH 45                 |
| 11. Lockwood Drive | IH 45 to Diez Street                  |

### **APPLICANTS JUSTIFICATION & HISTORY:**

METRO proposes to implement transit improvements within this proposed University Corridor which will extend from the Hillcroft Transit Center to the Eastwood Transit Center within the City of Houston. High capacity transit improvements in this corridor have been included in both the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and METRO Solutions (METRO 2003) as a priority for transit investments. The METRO Board of Directors selected a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) alignment and technology for this corridor in 2007. Further, this corridor has been environmentally cleared by Federal Transit Authority (FTA) and received a Record of Decision (ROD) on July 26, 2010.

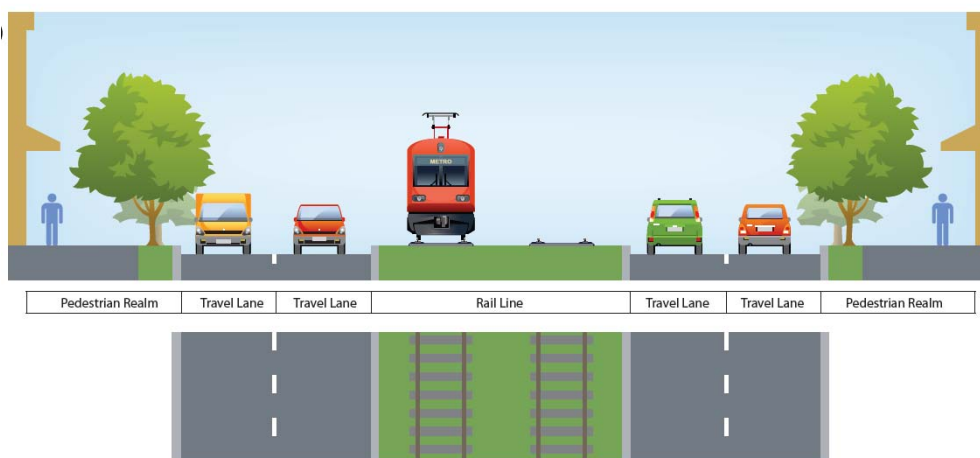
The City of Houston, Public Works and Engineering Department along with the Planning and Development Department have examined this corridor for mobility & pedestrian realm improvement with the Urban Corridor Planning study (2006-2007) and the recently completed Inner West Loop Mobility Study (2012-2013). In 2009 the City adopted the Transit Corridor Ordinance allowing for the development of high quality urban environments in areas along METRO's light rail corridors. In 2008 and 2009, the Houston Planning Commission and City Council designated streets along the North, East End,

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Southeast, Uptown and existing Main Street Corridors as Transit Corridor Streets. Portions of street segments along University Corridor, i.e. Westpark Drive between South Rice Avenue and Newcastle Street, and Scott Street between Elgin Street and Alabama Street, were designated as Transit Corridor Street in 2009 along with the Uptown Corridor and Southeast Corridor respectively.

The Transit Corridor Street designation would encourage a safe and continuous pedestrian area supported by a mix of uses and greater development density typically associated with investments in fixed guideway high capacity transit projects. It will allow redevelopment along the corridors to benefit from building setback and parking reductions associated with the opt-in rules found in the Transit Corridor Ordinance. The proposed amendment directly augments the ability of METRO to provide a reasonable, equitable, least-impactful, and efficient mass transit system that benefits the citizens and visitors of the City of Houston and the region.

METRO's MTFP amendment request is consistent with the recommendation from the Urban Corridor Planning study and the Inner West Loop Mobility Study. The Inner West Loop Mobility Study recommends the multi-modal classification of Richmond Avenue as a Transit Boulevard.



Page 43 - Inner West Loop Mobility Study – Richmond Avenue



Page 25 - Inner West Loop Mobility Study – Multi-Modal Classification

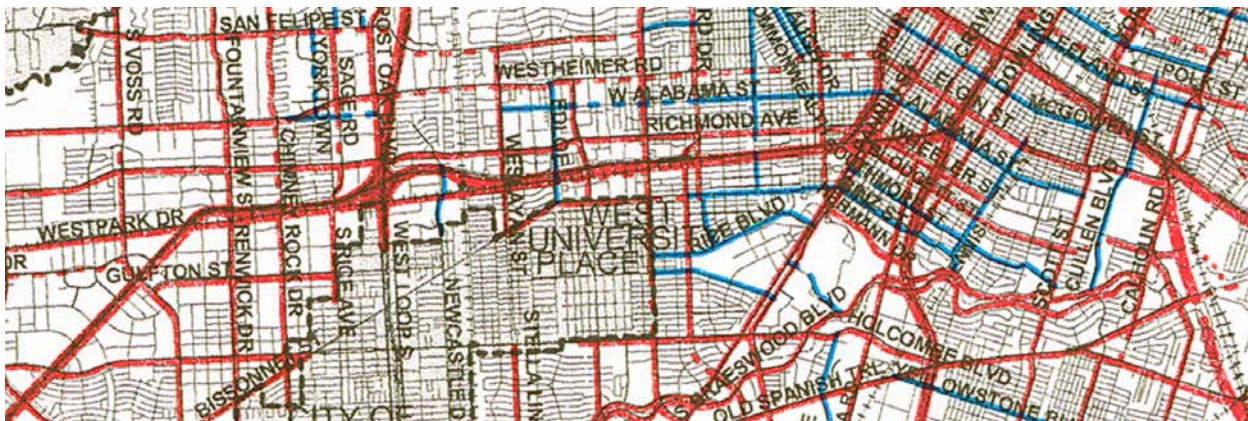
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Westpark Drive, Richmond Avenue, Wheeler Street, Dowling Street, Elgin Street and are currently classified as major thoroughfares, while Lockwood Drive is classified as a principal thoroughfare on the City's Major Thoroughfare and Freeway Plan (MTFP). Alabama Street is classified as a major collector, while Cummins Street, Hutchins Street and Cleburne Street are not currently classified on the MTFP and are considered local streets.

Richmond Avenue, Wheeler Street, Elgin Street, Dowling Street, Alabama Street and portion of Westpark Drive have been identified as major thoroughfares on the MTFP since 1942 when the first MTFP map was published. Lockwood Drive was added to the MTFP in 1957 and Westpark Drive, east of Chimney Rock was designated as a major thoroughfare in 1983. Alabama Street was reclassified as a major collector in 1997.



1942 MTFP

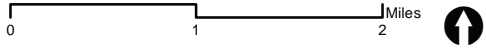
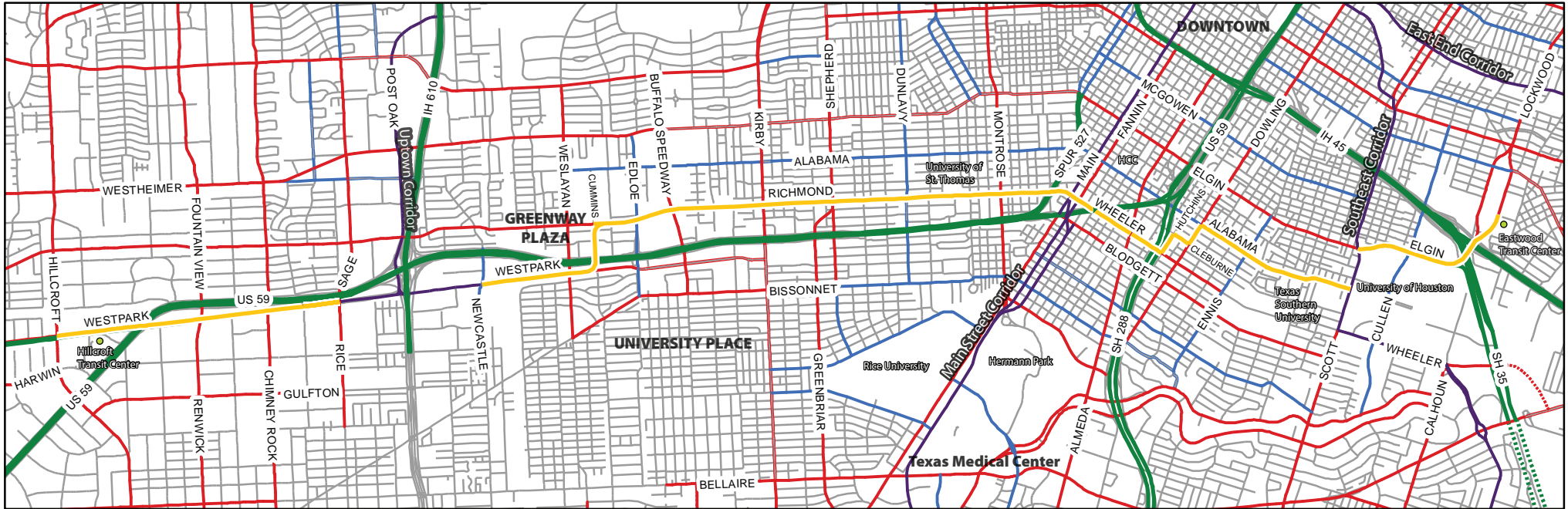


1998 MTFP



# UNIVERSITY CORRIDOR

2013 MTFPA REQUESTS



- ### LEGEND
- 2013 MTFPA Request**
  - Reclassify Transit Corridor Street
- 2012 MTFP**
  - Proposed Freeway
  - TBW Freeway
  - Freeway
  - Major Thoroughfare
  - TBW Major Thoroughfare
  - Proposed Major Thoroughfare
  - Major Collector
  - TBW Major Collector
  - Proposed Major Collector
  - Transit Corridor Street
  - Proposed Grand Parkway