

## For Immediate Release

### ROUND 2 OPEN HOUSES FOR PUBLIC FORUM ON IH 45 S TRANSIT SOLUTIONS

Time to choose a transit solution to relieve IH 45 congestion! The Galveston-Houston Mobility Corridor Alternatives Analysis has evaluated three transit alternatives: Commuter Rail, Bus Rapid Transit, Express Bus based on a wide range of criteria. A fourth option is a “No Build” alternative or doing nothing to relieve growing IH 45 congestion. Barry Goodman, President of The Goodman Corporation states, “Providing better mobility options for the rapidly growing Galveston-Houston transportation corridor is essential to insure that our rapid growth results in economic prosperity and quality of life and a better future for our children and grandchildren.”

The evaluation of the three transit alternatives will be presented to the public for input in Round 2 of the open houses along the 50 mile corridor. Your transit alternative preference and your comments on the transit evaluations are very important to the final selection of the locally preferred alternative. The locally preferred alternative will be presented to the Federal Transit Administration for approval and required funding assistance. According to Carl Sharpe, Project Manager, “A major transit investment within this corridor will result in the reduction of over 50 million vehicle miles of travel, save almost one half million gallons of gasoline, remove over 500 tons of pollution, and save over 1 million hours of commute time each year. It will also add over one billion dollars in new development as well as enhance evacuation.”

Dates and locations of Round 2 Open Houses are the following:

Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
La Marque Community Meeting Room  
1109-B Bayou Road, La Marque, TX, 77568

Wednesday, January 13, 2010, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
University of Houston-Clear Lake, Bayou Building, Atrium II  
2700 Bay Area Blvd, Houston, TX 77058

Thursday, January 14, 2010, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Cleveland-Ripley House Neighborhood Center  
720 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, TX 77504

In the first round of open houses you told us

- Reduce Traffic Congestion
- Provide Convenient Service
- Reduce Travel Time
- Advance Economic Development
- Support Emergency Evacuation

These criteria and others will be addressed in Round 2 Open Houses next week. More can be read about the direction people gave to transit planners in the second issue of the project newsletter found on the Galveston-Houston Alternatives Analysis website [www.GalvestonRailStudy.com](http://www.GalvestonRailStudy.com).

This effort is part of the federal planning process called Alternatives Analysis (AA). As such it is an important local step in the pursuit of federal funding to address growing traffic congestion on IH-45 and SH3. This study is sponsored by the City of Galveston, Galveston County, and the Federal Transit Administration and is being coordinated with Harris County, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), METRO and the 11 cities in between Galveston and Houston. The consensus building process is gaining momentum and a final selection will be made over the next six months.

Public input is essential to this process. Please join us at one of the three public open houses!

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