



## Old Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association

Post Office Box 1682 • Houston, Texas 77251-1682

The Old Sixth Ward - a residential community in the  
heart of Houston since the 1850s

*Listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the  
U.S. Department of the Interior since 1978*

May 27, 2005,

Gary Treitsch, P.E., Houston District Engineer  
Texas Department of Transportation  
7721 Washington Avenue/Postal Box 1386  
Houston, Texas 77251-1386

Dear Mr. Treitsch,

At a recent Old Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association meeting, we heard a powerful presentation on a proposal to conduct an alternative analysis for tunneling I-45 through downtown Houston. Response from the neighborhood is overwhelmingly positive, and we support conducting a feasibility study. Old Sixth Ward is a Historic District, and we have grave concerns about proposed I-45 projects that would destroy the oldest intact Victorian-era neighborhood in Houston. As a result, we fully support funding a study of this concept, as well as looking at alternatives, including demolishing I-45.

This visionary inter-modal transportation model features many quality urban life features that are desired for our great city, connecting both airports to downtown. It will reduce exposure to traffic, noise and pollution. Quantifiable health benefits are achieved by electro-statically scrubbing-tunnel air of particulates, creating cleaner air in the central city. We will enjoy access to the new at-grade express streets, similar to Allen Parkway, incorporating electric trains / pedestrian areas / green space & parklands. This plan preserves the historic architecture and small-town charm, while it creates development opportunities for new downtown high-rise office towers, and negates the need to acquire premium downtown real estate to rebuild the freeway above ground. Remarkably, it also may allow for use as floodwater management while eliminating the urban blight of the existing overhead highways. This plan also clears the way to create a new lake and downtown parkland, on a scale of Central Park in New York.

We seek your energetic involvement to study this remarkable 21st Century concept. Please advise us how we can support your efforts in making this transportation project a reality. We commend City Council Member Adrian Garcia for his leadership and supportive role in reviewing the I-45 Tunnel and Parkway concept.

Warmest regards,

Larissa Lindsay, President  
Old Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association  
Postal Box 1682  
Houston, Texas 77251

cc: Houston Mayor Bill White  
Houston Councilmember Adrian Garcia, District H  
Frank Wilson, METRO  
David Wolf, METRO  
Guy Hagstette, Downtown Management District  
✓ Gonzalo Camacho, P.E.  
Texas Representative Garnet Coleman  
U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee