

# I-45 Coalition

▪ www.I-45Coalition.org ▪ 4800 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Suite B-1 ▪ Houston, TX 77092 ▪ 713.816.0444 ▪

June 24, 2005

Mayor Bill White  
City of Houston  
P.O. Box 1562  
Houston, TX 77251

Re: Endorsement to fund feasibility study for Tunnel Alternative on I-45

Honorable Mayor White:

The I-45 Coalition enthusiastically endorses the funding of a feasibility study to determine whether tunneling of I-45 is viable.

This feasibility study would help provide you, other elected officials, the Texas Department of Transportation and most importantly, the citizens; with the information necessary to make an educated decision on whether the tunneling of I-45 is a feasible alternative to the ever increasing footprint of our highways which endanger our homes and our neighborhoods.

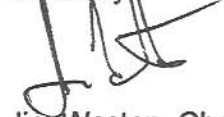
The I-45 Coalition represents approximately 90,000 citizens who live primarily within the inner loop – people from Woodland Heights, Lindale Park, First Ward, Old Sixth Ward, Northside Village Super Neighborhood Council, Houston Heights, Proctor Plaza, Acres Homes, Melrose Park, Independence Heights and more. We all are concerned about a possible widening of I-45 and the effect it would have on our lives, our children and our neighborhoods.

Highway tunnels have been built successfully throughout the world and the benefits extend far beyond increased mobility and safety. A tunnel inside the loop would benefit local air quality, storm water management and enhance the gateway to Houston's downtown core. The I-45 tunnel is a big idea for a big city which would place Houston at the forefront of the urban renaissance movement in this country.

The I-45 Coalition would like the City of Houston to participate in the funding of the feasibility study for a tunnel and we would appreciate being kept informed of the progress of this request.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jim Weston, Chair  
I-45 Coalition

CC: Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison  
Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee  
Congressman Gene Green  
Congressman Tom Delay  
Congressman John Culberson  
Senator Mario Gallegos

Senator Rodney Ellis  
Senator John Whitmire  
Representative Jessica Farrar  
Representative Sylvester Turner  
Representative Kevin Bayley  
Representatives Garnet Coleman  
Council Member Adrian Garcia  
Council Member Pam Holm  
Council Member Ron Green  
Gary Trietsch, District Engineer, TxDOT  
David Wolf, Chairman of the Board, METRO  
Frank Wilson, President and CEO, METRO