

WOODLAND HEIGHTS

A HOMETOWN NEAR DOWNTOWN SINCE 1910

August 3, 2005

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

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

Dear Mayor White:

The Woodland Heights Civic Association earnestly endorses the funding of a feasibility study to determine whether tunneling I-45 between Interstate 10 and the North Loop is viable.

This feasibility study would help provide you, other elected officials, the Texas Department of Transportation and 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.

I-45 North is the eastern boundary of the Woodland Heights, an intact, historic and well preserved neighborhood of more than 2,000 residences (composed primarily of home owners) and schools, including the HISD Vanguard school of Travis Elementary, which is located only two blocks away from I-45 now. We are deeply concerned that further expansion of this highway will result in the loss of some of the oldest homes in the city as well as community park lands we use and value while also bringing the school significantly closer to the highway with its corresponding pollution and noise. Furthermore, the expansion will do nothing to improve the appearance of our city's main gateway for visitors. In essence, it becomes a tax on those of us who live close to the city and our jobs in favor of those who opted in favor of a lengthy commute.

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 that would place Houston at the forefront of the urban renaissance movement in this country.

The Woodland Heights Civic Association 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.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature of Terri Guerra]

Terri Guerra, President

cc: Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee
Congressman Gene Green

Congressman John Culberson
Senator Mario Gallegos
Congressman Tom Delay

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