

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2012

Chairman Gilbert Garcia
Houston METRO Board of Directors

Vice Chairman Allen Watson
Houston METRO Board of Directors

Burt Ballanfant
Houston METRO Board of Directors

Lisa Gonzales Castañeda
Houston METRO Board of Directors

Honorable Dwight Jefferson
Houston METRO Board of Directors

Carrin Patman
Houston METRO Board of Directors

Cindy Siegel
Houston METRO Board of Directors

Christof Spieler
Houston METRO Board of Directors

Gary Stobb
Houston METRO Board of Directors

Dear Houston METRO Board of Directors:

On behalf of the independent cities that we represent, we respectfully request that you continue the General Mobility Program as it exists today.

The General Mobility Program supports vital transportation projects in each of the independent cities. Since its inception, the General Mobility Program has provided more than \$2 billion in funding for local transportation projects such as the East/West Mobility Project in Hedwig Village as well as funding for the maintenance and upkeep of local roads.

Our constituents who live in the fourteen cities bear the burden of the dedicated sales tax. These hardworking taxpayers should not lose the benefit of their tax dollars being spent to improve the roads in their neighborhoods.

None of METRO's existing or proposed rail projects is within the boundaries of any of the fourteen cities, yet METRO is considering taking tax dollars away from the cities and using the money to fund rail projects. On behalf of the taxpayers in our districts, we strongly urge you to reject this plan, and keep the current General Mobility Program which will ensure that local taxpayer dollars will be used to fund local transportation projects.

If you decide to take the General Mobility Program funding away from the independent cities, each city will need to raise property taxes in order to fund their local transportation projects. The businesses and residents in our districts already pay more than enough in taxes and should not

have to bear a tax increase in order to fund rail projects. Our constituents want to see their tax dollars used to maintain the roads that they drive on every day.

We thank you for your careful consideration of our request, and we strongly urge you to approve referendum language that will maintain the status quo in the General Mobility Program.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Catherine Knowles in Rep. Culberson's office at 202-226-0967 or catherine.knowles@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



cc: Tom Jasien
Houston METRO Congressional Affairs

The Honorable Michael Andrews
Mayor, Spring Valley Village

The Honorable Don Elder Jr.
Mayor, Katy

The Honorable Brad Emel
Mayor, El Lago

The Honorable Derry Essary
Mayor, Bunker Hill Village

The Honorable Bob Fry
Mayor, West University Place

The Honorable Donald McMannes
Mayor, Humble

The Honorable Dr. Phil Nauert
Mayor, Bellaire

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The Honorable Peter Nemeth
Mayor, Piney Point

The Honorable Lilian Norman-Keeny
Mayor Pro Tem, Taylor Lake Village

The Honorable Allen Owen
Mayor, Missouri City

The Honorable Pat Patterson
Mayor, Southside Place

The Honorable Sue Speck
Mayor, Hedwig Village

The Honorable David Wegner
Mayor, Hunters Creek

The Honorable Shannon Whiting
Mayor Pro Tem, Hilshire Village