

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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Sponsor(s): Speaker Ballesteros, Sen. Nieto, Chair El-Hoderi, Chair Ortega,

Committee: Admin & Finance

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**Raising Awareness regarding Houston Public Transportation amidst the
Suspension of the METRO University Corridor Project**

Whereas, the initiative known as the Houston METRO University Corridor project held a pivotal position within the comprehensive METRONext Moving Forward Plan, which garnered resounding support from Harris County constituents in 2019 via a substantial \$3.5 billion bond measure;

Whereas, this University Corridor project sought to establish the preeminent bus rapid transit (BRT) line in the nation, encompassing a remarkable expanse of over 25 miles and linking prominent employment hubs and academic institutions throughout Houston.;

Whereas, regrettably, METRO has chosen to indefinitely defer the commencement of the University Corridor project, valued at \$2.28 billion, without a formal vote from the governing board, citing financial constraints and a necessity to prioritize indispensable services above this endeavor;

Whereas, such a resolution poses a risk of forfeiting nearly \$1 billion in prospective federal assistance earmarked for the development, while also diminishing the credibility of the communities that contributed valuable input in the formulation of the project's design;

<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/articles/news/transportation/2024/06/18/491065/metro-shelves-university-corridor-bus-rapid-transit-project-once-touted-as-transformational/>

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/transportation/article/metro-university-corridor-brt-shelved-19520770.php>

Whereas, should the University Corridor project be abandoned, Houston - as the designated host city for the 2026 World Cup - would be left without a world-renowned transit system to efficiently accommodate the influx of millions of visitors and potential new commuters;

Whereas, the decision to halt progress on the University Corridor project has elicited disapprobation from former Mayor Sylvester Turner and advocacy groups specializing in transportation matters, such as LINK Houston, who contend that this action represents a substantial setback for public transportation initiatives in the Houston metropolitan area;

Whereas, the University Corridor project was expected to reduce traffic congestion, lower carbon emissions, and promote sustainable transportation options, , which are critically aligned with the University of Houston's strategic priorities for environmental stewardship and reducing the carbon footprint of the campus community;

Whereas, the suspension of this project has a detrimental impact on a substantial number of students, faculty, and staff members who depend on efficient and dependable public transportation for their daily commutes to the University of Houston;

Whereas, the absence of improved public transportation infrastructure disproportionately affects individuals from low-income backgrounds and those lacking access to personal vehicles, thereby exacerbating issues related to fairness and accessibility;

Whereas, the postponement or abandonment of the University Corridor project hinders endeavors to enrich the overall Houstonian student experience by providing enhanced access to educational institutions, extracurricular activities, healthcare services, and employment opportunities.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

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The University of Houston Student Government Association formally denounces and condemns the indefinite deferment of the METRO University Corridor project and urges METRO to reconsider its decision in light of the significant benefits this project would provide to the university community and the greater Houston area;

Be it further resolved, we demand that the METRO board conducts a formal vote regarding the future of the University Corridor project, allowing for transparent public participation and carefully considering the extensive benefits it would bring to the Houston community in the long term;

Be it further resolved, we implore METRO to reassess its priorities and explore avenues for progressing the University Corridor project, a pivotal component of the METRONext plan that garnered voter approval;

Be it further resolved, we call upon our peers, faculty members, and staff to vocalize their endorsement for the University Corridor project and advocate for a top-tier transit system that meets the needs of the Houston community;

Be it further resolved, A copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the METRO Board of Directors, the Mayor of Houston, members of the Houston City Council, and local media outlets to ensure that our concerns are heard and addressed.

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the UH SGA pledges to actively promote enhanced public transportation options, including the University Corridor project, through engagement with university leadership, local government authorities, and representatives from Houston METRO.



Sebastian Ballesteros

Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 7-17-2024

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