



THE NORTH UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
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CAPITAL METRO LIGHT RAIL PLAN ON TRACK FOR BIG STEP FORWARD

February Neighborhood Meeting to feature speaker from Capital Metro

Later this month, the Capital Metro Board will be taking action that could move plans for a light rail system past the concept stage and toward the finalizing of plans for a 'starter line' in North and East Austin. This will be a particularly momentous step because this will be a 'go/no go' decision to begin final design, financing, and construction of the project.

The 'starter line' would extend west along E. 6th St. starting at Pleasant Valley Rd. into downtown, then north along Guadalupe and then along Lamar to Airport Blvd. where it would follow existing the railroad line as far north as Parmer Lane near Loop 1. In the North University area the line would consist of a single track laid in the existing center left turn lane of Guadalupe between 38th St. and 29th St.. This scheme would be extended north of 38th St. but the alignment is under study south of 29th St. in the 'Drag' area. Stations in the immediate area include one just north of 38th St. and one just north of 27th. As proposed, crossings and left turns on or off of Guadalupe would only be possible at the intersections of major streets--only 29th, 30th, 34th, and 38th, one might think--but special provision would be made for left turns and U-turns at those intersections. At least these are the major features that have been revealed so far and additional details should be forthcoming.

Although the current proposal is not in keeping with the input the neighborhood association made several years ago--locating the line along the west side of Guadalupe, not down the middle--the light rail project is generally viewed as a positive for Central Austin neighborhoods. But even with a generally supportive atmosphere surrounding the concept, important questions are really flying in regards to financing, construction and operating impacts, ridership, and particular portions of the alignment.

Next Neighborhood Meeting

Monday, February 3
Starts at 7:00 p.m.

First English Lutheran Church
Whitis at 30th Street

The neighborhood association is certainly keeping abreast of these developments in the decision making process and the February Neighborhood Meeting will offer an opportunity to discuss these circumstances and establish the position of the neighborhood in this matter. In addition, Jim Robertson of Capital Metro will give a presentation on the light rail project as well as the deliberative process that could bring it about at this next neighborhood meeting. This should provide an unparalleled opportunity to get a full picture of all that is involved with the project.

CONSTRUCTION STARTS ON STATE SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT AMIDST NEIGHBORHOOD OBJECTIONS

During just the past week construction began on surplus land at the Austin State School that will result in the completion of the infrastructure for the entire site and the first of a number of buildings, a large retail complex along Lamar at 40th. Although the overall process has been a mixed bag, this groundbreaking does not go forward without having been contested and further objections may come to bear.

Since the December Neighborhood Meeting, the Site Plan Compliance Review Committee, consisting of representatives from the state, the developers, and area neighborhood groups, has approved the project with only the neighborhood representatives in opposition. This decision was appealed and rejected by the state agency officials that serve as the ultimate authority for the project. However, the principal concerns that the neighborhoods had identified--the parking configurations and overall circulation, the development of a water feature, etc.--were conveyed to the developers, but whether or not these concerns are addressed remains to be seen.

Since the development of these surplus lands statewide is following a development review process largely independent of municipal development codes, a precedent has been set here. Several years ago the state involved the neighborhood groups in this area in the planning for the site and this led to a great many elements that were embraced by the neighborhoods. However, many of these same elements--architectural concepts as a good example--have failed to materialize as the project comes to be built.

Rosedale and Hyde Park Neighborhood Associations have entertained the possibility of a boycott in light of these circumstances and a proposition to join in will be considered by our neighborhood association. Additionally, future phases of this project will eventually undergo this same review process and the failings of the process that have surfaced to date could just as easily recur here, and, just as critically, in projects elsewhere in the state. The elected state officials need to be informed of the shortcomings of this development process and changes need to be made in the policies that govern it. And a strategy to accomplish this will be advanced shortly. Discussion of this matter is planned at the February Neighborhood Meeting.

New NUNA Representative to Austin Groups for the Elderly Board Selected

Stella Nilsen has been selected to serve as the representative of the neighborhood association on the Board of Directors for Austin Groups for the Elderly. She takes over for June Hawley who has served in this position for five years. Just to note, having a representative on the AGE Board has proven to be very beneficial to neighborhood and should continue to do so. Among other things it has provided good communications between the two organizations, helped address neighborhood concerns, and ensured compliance with the conditional use permit in effect on the AGE building at 38th and Cedar.

AGENDA

The North University Neighborhood Association
February 3, 1991

Speaker: Mr. Jim Robertson
Capital Metro

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

Call to Order
Reading of the Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Announcements

BUSINESS AT HAND

Report on Austin State School Development
Discussion of Light Rail Plan
Proposal to raise dues
Report on NUNA News Sponsors
Selection of Nomination Committee

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

The
North
University
Neighborhood
Association

CAR WARS: The environment cannot strike back

LAST IN A SERIES FROM THE TEXAS WATER COMMISSION

Rainfall runoff flushes loose particles and liquids from the ground into our water supplies. These substances combine into a mixture called nonpoint source pollution that contaminates the rainfall runoff which replenishes the water supply we use for drinking, recreation and scenery. The EPA estimates that nonpoint sources account for more than half of the pollution in our water supplies today. These sources, called 'nonpoint' because of their diffuse, cumulative nature, generally can be traced to irresponsible use or disposal of pesticides and fertilizers, household chemicals, paints or anything else humans leave on the ground. One very significant nonpoint source of pollution is the automobile.

Just think of all the automotive products you use that you would not want mixed in with your drinking water. Gasoline, motor oil, brake and transmission fluid, antifreeze, battery acids, tire residue and a host of solvents, waxes and cleaning chemicals are common water pollutants. You would not knowingly mix any of these products with your drinking water, but do you ever inadvertently rinse them from your driveway into the streetgutter or otherwise leave them on the ground for the rain to wash into the nearest drainage ditch?

Used motor oil is estimated by some experts to comprise at times as much as 40 percent of the pollution in American waterways. Leaking crankcase plugs, defective valve cover gaskets and the illicit disposal of

used oil contribute an estimated annual average of 240 million gallons to the environment nationwide. The answer: repair leaks and dispose of used oil properly by taking it to a service station or other recycler.

Antifreeze is a toxin which serves a legitimate function in the radiator, but when spilled into the environment its sweet taste attracts and kills animals. Simply hosing drained radiator contents into the street gutter rinses poison into an environment that can no longer dilute all the stuff we put into it. Some radiator shops will accept waste antifreeze even though they don't like to advertise it (it costs them money to have a recycler pick it up from them). For our childrens' sake, locate a business that will accept it or save it until a local or regional hazardous waste collection day.

Consider also the engine solvents, tar or grease removers and other tire and upholstery cleaners used in America's driveways that often end up in our water. It may be impossible to collect the rinsewater after using these products, but we must recognize the connection between them and water pollution, and learn to be frugal in our use of these materials or use less toxic products. The automobile is an entrenched part of American culture, and likely to remain so for many years. As population and traffic both increase at astronomical rates, so, too, does our responsibility as motorists to recognize how our use of the automobile affects the very water we depend on.



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Treasurer	Stella Nilsen	459-5821

QUADRANT LEADERS

Northwest Rick Iverson 451-1011	Northeast John Lacy 478-2838
Southwest Dean Towner 474-1825	Southeast

CALENDAR

Neighborhood Meeting	February 3
Steering Committee Meeting	March 2
Neighborhood Meeting and Election of Officers	April 6
Austin Clean Sweep and Spring Neighborhood Clean Up	April 11
Steering Committee Meeting	May 4
Neighborhood Meeting	June 1
Steering Committee Meeting	July 6
Neighborhood Meeting	August 3

The NUNA NEWS is published by the North University Neighborhood Association and is distributed to all residents in the area bounded by Guadalupe St., 38th St., Duval St., and 29th St.. It is published bimonthly—February, April, June, August, October, and December. All inquiries should be

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