

9. UPDATE ON THE METRORAPID INNER KATY PROJECT

Background

The METRORapid Inner Katy Project is one of five new rapid transit corridors identified in the METRONext plan. As envisioned in METRONext, the project will provide rapid transit service along I-10 from the Northwest Transit Center (NWTC) in Uptown to Downtown Houston, serving as an extension of the METRORapid Silver Line in Uptown, which opened in 2020. This corridor will also provide connectivity for express buses to and from the US 290 corridor and I-10 West of the I-610 West Loop.

The project will create a bi-directional guideway along I-10 for METRO's current and planned transit services. The objectives of the METRORapid Inner Katy Project align with the overarching METRONext objectives of improving mobility, reliability, enhancing connectivity, supporting vibrant communities, and ensuring a return on METRO's investment. Completion of this project will also support a future direct connection between NWTC and the planned Texas Central Railway high-speed rail terminal at the Northwest Mall site.

Current Situation

The project is currently in the environmental and conceptual development phase. METRO is studying the feasibility of (i) operations in the Inner Katy corridor between the Northwest Transit Center to Downtown and (ii) interlining the bus rapid transit with the existing light rail transit on the Green and Purple lines in Downtown. METRO is working cooperatively with the Texas Department of Transportation, the Houston-Galveston Area Council and the City of Houston to examine the travel benefits of and options to accommodate other High Occupancy Vehicles in the Inner Katy Corridor.

Action Requested

Information only.