

University Corridor Bus Rapid Transit Project

Houston, Texas

New Starts Project Development

Information Prepared September 2021

Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) proposes to implement a 25.3-mile bus rapid transit (BRT) line running across Houston, running east, from Westchase Park-and-Ride to Midtown and University of Houston and then north to Tidwell Transit Center. Dedicated transit-only lanes are proposed for the entire line and 41 stations are currently being evaluated. The western third of the Project from Westchase to Edloe Street is expected to run on a fixed guideway with an exclusive right-of-way owned by METRO; the remainder is proposed to run on dedicated BRT lanes on city-owned streets with transit signal priority. The project is also expected to feature level boarding, off-board fare collection, branded vehicles, and a new bus operating facility. The project cost is currently estimated to be \$1.56 billion and METRO anticipates seeking 60% (\$936 million) in CIG funds.

METRO expects the Project to provide more transit service to accommodate a growing and densifying population, improve transit connections to activity centers and other transit services, advance transportation equity, complement existing and future development patterns in the corridor, and support a sustainable and healthy future for the City.

METRO anticipates selecting a locally preferred alternative (LPA) in October 2021 and adoption of the LPA into the region's fiscally constrained long-range transportation plan in January 2022. METRO anticipates completing NEPA in May 2023, entering New Starts Engineering in August 2023, and receiving a Full Funding Grant Agreement in September 2025. Revenue service is anticipated to begin in June 2029.