



HOWDY Y'ALL

BY KYLE ROGERS, ECA SECRETARY (WOODLEIGH)

Welcome back to the re-launched Eastwood Voice the newsletter of the Eastwood Civic Association (ECA). It has been a while since we have released a newsletter and our Communications Committee decided it was about time we announced our revival post-pandemic. Here at the ECA we strive to create a stronger community, identify and address neighborhood issues, improve quality of life, beautify our surroundings, share communications from local authorities, and collaborate to protect and advocate for our residents. To these ends, the civic association is

hoping you find the Eastwood Voice informative and worthwhile, and if you're willing, as a call to action. We're always looking for opportunities to engage with residents and businesses to meet these goals and we invite you to join us. Whether you only have time to skim the newsletter, attend our meetings (1st Mondays at the E.B. Cape Center), or want to get deeply immersed and start something from scratch we want to encourage and welcome you to join us in creating a stronger community.

Welcome Home.

WWW.EASTWOODCIVICASSOCIATION.ORG • INFO@EASTWOODCIVICASSOCIATION.ORG

ADVOCATING FOR IMPROVED DESIGN OF METRO PROJECT ON LOCKWOOD

BY DANIELLE LAPERRIERE, ECA PRESIDENT (EASTWOOD)

Lockwood could be home to METRO's next Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. The MetroRapid University Corridor is a 25.3 mile transit route from Westchase to Tidwell Transit Center that would provide high-capacity, high frequency service with buses running in dedicated lanes and stations similar to MetroRail. The portion running through Greater Eastwood, known as Segment 4, is proposed to run along Lockwood with stops at Eastwood Transit Center, Telephone and Harrisburg before continuing along through Second and Fifth Wards. The project is currently in the design phase, with construction expected in 2025 and opening in 2028.

The BRT would provide improved transit connectivity to our community, but the design raised concerns for many residents. The preliminary design depicts the dedicated bus lanes replacing the tree-lined esplanade and a bus-only overpass beginning roughly around McKinney St and traversing over the rail line and Harrisburg. The community has voiced a preference to avoid an overpass and protect

the existing esplanade and its trees. Community members also voiced the importance of prioritizing continued neighborhood connectivity across and along Lockwood, and the project fitting within the existing right of way. Overall, the community wants the project to fit with, and improve, the natural characteristics of Eastwood as a historic, tree-filled, vibrant residential neighborhood.

After hearing community feedback about the project, we got to work advocating for an improved design. We attended METRO's meetings to learn more about the proposed design, formed a sub-committee to coordinate advocacy, wrote a [letter outlining our concerns](#) and drew up an [alternative street design](#) that maintains the esplanade. In August, we met 1:1 with METRO project staff to go over our concerns, and they indicated that conditions would be incorporated into the next design and that they would undertake an analysis to determine what alternatives there could be to an overpass. We have a follow up meeting with METRO staff in February to understand their progress

(continued on pg. 2)

ADVOCATING FOR IMPROVED DESIGN OF METRO PROJECT ON LOCKWOOD on design alternatives.

(cont. from pg. 1)

Although we are optimistic about METRO's receptiveness to our concerns, we need to continue to show that this community wants to collaborate on an improved design. As such, in 2023 we will be focusing on making sure all of our neighbors know about the project, and have the opportunity to shape it.

If you're interested in helping us, [sign-up to host a Block Meeting](https://forms.gle/ePx6qGqRe63TSUzf8) to help inform your neighbors. (<https://forms.gle/ePx6qGqRe63TSUzf8>)

[We also encourage you to learn more and provide feedback to METRO.](https://www.ridemetro.org/about/metronext/metro-rapid/metrorapid-university-corridor-project)

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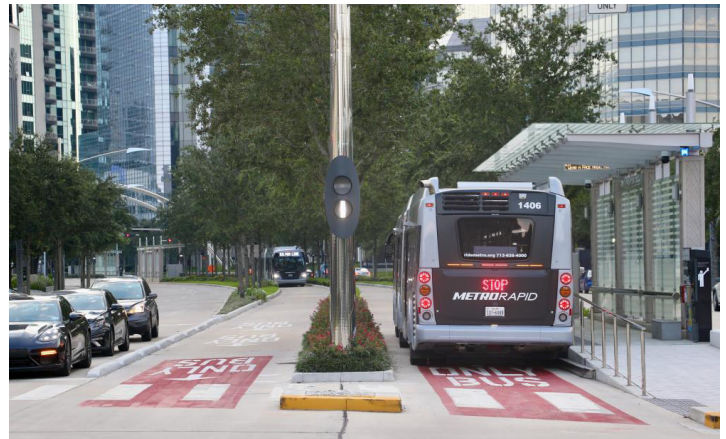


Photo by Christof Spieler

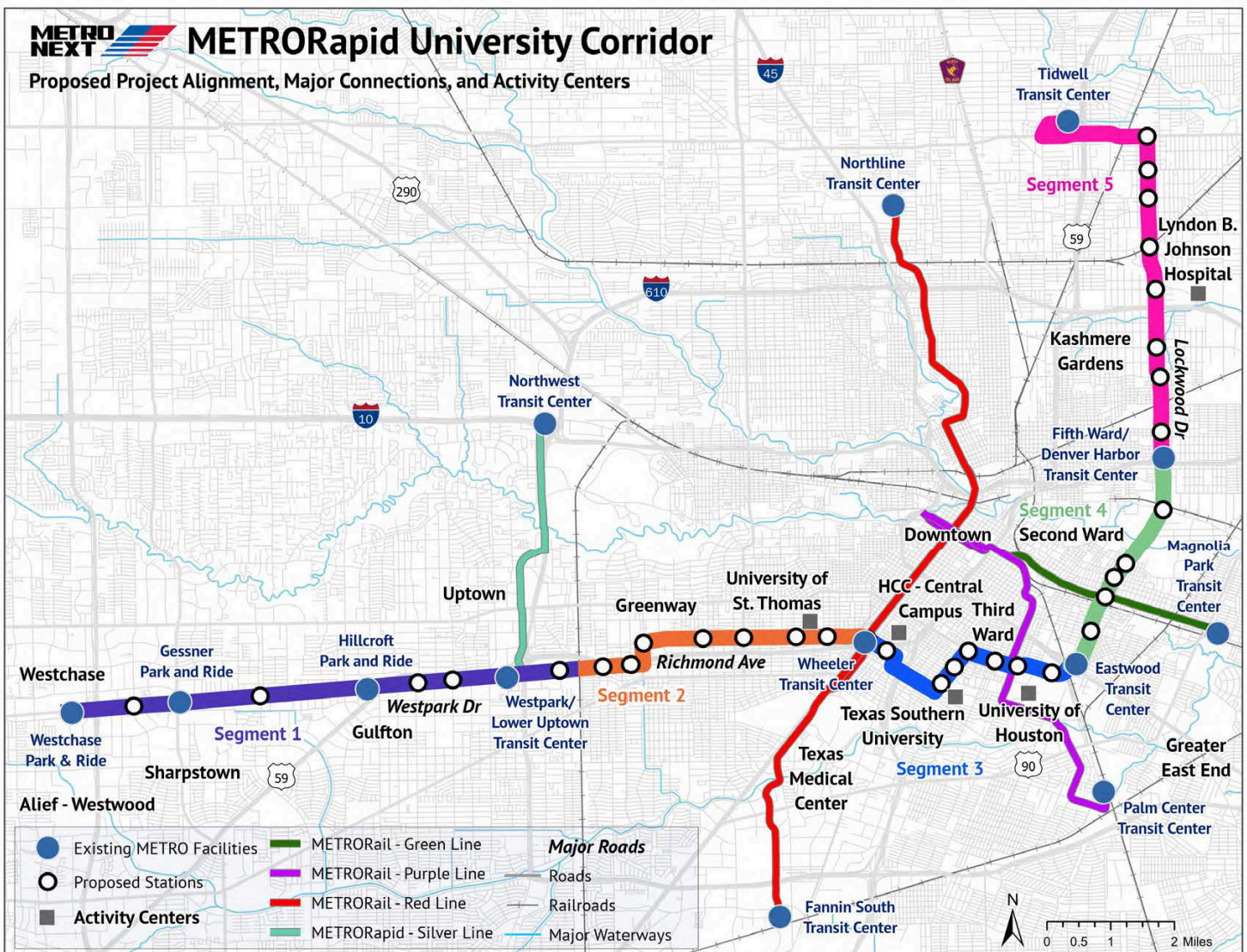


Image from METRO



FREIGHT TRAIN COMMITTEE UPDATE

BY LINDSAY WILLIAMS, TRAIN COMMITTEE CHAIR (W. J. TAYLOR)

It is no secret the trains have been a pain point for Eastwood residents for decades. Since January 2022, the train committee has been working with multiple organizations across the city and East End to make real progress in getting much-needed relief for residents in the area. The main priorities are trains parked on tracks and quiet zones.

We have made significant progress in providing the data and getting in front of elected officials. On May 12, we participated in a joint committee meeting with the City of Houston which garnered substantial attention to our area. This resulted in the creation of the East End Rail Safety Task Force, which two Eastwood train committee members participate in regularly.

The committee continued to push in parallel with the East End Rail Safety Task Force, resulting in a town hall with the Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the governing body of the railroads. The administrator acknowledged the real problems our area is seeing and reassigned two inspectors for full review of the Houston Complex,

focusing on the East End. The administrator is slated to return in February to review the improvements made.

There are billions of federal grants available to the city for continued rail improvements including grade-separated crossings and quiet zones. The committee is encouraging our City officials to create a comprehensive East End traffic plan around the rail improvements and apply for the available grants to implement improvements.

We have a long way to go but we are making substantial progress improving the quality of life in Eastwood and in the Greater East End.

If you want to help, the most important thing you can do is to report stopped trains by going to <https://www.fra.dot.gov/blockedcrossings/>. You can report up to 7 days in the past, so if you need to wait to get home, you can still report it. This is more effective than calling the number on the crossing-guards because it goes directly to the FRA who is now watching our area. If you have a situation or story you want to share about the trains, email info@eastwoodcivicasociation.org.

25TH ANNUAL EASTWOOD HISTORIC HOME TOUR

BY ERIN OVERHOUSE LOCKE

SAVE THE DATE! - OCTOBER 21 & 22, 2023

For 25 years, the Eastwood Historic Home Tour has invited the Houston community at large to peek into the homes and lives of Eastwood while raising critical funds to support the Eastwood Civic Association, local schools and charities. As we mark our 25th year, we hope you will join us to celebrate and rediscover Eastwood's heritage and William A. Wilson's vision for the ideal place to call home.

In 1913, William A. Wilson planned a residential oasis for young executive families in the 215-acre enclave he named "Eastwood". In his prospectus about the proposed community, Eastwood was described as being "without doubt, the most perfect residence locality, topographically, in Houston." Eastwood's location in-the-loop, plus easy access to four major freeways and proximity to Downtown, the Texas Medical Center and The University of Houston, have sparked Eastwood's re-awakening while preserving a beautiful piece of the past.

Do you have a piece of Eastwood history? We are interested in photos, books, newspaper articles that can help us share the story of Eastwood. If you are interested in learning more or sharing your home on the 25th Annual Historic Home Tour, please contact Erin Overhouse Locke at everhouse@gmail.com.

EASTWOOD

CIVIC ASSOCIATION



25TH ANNUAL HISTORIC HOME TOUR

OCTOBER 21-22, 2023

EastwoodCivicAssociation.org

CALL FOR CONTENT

BY KYLE ROGERS, ECA SECRETARY (WOODLEIGH)

Oh, hello again, I wanted to thank you for browsing the Eastwood Voice. I also need to thank my compatriots Mark Cooper, Steve Parker and all the contributors for helping relaunch what we're hoping will be a quarterly newsletter this year. In our next issue we're hoping for YOUR input. Do you have an idea for an article? Are you trying to add "published author" to your résumé? Is your spouse turning a milestone age and you want to announce it? Quinceña? Anniversary? Professional accomplishment? Is your school or organization holding a Cinco de Mayo party? Let us know. Do you think a neighbor or business

in the area is worthy of a profile? We're interested. Basically we want you to lead us to the neighborhood news you want to know. So please, send us ideas, contributions, pictures, anything helps.

Lastly, along with creating this newsletter, we also need assistants to hand it out. In that effort, we are hoping to find folks that could act as "block captains" and drop papers off in your neighbors' mailboxes.

If you have anything or can contribute in anyway we would love to hear from you at:

info@EastwoodCivicAssociation.org

Until next time . . .

CALENDAR

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 2/1 | Junk Waste Pick-up (East of Lockwood) |
| 2/3 | Junk Waste Pick-up (West of Lockwood) |
| 2/6 | 6:30 pm - ECA General Membership meeting (Cape Center/Zoom) |
| 2/21 | 6:00-7:00 pm - Police Dept Positive Interaction Program meeting (2202 St Emanuel) |
| 3/1 | Tree Waste Pick-up (East of Lockwood) |
| 3/3 | Tree Waste Pick-up (West of Lockwood) |
| 3/6 | Time TBD - ECA General Membership meeting (Cape Center/Zoom) |
| 3/21 | 6:00-7:00 pm - Police Dept. PIP meeting (2202 St Emanuel) |
| 3/25 | 10:30 am-12:30 pm Spring Clean - neighborhood clean-up |
| 4/5 | Junk Waste Pick-up (East of Lockwood) |
| 4/6 | LAST DAY to REGISTER to VOTE in May 6 Election |
| 4/7 | Junk Waste Pick-up (West of Lockwood) |
| 4/18 | 6:00-7:00 pm - Police Dept. PIP meeting (2202 St Emanuel) |
| 4/20 | 6:30-8:30pm - Spring Fiesta (Park Drive esplanade) |
| 4/24 - 5/2 | IN-PERSON EARLY VOTING |
| 4/25 | Last day to request Ballot by Mail |
| 5/1 | Time TBD - General Membership meeting (Cape Center/Zoom) |
| 5/6 | ELECTION DAY - Last Day to Receive Mail-in Ballots |
| ONGOING | |
| Sun. | 10:00 am to 2:00 pm - East End Street Market on Navigation Esplanade |

JUNK & TREE WASTE

WWW.HOUSTONTX.GOV/SOLIDWASTE/TREEWASTE.HTML

Tree Waste is defined as "clean" wood waste such as tree limbs, branches, and stumps. Lumber, furniture, and treated wood will NOT be accepted.

January, March, May, July, September, & November
Junk Waste is defined as items such as furniture, appliances, and other bulky material.

February, April, June, August, October, & December
Tree Waste is accepted during Junk Waste Months; however, to ensure your Tree Waste is recycled, you may hold your tree waste materials until the next Tree Waste designated month or take it to a Neighborhood Depository/Recycling Center.

Junk Waste may NOT be placed for collection during a Tree Waste month.

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