



MEDIA CONTACTS:

Lindsey Thomas (lindsey@vollmerpr.com)
Lauren Walters (Lauren@vollmerpr.com)
VOLLMER
713-970-2100

Delia Mizwa (dmizwa@uptown-houston.com)
Uptown Houston District
713-621-2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE NEW WEST LOOP SOUTHBOUND OPENS 08.01.04

***Delivers Improved Main Lanes, Frontage Roads,
New Entrances and Exits***

HOUSTON (July 29, 2004) – ***Coming soon*** – West Loop commuters and those who live, work and shop in Uptown Houston will experience a new and improved way to travel. On Sunday, August 1 (**08.01.04**), the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will open the new West Loop southbound from Post Oak Boulevard to US 59-Southwest Freeway.

“The progress that has been made on the West Loop is remarkable. In fact, we are pleased to report that we are 19 days ahead of schedule on this particular project,” said Clifford Halvorsen, area engineer for TxDOT. “But most of all, we are thrilled to bring drivers simplified commutes, improved access and shortened drive times.”

Improved main lanes and frontage roads combined with new entrances and exits will ease congestion by providing commuters with more choices and more efficient ways to reach their intended destinations. Furthermore, the new West Loop southbound was reconstructed in such a way that its new frontage roads, entrances and exits – termed ***HOT LINKS*** by Uptown Houston – provide direct access into and out of Uptown Houston and other surrounding areas without use of the West Loop southbound main lanes.

“One of our top priorities is to improve accessibility to Uptown Houston and the completion of the West Loop southbound puts us one step closer to becoming one of the most convenient and accessible locations in the city,” said John Breeding, Uptown Houston District president.

- more -

THE NEW SOUTHBOUND WEST LOOP OPENS 08.01.04/add 1

The most noticeable changes to the West Loop southbound that commuters will experience include:

- **New and improved West Loop main lanes**
- **Continuous southbound frontage roads** under US 59-Southwest Freeway enable drivers to access Bellaire and surrounding areas from Uptown Houston without having to enter the West Loop main lanes
- **New Westheimer and Hidalgo exits** provide direct access into Uptown Houston and to The Galleria from West Loop southbound main lanes
- **New Westheimer and West Alabama entrance** provides exclusive access to either the West Loop or the Southwest Freeway, bypassing the 610/59 Interchange
- **New Uptown Park Boulevard** entrance to West Loop southbound
- **Reconfigured Post Oak Boulevard and San Felipe exits** to Uptown Houston
- **Reconfigured San Felipe entrance** to West Loop southbound

TxDOT ensured quality work and faster completion of West Loop southbound by using a significant disincentive program. As a result, southbound West Loop was finished 19 days ahead of schedule.

For more information regarding the West Loop reconstruction, visit www.uptown-houston.com or contact the Uptown Houston District at (713) 621-2011 or TxDOT at (713) 802-5074.

About Uptown Houston

Created in 1987, the Uptown Houston District occupies 500 acres in the heart of the Uptown Houston/Galleria area and provides a variety of services and improvements for the area including traffic operations, public maintenance and beautification, infrastructure improvements, economic development and marketing. The mission of the District is to continually refine and enhance its unparalleled amenities and exceptional beauty by improving accessibility, enhancing identity and sustaining the vibrant community that is Uptown Houston.

###