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UPTOWN TIRZ #16 BUDGET RECEIVES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL

Dedicated Bus Lanes Project Proceeds - Construction Expected to Begin This Summer

Houston, TX, Wednesday, January 28, 2015 -- Houston City Council today unanimously approved the FY-2015 Uptown TIRZ #16 budget, which is composed of capital improvements approved by City Council as part of the Uptown TIRZ #16 Project Plan. Major areas of expenditures include:

- **Core Mobility Projects** - Westbriar, Hollyhurst, Hallmark, Signals and Intersections, as well as Tanglewood Park and the Park on San Felipe.
- **Memorial Park Projects** - Memorial Park Master Plan, Bayou Bend Bridge repair, Seymour Leiberman Jogging Trail, new 12" water line, local funding for the City of Houston's grant application for a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over Buffalo Bayou.
- **Uptown Dedicated Bus Lanes Project (Uptown DBL):** A system designed to connect workers to Uptown via Houston's highly successful HOV network. Additionally, the project includes the construction of dedicated bus lanes in the expanded median of Post Oak Boulevard.

The Uptown DBL addresses the greatest challenge facing Uptown - traffic congestion and the lack of effective commuter transit service. The area's 80,000 employees have no commuter transit options.

"We are delighted that the Mayor and City Council passed the Uptown TIRZ's budget. Uptown's signature street, Post Oak Boulevard is ready for a major transformation," said John Breeding, President, Uptown Houston District. "We have an opportunity to address this need while ensuring that all Houstonians and visitors to our city can easily access Uptown and enjoy Post Oak Boulevard, a grand boulevard which will rank among the world's most exquisite. We are eager to get started."

Increasing ridership on the new Uptown DBL will improve mobility on the most congested freeway in the state, the West Loop. As mobility on the West Loop improves, east / west streets that load the West Loop, like Woodway, San Felipe, Westheimer and Richmond, will also begin to see improved mobility. Motorists will have the option of leaving the streets and congested freeway behind by joining commuters on convenient exclusive bus lanes that connect Uptown to METRO's highly successful busway and park and ride network in the northwest, west and southwest corridors.

As the area's major artery, the rebuilding of Post Oak Boulevard has always been an integral part of the original Uptown Houston Capital Improvement Program. The Uptown TIRZ will rebuild Post Oak Boulevard while preserving the existing automobile access, substantially improving transit service and creating a beautifully landscaped pedestrian environment. Its signature arches, rings, streetlights and flowers will be maintained, while the Boulevard's street trees will triple in number to more than 1,000 trees lining the thoroughfare. Pedestrians will also enjoy wider sidewalks, lighting and landscaping.

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