



## memorial examiner - news

### University light rail requires 23 more acres: report

By

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The light rail alignment for Metro's University route will require the acquisition of about 23 acres of land, much of it along Richmond Avenue, according to the final environmental impact study on the project.

"Potential acquisitions and displacement are expected at signalized intersections and at some transit stations," the report said. "Every transit station located on the street will have a traffic signal. Additional right of way will be needed to accommodate left-turn lanes at key signalized intersections."

The document shows the project will have an impact on 212 parcels of land, and 168 relocations of businesses and residences will be required.

Along Richmond Avenue, affected properties extend from roughly the 400 block to the 3800 block.

In all, the study said there will be seven "full acquisitions" along the route. A breakdown by property type shows 103 commercial, 56 residential, 1 religious, 18 mixed-use, 14 governmental and 20 vacant properties affected.

Relocation would be required at 100 commercial, 30 residential and 38 mixed-use locations.

Full acquisitions for properties in the Examiner areas are planned at 1201 Richmond, which contains Talk of the Town magazine store and at 901 and 903 Richmond — Sedition book store and a vacant adjoining property that formerly housed the Proletariat bar.

The 11.3-mile line University line will have 19 stations from the Hillcroft Transit Center to the Eastwood Transit Center. It is estimated to cost \$1.3 billion by Metro.

The study is required as the Metropolitan Transit Authority moves to obtain federal financing. A favorable decision on funding, expected in April, would clear Metro to begin utility relocations, appraise affected properties and negotiate with purchases of land.

"We are now at the point where we will refine the alignment and further define the right of way required to implement the project," said Kimberly Slaughter, Metro associate vice president of planning. "As the project advances, Metro will work directly with owners and tenants of those impacted properties."

If all goes as planned by Metro, groundbreaking on certain components of preparatory utility work could begin during the year.

In the Examiner area, the plan for partial land acquisitions would require the following relocations:

Nine businesses, including Hunan Chef II, Healing Hands Massage, Kolache Factory and Verizon Wireless at a strip shopping center at 3809 Southwest Freeway;

23 residential dwellings in four buildings at the Mount Vernon apartments, 4301 Mount Vernon St.

16 businesses at a strip shopping center from 2111 to 2115 Richmond, including the Davenport tavern (this includes 3601 to 3607 Sandman Ave. addresses);

Eight small businesses at 2045 Richmond;



Acquisition of strip mall land at 3809 Southwest Freeway would require moving nine businesses.

Six businesses between 2205 and 2213 Richmond, including Azteca's Margarita Bar & Grill;

Six small businesses between 2219 and 2227 Richmond.

To see the engineer's drawings or a list of affected properties, visit [www.examinernews.com](http://www.examinernews.com), click on West U Examiner, then click on the link at the end of this article.

For the engineer's drawings as provided in the federal environmental impact study, visit [www.hcnonline.com/pdf/universityline.pdf](http://www.hcnonline.com/pdf/universityline.pdf). For properties affected the project, visit [www.hcnonline.com/pdf/propertyList.pdf](http://www.hcnonline.com/pdf/propertyList.pdf).

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