

Light Rail and University Campuses

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Examples and Information

METRO is currently developing plans for the University Light Rail Line that will connect the University of Houston, Texas Southern University, and The University of St. Thomas to Houston's transit backbone which will grant access to Downtown, Rice University, the Medical Center, the Galleria, Greenway Plaza, and the neighborhoods, businesses, and restaurants in between. In the interest of providing the decision makers with the most information, we have collected the following list of links to illustrate the advantages to integrating our universities into our transit system and to give some examples of successful implementations across the country.

UNIVERSITIES AND TRANSIT IN GENERAL

<http://tinyurl.com/s3g5p>

Includes a list of North American cities that serve university campuses with Light Rail Transit.

<http://tinyurl.com/qtxuo>

Christof Spieler's post on how to serve universities with transit.

<http://tinyurl.com/o7g9l>

"The Business Case for Commuter Benefits at Colleges and Universities." Discusses issues such as parking versus transit costs by juxtaposing construction of parking spaces and cost of transit service per commuter. Also cites environmental leadership and employee satisfaction as benefits.

<http://tinyurl.com/pz8k6>

A 4 page EPA case study of how transit at Cornell saved the University \$40 million. Includes University programs that promote use of transit to reduce demand for transportation infrastructure and avoid building more parking garages, among other goals. Also has links to similar programs.

SAN DIEGO

<http://tinyurl.com/lu8xz>

The San Diego State University stop is the system's only underground stop. San Diego State University President Stephen Weber notes that the LRT stop is "critical to the university's plan to accommodate more students over the next few years." President Weber credits the LRT stop with strengthening access for the campus, avoiding isolation.

<http://tinyurl.com/nvccv>

Instead of a "commuter campus," SDSU's multi-modal transit station has helped create a "community campus." The university plans to gain 12,000 students, and due to the trolley, will not need to add parking for 20-25 years, and instead have a surplus in spaces.

LOS ANGELES

<http://tinyurl.com/sypov>

A light rail line will go southwest from downtown Los Angeles to Culver City and eventually reach Santa Monica. University of Southern California is fighting for the rail line to be built underground as it reaches the campus, saying that rail would dissolve campus unity and compromise its green space.

DALLAS

<http://tinyurl.com/ocvrf>

The University of Dallas envisions its light rail stop to anchor development for the community and university. This link outlines the vision for the stop including the physical plan, station design, technical aspects, and economic analysis.

SALT LAKE CITY

<http://tinyurl.com/pm88e>

"U of U Students Create Public Art Alongside South Salt Lake City TRAX Line." University of Utah painting and drawing students painted two large-scale public murals to "bond the community" and beautify the TRAX corridor.

<http://tinyurl.com/lfljy>

The University of Utah has experienced rapid growth in enrollment and staff, but "light rail quickly reduced parking needs at the university." Plans have now shifted to building classrooms on some of the old parking lots.

PORTLAND

<http://tinyurl.com/pg8e8>

Portland State University is an urban campus with nearly 30,000 students. Since the TriMet MAX Blue Line began running through the campus, 38% of the students use public transit to reach campus.

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