

## NHA Addresses Texas Transportation Commission

A number of North Houston Association representatives traveled to Austin recently to advocate for two major highway projects deemed as priorities for the north Houston region.

Sen. Jon Lindsay, NHA president, addressed the Texas Transportation Commission at its August meeting regarding the Downtown Connector.

He emphasized the importance of the Downtown Connector to Houston's economic development as well as transportation needs.

The proposed Connector, also known as the Hardy Toll Road Connector, will link north Houston with downtown by extending the Hardy Toll Road from Loop 610 into downtown.

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) did not agree to allocate funds to the project in its 1998 Unified Transportation Plan (UTP), but TxDOT's District Engineer Gary Trietsch, P.E., said there is strong support in Austin for the project and TxDOT's participation.

According to Trietsch in a recent letter, "There are still some questions on how TxDOT could handle our funding participation. I believe these questions can be resolved in the coming months."

"It is my belief that this project will likely be approved next year," he continues. "I believe these questions can be resolved in the coming months."

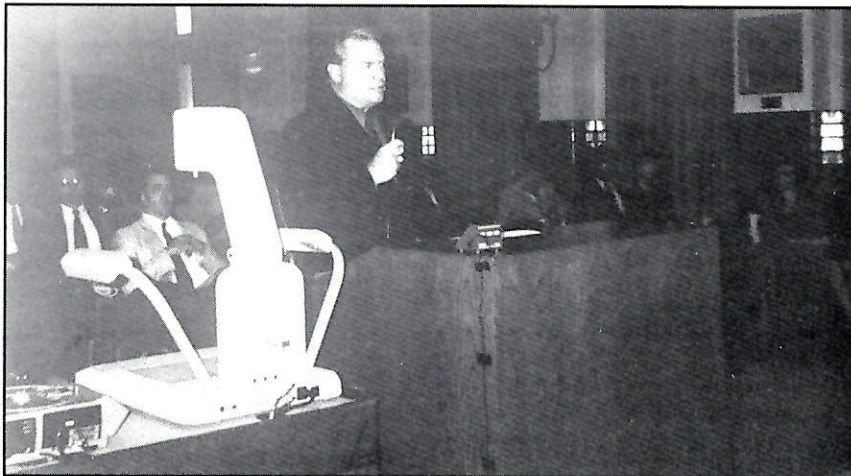
Trietsch states he believes the project will likely be approved in 1999,

for these engineering services.

Regarding specific alignment, the first effort will be to negotiate right of way with Union Pacific's existing rail lines from Loop 610 into the I-10/U.S. 59 interchange, according to Paul Celauro, senior partner, Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation.

The design phase should take about 18 months, and the construction stage should also take 18 months, making the total time line for the project approximately three years.

The \$30 - \$40 million price tag will be shared by HCTRA, TxDOT and the city of Houston. HCTRA and TxDOT will each pick  
*(Continued on next page)*



*Chip Hamilton, president, McCord Development, speaks to the Texas Transportation Commission regarding funding for the Beltway 8/U.S. 59 interchange.*

and suggests that the Harris County Toll Road Authority (HCTRA) begin working on the preliminary engineering/schematic and environmental for the project to demonstrate a high level of commitment at the local level.

As a result of this letter, Wesley Freise, P.E., executive director of HCTRA, recently asked Harris County's Commissioners' Court for approval to begin engineering for the project.

This will include environmental analysis, preliminary engineering and schematics. Harris County Commissioners' Court approved this recommendation and allowed HCTRA to enter into negotiation with NHA member Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation

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## **NHA-TMO Educates Seniors on Transportation Options**

The North Houston Association Transportation Management Organization (NHA-TMO) recently hosted a meeting to educate senior adults on their transportation options.

"Metro has extremely good services," said NHA President, Sen. Jon Lindsay. "It's just a matter of introducing people to Metro's services so they'll use them."

Lindsay welcomed the lunch crowd of about 130 at the Doss Community Center.

Harris County Commissioner Jerry Eversole introduced dignitaries present, including Metro's Board Member Yolanda Black Navarro.

Navarro said that the agency currently has more than 1,300 buses and plans are to increase that number to 1,600 in the next four years.

Metro representative Vance Ratliff spoke about the agency's services, including the free lifetime bus pass for those more than 70 years of age. The pass is free, once a \$2 identification card processing fee is paid.

Catherine Wray, executive director, announced to the audience that the NHA-TMO will pay for the \$2 processing fee for those who applied that day.

As a result, more than 95 people decided to obtain their bus passes before they left the event.

The "Discover Metro" bus was on hand so seniors could get on the bus and learn where to place their identification cards when boarding.

"This event was free to all seniors, thanks to our many sponsors," said Staci Adams, TMO projects coordinator.

Sponsors of the event were Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, Brown & Root, Carter & Burgess, Champion Realty Corporation, Greater Greenspoint District, HL&P, Humble Area Chamber of Commerce, Hyatt Regency Houston Airport, JNS Consulting Engineers, Inc., LJA Engineering & Surveying, Inc., Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc., Montgomery & Associates, PBS&J Corporation, Southwestern Bell, Swift Energy Company, The Woodlands Operating Company, L.P., Turner Collie & Braden, Inc., Wolff Companies and the Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel.



*This fall topiary was one of the door prizes given away at the Doss event.*



*Seniors got their Metro identification cards made on-site at the transportation options luncheon.*

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***Metro has extremely good services. It's just a matter of introducing people to Metro's services so they'll use them.***

**- Sen. Jon Lindsay, NHA President**

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# NHA Fourth Annual Tournament a Success

More than 140 community leaders and public officials hit the greens in August at NHA's Fourth Annual Golf Tournament.

"The tournament was a great success," said Bobby Adams, tournament chairman. "I appreciate everyone's participation."

The annual fundraiser brought in \$22,000 to support Association programs and projects.

The tournament's honorary chairmen were Harris County Commissioner Jerry Eversole and Montgomery County Judge Alan Sadler.

Compaq Computer Corporation was the tournament's gold underwriter for the second year in a row, and Houston Lighting & Power was the silver underwriter for the first time. Southwestern Bell stepped up as the bronze underwriter.

Participating public officials included Jim Adams, San Jacinto River Authority, Charles Bacarisse, Harris County District Clerk, Council Member Ray Driscoll, city of Houston, state Sen. Jon Lindsay and Warren Driver, Tomball city manager.

Golfers braved the heat as they warmed up at the driving range after registration was complete. They were all hoping to win the "Hole-in-One" prize - a 1998 Buick Riviera - donated by DeMontrond Automotive Group.

Unfortunately, no one won the new car, but a number of golfers went home with prizes.

Klein Bank won first place team, and get to display the winner's trophy at their office until the next tournament.

Second place team went to JNS Consulting Engineers, Inc. and LJA Engineering & Surveying, Inc. took third.

There were a number of course contests to be won as well. Mark Froehlich

and John Mays won the Chipping Contest, and Fred Caldwell won the Putting Contest. The Longest Drive prize went to Craig Thompson, and Monte Schauer was Closest to the Pin.

The tournament dinner also served as the annual meeting of the North Houston Association membership.

At this meeting, Jim Royer, Turner Collie & Braden, Inc. agreed to remain chairman of the board for another year. Bob Moore, Compaq Computer Corporation, agreed to serve an additional term as vice-chairman, and James Curry, Hines Interests Limited Partnership, agreed to continue his work as secretary/treasurer of the board.

In addition to this renewal of terms, two new board members, Martin Basaldua, M.D., Methodist Health Services and Mark Froehlich, P.E., Pate Engineers were elected. (see related story)

Association staff and membership took this opportunity to thank former NHA Executive Director, Marlisa Stanley, for her four years of service. Due to an addition to her family, Stanley has decided to step down as executive director. She now serves as a part-time staff member, as director of public relations. In this capacity, she writes press releases, edits the newsletter and handles all NHA communications. ■

## 1998 Major Underwriters

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Compaq Computer Corporation

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## Features

### WE WON FIRST PLACE! KLEIN BANK



### SECOND PLACE JNS CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.



### THIRD PLACE LJA ENGINEERING & SURVEYING, INC.



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## **NHA Welcomes Three New Members**

Three companies have joined the ranks of NHA membership in the last quarter: McCord Development Communities, L.P., Methodist Health Services and Perry Homes.

McCord Development Communities, L.P. is a Houston-based firm whose team of land development specialists has more than 100 years of collective experience in establishing premier residential communities.

Summerwood is McCord Development's newest endeavor in residential development. McCord Development began planning Summerwood in 1986, recognizing that its 1,500 acres of forest land on Beltway 8 were ideal for a community which provides a new gateway to the city's northern corridor. This unique community prides itself on offering exceptional convenience to Houston's major business centers, while providing a spectacular dedication to nature. All this is coupled with one of Houston's top school districts for a premier master-

planned community.

Recent projects include the acquisition of an additional 1,800 acres of land located south of Summerwood. This land will be utilized for further expansion of the already successful community of Summerwood, with more emphasis on commercial and industrial development.

Methodist Health Services also recently joined the ranks of NHA membership, and its CEO, Martin Basaldua, M.D. is a new NHA board member.

Methodist Health Services/Methodist Medical Group (MHS/MMG), a physician group and Independent Physician Association in partnership with Methodist Health Care System, is a physician-owned and governed health care delivery organization. MHS/MMG distinguishes itself in the evolving health care marketplace as an advocate of physician leadership. MHS/MMG is committed to providing quality health care to its patients - through the personal attention of its physicians and

their staff and effective management of its managed health care plans.

Methodist Medical Group has a primary care physician office in Kingwood and operates an Independent Physician Organization, which includes physicians throughout north Houston including Porter, Cleveland, Conroe, Tomball, Cypress Fairbanks, and The Woodlands.

Perry Homes joined NHA in October. Perry Homes was organized in 1967 by Bob J. Perry. The builder constructs and sells single-family homes in Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth and San Antonio. Homes are typically priced for the first and second time move-up buyer.

Perry is currently doing subdivision lot development in Waterford Park off FM 1960 at Terrace Oaks and in Silverglen at Spears Road and T.C. Jester. In addition to these two subdivisions, the builder is building homes in three other subdivisions in the NHA service area: Copper Village, Coles Crossing and Lakewood Crossing. ■

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## **NHA Elects Two New Board Members**

The North Houston Association (NHA) elected two new Board members at its recent annual membership meeting: Martin Basaldua, M.D., chairman and CEO, Methodist Health Services, LLC and Mark Froehlich, P.E., project manager, Pate Engineers, Inc.

Methodist Health Services manages a physician practice and capitation management company affiliated with the Methodist Health Care System comprising 325 physicians throughout Houston. In addition to his leadership position with Methodist Health Services, Basaldua is a family practice physician in Kingwood and is on active staff at a number of area hospitals: Columbia Kingwood Medical Center, The Methodist Hospital and Northeast Medical Center Hospital. He was recently appointed to serve on two boards by Gov. George W. Bush: the

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Strategic Economic Development Planning Commission. Basaldua co-founded Kingwood Plaza Hospital and founded the American Heart Association's Northeast Harris County Chapter, and is active in the Humble Area Chamber of Commerce, Kingwood High School's Athletic Department, and Kingwood Place West Community Association. He also served as a Board Trustee of the North Harris Montgomery Community College District for six years.

Froehlich has been employed at Pate Engineers since 1994. He currently serves on the North Houston Association's Environment Committee, is past chairman of the Association's Transportation Committee and past chairman of the 1995 Mobility Update Committee. He received NHA's

Compass Award in 1995 for his work as chairman of the committee that produced the 1995 Mobility Update. He has more than 21 years of experience in the areas of project management, utility district engineering, municipal utility design engineering, site development engineering, subdivision design engineering and roadway design engineering. Froehlich is a native Houstonian and is currently a director for the Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 186 and represents his district on the Copperfield Joint Operating Board, which operates the area's regional wastewater treatment plant. He is currently in his second term as congregational president at Epiphany Lutheran Church and is a Harris County Master Gardener. Froehlich regularly speaks to area garden clubs about various horticultural subjects. ■



### Economic Development Committee

The 1998 North Houston Association Aerial Land Use Map is now available for purchase at the NHA office. (See related story on page 2 for details.)

Kent Dussair, CDS Market Research, has been elected as co-chairman of the Economic Development Committee. He shares his chairmanship with Ray Laughter, North Harris Montgomery Community College District.

Laughter is currently organizing a Workforce Development Committee for the Association. If you would like more information, contact the NHA office.

Committee member Dr. Martin Basaldua, Methodist Health Services, has been appointed by Governor Bush to be part of the Texas Strategic Economic Development Commission. The purpose of the committee is to chart the economic development for the state in the years to come. In its work, the committee has held public hearings throughout the state and has met with state legislators. The commission will report its findings and issue a report in the near future. Dr. Basaldua will provide NHA's Economic Development Committee with a copy of the report.

The Economic Development Committee is currently setting goals for 1999. If you would like to provide input, plan

to attend the next committee meeting.

### Environment Committee

With the 1999 Legislative Session on the horizon, NHA President, Sen. Jon Lindsay, gave NHA's Environment Committee the opportunity to preview and comment on legislation aimed at creating a regional water authority to manage water resources in north Houston. The committee will continue to have communication with Lindsay as the session begins.

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) has asked NHA to assign a representative to its newly-formed "Ad Hoc Work Group" to address issues relating to its Regulatory Guidance Document for Implementation of Texas Water Quality Certification Rules. Alan Potok (immediate past chairman of the Environment Committee), Turner Collie & Braden, Inc., represents NHA on the group, and Alex Sutton, The Woodlands Operating Company, serves as the alternate.

At its September meeting, the committee received an update on landfill permits from Stephanie Bergeron, aide to Sen. Lindsay. She reported that the Senate Natural Resource Committee is meeting to discuss the draft recommendations for criteria for siting solid waste facilities in the Municipal Solid Waste

Program.

The Environment Committee continues to monitor the progress of Harris County's draft Regulations for Development Projects. Once the regulations are released, the committee will make comment.

### Grand Parkway Committee

The Grand Parkway Committee has been folded into the Transportation Committee, and will be treated as a sub-committee of that committee, now that all preliminary work has been accomplished.

### Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee has already set its goals for 1999, and has received approval from the NHA Board of Directors to move forward in completing those goals.

Briefly, the committee's 1999 goals include: continue to keep the public informed on transportation issues through the Association's Mobility Update; continue to monitor progress of Airport Connectors projects; assist Harris County, Precinct Four and Montgomery County in realizing their objectives regarding the road projects approved in their 1997 Bond Referendums; monitor the progress of negotiations for the Grand Parkway and assist where needed; communicate information on transportation issues to NHA's membership, public agencies and area chambers of commerce; monitor the progress of I-69; monitor legislative issues which affect transportation in north Houston; monitor ongoing design standard revisions being made by the city of Houston and Harris County; and conduct an annual review of the city of Houston's Major Thoroughfare Plan.

At the November 11 committee meeting, speakers will be from Metro: Board Member J. Kent Adams, Director of Planning John Sedlak, and Director of Engineering Dan Penaloza. ■



NHA President, Sen. Jon Lindsay listens to comments from NHA's Environment Committee regarding his draft water legislation. From left are committee members David Parkhill, Brown & Root, Inc., Bob Boozer, HNTB Corporation, Sen. Jon Lindsay, and Bob Jones, Jones & Carter, Inc.



## Upcoming Events

### NHA Committee Meetings

#### Transportation

The Transportation Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. on November 11, December 23 and January 27 in the Greenspoint Conference Center (16825 Northchase Dr., Ste. 100). Contact the NHA office to RSVP.

#### Environment

The Environment Committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. on November 12, December 10 and January 14 in the Greenspoint Conference Center. Contact the NHA office to RSVP.

#### Economic Development

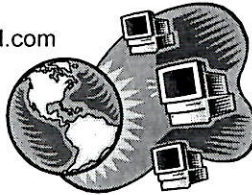
The Economic Development Committee will meet at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, November 16 in the Greenspoint Conference Center (16825 Northchase Dr., Ste. 100). Contact the NHA office to RSVP.

#### Board of Directors

The Board of Directors will meet November 3, December 1 and January 5 at 7:30 a.m. at The Greenspoint Club. Contact the NHA office if you are a board member and are unable to attend.

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to **Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation, Greater Greenspoint District and JNS Consulting Engineers, Inc.** for their generous underwriting of this issue of "NHA VISION."



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