
Four new lines for Houston

HOUSTON Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) has unanimously approved a \$US 1.46 billion contract for four new light rail lines, which would add 32km to the city's 11km starter line.

MTA has awarded Parsons Transportation Group a design-build-operate-maintain (DBOM) contract for planned East End, Southeast, North, and Uptown lines. Veolia will act as operations and maintenance contractor.

MTA intends to spend \$US 632 million on the initial phase of the project, primarily on the

\$US 390 million East End Line.

CAF, Spain has been awarded the \$US 320 million contract to supply and maintain 103 low-floor LRVs, with an initial \$US 118 million order for 29 LRVs, 19 of which will operate on the existing line with the remaining 10 destined for the East End Line. Deliveries will commence in 2012.

MTA president and CEO Mr Frank Wilson said the total cost of the contract was below the \$US 1.57 billion estimate the agency gave to the Federal Transit Administration last year.