

**DALLAS COUNTY JUDGE CLAY LEWIS JENKINS**

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May 19, 2016
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May 19, 2016

Chairman Daniel R. Elliott III
Vice Chairman Deb Miller
Member Ann D. Begeman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Finance Docket No. 36025

Dear Chairman Elliott and Surface Transportation Board Members:

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed high-speed rail project that would connect Texas' two major population centers, North Texas and Houston.

A private, Texas-based company, Texas Central has already invested millions of dollars towards bringing a high-speed rail option to our part of the country. Texas continues to experience rapid population growth and additional resources will be required to meet the infrastructure needs of our growing state. Dallas County is home to more than 2.5 million people, or nearly 10% of the state's population. As our population and economy continue to boom, planning and supporting infrastructure projects that will accommodate future residents and economic activity is among my top priorities.

The high-speed rail project presents an important, unique opportunity to leverage private sector investment to connect our community with Texas' other top 10 economic engine, Houston. Additionally, by connecting with existing and planned rail services serving Tarrant County and beyond, the Dallas high-speed rail station will make possible additional transportation alternatives that support our air quality, mobility, economic development and transportation goals.

For these reasons, Dallas County supports this project's development and recognizes it as an important part of our region, megaregion and our state's multimodal transportation network. And because this system would connect two large and growing metro areas that are not currently served by passenger rail, this high-speed train project is of great significance to Texas and also to the interstate passenger rail network.

Furthermore, I recognize that Texas law governs how Texas Central can acquire property and acknowledge that they must comply with all applicable laws. Texas Central has committed to not take physical possession of any land through condemnation until after the Surface Transportation

Board (STB) issues a final order approving construction. Since there is no state equivalent to the STB, all other private railroads in Texas fall under this same jurisdiction.

I encourage you to confirm jurisdiction over this project as part of the interstate rail network and move to expedite your review of the Texas Central petition so Texas and the nation can move forward.

Sincerely,



Clay Lewis Jenkins
Dallas County Judge

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that I have served all parties of record in this proceeding with this document by United States mail or by email.

Clay Jenkins
Dallas County Judge

May 20, 2016