



**JASON VILLALBA**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 114

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May 23, 2016

Chairman Daniel R. Elliot 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 Elliot and Surface Transportation Board Members:

On behalf of the Transportation Advocacy Group – Dallas Region, an organization comprised of more than 150 individuals, representing scores of local businesses, nonprofits and special purpose districts who have united to ensure adequate funding of Dallas's transportation infrastructure, I am pleased to endorse and do fully support the proposed high-speed rail project that will connect North Texas to Houston in less than 90 minutes.

The need for more alternatives for travel between North Texas and Houston is a growing concern in the business community. Estimates show the automobile travel time between the two economic powerhouses will increase to over 6.5 hours in the next 20 years. This train will play an important role in the state's transportation network and help complete the country's interstate passenger railway network, which currently does not connect Houston and North Texas.

Among the many reasons we support this project:

- This project is being developed by a Texan-led, Texas-based private company employing a market-led approach.
- It is projected to generate a direct economic impact of \$36 billion to local and state economies over the next 25 years.



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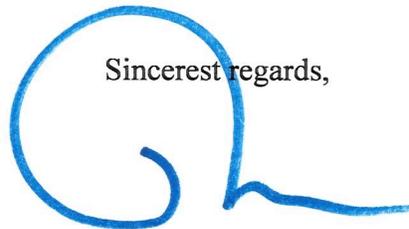
Capitol Office: Room E2.404 • P.O. Box 2910 • Austin, Texas 78768-2910 • (512) 463-0576 • (512) 463-7827 Fax  
District Office: 10210 North Central Expressway, Suite 220 • Dallas, Texas 75231 • (214) 363-8700 • (214) 363-8701 Fax

- The state and taxing entities along the proposed route would receive an estimated \$2.5 billion in taxes over 25 years from Texas Central because of the new infrastructure, including three new passenger stations and other facilities.
- This project will create an estimated 40,000 jobs over the four-year peak construction period, plus 1,000 permanent highly skilled jobs to support the railroad's operations when it is in full service.
- The technology being deployed is the world's safest high-speed rail technology – the N700-I total bullet system, which boasts a flawless 50-year safety history in Japan.

We are excited to support the first true high-speed passenger rail system in the United States – a transportation infrastructure project of national importance that will provide a safe, reliable and convenient travel alternative between North Texas and Houston.

This project is good for Texas and 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

Sincerest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Jason Villalba  
Texas State Representative  
House District 114

CC: Parties of Record