

240785



ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 26, 2016
Part of
Public Record

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 support for the proposed high-speed rail project that would connect the Houston and the Dallas metropolitan regions.

A private, Texas-based company, Texas Central has invested millions of dollars toward bringing a high-speed rail option to our part of the country. Texas continues to experience rapid population growth and additional infrastructure will be required to meet the transportation needs of our growing state.

The high-speed rail project provides a unique opportunity to leverage private sector investment to connect Houston with Dallas. Additionally, by locating the Houston high-speed rail station adjacent to existing and planned rail services in surrounding areas, the station will serve as a hub connecting additional transportation alternatives that support our air quality, mobility, and economic development goals.

For these reasons, I support development of the high-speed rail project and suggest that it is an important part of our state's multimodal transportation network. This system will connect two large and growing metropolitan areas currently not connected by passenger rail. I encourage you to confirm jurisdiction over this project as part of the interstate rail network and expedite your review of the Texas Central petition. This high-speed train project is of great significance to Texas and also to the interstate passenger rail network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Emmett".

Ed Emmett
Harris County Judge



I certify that I have this day served copies of document upon all parties of record in this proceeding, by U.S. mail

Barbara G. Koslov

Barbara G. Koslov
Transportation Policy Advisor
Office of Judge Ed Emmett

May 19, 2016
May 19, 2016