



April 7, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Garcia
Texas Senator, District 6
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Senator Garcia:

On behalf of the Bay Area Houston Transportation Partnership (BayTran) Board of Directors and membership, I am writing to let you know of our support for the proposed Texas Central High-Speed Railway project planned to operate between the City of Houston and City of Dallas. BayTran is the Transportation Management Organization for the Houston Bay Area and our mission is to promote and advance all modes of transportation that enhance mobility and air-quality, reduce traffic congestion and develop positive transportation solutions for the community and the region. The proposed High-Speed rail service will connect two of the largest metropolitan areas in the state and the country with a 90-minute trip that is safe, convenient, comfortable and reliable. In addition, the high-speed rail will also help reduce congestion on already strained infrastructure, reduce carbon emissions, create thousands of jobs, and support and bolster the Texas economy.

The proposed 240 mile rail project being proposed and developed by Texas Central Railway (TCR), a private, for-profit corporation, offers travel times between Dallas and Houston that are faster than the auto and competitive with air. The project is being engineered to limit environmental and landowner impact and designed to reflect consumer demand and input. As a private development, no Texan tax dollars will be used to plan, engineer, construct or operate the high-speed rail system. The system being promoted is the N700-I Bullet based on the Tokaido Shinkansen that is currently operating in Japan with more than 50-years of completely safe operation and an average annual delay of less than one minute.

TCR has spent several years developing the project and identifying potential corridors for the high-speed rail service between Houston and Dallas. Recently, TCR narrowed its consideration to a single preferred corridor, the Utility Corridor, which closely follows existing rights of way. The Utility Corridor is best suited to meet the project's goals of providing safe, reliable, economically viable service and minimizing, to the greatest extent possible, the impact on communities and landowners.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to assess in detail the social and environmental impacts of the proposed high-speed passenger rail corridor. A Draft EIS will be prepared that will evaluate the corridor alignment and alternatives and provide the findings of the technical analysis. This document is expected to be available for review in late 2015.

BayTran encourages you to support the proposed high-speed passenger rail project and we hope you will work with TCR to promote and advance development of the high-speed rail corridor between Houston and Dallas. We ask that you oppose measures that would inhibit TCR's ability to build this line or that would limit the ability of the system to operate as an efficient and economical way to connect people for business and pleasure. The TCR high-speed rail project will be a great asset for the State, promoting economic development in the region, enhancing mobility and connectivity, and introducing innovative, state of the art technology that is a safe, reliable and efficient alternative to the auto. We look forward to getting on board in 2021.

Thank you for your support and for your leadership and dedication to our community and to the State of Texas.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Koslov". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Koslov
President
Bay Area Houston Transportation Partnership
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