



May 6, 2015

Re: Support for Texas Central Railway's proposed high-speed passenger rail between Houston and Dallas

To whom it may concern:

Texas is an economic powerhouse and has been steadily growing for more than a decade. It remains one of a handful of states without income taxes, which may partially account for the fact that Texas has done very well with both attraction and retention of business, a sign of steady, more permanent job growth.

The downside of such growth is that it worsens the traffic congestion that already exists in our big metro areas such as Houston and Dallas, especially along the I-45 corridor. The nearly 50,000 people who commute between these major metropolitan areas more than once each week will find that their commute will increase from the current four hours to seven hours within the next 20 years. Texas has a well-earned reputation for being business friendly. Hours spent in traffic on the I-45 North "parking lot" won't look very friendly for businesses that rely on rapid transportation to fuel their growth. The old adage that time is money is truer now than ever before.

Texas Central Railway's proposal to develop a high-speed passenger rail between Houston and Dallas using the Utility Corridor will help to reduce traffic congestion, create thousands of jobs, and offer a safe, efficient, and comfortable 90-minute commute. The N700-I Bullet System technology, which will be utilized, has been in operation in Japan for more than 50 years without incident. High-speed rail will be a game changer for businesses and families alike, especially as it could potentially evolve to include more stations within Texas and the rest of the country.

Texans have never backed away from a challenge. The logistics of building such a project are enormous, but the pay-off will be enormous, as well. Therefore, the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership supports Texas Central Railway's efforts to make high-speed rail a reality in Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name and title.

Bob Mitchell
President