

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

**TEXAS SECTION
RESOLUTION 16-01**

in Support of the Central Texas High-Speed Rail System

WHEREAS, The Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE Texas Section) was formed in 1913 by a group of civil engineers following a Texas Good Roads meeting in Corpus Christi, and a meeting in Dallas later that year to formally establish the organization; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the past 100 plus years, Texas civil engineers have taken a quiet undeveloped state and transformed it into an economic and technological powerhouse for the entire nation by addressing the major technological challenges of our time – primarily transportation and water facilities that will take our country well into the 21st Century; and

WHEREAS, Texas Central is a Texas-based company formed in 2009 to bring High Speed Rail (HSR) to Texas as a private-sector venture, and is focused on delivery of a HSR system connecting Dallas and Houston (DAL-HOU) using only private funding; and

WHEREAS, On June 25, 2014, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) published a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the Central Texas High-Speed Rail Corridor, with a dedicated DAL-HOU HSR system proposed by Texas Central; and

WHEREAS, Texas Central is working closely with Central Japan Railway Company, and proposes deployment of the Tokaido Shinkansen System technology on the DAL-HOU route, a technology which has operated safely for over 50 years in Japan and carries 400,000 passengers daily; and

WHEREAS, The DAL-HOU project, as proposed by Texas Central, will not require operational or maintenance subsidies, and is estimated to create 10,000 full-time construction jobs each year during the anticipated four-year construction period, and nearly 2,000 full-time jobs after the HSR system goes into revenue service, anticipated in 2022; and

WHEREAS, A strong transportation system is fundamental to Texas' quality of life and economic vitality, attracting new businesses and generating new jobs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Direction of ASCE Texas Section strongly supports the thorough environmental studies, development, construction and operation of a high-speed passenger rail system between Dallas and Houston.

Approved unanimously this 7th day of April, 2016.

Submitted by:



Audra N. Morse PhD PE, President 2015-2016
ASCE Texas Section