



June 1, 2016

Mr. Tim Keith  
Chief Executive Officer  
Texas Central Partners  
1409 S. Lamar Street, Ste. 1022  
Dallas, TX 75215

Re: Support for the proposed high-speed passenger rail service between Houston and North Texas

Dear Mr. Keith:

The North Houston Association focuses on regional challenges, endeavoring to bring about a higher quality of life for residents and businesses and to enhance economic development. Mobility, air and water quality, and development are but a few areas for which the Association identifies, advocates, and supports projects and initiatives.

In addressing the need for improved mobility regionally, the Association creates a Strategic Mobility Plan (SMP) periodically. Inside the 2013 SMP, a map is provided depicting the Association's priority projects. The SMP also addresses multiple strategies to implement, such as Alternative Commuting solutions and Regional Traffic Flow Improvements. The Association understands that mobility contributes to economic prosperity, growth, and an improved quality of life. As such, the Association's SMP delineated high-speed rail from Houston to North Texas as a Key Project (No. 20 on the map). In 2016, the project was added to the Federal Infrastructure Permitting Dashboard, a public, online portal that identifies this as a "transportation project of national significance."

The North Houston Association supports the high-speed rail project for both mobility and economic development, as specified by the following comments:

### Mobility

- High-speed rail will reduce congestion on already strained infrastructure, reducing carbon emissions.
- The project will provide an alternative to additional taxpayer-funded construction along I-45 or other routes under consideration.
- In addition to Houston and North Texas stations, Texas Central has finalized the plan to add a third stop in the Brazos Valley, allowing access to Bryan/College Station, Huntsville, Navasota, and surrounding areas.

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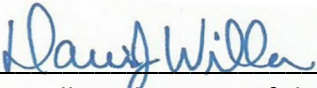
- By 2035 traffic congestion in Houston and North Texas is expected to double. The railway will connect North Texas and Houston in less than 90 minutes and be grade-separated, thereby ensuring that there are no intersections with roadways or rail tracks. Cars, trucks, 18-wheelers and motorcycles crowd I-45 between Houston and North Texas, with travel times often approaching and sometimes exceeding five hours depending on road and weather conditions. High-speed rail will be a more pleasant and productive experience for business and leisure travelers alike. For those who continue to drive, more passengers on the train mean fewer people on the highway.
- High-speed rail provides people a safe, clean and convenient alternative to driving or flying.

### **Economic Impact**

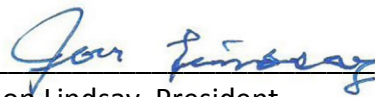
- High-speed rail connecting Houston and North Texas will aid in economic growth now and into the future for Texas. The construction and ongoing operation and maintenance of a rail system between Houston and North Texas will infuse an estimated \$36 billion over 25 years into local and state economies.
- Taxing entities along the proposed route will receive an estimated \$2.5 billion in property taxes over 25 years from Texas Central.
- This project will create 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 Houston - North Texas corridor is ideal for high-speed rail because it connects the 4th and 5th largest metropolitan areas in the country, and at a distance (240 miles) that makes rail travel faster than auto and competitive with air.
- A strong emphasis is placed on using existing rights of way as much as possible—potentially including interstates, freight rail corridors, and power and utility corridors—to minimize landowner impacts.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide support for this important proposed project.

Sincerely,



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Darrin Willer, Chairman of the Board



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Jon Lindsay, President