



**FORT BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLUTION 092116-1
IN SUPPORT OF HIGH-SPEED RAIL**

State of TEXAS

County of FORT BEND

WHEREAS, the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce is a business organization in Fort Bend County established in 1972 to represent its membership, and

WHEREAS, the Fort Bend Chamber is committed to be the advocate for business excellence and recognizes its role in identifying and establishing positions on critical issues, local, state and federal, affecting job creation, economic development and the overall vitality of the region;

WHEREAS, The Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce is comprised of over 1,300 member companies and organizations, making it the largest single-county chamber in the Houston region;

WHEREAS, The U.S. Chamber of Commerce designated the Fort Bend Chamber as an Accredited Chamber with 5-Stars for its contribution to significant positive change in the community;

WHEREAS, Its members recognize that a strong transportation system is fundamental to the region's quality of life and economic vitality, attracting new businesses and generating new jobs;

WHEREAS, The high-speed rail project will be Texan-led and privately developed, not competing for the state's limited transportation dollars;

WHEREAS, Strong economic growth and increased populations are projected in the Houston and North Texas regions over the next 20 years;

WHEREAS, The existing plus committed infrastructure for highways will be inadequate to address the increased interaction between the two regions as a result of this growth;

WHEREAS, Travel time between the Houston region and North Texas is expected to increase to 6.5 hours by the year 2035;

WHEREAS, High-speed passenger rail will provide an efficient and cost-efficient mode of transportation, traveling between the two regions in 90 minutes;

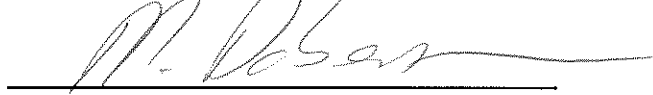
WHEREAS, The technology being deployed is the world's safest high-speed rail technology - the N700-I total bullet system, which boasts a flawless 50-year safety history in Japan;

WHEREAS, The project is projected to generate a direct impact of \$36 billion to the Texas economy over the next 25 years, creating 10,000 full-time construction jobs each year during the anticipated four-year construction period and 1,000 full-time jobs after the system goes into service; and

WHEREAS, Taxing entities along the proposed route are projected to receive an estimated \$2.5 billion from Texas Central over 25 years; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce is pleased to endorse the high-speed train project because it provides a safe, reliable and productive transportation alternative for those traveling between the Houston region and North Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 21st day of September, 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Dobert", is written over a horizontal line.

Mike Dobert, Chairman