



Houston Contractors Association

December 21, 2016

RE: Endorsement of Texas High-Speed Rail Connecting Houston and North Texas

To Whom It May Concern,

The Houston Contractors Association (HCA) is pleased to endorse the Texas high-speed train project that will connect Houston to North Texas with one stop in the Brazos Valley in less than 90 minutes. HCA represents over 400 members in the civil construction industry that performs over \$2 billion worth of work annually and forms the backbone of the industry in the greater Houston region.

The need for a transportation solution of this magnitude between the two economic hubs is a growing concern in the business community. Estimates show automobile travel time between the two rapidly growing, economic powerhouses will increase to over 6.5 hours in the next 20 years. We support this project because:

- A Texan-led, Texas-based company employing a market-led approach is developing it.
- The train will complement the state's existing transportation network without competing for limited transportation dollars, while helping prepare Texans for generations of future growth.
- 90% of the 16 million people living in the service areas will save at least 1 hour on journey times between the cities as compared to air or road travel.
- 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.
- It is projected to generate a direct impact of \$36 billion to the Texas economy over the next 25 years.
- Taxing entities along the proposed route will receive an estimated \$2.5 billion in property and sales taxes over 25 years.
- 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.

We are excited to support the first true high-speed passenger train system in the United States – a transportation infrastructure project that will provide a safe, reliable and productive travel alternative between Houston and North Texas.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Nielsen
Executive Vice President
Houston Contractors Association