

Board of Directors

Suzan Deison, President
Valerie Gibbs, Chair of the Board
Allegiance Bank of Texas
Denise Castillo-Rhodes, Immediate Past Chair
Texas Medical Center
April Bailey
Amegy Bank
Mary Anne Brelinsky
EDF Trading North America
Elizabeth Brock
CenterPoint Energy
Ann Cook
Kelsey Seybold Clinic
Janet Coy
Enbridge Energy Company, Inc.
Sara Cronin
TPC Group
Loretta Cross
Stout Risius Ross
Cris Daskevich
Texas Children's Hospital
Samina Farid
Community Leader
Leslie Farnsworth
FrogDog
Cyndy Garza Roberts
H.E.B.
Paige Gerich
BKD
Irene Helsing
Newport Board Group
Melanie Herz-Promecene
Morris
Susan Hill
Holliday Fenoglio Fowler LP
Mindy Holden
Direct Energy
Leisa Holland-Nelson
ContentActive, LLC
Kristi Hotze
CBRE
Laura Hreror
Dynegy Inc.
Dana Kervin
Houston Association of Realtors
Janine Koch
DeKorte
Toni Lawrence
Community Leader
Linda Lorelle
Lorelle Media
Karen Love
PKF Texas
Abby Ludens
Mattress Firm
Karra Marino
NRG Energy
Maryanne Maldonado
Houston Technology Center
Elizabeth Mathews
Total Petrochemical & Refining USA, Inc.
Regina Mayor
KPMG
Molly McGuirk
Alexcus Plumbing
Sallie T. Rainer
Energy Texas, Inc.
Maria Rios
Nation Waste
Ariana Smetana
artVIA
Alicia Smith
Innovative Legal Solutions
Erika Tolar
FedEx Services
Dr. Elizabeth Travis
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
Gindi Vincent
ExxonMobil
Dr. Mary Ann Wilkins
Stewart Title

Ex-Officio

Caleen Allen
Houston L.S.D.
Rhonda Arnold
Houston Airport System
Dr. Parvin Bagherpour
Houston Community College System
Marie Bergeron
Rice University
Anness Bertrand
IBC Bank
Nelda Blair
The Blair Law Firm Group, P.C.
Dr. Elizabeth Brown-Gulleroy
Texas Southern University
Linda Buchman
Spring Branch L.S.D.
LaQuita Carter
Spring ISD
Cheri Davies
Comcast
Dr. Charlotte Davis
Aldine L.S.D.
Allison Esenkova
Community Leader
Holly Gray
The Woodlands Area Economic Development Partnership
Brenda James
Clayton Personnel
Regina Johnson
British Consulate General
Karen Marshall
METRO
Kathryn Peck
Texas Heart Institute
Leila Perrin
Houston BBB
Gilda Ramirez
Port of Houston Authority
Sally Ramsey
Pierpoint Communications
Matt Ross
Ventures Marketing Group
Jania Schmees-Burke
Harris County-Houston Sports Authority
Meredith Watassek
Fort Bend ISD
Sarah Wood
Course ISD
Beth Young
Colliers International



February 1, 2017

Re: Endorsement of Texas High Speed Rail Connecting Houston and North Texas

The Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors are pleased to endorse the Texas high-speed train project that will connect Houston to North Texas in less than 90 minutes. The GHWCC Board represents approximately 1,000 member companies. The economic and environmental impact on business will be beneficial to our communities. The high speed train has the potential to lessen the number of vehicles on the highway and reduce our carbon footprint. The train will complement the state's existing transportation networks without competing for the limited transportation dollars. We understand that 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.

Texas is a state with one of the largest land masses in the United States, however, we are very connected by our municipal and regional economies. The need for a transportation solution like the high-speed rail between these two fast growing regions is vital. Estimates show automobile travel time between these economic hubs will increase to over 6.5 hours in the next 20 years.

This project should reduce the burden on our already crowded airways and highways. It is projected to generate a direct impact \$36 billion to the Texas economy over the next 25 years. We support this project because it is good for Houston businesses and good for Texas.

Regards,

Suzan Deison
CEO/President/Founder