

# Setting the Record Straight

A HANDFUL OF BILLS TRY TO STOP INNOVATION, KILL JOBS IN TEXAS

Contrary to the national focus on infrastructure projects that stand to create tens of thousands of jobs and benefit millions of people, it is ironic that the proposed legislation calls for more government regulation in trying to block a free-market led project that will create jobs and generate economic development.

The effort to take away a safe, reliable and productive transportation choice runs counter to the values and principles of so many Texans who are clamoring for it. Below, we address some of the issues raised as these bills were announced:

**CLAIM:** The Bullet Train is “threatening to physically divide the state of Texas.”

**FACT:** A majority of the 240 miles will be elevated. Most will be on viaducts similar to highway overpasses. Elevated berms in some places also provide for large and conveniently located underpasses or overpasses.

**CLAIM:** Good people are being “forced to give up their private property rights,” and this proposed “legislation will ensure that the property rights of our constituents are respected.”

**FACT:** The Texas Bullet Train's unique approach with landowners goes beyond what is required by law and has already yielded great results. Creating new discriminatory, anti-business bureaucracy in Texas is shortsighted and offers no meaningful protections to landowners.

**CLAIM:** The recent Reason Foundation report claims that the Texas Bullet Train will lose money.

**FACT:** The recently published Reason Foundation report is deeply flawed and rife with uninformed biases. The report is based on the misuse of an outdated government report that explicitly warns against using it to analyze any single corridor. Further, the report's author refused to review data provided by Texas Central.

**CLAIM:** This legislation will “guarantee that state taxpayers won't be asked to bail out this project when costs inevitably exceed projections and ridership fails to meet expectations.”

**FACT:** With no state or federal grants required to build the Texas Bullet Train, the notion of a “taxpayer bail out” is inconsistent with Texas' history and values and already is impossible under state law.

**CLAIM:** “The opposition to this project has been loud and clear.”

**FACT:** Thousands of Texans and dozens of state and local organizations have expressed their strong support for the Texas Bullet Train. Third party polls consistently show strong support for the Bullet Train as an innovative choice for travel in Texas.

**CLAIM:** The Texas Bullet Train will not be prepared to protect its passengers from outside threats.

**FACT:** The Texas Bullet Train will be safe, fast, efficient and productive. Its sophisticated use of best-practices, latest technologies and experience from around the world will make it the safest mode of transportation in the world.