

24 April 2017

Mr. Carlos Aguilar
Texas Central Partners, LLC
1409 South Lamar Street
Suite 1022
Dallas, TX 75215

Re: South Main Alliance – Houston, Texas Support for Texas High-Speed Rail

Dear Mr. Aguilar,

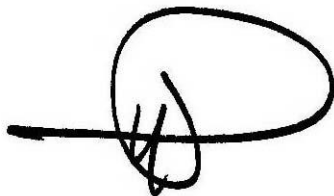
South Main Alliance is a highly-motivated, planning advocacy group of professional volunteers based in Houston that promotes best practices for local and regional transportation connectivity as a cornerstone of our strong communities, our strong cities, our strong State of Texas and our strong Nation.

South Main Alliance recognizes that a strong transportation system is fundamental to Houston's quality of life and economic vitality, attracting new businesses and generating new jobs. Strong economic growth and increased populations are projected in the Houston and North Texas regions over the next 20 years, and existing plus committed infrastructure for highways will be inadequate to address the increased interaction between them as a result of this growth. Some estimates of the travel time between Houston and North Texas is expected to increase from four to six and a half hours in the next few decades, and the Houston Region will double in size to reach 12 million in population within a few decades after that – creating even longer overall travel times. This is as unacceptable as it is avoidable!

High-speed passenger rail will provide a safe, efficient and cost-effective mode of transportation, traveling between the urban centers of the two regions in an estimated 90 minutes. In addition, 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. Taxing entities along the proposed route are projected to receive an estimated \$2.5 billion from Texas Central over 25 years.

South Main Alliance is enthusiastic in its endorsement of the high-speed train project! It provides a safe, reliable and productive transportation alternative for those traveling between Houston and North Texas, and it will help better connect the two regions, benefiting their economies and that of the entire State of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JV', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

James Vick, AIA
Board Member
South Main Alliance