



**TEXAS CENTRAL**  
AMERICA'S BULLET TRAIN

## RUMORS VS. REALITY: TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS

**RUMOR:** All Trains should operate on infrastructure shared with other systems, including freight, commuter and regional trains.

### REALITY:

High Speed passenger trains should have safety as their first priority. The only train system that can boast a perfect safety record is the Japanese Shinkansen, in part because it operates as a secure infrastructure with no shared track with heavier and slower trains and it does not cross any roads at grade.

Mixing freight, commuter, and high speed trains on the same track has resulted in crashes in other systems in the US and around the world.

Recent, fatal train accidents in Europe were partially a result of high-speed trains operating on shared corridors. These mixed-traffic sections of track simply do not offer the same level of safety and security as a secure corridor does.

**RUMOR:** The infrastructure being developed for the Texas Bullet Train would not accommodate other train technologies. Trains in Europe operate on a different gauge of track.

### REALITY:

The Texas Bullet Train will operate on the global standard gauge 1435mm (4ft 8.5 in) track. It is the same track that all US passenger and freight systems run on including the more than 10,000 miles of freight and passenger lines in Texas. It is also the global standard across Europe and Asia.

High speed electric trains are powered under a worldwide standard for electric traction using 25kv overhead catenary system. The Texas Bullet train will also deploy this.

The Texas Bullet Train is the widest passenger train in the world driven to provide passenger comfort. This means the system is designed for a wider train and if retrofitting were necessary could accommodate a smaller train. To preserve maximum competition and interest from global manufacturers, Texas should embrace a system that uses wide trains such as the Shinkansen system.

**RUMOR:** Operating the Shinkansen system in Texas would create a monopoly.

### REALITY:

This new safe and reliable transportation choice gives travelers an additional option to driving or flying.

In choosing train travel, industry standards apply. Multiple manufacturers produce trains that could operate on the infrastructure planned for the Texas Bullet Train system. Any high speed train operating in the United States must go through the same federal certification process that the Shinkansen system is currently going through. With standard, reasonable modifications, trains that comply with federal regulations could also operate on the infrastructure planned for the Texas Bullet Train system.

# VOTE "NO" ON SB 981

*SB 981(Kolkhorst) would require high-speed train facilities constructed by private entities to be compatible with more than one type of technology.*

## **FACTS:**

- No other railroad has been held to similar standards outlined in SB 981 for the purpose of high-speed trains.
- SB 981 would change the proposed system with a 52-year perfect safety record, thereby creating a significant, adverse effect on the high-speed passenger train in Texas.
- Texas Central is building the safest mode of transportation in the world --latest generation of the Tokaido Shinkansen Bullet Train System right here in Texas.
- To comply with this bill, even if possible, the Bullet Train system would have to be completely redesigned to accommodate incompatible technology.
- SB 981 would introduce unnecessary, unproven variables into what is right now a complete, proven and safe system.
- This system will operate on standard gauge track – the same gauge that countries like the French, Chinese and German systems run on. The trains and signaling systems that drive its perfect safety record are what is unique to the system.
- Texas Central and its partners, have spent more than four years and millions of dollars to ensure compliance with US regulations for this train system.
- SB 981 is not designed to encourage competition or safety, is intended to stop the development of the Bullet Train.