



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

To Whom It May Concern,

The Spring Branch Management District is pleased to endorse the proposed high-speed rail project that will connect Houston and North Texas. The Management District's mission includes positively impacting business development, environmental and urban design, and mobility and transportation to help create an environment attractive to business, to facilitate profitability, and to promote the redevelopment and growth of the Spring Branch area. The high-speed train project will help with all of these efforts by increasing transportation options for the traveling public, creating jobs and bringing much needed development to the area near the 610/290 interchange where the Houston station will be located.

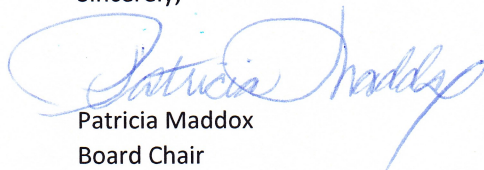
In addition, estimates show the automobile travel time between Houston and North Texas will increase to over 6.5 hours in the next 20 years. This train, which will travel between the two economic powerhouses in less than 90 minutes, will complement the state's existing transportation network without using limited state transportation dollars, and will encourage and help prepare Texans for future economic growth. The high-speed train technology being deployed is the world's safest – the N700-I total bullet system, which boasts a flawless 50-year safety history in Japan.

Among the many reasons we support this project:

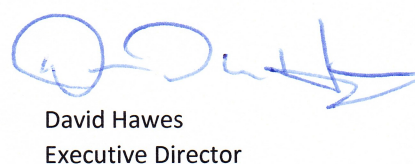
It is projected to generate a direct impact of \$36 billion to the Texas economy over the next 25 years.

- Taxing entities along the proposed route would receive an estimated \$2.5 billion in property and sales taxes over 25 years from the project because of the new infrastructure, including passenger stations in Houston, Dallas and the Brazos Valley in Grimes County.
- 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.
- We are excited to support the first true high-speed passenger rail system in the United States – a project that will bring development to Spring Branch and provide a safe, reliable and productive travel alternative between Houston and North Texas.

Sincerely,



Patricia Maddox
Board Chair



David Hawes
Executive Director