



February 9, 2017

Ron Jensen, Chair
Regional Transportation Council
NCTCOG
616 Six Flags Drive
CenterPoint Two
Arlington, TX 76011

Re: Transportation in Arlington

Dear Chairman Jensen,

I wanted to follow up the discussion that we had at our last Regional Transportation Council meeting regarding Arlington's transportation plans to ensure the RTC is fully informed about our current efforts.

The City is looking to the future and recognizes the importance of establishing a multi-modal transportation plan and taking necessary steps towards its implementation. As such, this past September, the Mayor and City Council appointed a 31-member Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) to develop a strategic approach that will frame future decisions made by the City Council related to transportation in Arlington. This group of residents and stakeholders is focused on innovative, long-term solutions that will provide transportation options to, from, through, and within the City and region.

TAC's preliminary work has focused in the following areas:

- Briefing materials on the City's adopted strategies regarding our transportation efforts, including the City Council's Priority to "Enhance Regional Mobility," the 2015 Comprehensive Plan, the 2011 Thoroughfare Development Plan, and the 2011 Hike and Bike Plan.
- Briefing on existing Arlington transportation services that represent in excess of \$4M in current community investment including Metro ArlingtonXpress (MAX - service provided through an Interlocal Agreement with Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T) that connects Arlington's Downtown/University District to Centerport Station), Handitran demand/response paratransit service, the Entertainment District Trolley, the UT-Arlington Shuttle Service, Trinity Railway Express, and NGO demand/response services in association with Mission Arlington and Catholic Charities.
- Briefing on our recently completed Comprehensive Operational Analysis, pursuant to our agreement with DART. The work was completed by HDR Engineering and their technical subcontractors to review existing transportation services in the City and develop recommendations for potential improvements or expansions.
- Briefings on regional transportation efforts by the NCTCOG, DART, and The T.

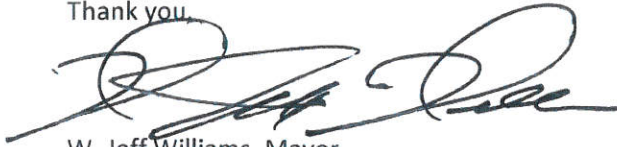
- Briefings on innovative technology based solutions including Bridj and EasyMile.

While there is so much more work to be completed, I expect recommendations from the TAC by the end of 2017 that will lay out our future business plan for multi-modal transportation services and solutions that will connect Arlington to the region. The Arlington high-speed rail station represents the opportunity to facilitate our regional connectivity.

To that end, the City of Arlington supports the prospect of a high speed rail corridor between Fort Worth and Dallas (see attached resolution). The City understands that connectivity between the proposed high-speed rail station, CentrePort TRE station, and DFW International Airport is a requirement for a high-speed rail station in Arlington. I expect the ongoing dialogue between the City and the High Speed Rail Station Area Planning Study consultant team will ensure that the connection needs are properly coordinated. As a member of the Commission for High-Speed Rail in the Dallas/Fort Worth Region, I commit that the City's efforts will consider these necessary connections and provide specific recommendations that will feed into the Station Area Planning Study for inclusion in the TxDOT-conducted Environmental Impact Study as well as identify the required city steps (including collaborative efforts with regional transportation authorities) to fulfill the business plan needs necessary to make the connection.

The City of Arlington understands the importance of transportation connections for the long-term health and economic potential of the city as well as for its impact on the region as a whole. The City appreciates the transportation investments to date across the region and believes that partnerships and emerging technologies will allow us to advance transportation solutions in new and exciting ways that will benefit all of North Central Texas. Arlington is actively working on the efforts outlined above.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Jeff Williams', written over a horizontal line.

W. Jeff Williams, Mayor
City of Arlington

Resolution No. 16-137

A resolution supporting the Partnership Position Regarding Texas Central's Delivery of High-Speed Rail between Downtown Dallas and Houston, entered into by and between Texas Central Partners, LLC and North Central Texas Council of Governments

- WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), comprised primarily of local elected officials, is the regional transportation policy body associated with the North Central Texas Council of Governments, and has been and continues to be the regional forum for cooperative decisions on transportation; and
- WHEREAS, the RTC is responsible for identifying mobility choices and the approval of transportation projects and policies within the Dallas-Arlington-Fort Worth Metropolitan Planning Area through Mobility 2040; and
- WHEREAS, it is deemed to be in the region's best interests to support Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for the implementation of transportation projects; and
- WHEREAS, strong economic growth and projected population increases, combined with widespread local political support for investment in public infrastructure, provide an optimal environment for the development of high speed rail and complementary systems in Texas; and
- WHEREAS, Texas Central is developing a privately-sponsored high speed passenger rail system on which it will deploy the Tokaido Shinkansen total system to connect North Texas, the Brazos Valley, and Houston and for which it will not accept public grants or operating subsidies; and
- WHEREAS, Texas Central Partners, LLC and its affiliates (Texas Central) have spent significant private capital on the validation and the development of a high speed passenger rail system that will connect North Texas to Houston; and
- WHEREAS, Texas Central is conducting an Environmental Impact Statement analysis with the intent to initiate revenue service in 2021; and
- WHEREAS, Texas Central and the North Central Texas Council of Governments have executed a Partnership Position Regarding Texas Central's Delivery of High-Speed Rail between Downtown Dallas and Houston, outlining regional support for high speed passenger rail service within the DFW region and from the DFW region to distant destinations; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARLINGTON, TEXAS:

I.

That the City of Arlington affirms that developing safe, dependable, and interconnected passenger rail and rail transit systems is in the best interest of the

travelling public in part because of rail's safety, reliability, air quality improvement, and efficient use of land which fosters urban densification and economic development.

II.

That the City of Arlington supports the total system approved by the Federal Railroad Administration, development by private sector and deployed by Texas Central Partners, LLC, as the Dallas-Fort Worth region's preferred high-speed rail technology. Further the City supports the development of a one seat/one ticket high-speed rail connectivity between Fort Worth, Arlington, Dallas and Houston through Texas Central's Dallas passenger station, and should regulatory, environmental, financial, or other challenges prohibit the timely development of a one seat/one ticket connection, the City of Arlington supports development of an as close to cross-platform solution for rail passengers as possible.

III.

That the City of Arlington will assist in the siting and planning of routes and facilities to accommodate interconnectivity of high-speed rail passenger facilities in Arlington and interconnectivity of high-speed rail passenger facilities and public transit facilities.

IV.

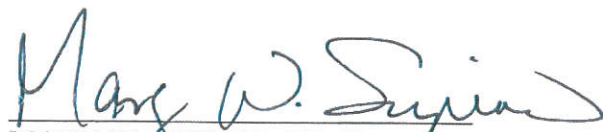
That the City of Arlington supports the Partnership Position Regarding Texas Central's Delivery of High-Speed Rail between Downtown Dallas and Houston, entered into by and between Texas Central Partners, LLC and North Central Texas Council of Governments, attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

PRESENTED AND PASSED on this the 28th day of June, 2016, by a vote of 8 ayes and 0 nays at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Arlington, Texas.



W. JEFF WILLIAMS, Mayor

ATTEST:


MARY W. SUPINO, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
TERIS SOLIS, City Attorney

BY 