



Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization

RESOLUTION 2016-2

WHEREAS, the Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization was established to identify and support the implementation of regionally significant transportation projects to address future mobility needs of the Waco Region; and

WHEREAS, the Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board is composed of representatives appointed by the elected City Councils and Counties located within the jurisdiction of the MPO; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Data Center estimates that the population of Texas will approximately double by the year 2045 and that much of this new population will reside within the triangle between Houston, Dallas / Fort Worth and San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, the population of McLennan County is forecasted to increase by as much as 33% by the year 2045; and

WHEREAS, the existing plus committed infrastructure for highway and aviation modes will be inadequate to address the increased interaction between Texas cities as a result of this growth; and

WHEREAS, travel times between Texas cities will increase significantly by 2045 without additional transportation options resulting in a loss of economic opportunities and reduction in the quality of life for all citizens of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of high speed passenger rail services provide an efficient mode of transportation that can transport persons and goods quickly between Texas cities in a cost effective manner; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of high speed passenger rail services can shift a significant volume of intercity trips off of existing and committed highways and aviation services thereby reducing future delay on these systems; and

WHEREAS, high speed passenger rail services operate in excess of 150 miles per hour requiring rights of way and horizontal alignments that are straight and flat and thus cannot follow existing rights of way without a significant reduction in speed; and

WHEREAS, due to speeds in excess of 150 miles per hour, high speed passenger rail infrastructure are proposed to be elevated along the entire length thereby significantly increasing cross access by residents and property owners compared to other modes of transportation; and

WHEREAS, the Texas High Speed Railway project has proposed the implementation of a high speed passenger rail service between Dallas and Houston; and

WHEREAS, the Texas High Speed Railway project will not require taxpayer grants or operational subsidies as a result of private sector investment; and

WHEREAS, a passenger rail service similar to the Texas Central High Speed Railway project is being studied by the State of Texas for implementation along the IH-35 corridor providing service to Waco and McLennan County; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of high speed passenger rail service along the IH-35 corridor would provide very significant economic benefits to the Waco region; and

WHEREAS, locating a station for this high speed passenger rail service within Downtown Waco would greatly support and enhance efforts towards downtown revitalization; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of this high speed passenger rail service would provide the Waco region greater connectivity to other cities in Texas and globally; and

WHEREAS, this connectivity can only currently be accomplished by Waco citizens either through the operation of a personal automobile or accessing very limited services provided either through Waco Regional Airport or intercity bus services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE POLICY BOARD OF THE WACO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION:

That the Waco MPO Policy Board supports the implementation of the Texas Central High Speed Railway project and eventually implementation of a similar service along the IH-35 corridor through Waco and McLennan County.

That the Waco MPO Policy Board endorses the establishment of a station in Downtown Waco for any high speed passenger rail service implemented along the IH-35 corridor.

That the Waco MPO Policy Board urges the State of Texas and the US Department of Transportation to expeditiously approve any and all necessary environmental certifications and operating permits for both the Texas Central High Speed Railway project and similar services being studied for the IH-35 corridor.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 5th day of May, 2016.



Kyle Deaver
Chair – Waco MPO Policy Board

ATTEST:



Christopher Evilia, AICP
Director