

Resolution of Support for High-Speed Passenger Rail

WHEREAS,

On June 25, 2014, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) published a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in cooperation with Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for the Central Texas High-Speed Rail Corridor, connecting Dallas and Houston (DAL-HOU) with a dedicated High Speed Rail (HSR) system proposed by a private company, Texas Central Railway (TCR); and

WHEREAS,

On September 5, 2014, the FRA published a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the Dallas - Fort Worth Core Express passenger rail service under a grant issued to TxDOT and FRA by the United States Department of Transportation, potentially connecting the DAL-HOU HSR system west to Fort Worth; and

WHEREAS,

TCR is a Texas-based company formed in 2009 to bring HSR to Texas as a private-sector venture, and is focused on delivery of the DAL-HOU HSR system using only private funding; and

WHEREAS,

In January 2014, TxDOT formed the Commission for High-Speed Rail in Dallas/Fort Worth to advise on the development of intercity rail corridors, new transportation policies and funding and procurement strategies as they relate to the implementation of a proposed HSR system, and to lead the effort to advance the DAL-FTW Core Express service; and

WHEREAS,

TCR is working closely with Central Japan Railway Company (JRC), and proposes deployment of the Tokaido Shinkansen System technology on the DAL-HOU route, a technology which has operated safely for over 50 years in Japan and carries 400,000 passengers daily; and

WHEREAS,

The DAL-HOU project, as proposed by TCR, will not require operational or maintenance subsidies, and is estimated to create 10,000 full-time construction jobs each year during the anticipated four-year construction period, and nearly 2,000 full-time jobs after the HSR system goes into revenue service, anticipated in 2022; and


WHEREAS,

A strong transportation system is fundamental to Texas' quality of life and economic vitality, attracting new businesses and generating new jobs; and

WHEREAS,

A connected HSR service between Houston and Dallas extending west to Fort Worth is a shared goal for the North Texas Region.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Dallas Regional Chamber strongly supports the thorough environmental studies, development, construction and operation of a high-speed passenger rail system between Dallas and Houston, and extending west to Fort Worth as appropriate funding and procurement strategies can be identified.



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