



May 31, 2018

Honorable Ann D. Begeman, Chairman
Honorable Deb Miller, Vice Chairman
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

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Re: Docket No. FD_36025_0

Dear Chairman Begeman and Vice Chairman Miller:

As the Mayor of Fort Worth, home to nearly 1 million Texans, I understand the need for multimodal transportation connections within the North Texas region and across the state. Ensuring a robust national rail network is important to our city, region, state and nation. We are encouraged by the Texas Bullet Train serving our region and its agreements with Amtrak for a single ticket ride. Having all operators on this system regulated similarly will ensure positive growth and expanded ridership so we encourage the STB to positively act on the Texas Central petition in front of you.

As elected officials throughout the state attempt to meet the infrastructure needs of a rapidly growing population, it is critical that we continue to seek out new and innovative ways to address the growing disparity between the need for public infrastructure and the ability to fund critical projects. The Texas Bullet Train addresses this need on multiple fronts, first and foremost, through private investment in infrastructure typically reserved for taxpayer funding or public-private partnerships.

Being in the service area of the Texas Bullet Train, the residents of Fort Worth stand to benefit in a multitude of ways, including from the birth of a new industry in their backyard, the creation of thousands of jobs in the region, new business opportunities, and, of course, better connectivity to the Houston region and the rest of South Texas. Current projections show the Train will create 10,000 direct jobs per year during construction and more than 1,500 jobs permanently when operational – many of them in the Fort Worth area. In fact, much of the design work is already being done in offices in Ft. Worth.

In closing, having the first high-speed train in the United States right here in Texas and facilitating national train travel is an exciting opportunity. We therefore encourage your positive consideration of the petition in front of you.

Sincerely,

Betsy Price
Mayor

cc: All parties of record

BETSY PRICE, MAYOR