



The Transportation Policy Body for the North Central Texas Council of Governments
(Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region)

248568

October 8, 2019

The Honorable Ann D. Begeman
Chair
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

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Office of Proceedings
October 8, 2019
Part of
Public Record

Docket No. FD 36025

Dear Chair Begeman:

On behalf of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the policy making body for the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area, I am pleased to provide support for the petition by Texas Central Railway in Surface Transportation Board Finance Docket No. 36025.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments' Transportation Department, which acts as staff for the MPO for the DFW area, sent a letter dated May 31, 2018, supporting Texas Central Railway's position and the proposed Dallas to Houston high-speed rail project. The RTC had previously taken a position supporting high-speed rail in Texas, reflecting the support provided by NCTCOG.

The RTC has responsibility under Titles 23 and 49 of the United States Code to plan for a seamless transportation system in the North Central Texas region. Implementing high-speed passenger rail service in Texas is a priority for the RTC. The proposed high-speed rail project between Dallas and Houston would provide a dedicated passenger rail system and establish connectivity with other transportation services in both cities, adding to the national rail system with seamless connections. The project will connect Texas' two largest and two of the nation's top five metropolitan regions through a fast, safe and reliable form of travel.

The project is consistent with the programs and policies included in Mobility 2045: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the North Central Texas, the long-range transportation plan for the region.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please contact me at (817) 695-9241 or mmorris@nctcog.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Morris". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "M" and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Morris, P.E.
Director of Transportation

RH:kw

cc: Carlos Aguilar, President and Chief Executive Officer, Texas Central Partners, LLC

Date: October 8, 2019

I hereby certify that I caused this letter to be served on all parties of record by regular mail.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Kirkpatrick", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ken Kirkpatrick
Counsel for Transportation
North Central Texas Council of Governments/Regional Transportation Council