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October 3, 2019

Cynthia Brown
Chief, Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
October 3, 2019
Part of
Public Record

Re: Finance Docket No. 36025, *Texas Central Railroad and Infrastructure, Inc. & Texas Central Railroad, LLC – Authority to Construct and Operate – Petition for Exemption from 49 U.S.C. § 10901 and Subtitle IV – Passenger Rail Line Between Dallas, TX and Houston, TX*

Dear Ms. Brown:

Enclosed is a letter dated August 30, 2019 from FRA Administrator Ronald L. Batory to Michael Finnegan, Managing Director of Texas Central Railroad, LLC (“TCR”). By that letter, Administrator Batory granted TCR’s petition for a rulemaking proceeding to develop a Rule of Particular Applicability (“RPA”) to govern the system and operations of TCR’s proposed high-speed passenger rail line between Dallas and Houston, TX.

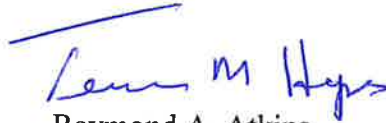
As the Board knows, there is no true high-speed (186MPH +) passenger railroad currently operating in the United States. For that reason, FRA has not had occasion to promulgate regulations addressing the design, operation and maintenance of high-speed passenger rail systems generally. The RPA will establish a comprehensive set of regulations that apply specifically to TCR’s proposed high-speed railroad. The RPA will be based upon the rolling stock, advanced signal system, track infrastructure, and operating and safety practices of Japan’s Tokaido Shinkansen system, which enjoys a world-leading record of safe performance.

TCR requests that Administrator Batory’s letter be included in the record in this

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proceeding in order to apprise the Board, and interested parties, of this important milestone in the development of TCR's proposed high-speed rail line.

Sincerely,



Raymond A. Atkins

Terence M. Hynes

Attorneys for Texas Central Railroad, LLC

Enclosure

cc: Parties of Record



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Michael Finnegan
Managing Director
Texas Central Railroad, LLC
1409 South Lamar Street
Suite 1022
Dallas, TX 75215

AUG 30 2018

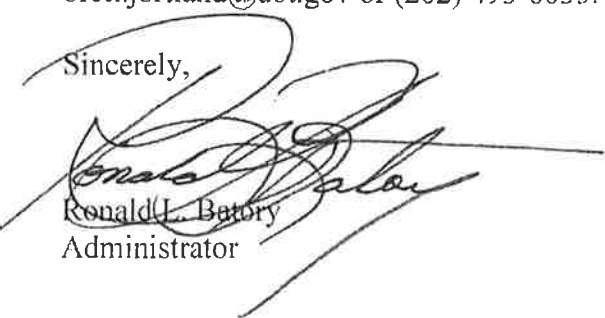
Dear Mr. Finnegan,

This letter is in response to Texas Central Railroad, LLC's (TCR) petition for rulemaking (petition) submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) on April 15, 2016, and supplemented on August 12, 2016, and September 27, 2017. The petition sought FRA issuance of a rule of particular applicability (RPA), applicable solely to TCR, to govern the railroad's system and operations between Houston and Dallas, Texas.

I am pleased to inform you that I am granting your petition to undertake a rulemaking to issue an RPA for TCR. My decision is based on your petition's representations - with supporting technical data - that TCR's system will replicate the system and operations of the Tokaido Shinkansen, as operated by the Central Japan Railway Company, through the import and use of the: N700 rolling stock; advanced signal system; track infrastructure; and operational practices. By replicating the Tokaido Shinkansen system and operation in Texas, TCR will be able to take advantage of the Tokaido Shinkansen's exemplary 50-year safety record.

If you have any questions regarding the RPA or rulemaking process, you may contact Mr. Karl Alexy, FRA's Associate Administrator for Safety and Chief Safety Officer, at john.alex@dot.gov or (202) 493-6282, or Mr. Brett Jortland, FRA's Acting Chief Counsel, at brett.jortland@dot.gov or (202) 493-6035.

Sincerely,



Ronald L. Batory
Administrator