

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

VARIOUS Counties

MINUTE ORDER

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VARIOUS Districts

The Texas Transportation Code, §201.117 provides that the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) may create an advisory committee to assist the Texas Department of Transportation (department) on any matter under its jurisdiction.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has awarded the department a \$15 million grant for preliminary engineering and environmental review work for high-speed passenger rail service from Dallas/Fort Worth to Houston. The department is currently entering into two memoranda of understanding concerning the preparation of environmental impact statements (EISs) as follows: (1) for the EIS concerning Fort Worth to Dallas, FRA will be the federal lead agency and the department will be the joint lead; and (2) for the EIS concerning Dallas to Houston, FRA will be the federal lead agency and a private entity (Texas Central Railroad) will be the applicant.

The department is working cooperatively with FRA, private interests, and other stakeholders. The department has recommended the creation of a Commission for High-Speed Rail in the Dallas/Fort Worth Region to advise the commission and executive director on the development of intercity rail corridors, new transportation policies, and funding and procurement strategies as they relate to the implementation of proposed high-speed rail connecting the Dallas and Fort Worth areas. It would also provide advice on the ongoing preparation of the EISs described above. It would be an advisory committee subject to the requirements of Texas Government Code, Chapter 2110 (concerning State Agency Advisory Committees) and 43 TAC §1.85(b)-(d) (concerning Department Advisory Committees), except for the selection of the presiding officer and members.


The department has also recommended the appointment of William "Bill" Meadows of Fort Worth as the presiding officer.

The commission determines that the creation of such an advisory committee is necessary to assist the department and intends, at a later date, to appoint the additional members of the advisory committee and to specify additional duties of the advisory committee.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that the Commission for High-Speed Rail in the Dallas/Fort Worth Region is created for the purposes recommended by the department as specified in this minute order and that William Meadows is appointed as its presiding officer.

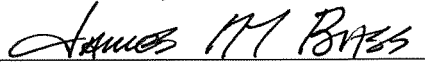
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission for High-Speed Rail in the Dallas/Fort Worth Region shall submit its advice and recommendations to the executive director or a department employee designated by the executive director to receive those recommendations, and shall make reports as requested by the commission.

Submitted and reviewed by:



Rail Division Director

Recommended by:



Interim Executive Director

113818 JAN 30 14

Minute Number Date Passed