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Houston-Galveston Area Council

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September 10, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

Re: Support for the TxDOT Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plan Grant

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing to support the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plan Grant Application that will provide funds for the necessary planning for a possible high-speed passenger rail service between Austin and Houston, Texas. The results of TxDOT's Statewide Ridership Study indicated that the potential ridership between Austin and Houston was one of the highest in the state.

The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) is pleased to support this important passenger rail corridor investment plan grant. H-GAC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Houston metropolitan area and has committed \$400,000 (federal) to this effort should this corridor be selected by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The results of this study will further the development of high speed passenger rail in Texas and will have a significant impact both on the region and the nation. The planning grant application meets all federal requirements as published in the Notice of Funding Availability.

I strongly urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to give serious consideration to this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Emmett', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Ed Emmett, Harris County Judge  
Chair, H-GAC Transportation Policy Council