



DJ Mitchell II
Assistant Vice President
Passenger Operations

BNSF Railway Company
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April 4, 2011

Mr. William Glavin
Director, Rail Division
Texas Department of Transportation
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Glavin:

I am writing to offer BNSF's support in carrying out the Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT's) application for High-Speed Intercity Passenger (HSIPR) Program discretionary funding to aid in financing preliminary engineering related to the examination of high speed passenger rail service between Dallas and Houston.

If the State's application is selected by the Federal Railroad Administration for funding, BNSF is prepared to work cooperatively with TxDOT and to provide TxDOT the information it may need to complete the scope of work described in its application.

If you have any questions or need anything else from us, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DJ Mitchell II", with a stylized flourish at the end.

DJ Mitchell II
Passenger Operations



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HOUSTON
TEXAS

ANNISE D. PARKER
MAYOR

March 30, 2011

Mr. William Glavin
Director, Rail Division
Texas Department of Transportation
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Glavin:

There has been significant discussion in the Houston region of the potential for a high speed rail connection between Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth. I am writing to let you know of my support for such a project and for initiation of project development by the Texas Department of Transportation as soon as possible.

As you know, Houston and Dallas-Fort Worth are two of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the country. Houston's roads and airports are already congested so alternatives must be developed to add transportation capacity.

Years ago, Houston was known as the city where 17 railroads meet the sea. Although some of those valuable rail corridors have been abandoned, the functioning of those that remain can be enhanced to maximize benefits. The City of Houston will work with your agency, the Class I railroads and other interested parties to foster development of a feasible plan for high speed rail service from Houston to Dallas-Fort Worth.

Passenger rail service to Houston is currently abysmal. The addition of Dallas-Fort Worth service, whether it be along existing freight rail right-of-way at 80 miles per hour or along exclusive right-of-way at 200 miles per hour will be a welcome improvement. Please count the City of Houston as a committed partner in your high speed intercity passenger rail planning efforts. We look forward to working with the Texas Department of Transportation to develop rail alternatives that will sustain Houston's growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annise Parker".

Annise D. Parker
Mayor

CC: Karen Rae, Deputy Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee
U.S. Representative Pete Olson
Harris County Judge Ed Emmett
Matthew Rose, Chairman and CEO, BNSF Railways
Alan Clark, Houston-Galveston Area Council
Michael Morris, North Central Texas Council of Governments
Maureen Crocker, Gulf Coast Rail District
Robert Eckels, Lone Star High-Speed Rail District, LLC
George Greanias, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County



Dallas Area Rapid Transit
P.O. Box 660163
Dallas, Texas 75266-0163
214/749-3278

April 1, 2011

The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

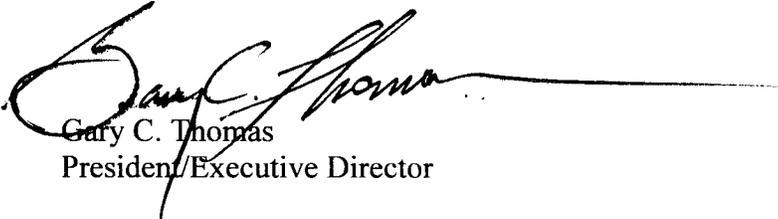
Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing on behalf of Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) to express our support for the Texas Department of Transportation's application for High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) funds for the development of a passenger rail project connecting the metropolitan areas of Dallas and Houston.

High-speed passenger rail between Dallas and Houston would serve two of the most populous areas of our nation. Dallas and Houston remain two of the fastest growing regions in the country and this only heightens the immediate need for improved transportation choices. Both Dallas and Houston are served by expanding multi-modal transit systems to ensure inter-modal connectivity and accessibility for passengers.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this project. We look forward to working with you to develop this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary C. Thomas", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gary C. Thomas
President/Executive Director

c: DART Board of Directors
FTA Region 6 Administrator



March 21, 2011

Mr. William "Bill" Glavin, P.E.
Director
TxDOT Rail Division
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701-2483

Dear Mr. Glavin:

As mentioned in my telephone call last week, I strongly support efforts to develop high speed rail service between Houston and the Dallas/Fort Worth area, preferably along the BNSF "Teague Line" corridor.

Recently, there has been a lot of discussion about who should be leading those efforts. After meeting with a wide range of groups and individuals, there are two possible paths to success. We stand ready to assist in either case.

The first possibility would be an entirely private venture involving BNSF and partners. In that case, all of us in government should assist however possible, recognizing that the corridor is privately owned.

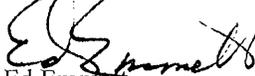
The second, more likely possibility, would involve a public/private partnership with a private venture utilizing public funds, at least in the feasibility determination and development phases. In that case, it is vitally important that the Texas Department of Transportation take the lead and all other entities play supporting roles. If Texas is to receive full consideration for federal funding for the Houston/Dallas corridor, we cannot be represented by an ad hoc group or by a collection of governmental entities bound together by a memorandum of understanding.

I realize that high speed rail has been a dream of many Texans for decades. And, a lot of people have put great effort into making that dream a reality.

Now is not the time for disparate groups to try to negotiate with BNSF or the federal government. I urge you and TxDOT to organize the effort and seek support for that effort from local governments, councils of government, the Texas Congressional delegation, and anyone else you think might be helpful.

Thanks for your leadership.

Sincerely,


Ed Emmett
Harris County Judge

EME/rz

CC: Karen Rae, Deputy Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, District 18
Representative Pete Olson, District 22
Mayor Annise Parker, City of Houston
Matthew Rose, Chairman and CEO, BNSF Railway Company
Alan Clark, H-GAC MPO Director
Michael Morris, NCTCOG MPO Director
Maureen Crocker, Gulf Coast Rail District Executive Director
Robert Eckels, President, Lone Star High-Speed Rail, LLC

**GULF COAST
RAIL DISTRICT**
HOUSTON ★ TEXAS

April 1, 2011

Mr. William Glavin
Director, Rail Division
Texas Department of Transportation
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Glavin:

The Gulf Coast Rail District (GCRD) fully supports efforts by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to secure federal funds and authorization for planning and development of the Houston-Dallas/Forth Worth high speed intercity passenger rail corridor. Establishment of high speed intercity passenger rail between Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth is a justifiable priority for Texas and the United States. It will enable Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth to sustain the strong population and job growth documented by the 2010 census.

As you well know, the Gulf Coast Rail District was created to establish a framework for partnerships with the Class I railroads operating in the Houston region that will foster regional planning and development of improvements to the existing rail infrastructure to enhance economic development and quality of life. Local elected officials engaged with the GCRD have been clear that enhancement of quality of life includes the addition of passenger rail service, where feasible, to sustain the region's growth. The GCRD stands ready to continue working with TxDOT and the Class I railroads in the planning of intercity rail connections and coordinating local freight rail improvements to enable those connections.

The GCRD and TxDOT have established a good partnership on rail projects. We appreciate the leadership exhibited by TxDOT with the Houston Region Freight Study that has served as the basis for much of GCRD planning. GCRD looks forward to continued cooperation and success as TxDOT leads development of a statewide intercity passenger rail network.

Sincerely,



Mark Ellis
Chairman

6922 Katy Road • Houston, TX 77024 • 713-843-5451 • 713-881-3171(fax)

CC: Karen Rae, Deputy Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee
U.S. Representative Pete Olson
Harris County Judge Ed Emmett
Matthew Rose, Chairman and CEO, BNSF Railways
James Young, Chairman, President and CEO, Union Pacific Railroad
Alan Clark, Houston-Galveston Area Council
Michael Morris, North Central Texas Council of Governments
Maureen Crocker, Gulf Coast Rail District
Robert Eckels, Lone Star High-Speed Rail District, LLC
George Greanias, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County

**Board of
Directors**

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Garcia, CFA
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Allen D. Watson
Vice Chairman

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Secretary

Burt Ballantant

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Carrin F. Patman

Trinidad
Mendenhall Sosa

Christof Spleier
Gary Stobb

**President &
Chief Executive
Officer**

George Greanias

March 24, 2011

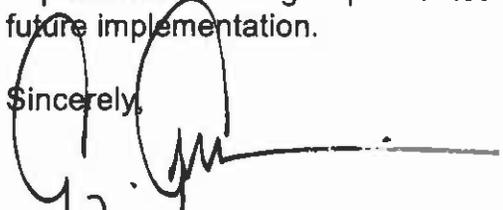
The Honorable Raymond H. LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: High Speed and/or Intercity Rail Project to Connect Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston

Dear Secretary LaHood:

METRO supports the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in seeking funds to implement high speed rail in the state of Texas. Time sensitive travel options from Dallas-Fort Worth to Houston would open significant employment opportunities to residents in both cities. METRO sees this program as a strong complement to transit improvements being implemented within the Houston region, and looks forward to its future implementation.

Sincerely,


George Greanias
President & CEO

cc: Judge Ed Emmitt, Harris County
Mayor Annise D. Parker, City of Houston
Alan C. Clark, Manager, Transportation and Air Quality, Houston-Galveston Area
Council
John A. Barton, P.E., Assistant Executive Director for Engineering Operations,
Texas Department of Transportation
Bill Glavin, P.E., Rail Division Director, Texas Department of Transportation
Michael Morris, P.E., Director of Transportation, North Central Texas Council of
Governments
Karen Rae, Deputy Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
Matthew K. Rose, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Burlington Northern
Santa Fe Railway



Regional Transportation Council

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



March 25, 2011

Mr. Bill Glavin, P.E.
Texas Department of Transportation
Rail Division
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701-2483



Dear Mr. Glavin:

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) and North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) together form the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the 12-county Dallas-Fort Worth area. On behalf of the MPO, we are writing to express support of the Texas Department of Transportation Rail Division leading planning and pursuing federal funds for high speed rail.

We strongly support the TxDOT Rail Division submitting an application by April 4, 2011, for Federal Railroad Administration High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program funds to connect the Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston regions.

The RTC, on January 13, 2011, approved a plan to develop agreements with major metropolitan regions surrounding the Dallas-Fort Worth area in order to enhance coordination and rail investments. This project would be consistent with Mobility 2035: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Dallas-Fort Worth Area approved by the RTC on March 10, 2011. Integrating high speed rail connections with passenger and roadway plans in the regions is important to improving transportation.

It is imperative that metropolitan regions and the TxDOT Rail Division continue to work collaboratively on high speed rail planning. Strengthening the partnership among metropolitan regions, state and federal transportation partners and private rail companies is important to developing high speed rail plans in Texas and securing federal funds for implementation. Seamless rail and roadway system connections between metropolitan regions are important to mobility and economic vitality in Texas.

March 25, 2011

We look forward to working with the TxDOT Rail Division and other metropolitan regions in the state. Should you have any questions regarding the Dallas-Fort Worth area's desire to coordinate high speed passenger rail planning between regions or if NCTCOG staff can be of assistance in preparing the application for funds due April 4, 2011, please contact Michael Morris, P.E., Director of Transportation for the North Central Texas Council of Governments, at (817) 695-9241 or mmorris@nctcog.org.

Sincerely,



Ron Natinsky
Chair, Regional Transportation Council
Councilmember, City of Dallas



Jungus Jordan
Vice Chair, Regional Transportation Council
Councilmember, City of Fort Worth

JS:ac

cc: North Central Texas Congressional Delegation
The Honorable Ed Emmett, Judge, Harris County
The Honorable Annise D. Parker, Mayor, City of Houston
Matthew K. Rose, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway
Karen Rae, Deputy Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
John A. Barton, P.E., Assistant Executive Director for Engineering Operations, Texas
Department of Transportation
Robert Eckels, President, Lone Star High Speed Rail, LLC
Maureen Crocker, Interim Executive Director, Gulf Coast Rail District
Alan C. Clark, Manager, Transportation and Air Quality, Houston-Galveston Area Council
Michael Morris, NCTCOG