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Elton R. Mathis

Criminal District Attorney
Waller County

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First Assistant
Warren K. Diepraam

Executive Assistant
Peggy L. Sanders

May 11, 2016

240687

Cynthia Brown
Section Chief Administration
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Streeter, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423

Via electronic filing

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
May 18, 2016
Part of
Public Record

Re: F.D. 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
Line between Dallas, TX and Houston, TX

Dear Ms. Brown,

On behalf of Waller County, Texas and the Waller County Sub-Regional Planning
Commission (governmental entities of the State of Texas) please find enclosed for filing
“Preliminary Comments in Opposition to Petition for Exemption and Petition for Clarification”.

The proposed Texas Central Railroad looms as a massive infrastructure project in the State of
Texas. The enormity of this endeavor and the millions of people who will be effected by the
construction necessitate a careful and deliberate dialogue amongst the parties. These matters should
in no respect be reviewed in a hurried or expedited manner, and every care should be taken to ensure
that the public is kept apprised of the process and decisions.

Waller County and the Waller County Sub-Regional Planning Commission look forward to
participating in this process and representing the needs and values of their constituents. Do not
hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Most sincerely yours,

Elton R. Mathis
Waller County Criminal District Attorney

Cc: Honorable Trey Duhon, Waller County Judge/President WCSRPC

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Finance Docket No. 36025

TEXAS CENTRAL RAILROAD AND INFRASTRUCTURE, INC. &
TEXAS CENTRAL RAILROAD, LLC
-AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE-
PASSENGER RAIL LINE BETWEEN DALLAS, TX AND HOUSTON, TX

PRELIMINARY COMMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO
PETITION FOR EXEMPTION
AND PETITION FOR CLARIFICATION

Whereas Texas Central Railroad and Infrastructure, Inc. and its affiliates, hereafter collectively TCRI, are proposing to build a 240 mile High Speed Rail line between Dallas and Houston and;

Whereas TCRI has recently filed two petitions with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) requesting exemptions from certain railroad regulations and;

Whereas TCRI is seeking an expedited review and approval to commence land acquisition through the use of Eminent Domain prior to the determination of the final alignments and;

Whereas TCRI has stated within their verified statement(s) that they are prepared to accept the risk of acquiring property that may not ultimately be used for the project and;

Whereas TCRI has not provided specific details on the impacts to all public roads within our jurisdiction that will result from the "closed system" nature of this type of railroad project and;

Whereas TCRI will not provide the financial and ridership data to the public for review and;

Whereas all of the above will have detrimental effects and adverse impacts on our jurisdiction and significant controversy exists surrounding this project and;

Whereas the Waller County Sub-Regional Planning Commission (WCSRPC) was formed under Chapter 391 of the Texas Local Government Code and consists of the following governmental entities in Waller County and Harris County: Waller County, Waller, Hempstead, Prairie View, Pine Island, Pattison, Katy and Waller Independent School District, which is representative of approximately 48,000 citizens and;

Whereas the WCSRPC desires to protect all roads, citizens, and the private property within our jurisdiction,

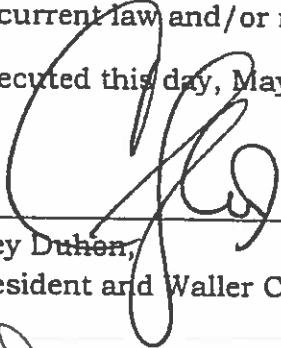
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that WCSRPC renews its opposition to the project as proposed by TCRI and;

WCSRPC opposes the petitions filed at the STB; asking the Board to deny these petitions filed by TCRI and;

WCSRPC authorizes the County Judge to file a reply, or replies, to the Surface Transportation Board (STB); and for the purposes of TCRI's petitions to the STB, execute future documents consistent with the intent of this resolution on behalf of the County and its citizens, and;

WCSRPC generally opposes all efforts by TCRI to obtain waivers or exceptions to current law and/or regulations.

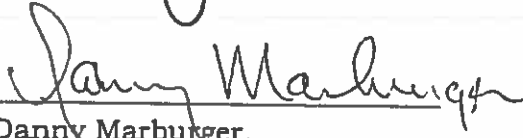
Executed this day, May 5, 2016



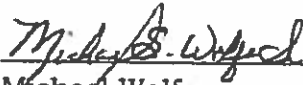
Trey Duhon,
President and Waller County Judge



Debi Ferris,
Mayor of Pine Island

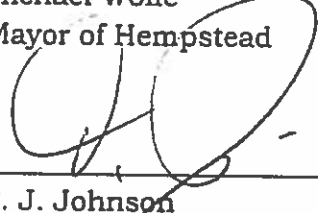


Danny Marburger,
Mayor of Waller

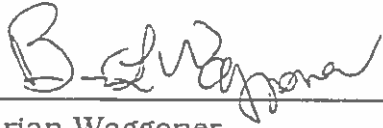


Michael Wolfe
Mayor of Hempstead

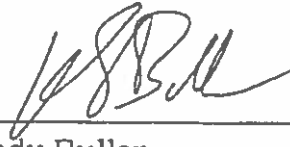
Marie Herndon,
Council Member of Prairie View



T. J. Johnson
Waller County Advocacy Group



Brian Waggoner,
Katy Brookshire Drainage District



Sandy Buller,
Council Member of Pattison

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Finance Docket No. 36025

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Whereas TCRI will not provide the financial and ridership data to the public for review and;

Whereas all of the above will have detrimental effects and adverse impacts on our jurisdiction and significant controversy exists surrounding this project,

Whereas Waller County desires to protect all roads, citizens, and the private property within our jurisdiction,

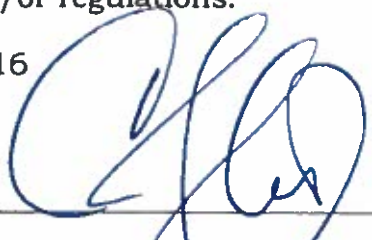
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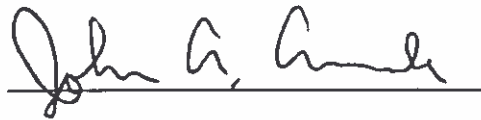
Waller County opposes the petitions filed at the STB; asking the Board to deny these petitions filed by TCRI and;

Waller County authorizes the County Judge to file a reply, or replies, to the Surface Transportation Board (STB); and for the purposes of TCRI's petitions to the STB, execute future documents consistent with the intent of this resolution on behalf of the County and its citizens, and;

Waller County generally opposes all efforts by TCRI to obtain waivers or exceptions to current law and/or regulations.

Executed this day, May 4, 2016



Carbett "Trey" J. Duhon III
Waller County Judge

John Amsler
Commissioner Precinct 1

John Amsler
Commissioner Precinct 1



Russell Klecka
Commissioner Precinct 2

Russell Klecka
Commissioner Precinct 2



Jeron Barnett
Commissioner Precinct 3

Jeron Barnett
Commissioner Precinct 3



Justin Beckendorff
Commissioner Precinct 4

Justin Beckendorff
Commissioner Precinct 4

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that I have served all parties of record in this proceeding with this document by United States mail or by e-mail.

/s/ Elton R. Mathis

May 17, 2016