

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 28, 2023

Administrator Amit Bose
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

We write to express our steadfast support of the Texas Department of Transportation's proposed rail corridor applications to the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development Program. These corridors connect the Texas Triangle cities of Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, and Austin-San Antonio.

This program represents a significant opportunity to create much-needed additional capacity and modal diversity within the state and national transportation networks. Both passenger and freight movements in the selected corridors will benefit from enhanced Amtrak intercity passenger rail service, which will also offer major economic development potential to our cities, communities, businesses, universities, and citizens.

The Texas Triangle cities (San Antonio-Austin-Dallas/Fort Worth-Houston) are among the fastest-growing population centers within the fastest-growing US state and represent two-thirds of the state's population. The Texas Triangle includes five of the nation's thirteen largest cities. Moreover, the Texas Demographic Center projects that the Texas population will rise from 27.9 million in 2020, to 47.3 million by 2050, a 60% increase.

These five cities had a combined Gross Domestic Product of about \$1.4 trillion in 2018, almost 70% of the Texas economy and 6.3% of the US economy. Each of these metro areas are among the top fifty US net exporters, helping Texas to lead the nation with over \$485 billion in exports in 2022, 23.5 % of the US total. The Texas Triangle cities are economic engines, driving state and national economic growth.


That population and trade growth comes with a price: 57 of the top 100 most-congested Texas highways are along the IH-35 Corridor between San Antonio and Dallas, and that congestion is increasing, costing billions of dollars annually in freight and passenger delays and adding air pollution to our region. Vehicle miles traveled are projected to increase 52-64% between today and 2050.

Developing passenger rail services between the Texas Triangle cities with related and appropriate improvements in freight railroad infrastructure along these corridors will help speed passengers and freight to their destinations, address urban sprawl, reduce air pollution and traffic congestion, and begin the state's transition toward a safer, faster, efficient, and more climate-friendly transportation system. We appreciate your consideration of the proposals and look forward to working with you to expand and improve our nation's transportation infrastructure networks.

Sincerely,




Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



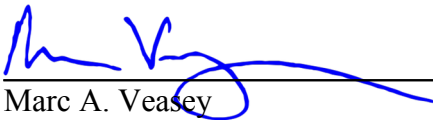
Kay Granger
Member of Congress



John R. Carter
Member of Congress



Sheria Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



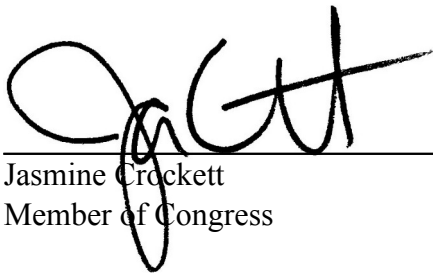
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



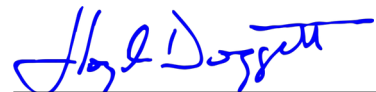
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



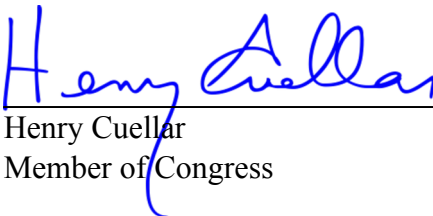
Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



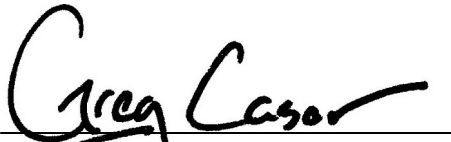
Lloyd Doggett
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Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress



Greg Casar
Member of Congress