



RE-ROUTE THE ROUTE

REAL TALK.

The FRA recently granted a petition made by Texas Central for rulemaking to issue a Rule of Particular Applicability (RPA). Texas Central has seized on this in an attempt to restore public confidence. In doing so, it continues to mislead taxpayers with claims that are not supported by reality.

TEXAS CENTRAL SAYS:

"Your Texas Central has reached yet another major accomplishment."

THE REALITY:

Texas Central isn't wrong for suggesting that ownership of the high-speed rail project belongs with the public. As experts have repeatedly warned, the project carries a high risk of loan default, potentially roping taxpayers into a multi-billion dollar bailout. However, the most recent development is far from a "major accomplishment."

TEXAS CENTRAL SAYS:

"Texas Central's petition for rulemaking to issue a Rule of Particular Applicability (RPA) has been granted by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)...a major move forward in the approvals needed for the project."

THE REALITY:

This decision is neither a sign of intent to fund or finance the project, or a commitment to do so by the federal government, even though Texas Central is inaccurately promoting it as such.

TEXAS CENTRAL SAYS:

"What does [the FRA decision] mean? It means that we continue to be on track for the two FRA actions, this safety rule and the environmental permit, to both be completed next year with financial close and construction quickly following."

THE REALITY:

This claim is misleading. Texas Central originally promised that construction would begin in 2016; with each passing year, they have assured the public that construction is on track to begin the next. Given the large number of local, state, and federal approvals that are still needed by TCR to begin constructing the railway, and the significant pushback it continues to receive from property owners, taxpayers, and lawmakers, the only thing TCR is moving quickly towards is another unfulfilled promise.

TEXAS CENTRAL SAYS:

"We're pleased that the FRA recognizes the world-class standards set by the Shinkansen and validates our plans to replicate the best safety system in the world, right here in Texas."

THE REALITY:

The FRA approval is merely a procedural and bureaucratic step that will open up a period of public commentary, thus yielding Texans the opportunity to demonstrate to the federal government why this project is in fact unsafe, fiscally irresponsible, detrimental for private property rights, and bad for Texas.

Source for Texas Central's arguments: <https://www.texascentral.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Step-1-Screening-of-Corridor-Alternatives-Report.pdf>

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