



RE-ROUTE THE ROUTE

ENGINEERING CONCERNS

The high-speed rail's proposed route was chosen because it would be **less expensive** and **faster** to build – which creates concerns about the safety and structural integrity of the project. A sharp, dangerous curve in the community of Hockley, the effects of “heat buckling,” and environmental concerns are three particular issues that deserve a reevaluation of the current route.

THE HOCKLEY CURVE¹

Texas Central understands that high-speed rail requires gentler curves – and that's part of their rationale for ruling the I-45 corridor out of current consideration. However, the Hockley curve defies the recommendations of rail engineers, and an engineering firm has ruled that this curve increases the risk of a train derailment.

HEAT BUCKLING¹

Excessive heat can cause the buckling of tracks, which may also lead to train derailments. Not only can the frequency of trains slowly begin to warp the tracks – Texas Central has stated that their goal is to have a train departing a station once every half hour – but the hotter summers can also damage tracks. Steel buckling can occur when rail temperatures exceed 124 degrees (equivalent to an air temperature of 92 degrees), making the Hockley curve even more dangerous if the tracks are warping due to the state's hot summers.

ENVIRONMENT²

Texas Central's current alignment runs through an area serving as the relief valve for Houston's floodwaters and could negatively affect the air and water quality around the Cypress and Little Cypress Creeks, the Katy Prairie, and numerous other precious resources along the proposed route.

¹ Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Expert Report of R.L. Banks & Associates, Inc. (July 2018)

² Waller County Sub-Regional Planning Commission Report (May 2016)

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