



RE-ROUTE THE ROUTE

High Speed Rail: Build it Right. Build it Safe. Or Not at All.

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott,

We thank you for reconsidering your position on the boondoggle that is the Texas Central Railway (TCR) high-speed rail project. Our coalition was very concerned when we read your letter to Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, but your agreement to take another look gives us hope that truth will prevail and that TCR's lies to the taxpayers and leaders of this state will be unmasked. In light of that we would like to provide you some of the facts that Texas Central failed to provide.

The TCR high-speed rail project is not "shovel ready" and never has been. TCR's many obstacles include not having any of the permits it needs to begin construction. TCR hasn't even applied for the permit from the Surface Transportation Board, plus, the Army Corps of Engineers has not issued its permits under the Clean Water Act. In addition, lawsuits from property owners impacted by the route are being considered by Texas courts that could prevent TCR from acquiring much of the land it deems necessary for the project.

TCR'S project is financially unsound. TCR has admitted that it is in financial trouble and laid off 28 of its staff as a result. By its own estimates, costs for the project have ballooned to over \$30 billion. Of that \$30 billion estimate, TCR has received a loan for just 1% of that amount from the Japanese government, which was collateralized with Texas land. When this proposed project ultimately fails, large swaths of Texas could be seized by a foreign government. Additionally, despite TCR's repeated promises that this would be an entirely privately funded project, TCR is now actively seeking federal stimulus dollars and Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing loans from the federal government, as noted by a recent letter written by their board Chairman Drayton McLane.

Texas' citizens and state leaders have continuously fought against this project in the legislature and the courts to ensure the private property rights of Texans are fully respected. We have been successful in banning the use of state funds for the project, and are currently petitioning the Texas Supreme Court to take up a case on this issue. We will continue this fight in the upcoming legislative session and hope that you will join us by opposing the project in its entirety.

Please include ReRoute the Route as a voice in this fight as a group of landowners who do not want to see this unnecessary project upend the lives of hardworking Texans, your constituents. If you would like more information regarding this proposed project, please consider us as a resource.

Sincerely,
ReRoute the Route