



BRENDA STARDIG
Houston City Council Member, District A

January 7, 2015

Mr. Michael Johnsen
Lead Environmental Protection Specialist
Office of Program Delivery
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, MS-20
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Johnsen,

As Houston City Council Member for District A, I am writing on behalf of my constituents in regards to the proposed high speed rail from Dallas to Houston. While I support the idea of a high speed rail in general, I am concerned about the proposed plan.

Two of the proposed routes go through parts of District A. The established neighborhoods in these areas could be impacted enormously. While I am aware that the plans are still in the very early stages, there are many questions that need to be answered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

I am concerned that the noise level and the vibrations of the train will be a detriment to the established neighborhoods. Since the train being proposed to pass at least every 30 minutes, I am also concerned about how my district's residents will be able to cross the tracks to get to the freeways and about the potential traffic problems it will create if people are constantly waiting to cross the tracks. One of the reasons why people move to District A is because of its convenient location to many of the major freeways in Houston. If the train deters access to the freeways, I am concerned that there will be incalculable ramifications to District A.

While I understand that traffic solutions in Houston will include high speed rail, the plan must be enacted in the best way possible to the benefit of the City and to my district, which could be impacted the most by the current proposal. I ask that the EIS addresses these concerns and that the Federal Railroad Administration works with the constituents in the area to find the best solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Stardig".

Council Member Brenda Stardig
Houston City Council, District A