



ELLEN R. COHEN  
Houston City Council Member, District C

**Committee Assignments:**

Quality of Life: Committee Chair

Public Safety and  
Homeland Security

Ethics, Elections and  
Council Governance

Budget and Fiscal Affairs

January 5, 2015

To Whom It May Concern;

As the Houston City Council Member representing District C, I write today to express my concerns regarding the currently proposed routes for Texas Central Railway's proposed high-speed rail line connecting Houston to Dallas. Portions of both proposed routes are located within District C and stand to directly impact the quality of life of my constituents.

Per the map of the project for Harris County, provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Railroad Administration, "BNSF Option 1" is adjacent to the neighborhoods of Oak Forest, Mangum Manor, Shepherd Forest, and Garden Oaks within District C. The "Utility Alternative" is similarly adjacent to the District C neighborhoods of Cottage Grove, Woodcrest, Westwood Grove, West End, and First Ward.

Since learning of this project over the past few months, my constituents in these neighborhoods have shared with me their overwhelming opposition to the currently proposed routes, citing concerns over the potential for decreased property values, blighted neighborhood aesthetics, noise, vibrations, safety, and others.

As Houston and Texas continue to grow and our population continues to increase dramatically, traffic, pollution, and other challenges also continue to advance. I support high-speed rail as an important mass transit option that will help to reduce some of these challenges. **However, I oppose the currently proposed routes for this project due to their close proximity to deed-restricted residential neighborhoods.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at (832) 393-3004 or via email at [DistrictC@houstontx.gov](mailto:DistrictC@houstontx.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ellen R. Cohen".

Ellen R. Cohen  
Houston City Council Member  
District C