

**For Immediate Release:**

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Press kit: [www.TheMedinaLine.com/media](http://www.TheMedinaLine.com/media)

## **CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON THE MEDINA LINE**

*RAIL WILL SERVE AS CATALYST FOR NEW JOBS, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN MEDINA COUNTY*

**HONDO, Texas (Aug. 22, 2017)** – Southwest Gulf Railroad Company (SGRR) has begun construction on The Medina Line, a 9-mile common-carrier railroad near Dunlay that will serve as a catalyst for new jobs and economic opportunity in Medina County.

Construction activity started with surveying and marking the right of way. The next phases will be fencing, earthwork, sitework and rail installation. Based on current plans, construction is anticipated to be complete in 2019. SGRR has forged partnerships with the community and stakeholders to bring to life this unique project, which will serve customers on and along the route.

“This is a testament to what’s possible when we work together,” said Erik Remmert, Vice President of SGRR. “This project will serve as a catalyst for jobs and economic opportunity for decades to come right here in Medina County. We look forward to continuing our work with the community and being good neighbors.”

The construction phases will overlap, and work will generally progress from south to north but may vary.

Houston-based WT Byler Co, Inc., which has performed hundreds of miles of railroad construction in Texas and Louisiana, will serve as the general contractor. The company is a leader in the industry and has earned awards for their safety, health and environmental track record.

The U.S. Surface Transportation Board in 2008 granted SGRR the authority to build and operate The Medina Line. The line is being constructed along the Modified Eastern Bypass Route, determined by the U.S. Surface Transportation Board, engineers and environmental experts to be the optimal route.

The Medina Line will create new construction, engineering and operations jobs and support others throughout the County. In addition, the rail line will generate new tax revenues for vital government services, including road construction and maintenance, schools and public safety. Customers and employers who use The Medina Line will also generate additional revenue through increased household incomes and added economic benefits that support jobs and spending at local suppliers, stores and restaurants.

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SGRR is following through with its commitment to share opportunities associated with construction and operation of The Medina Line by, whenever possible, hiring local workers and using local products, materials and services. WT Byler is accepting applications for heavy equipment operators and laborers, and those opportunities will be posted to [www.TheMedinaLine.com/opportunities](http://www.TheMedinaLine.com/opportunities).

Federal and state laws recognize the common public benefits of projects like The Medina Line while protecting landowners. A key requirement of the STB authorization was a rigorous and thorough environmental review, which included 91 mitigation measures from its Final Environmental Impact Statement that addressed issues, including biological and cultural resources, water, noise and air quality, and safety.

The Medina Line will operate as a common carrier rail line serving customers and employers located on or near the line and leveraging its unique access to Union Pacific Railroad, the nation's largest freight railroad, and U.S. Route 90. SGRR is working with Union Pacific Railroad to actively market development opportunities on or near The Medina Line.

SGRR has created a website for anyone wanting to learn more information or sign up for updates as the project moves forward. Visit [www.TheMedinaLine.com](http://www.TheMedinaLine.com) to learn more.

**About Southwest Gulf Railroad Company:**

Southwest Gulf Railroad Company (SGRR) is a short-line railroad company keeping local communities connected to the national rail network through America's heartland. We provide local business customers access to the national and global marketplace through low-cost and convenient transportation solutions. Incorporated in 2003, SGRR is a subsidiary of Vulcan Materials Company, the nation's largest producer of construction aggregates and a major producer of other construction materials. An industry leader in safety, health, and environmental stewardship, Vulcan's coast-to-coast footprint aligns with and serves the nation's growth centers. Through the company's extensive logistics network, Vulcan provides materials to build and repair valuable infrastructure such as roads, bridges, residential and commercial buildings, schools, hospitals and places of worship. Learn more at [www.vulcanmaterials.com](http://www.vulcanmaterials.com).