
TxDOT's five goals: reduce congestion • enhance safety • expand economic opportunity
• improve air quality • preserve the value of transportation assets.

For Immediate Release – July 13, 2009

Texas Requests High-Speed Rail Stimulus Funding

AUSTIN - Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) officials submitted seventeen pre-applications to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) late July 10 for a variety of rail projects across the state. The competitive grant program is a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and advances the Obama Administration's vision for high-speed intercity passenger rail throughout the nation.

In all, \$8 billion in ARRA funds, in addition to a little over \$90 million in FY 2008 and 2009 federal appropriations are available through this program, which is divided among the following funding tracks: Track One - Projects, Track Two - Service Development Programs, Track Three - Service Planning Activities and Track Four - Appropriations-Funded Projects. TxDOT pre-applications seek over \$1.9 billion across all four tracks.

"The pre-applications submitted by TxDOT are not simply our requests. TxDOT staff worked diligently with our partners in the railroad industry as well as local and regional organizations to develop each request," said Phillip Russell, TxDOT assistant executive director for innovative project development. "TxDOT is committed to advancing rail projects in our state to move people and goods. These changes will not happen overnight, but I am confident that an integrated, multi-modal transportation system will help Keep Texas Moving."

Interim guidance on the FRA's High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program was issued June 17. The next milestones in the process will come August 24, when applications are due for funding tracks one, three and four, and October 2, when applications are due for funding track two.

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Texas High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program Pre-Applications

Track 1 Projects

Project	Reason for Selection	Est. Cost (M)	Amtrak Route	HSR Corridor
Tower 55 - At grade improvements to increase throughput at Tower 55 and reduce congestion in DFW (Amtrak supported)	High priority project in DFW area plans are being completed and construction could start 2010	\$70.00	Heartland Flyer	South Central
Crossing Signal Timing - BNSF FTW Subdivision adjust signal timing to allow for higher speeds (Amtrak supported)	Construction can begin 2010	\$2.00	Heartland Flyer	South Central
Infrastructure improvements BNSF FTW Sub. Improvements to subgrade	Construction can begin 2010	\$7.88	Heartland Flyer/Texas Eagle	South Central
Phase II North Texas Directional Running - BNSF connects FTW subdivision to Duncan subdivision to allow directional running	Construction can begin 2010	\$14.50	Heartland Flyer	South Central
Texas Sunset Limited - Siding extensions in Missouri City, Spofford and Engle TX to improve capacity on Amtrak's Sunset Limited route	Plans being developed and project could go to construction 2010	\$22.00	Sunset Limited	NA
McNeil Siding - Siding extension at McNeil, TX improves interchange between UP and AWRR and improved Amtrak performance	Plans being developed and project could go to construction 2010	\$6.30	Texas Eagle	South Central
Alfalfa Crossovers - El Paso, TX addition of switches that will increase throughput and improve Amtrak performance	Pans being developed and project could go to construction 2010	\$2.50	Sunset Limited	NA
Texas High Speed Rail (South Central High-Speed Rail and Transportation Authority, Inc.)	Project for corridor plan, NEPA and PE for high-speed rail projects in Texas	\$1,700.00	Texas Eagle/Heartland Flyer	South Central
UP freight relocation and Austin-San Antonio Passenger Service - ASAICRD	NEPA and PE for Austin-San Antonio rail relocation of freight line to east of Austin	\$80.00 of total project cost of \$2.5 b	Texas Eagle	South Central

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Track 2 Projects

Project	Reason for Selection	Est. Cost (M)	Amtrak Route	HSR Corridor
Saginaw to Lake Wanda Double Track - BNSF double track to reduce delays	Construction can begin 2011	\$20.50	Heartland Flyer	South Central
Northside Siding to Saginaw Double Track - BNSF double track to reduce delays	Construction can begin 2011	\$13.50	Heartland Flyer	South Central

Track 3 Projects

Project	Reason for selection	Est. Cost (M)	Amtrak Route	HSR Corridor
Neches River Bridge - Study to determine the feasibility and cost of replacing Neches River Bridge (Intercity passenger service)	Single track speed restricted bridge that causes freight delays and delays to Amtrak's Sunset Limited route. Replacement with a double track bridge would increase capacity and reduce delays.	\$0.5	Sunset Limited	Gulf Coast
290 Hwy Corridor Study (Intercity Passenger Service)	Study to determine the feasibility of developing passenger rail service between Austin and Houston in the US 290 corridor.	TBD	NA	None
East Texas Amtrak Corridor Study (Intercity Passenger Service)	Study on existing Texas Eagle route between Dallas and Texarkana to improve and increase service and for new service to Shreveport/Bossier City LA.	TBD	Texas Eagle	South Central
Texas High Speed Rail (South Central High-Speed Rail and Transportation Authority, Inc.) (New High-Speed Rail Service)	For preliminary studies for the designing and construction of high-speed passenger service in Texas	\$9.5	Texas Eagle/Heartland Flyer	South Central
Baton Rouge to Houston High-Speed Rail Corridor Planning Studies, in cooperation with LA (New High-Speed Rail Service)	Study to implement new high-speed rail service between Baton Rouge, LA and Houston, TX	\$3.0	Sunset Limited	Gulf Coast

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Track 4 Projects

Project	Reason for Selection	Est. Cost (M)	Amtrak Route	HSR Corridor
TRE double tracking from E. Richland Hills to Hurst and from Rogers Rd to W.C. Junction to allow Amtrak to use this route versus the UP line (Amtrak supported)	PS&E is in preliminary stages but projects could be completed by the end of 2012	\$43.00	Texas Eagle (proposed)	South Central

For more information, please contact TxDOT's Government and Public Affairs Division at 512-463-8588.

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