



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



# 2019 TEXAS RAIL PLAN

Southwest Rail Conference 2019

# Why are we updating the Rail Plan?

- Federal Government requirement. (49 CFR 266.15)
- State requirement. (Transportation Code, Title 6, Sub Title A, Chapter 201)
- Engage in dialogue with stakeholders and general public regarding rail priorities, provide guidance for future activities
- Assess rail needs and develop a list of potential rail improvement projects
- Compile factual information on Texas' rail network
- Articulate rail's benefits to Texas and rail's role within the Texas transportation network, communicate with public and decision-makers
- And to be eligible for federal funding states are required to update their plans every 4 years

- Passenger and Freight Rail Stakeholder meetings held September 20<sup>th</sup> and October 8<sup>th</sup>
- Public Meeting held December 11<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 6:00 PM in Austin.
- We will be accepting comments through May 2019
- We are in the process of review draft sections of the plan
- Identifying freight and passenger rail improvements with input from stakeholders

# Texas Rail Plan Upcoming Schedule

Task	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Passenger stakeholder meetings									
Freight stakeholder meetings									
Public meeting & online comment									
Draft Texas Rail Plan									
Plan review and comment period									
Final plan hosted online									

# Rail Highway Grade Crossing Program

- Manages rail improvements through public-private partnership agreements
- Working with 2 consultants to expedite crossing safety improvements and civil design on behalf of TxDOT Districts

Project Type	YTD Agreements Executed	YTD Cost
Construction & Maintenance	87	\$1,053,108
Federal Signal Projects	7	\$1,252,050
Replanking Projects	0	\$0
Total	94	\$2,305,158

# Rail Safety Inspection Program

Enforces state and federal rail safety standards

- 1891 – Texas Legislature created the Railroad Commission.
- 1983 – The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) established a State Participation Program with Texas
  - Currently there are 32 States and 200 railroad inspectors
  - 14 inspectors in Texas
- 2005 – The State Railroad Inspection program was transferred to the Texas Department of Transportation.





- Regional study to identify rail and roadway improvements that will increase fluidity in rail network and identify grade separations to improve vehicular mobility
- Study is being conducted in two Phases. Phase 1 will look at improvements to the BNSF and DART network being developed by BNSF and the second Phase will look at the entire Metroplex to identify freight rail improvements and will be developed by TxDOT
- This study is a collaboration of the Class 1 railroads, short lines, DART and NCTCOG.
- Study is scheduled to be complete in the fall of this year

- Study was conducted in conjunction with BNSF, KCS and UP
- Railroads provided list of rail over roadway bridges that are repeatedly struck by high vehicles
- Looked at a total of 62 bridges across the state
- Team conducted site visits to access each location to determine the most effective mitigation measure to reduce strikes
- Short term mitigation measures include addition low clearance signage, installation of electronic and mechanical warning devices.
- Long term measures include realignment and profile changes to roadways and tracks.



# SH 183 In Fort Worth



# Houston – Beaumont Regional Freight Study

- Finalizing Contract
- Scope of work is similar to the DFW Study
- Study area will include Houston and Beaumont MPO areas and the Port of Freeport
- We will identify freight rail improvements and grade separations to improve freight fluidity in the region and improve vehicular mobility
- Passenger rail improvements or addition of new passenger rail service will not be part of the study
- Hope to kick this study off early February 2019

# Any Questions?

[Mark.Werner@txdot.gov](mailto:Mark.Werner@txdot.gov)

512-486-5137