



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

ADMINISTRATOR

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 9, 2011

Mr. Amadeo Saenz
Executive Director, Texas Department of Transportation
Dewitt C. Greer Highway Building
125 East 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701-2483

**Subject: March 2011 High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program Notice of Funding
Availability, Application Selection Decisions**

Dear Mr. Saenz,

On behalf of U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, thank you for your application(s) submitted in response to the March 2011 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) program. I am pleased to inform you that your organization has been selected as a recipient of program funds.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received an overwhelming response to the March 2011 solicitation. Submissions included more than 90 applications from 24 States, the District of Columbia and Amtrak, with funding requests totaling approximately \$10 billion dollars – far exceeding the \$2 billion available. Project types solicited under the March 2011 NOFA included Service Development Programs, Individual – Final Design (FD)/Construction Projects and Individual – Preliminarily Engineering (PE)/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Projects.

In order to reach the final funding selections detailed below, FRA utilized the merit based application review process outlined in the March 2011 NOFA. Applications were first screened for completeness and eligibility and then evaluated by a panel of Department of Transportation subject matter experts - in the fields of transit, finance, project management, engineering and environmental - using the evaluation criteria listed in the March 2011 NOFA, including project readiness. Applications were then reviewed by the Department's Senior Leadership, which selected projects that best aligned with HSIPR program goals and with the Department's

strategic transportation goals as described in the March 2011 NOFA. Due to the intense competition and high demand from States, not all applications were selected for funding and some projects were awarded a portion of the total amount requested.

Below is a listing of the final selection decisions for the two grant application(s) submitted by the State of Texas.

APPLICATIONS SELECTED

The following application(s) has been selected for Recovery Act funding. The GrantSolutions application number(s), project name(s), project type(s) and funding amount(s) of the application(s) are:

- HSR2011000523; Dallas - Fort Worth to Houston Core Express Service; Individual Project - PE/NEPA; \$15,000,000

APPLICATIONS NOT SELECTED

The following application(s) was determined to be complete and eligible, but was not selected during this round due to the results of the extensive evaluation process and the volume of high-quality applications submitted. The GrantSolutions application number(s) and project name(s), and project type(s) of the application(s) are:

- HSR2011000532; Dallas-Fort Worth Trinity Railway Express Positive Train Control; Individual Project - FD/Construction

Your FRA Customer Service Lead will contact your staff to discuss next steps in the award process. If you have any questions, please visit FRA's High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail website, as information will be continuously updated: <http://www.fra.dot.gov>.

Again, thank you for your interest and support in developing a national high-speed intercity passenger rail network. We look forward to continuing this partnership with you as we work together to build a sustainable high-speed rail program in your State and throughout the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph C. Szabo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" being the most prominent.

Joseph C. Szabo
Administrator

cc: Jennifer Moczygemba