

Dallas – Fort Worth Core Express Service



An Environmental Study by Federal Railroad Administration and Texas Department of Transportation

Drop-in Public Information Open House

Tuesday, June 30, 2015



WELCOME AND THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY

Meeting Format – Open House



Informational Open House

WELCOME

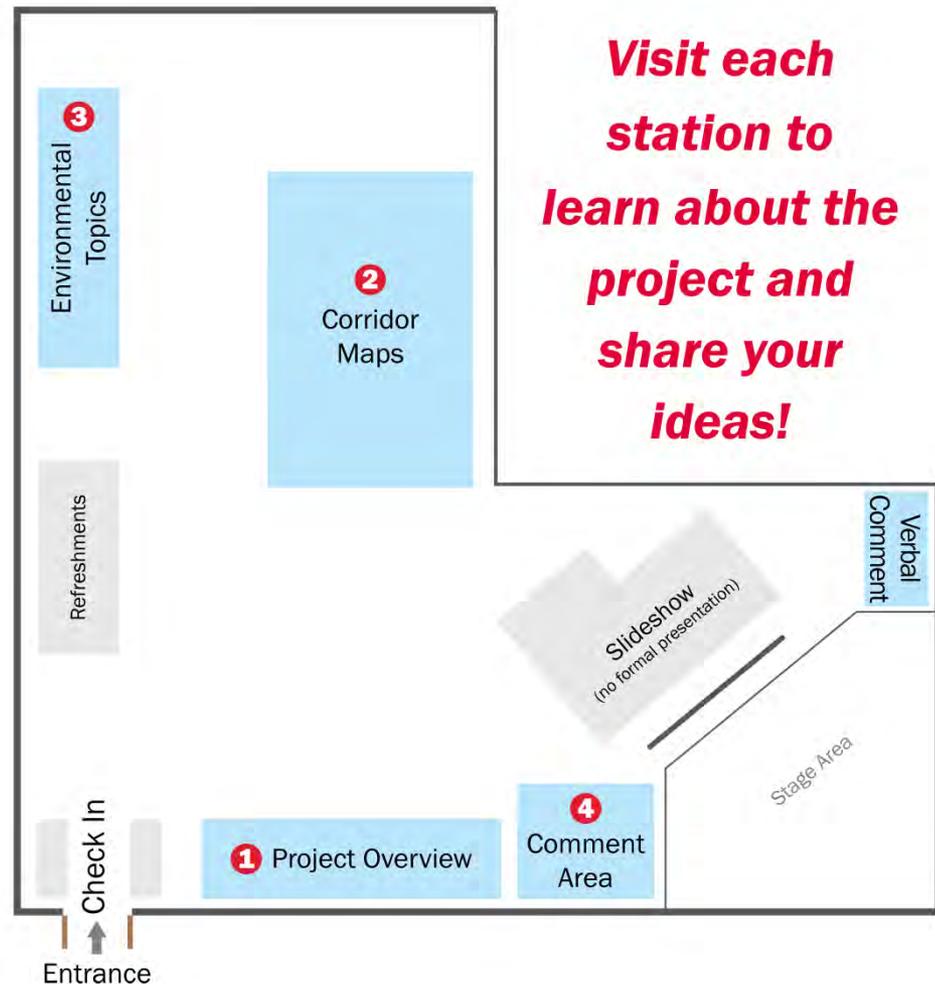
Meeting Format
Drop-In Open House
3:30–7:30 p.m.

Visit Stations 1 through 4
Learn About the Project
Share Your Questions & Comments

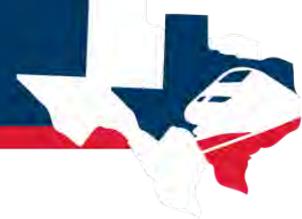
No Formal Presentations

Agencies Represented

Texas Dept. of Transportation (TxDOT)
Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
North Central Texas Council of Governments



Purpose of Today's Meeting



- ★ Provide an update on the project
- ★ Share what we do know today
- ★ Share what we don't yet know, but plan to study
- ★ Hear from YOU:
 - What questions should be answered in this study?
 - Where are the best locations for track and station alignment alternatives?
 - Are there any specific issues of concern?



RAIL PROJECTS OVERVIEW

Current Passenger Rail Studies



Related Passenger Rail Studies

**Subject of
Today's
Meeting**



Different Types of Rail Service



Existing and Potential Passenger Rail Services in the Metroplex



Street Car

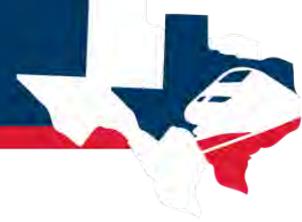
Light Rail (DART)

Commuter Rail (TRE)

**High-Performance Rail
(faster, limited stop)**

**High-Speed Rail
(Dallas to Houston Project)**

What is “High-Performance” Rail?



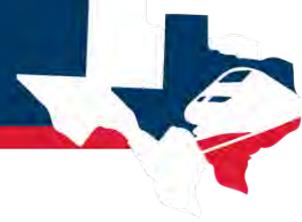
Features of a high-performance rail system include:

<i>Higher-speed</i>	Faster speeds, where practical, and shorter trips
<i>High-frequency</i>	More trains, more often
<i>High-reliability</i>	Frequent, reliable, on-time service
<i>High-touch amenities</i>	Comfortable seats, food service, fast/convenient boarding
<i>High-tech</i>	Digital ticketing, Wi-Fi, real-time travel information
<i>High-performance trains</i>	Safe and reliable, based on proven, international models and global best practices in operations and maintenance



Dallas – Fort Worth Core Express Service Project

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

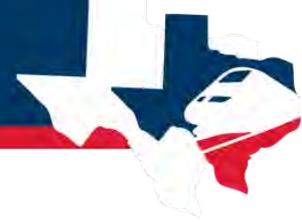


**Texas
Transportation
Commission
establishes the
Commission for High-
Speed Rail (CHSR)
in the Dallas-Fort
Worth Region**

**CHSR
advises on
possible
intercity or
high-speed
passenger
rail in the
Metroplex**

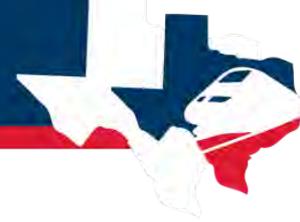
**Study on
feasibility of a
faster,
limited-stop
“high-
performance”
passenger
rail service
from Dallas to
Fort Worth**

Overview of this Project



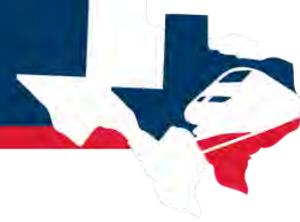
- ★ Dallas to Fort Worth passenger rail line
- ★ Different service from Trinity Rail Express (TRE) or light-rail trains (DART, etc.)
- ★ Faster, limited-stop, high-performance service
- ★ Connects to other high-speed and higher-speed rail projects that connect in Downtown Dallas and Fort Worth

Preliminary Corridors Considered



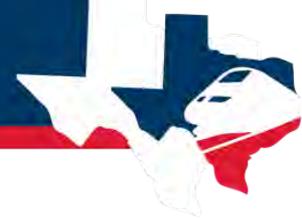
LEGEND Interstate 30 Route Trinity Rail Express Route

Where We've Been



- ★ Dallas - Fort Worth Core Express Project started Sept. 2014
- ★ Environmental study process
 - No funding for final design or construction
- ★ Public meetings held Nov. 2014
 - Fort Worth – 114 attendees
 - Arlington – 152 attendees
 - Dallas – 92 attendees
- ★ Many others commented online





What We Heard During Public Scoping Meetings

Opportunities & Support

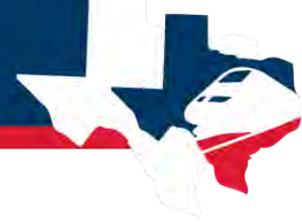
- *Economic catalyst for the Metroplex*
- *Critical to the future of regional mobility*
- *Meets future transportation needs for a rapidly growing region*
- *Would reduce highway traffic congestion*
- *Connect to other higher-speed rail lines & transit*
- *Benefit to regional air quality*
- *Faster, more convenient alternative to driving*
- *Support for alignments within existing transportation rights-of-way*

Approximately 400 people participated in the scoping process including public and agency meetings held in Dallas, Fort Worth and Arlington in Fall 2014

Questions and Concerns

- *Need for project*
- *Potential project cost*
- *Available funding*
- *Possible environmental impacts*

What we Know & What we Will Study



What we Know Today

- ✓ Project not funded for construction
- ✓ Comments received at public meetings at the start of the project (fall 2014)
- ✓ Potential rail corridors identified in previous studies
- ✓ High/higher speed rail called for in regional transportation plans
- ✓ Study process and anticipated timeline (through mid-2017)

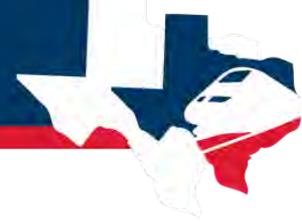
What we Will Study

- Specific corridors and possible track alignments
- Stations: number and locations
- Types of train types and speeds
- Environmental impacts (potential noise, vibration etc.)
- Project costs and possible future funding sources
- All stakeholder input



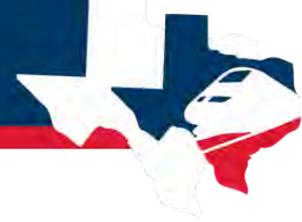
WHAT ARE WE STUDYING?

What is an Environmental Impact Statement?



- ★ Developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to meet federal requirements for NEPA
- ★ **NEPA** = **N**ational **E**nvironmental **P**olicy **A**ct – tool for federal decision making
- ★ Describes the positive and negative environmental effects of a proposed action
- ★ "Environment" includes the natural and physical environment and the relationship of **people** with that environment





A broad range of topics including:

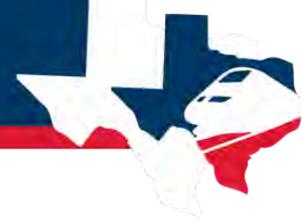
Natural Resources

- ★ Air quality
- ★ Energy
- ★ Fish & wildlife habitat
- ★ Wetlands
- ★ Water quality

Community Resources

- ★ Cultural resources
- ★ Economic development
- ★ Historic properties
- ★ Land use
- ★ Noise & vibration
- ★ Safety & security
- ★ Transportation

Additional Areas of Study



- ★ Potential alignments
- ★ Train types and speeds
- ★ Station opportunity areas
- ★ Multi-modal connectivity
- ★ Maintenance/operation facility sites
- ★ What happens if we don't build the project





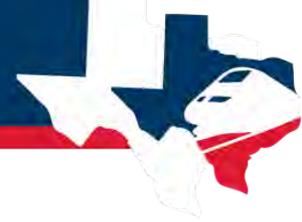
STEPS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY PROCESS

Steps in Our Study Process



- ★ Beginning to refine the corridors for further study
- ★ Detailed study of potential opportunities and impacts
- ★ Study goes through 2017
- ★ Multiple opportunities for agency and public involvement





National Historic Preservation Act (1966) takes into account the effects of the undertaking on eligible or listed National Register properties.

Four Step Process:

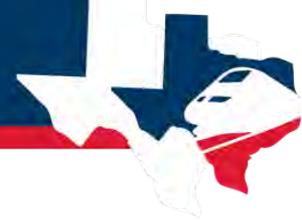
- ☆ Initiate the process
- ☆ Identify historic properties
- ☆ Assess effects of undertaking on historic properties
- ☆ Resolve any adverse effects



Where Might the Tracks be Located?

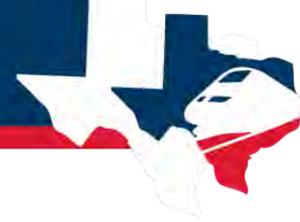
POTENTIAL CORRIDORS

Where Might the Tracks be Located?



- ★ Downtown Fort Worth to Downtown Dallas
- ★ Previous rail studies recommended placing any new tracks within existing transportation corridors
 - Trinity Railway Express (TRE)
 - Interstate 30 (I-30)
- ★ New “combination” alignment being considered that includes State Highway 360 corridor

New Corridor Under Consideration



Draft Potential Alternatives

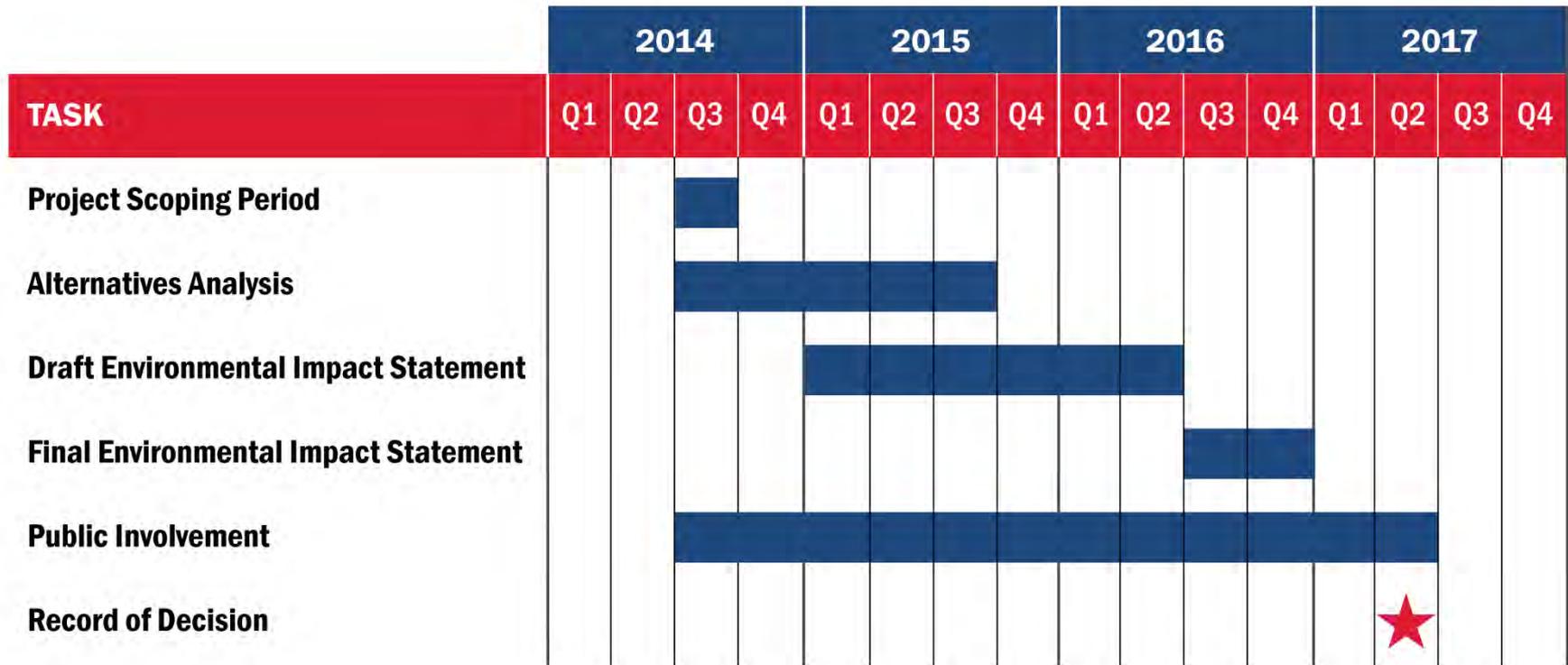
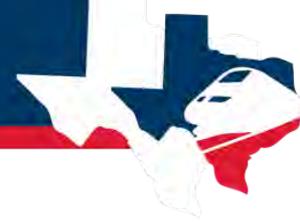


Corridors Under Consideration for Further Study; Exact Alignments Not Yet Determined



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Project Schedule

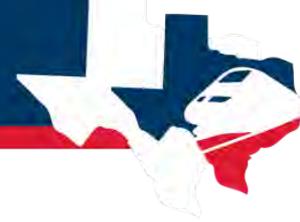




Get Involved and Stay Connected!

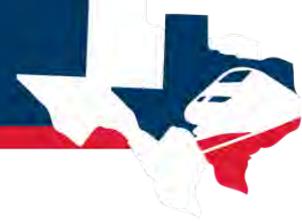
HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

How You Can Participate



- ★ Share your comments in writing, on the project Web page, via email, or by mail
- ★ Follow the project online and sign up to receive email communications and notifications
- ★ Request translation or other assistance by contacting TxDOT (see Contact Info. slide)





- ★ TxDOT Project Page: www.TxDOT.gov
(keyword search Dallas Fort Worth Express)
- ★ FRA Project Page:
www.FRA.dot.gov/Page/P0715
- ★ Commission for High-Speed Rail in the
Dallas/Fort Worth Area:
www.dfwhighspeedrail.com
- ★ TxDOT Rail Home Page:
<http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/rail.html>

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Thank You for Joining Us Today

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