

Texas Rail Plan Briefing

Public Meeting Presentation

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Presentation Outline

- State Rail Planning Requirements
- Texas Rail Plan Elements
 - Freight rail
 - Passenger rail
 - Safety and Security
 - Financing
 - Rail Program
- Public input
- Next steps

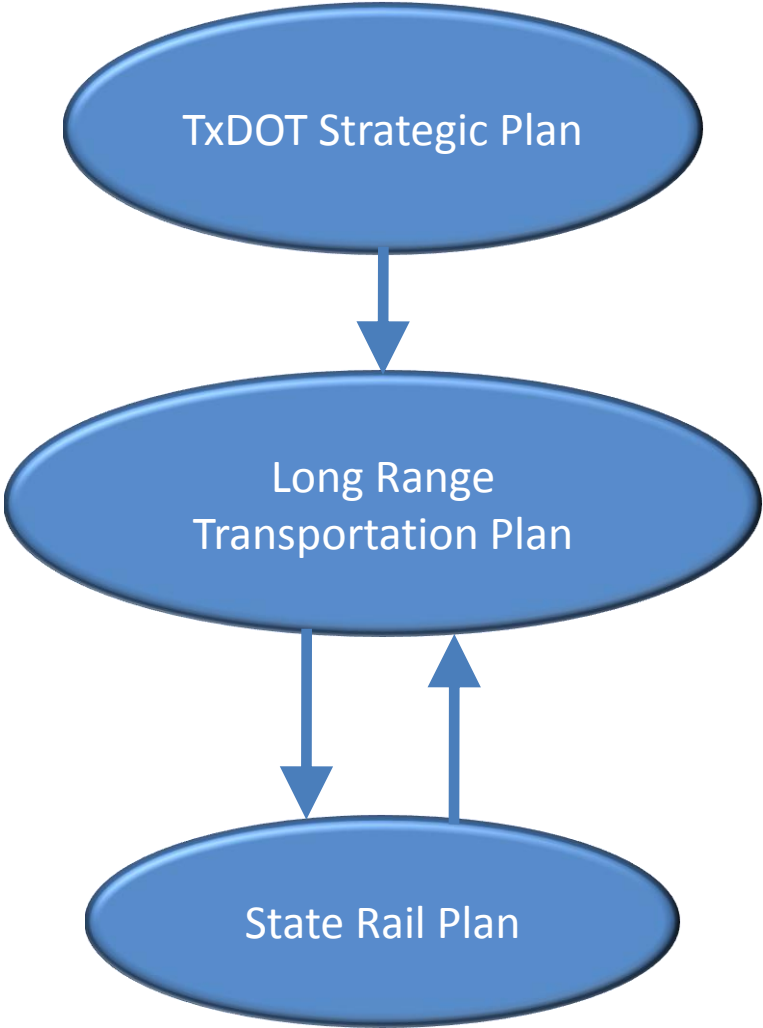
State Rail Planning

- Federal law:
 - PRIIA establishes content elements in 2008
 - States seeking HSIPR grants need state rail plans
 - U.S. DOT guidance required, expected next year
 - National Rail Plan
- State law:
 - Statewide passenger rail plan
 - Enacted last session
- Guidance from AASHTO
 - State Rail Planning Best Practices

National Rail Plan

- PRIIA requires FRA to develop a long-range national rail plan
 - That is “consistent with approved State rail plans and the rail needs of the Nation”
 - That promotes “an integrated, cohesive, efficient, and optimized national rail system for the movement of goods and people”
 - Preliminary Plan released 10/09, Final due 9/15/10
- Relationship between state and national plan
 - FRA says the National Plan will offer “guidance on the development of State Rail Plans”
 - The National Plan will also address capacity building, safety, livability

How the State Rail Plan Relates to Other State Plans



Texas Rail Plan Chapters

Executive Summary

1. Introduction

2. Outreach Process

3. Freight Rail

4. Passenger Rail

5. Safety and Security

6. Financing

7. Short and Long-Range
Rail Program

Vision for Rail in Texas?

- TxDOT conducted Visioning Workshops in May 2010 with rail stakeholders to gain input on vision for state rail plan
- Rail plan will specify vision for freight and passenger rail, incorporating this input.

Rail Vision

- The Texas rail system will provide for cost-effective, energy-efficient, environmentally-beneficial personal mobility and goods movement, connecting Texas communities and Texas businesses with domestic and international markets, reducing road congestion and improving air quality.

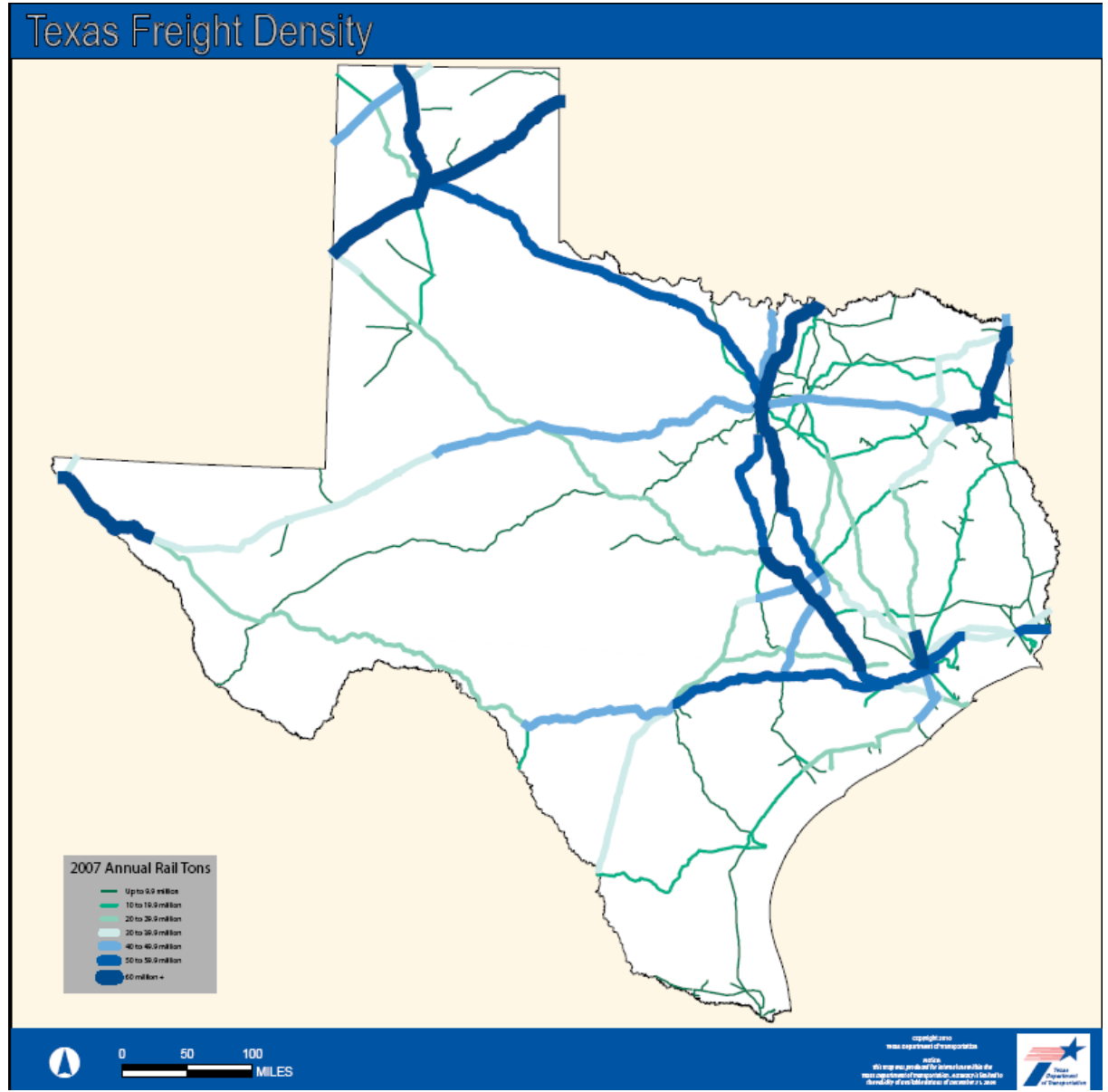
Freight Rail Vision

- Texas' freight rail network will provide safe, reliable, high-velocity movements to and from Texas shippers and receivers, intermodal facilities and ports of entry on international borders and along the Gulf.
- Productive use of existing infrastructure will be maximized.
- Grade separations, grade crossing improvements and closures will improve highway/rail safety and enhance quality of life for communities bisected by increasingly busy rail lines.

Passenger Rail Vision

- A variety of passenger rail services will be offered to a broad section of the Texas population
- Passenger rail will be cost and time competitive for passengers, driven by careful, market-driven studies
- Passenger rail services and facilities will help create more livable, sustainable urban activity centers.
- Passenger rail service will not inhibit current and future freight rail networks.
- New higher speed rail services will be launched where supported by economic analysis and demand.

Freight Rail Density

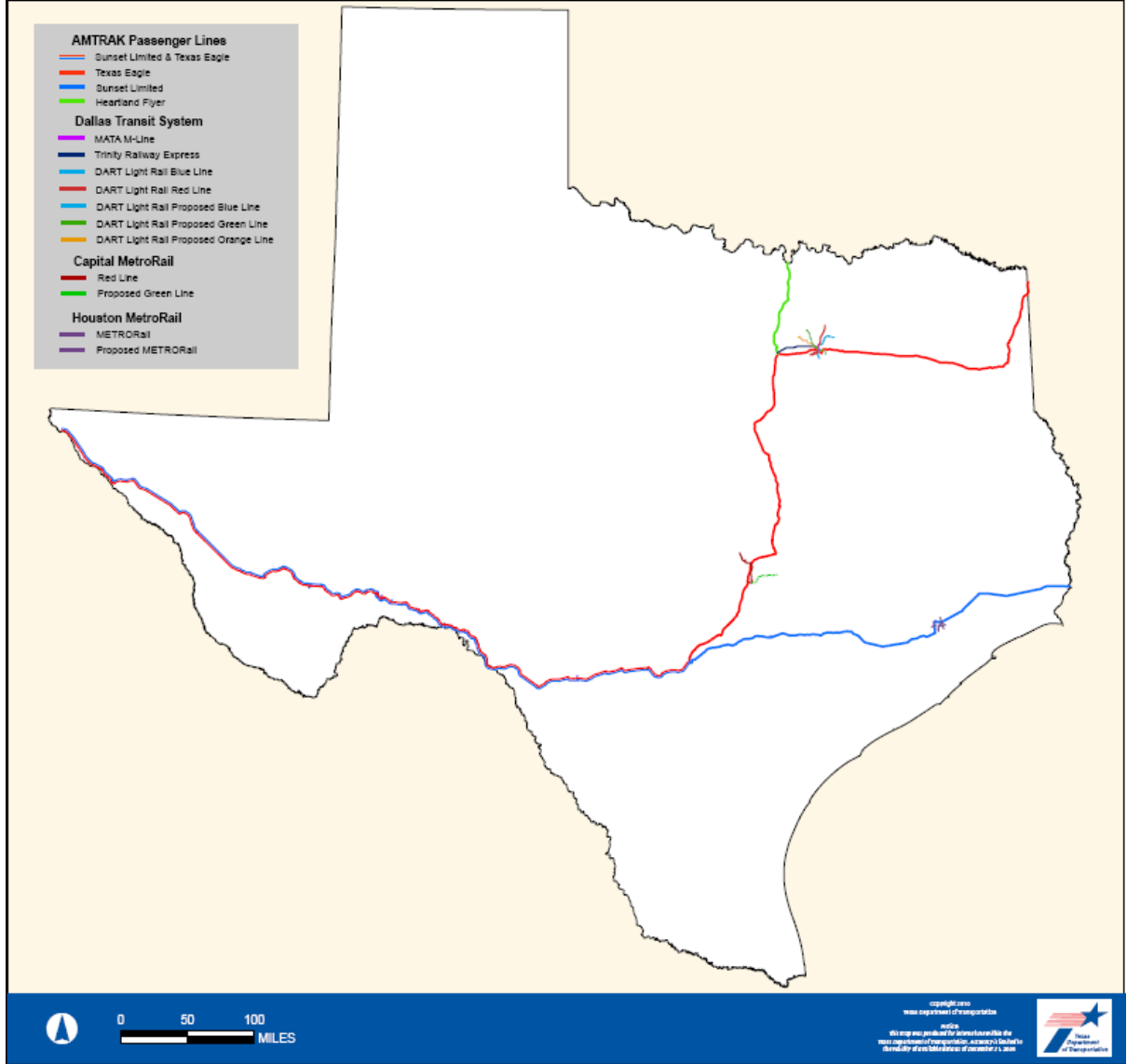


Freight Rail Observations

- Texas has more rail miles than any other state.
- Texas' location (coast, border) and large population make Texas a target and generator of freight rail traffic, more than that which passes through
- Border and port areas pose special operating and capacity challenges for freight railroads

Passenger Rail: Current Services

Texas Current Passenger Rail



Passenger Rail Observations

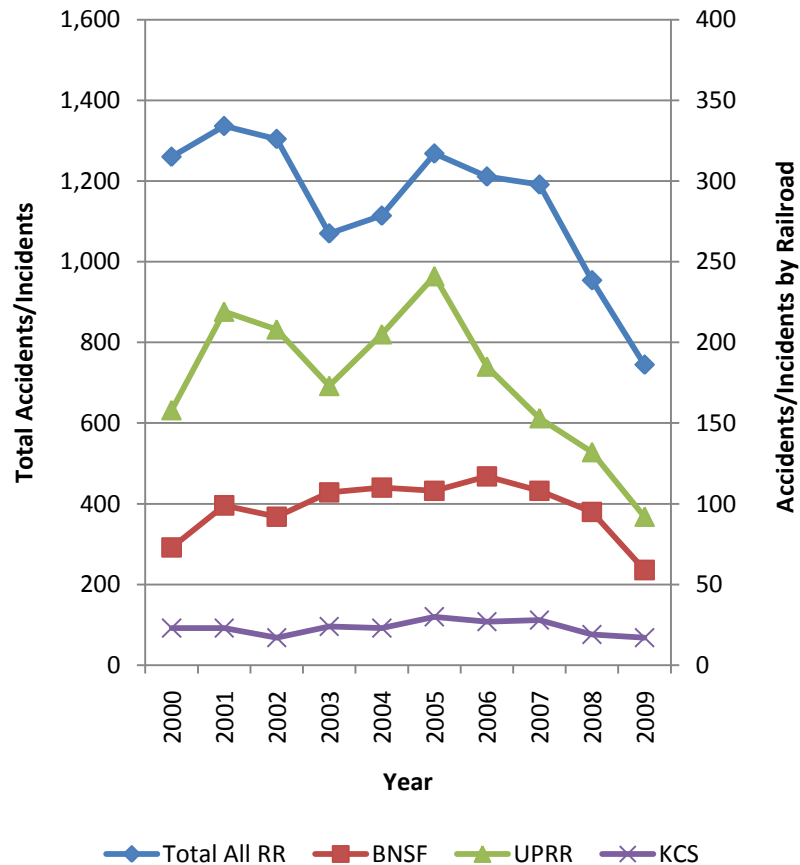
- Rail transit use dwarfs intercity rail:
 - Light rail in Houston and Dallas: 30.5 million annual riders
 - Commuter rail in DFW: 2.7 million annual riders
 - Amtrak routes in Texas: 320,000 annual riders
- High-speed rail has been discussed in Texas for 25 years
- TxDOT directed to coordinate intercity passenger rail planning and interconnectivity by Texas Legislature in 2009

Federally Designated High-Speed Rail Corridors



Safety and Security

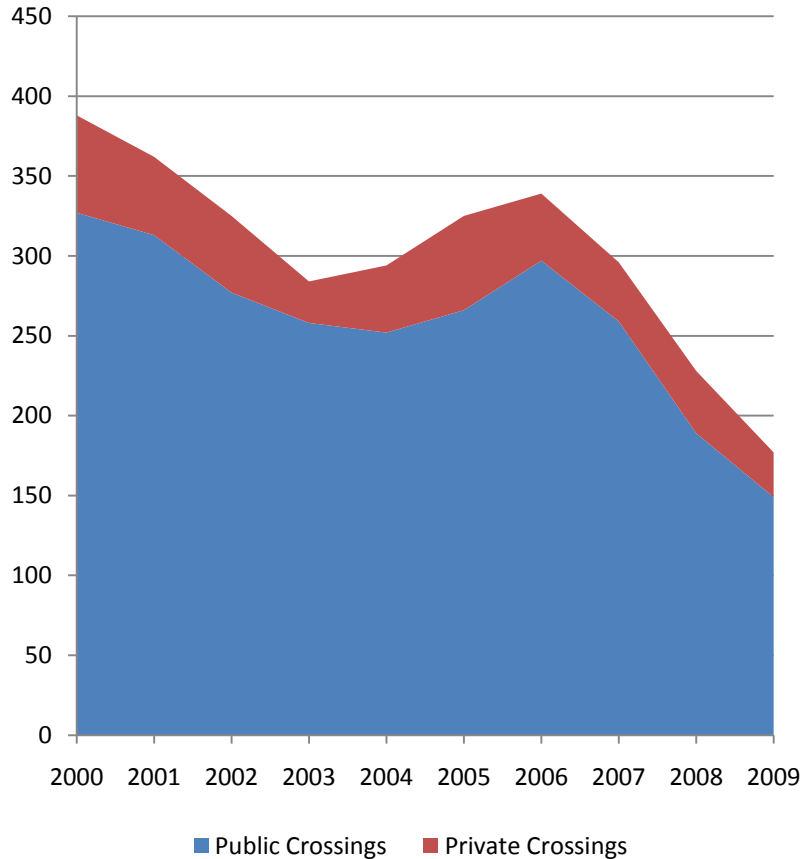
Texas Total Rail Accidents/Incidents,
2000-2009



- Rail accidents/incidents decreasing despite higher rail volumes
- Most derailments happen at slow speeds in rail yards
- More train accidents caused by human factors and track-related

Safety and Security

Texas Highway-Rail Grade Crossing
Accidents/Incidents, 2000-2009



- Grade crossing accidents/incidents decreasing
- Texas has highest number of grade crossing accidents/incidents
- Texas has high risk factors—highest number of crossings, high rail and auto traffic

Financing

- New federal programs for high-speed and intercity passenger rail created in 2008 and funded in 2009 and 2010
- Other federal and state programs can finance rail projects
- Texas Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund created in 2005, funding uncertain for FY 2011
- Innovative financing includes public-private partnerships, value capture (tax increment financing, transportation reinvestment zones)

Texas Governmental Institutions With Rail-Related Authority

- TxDOT Rail Division
- Freight rail:
 - Freight rail districts
 - Rural rail transportation districts
 - Regional mobility authorities
- Passenger rail:
 - Inter-municipal commuter rail districts
 - Commuter rail districts
 - Transit authorities
 - Regional mobility authorities
 - Rail districts

Short and Long-Range Freight Rail Program

- Regional Freight Rail Studies have studied rail networks, freight flows, identified and modeled improvements
- Studies have identified individual projects:
 - Grade separations, crossing closures
 - New rail lines and capacity improvements
- Some districts' studies are not complete, but will be added to Texas Rail Plan list of projects
- Freight rail projects can be prioritized through weighted qualitative ranking system

Short and Long-Range Passenger Rail Program

- Texas needs to examine corridors:
 - Ridership, travel time values, revenues
 - Implications for corridor location alternatives
 - Capital and operating costs for service alternatives
 - Feasibility and trade off information
- TxDOT has requested federal funding for corridor studies:
 - Oklahoma City to South Texas
 - Dallas/Fort Worth to Houston
 - Houston to Austin

Texas Rail Plan—Next Steps

- Public meetings held in August
- Public hearing in September
- Public comments incorporated into final version of Texas Rail Plan
- Plan submitted for Texas Transportation Commission approval in October
- Commission-approved plan submitted to FRA

We Want to Hear From You

- Attend public meetings
- Complete comment forms here, mail in or submit comments online
- Complete questionnaire here or online
- Keep track of Texas Rail Plan at www.txdot.gov, keyword: rail plan

Questions?