

## Background

- The South Orient Railroad (SORR), a TxDOT owned rail facility, is approximately 391 miles in length. SORR extends from San Angelo Junction (in Coleman County, 5 miles southwest of Coleman) through San Angelo to Presidio at the Texas/Mexico border.
- On February 2, 2001, TxDOT completed the purchase of the SORR and leased operations to Texas Pacifico Transportation (a subsidiary of Grupo Mexico). Under the terms of the agreement, TxDOT became the railroad's permanent owner and Texas Pacifico obtained a 40-year operating lease with renewal options.
- Train speeds on the SORR were restricted to 10 mph as a result of deferred maintenance by the prior owners, which caused deterioration of the infrastructure.
- The SORR has one of five rail border crossings between Texas and Mexico, and one of eight between the U.S. and Mexico.

## Status

- TxDOT has completed the rehabilitation of 114 miles of the line from San Angelo Junction (near Coleman) to near Mertzon through several rehabilitation projects which began in the fall of 2009. Rehabilitation is continuing with total funding secured to date:

▪ Federal Funds	=	\$38,357,325
▪ State Funds	=	8,500,000
▪ Texas Pacifico (Private)	=	12,575,700
▪ City of San Angelo	=	<u>250,000</u>
▪ <b>Total</b>	=	<b>\$59,683,025</b>
- The work completed to date includes:
  - 147,997 cross ties replaced
  - 965 switch ties replaced
  - 91,863 linear feet of rail replaced (8.6 miles)
  - 90,890 tons of ballast installed
  - 98 grade crossings reconstructed with timber surfaces
  - 58 grade crossings reconstructed with concrete surfaces
  - Truss bridge at Ballinger replaced with concrete Fire damaged timber bridge near San Angelo yard replaced with concrete
  - Structurally deficient bridge near Talpa replaced with culverts
  - Repairs to 29 additional bridges and drainage structures
  - 8 grade crossing signal systems upgraded to 25 mph
  - Repairs to 35 switches
  - Construction of an additional mile-long interchange track at San Angelo Junction
- TXPF has performed additional rehabilitation and routine maintenance independently of the above TxDOT rehabilitation work.
-

# South Orient Rehabilitation

- These projects have enabled 25 mph speeds from San Angelo Junction (near Coleman) to Sulphur Junction (11 miles east of Fort Stockton) and included an additional, mile-long interchange track at San Angelo Junction.
- TxDOT is letting a project in May 2018 that will rehabilitate an additional 37.4 miles of track in Upton, Crane, & Crockett Counties. The estimated project cost is \$7.1 million and includes:
  - 33,003 cross tie replacements
  - 6,800 tons of ballast installed
  - 1,404 linear feet of rail replaced
  - 12 grade crossings reconstructed with timber surfaces
  - 6 grade crossings reconstructed with concrete surfaces
- TxDOT received a \$7 million Federal FASTLANE grant award for the rehabilitation of the rail line in Presidio County on August 2, 2017. The letting date will be determined by the execution of the grant agreement.

