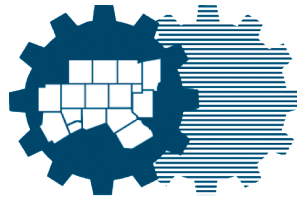




COMMISSION FOR HIGH-SPEED RAIL

DALLAS/FORT WORTH



North Central Texas
Council of Governments

Dallas to Fort Worth High-Speed Rail

White Paper

Dallas to Fort Worth High-Speed Rail (HSR) White Paper

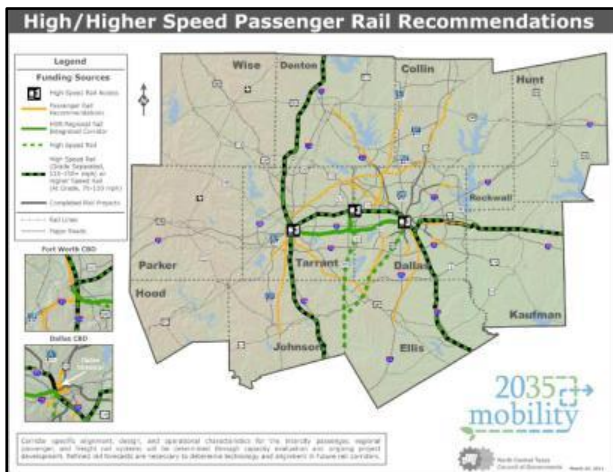
Three High-Speed Rail (HSR) corridors that would connect major urban areas of the State are being studied in Texas. The corridors currently under consideration are the Dallas to Fort Worth (DFW) HSR, Dallas to Houston (DAL-HOU) HSR, and Texas Oklahoma Passenger Rail Study (TOPRS). This White Paper provides an overview of the background and plan forward for the DFW HSR corridor and its relationship to the DAL-HOU and TOPRS corridors.

DFW HSR: Where have we been?

In 2011, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) applied for \$18 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 for preliminary engineering and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies for high-speed rail between Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) awarded \$15 million to TxDOT for the project to consider high speed service for the corridor with a minimum top speed of 150 mph.



In 2012, the Texas Central Railway (TCR), a private Texas company, made a proposal to TxDOT to develop the DAL-HOU portion of the corridor. In 2013, TxDOT, in conjunction with FRA and TCR, developed a plan to undertake the NEPA process for the DAL-HOU corridor, including a connection to Fort Worth. This coordination led to the creation of two unique projects: 1) DAL-HOU HSR, and 2) DFW HSR. The Federal Railroad Administration, with a third party consultant, will lead the NEPA effort for the DAL-HOU project utilizing resources provided by TCR. TxDOT will lead the NEPA effort for the DFW HSR project. Corresponding Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) for each project have been executed between the parties. The execution of the MOUs reflects the high degree of cooperation between FRA, TCR, and TxDOT.



In addition to the support of the State and Federal lead agencies, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the metropolitan planning organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region, has included high-speed rail corridors in their long range regional transportation plan (*Mobility 2035 - 2013 Update*). Within the NCTCOG region, the plan calls for stations in downtown Dallas and Fort Worth and in the vicinity of Arlington. The plan also identifies the Dallas to

Houston corridor as the one with the highest potential for HSR service beyond the NCTCOG boundaries¹.

¹ Mobility 2035 - 2013 Update, adopted by NCTCOG's Regional Transportation Council in June 2013, Mobility Option, page 6-27.

<http://www.nctcog.org/trans/mtp/2035/MobilityOptions.pdf>

DFW HSR: Where are we going?

As part of the NEPA study for DFW HSR, the Commission for High Speed Rail in the Dallas Fort Worth Region (CHSR)² was formed to provide guidance to the Texas Transportation Commission, TxDOT and project consultants as they relate to HSR connecting the DFW area, as well as to assist with executive and legislative meeting opportunities. The CHSR also provides input on funding and procurement strategies, and advice for the NEPA study, including public involvement considerations.

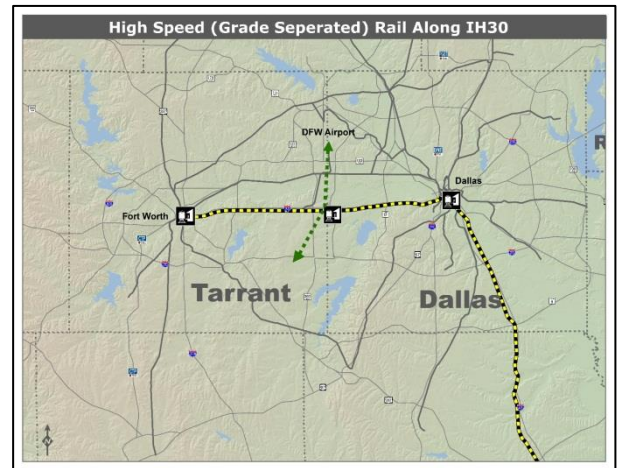
TxDOT, in coordination with FRA, will lead the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the DFW HSR project to study passenger rail service between Dallas and Fort Worth. This study will analyze the alternative alignments, station locations, and standards for design and operations. The recommended preferred alternative resulting from this work will then be ready for further development of the final design, right-of-way acquisition and construction.

System Connectivity

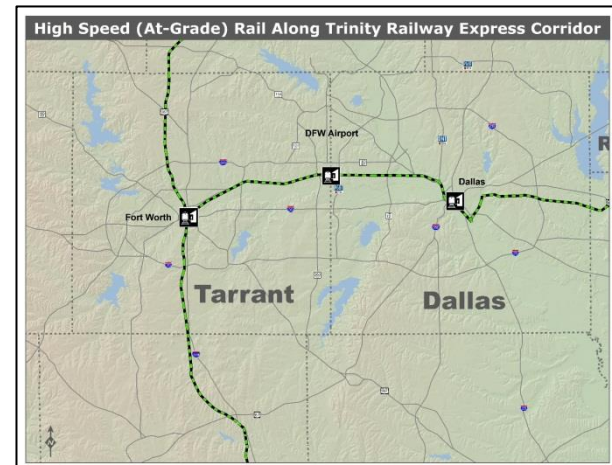
The DFW HSR is closely coordinated with other passenger rail efforts in Texas, including the DAL-HOU HSR, and TOPRS. The TOPRS project limits extend from Edmond, Oklahoma to the Texas/Mexico border and could connect several major urban areas along the I-35 corridor including San Antonio, Austin, Fort Worth, and Denton. The DFW HSR project will be coordinated with these passenger rail projects to ensure a successfully planned HSR network that is connected and user-friendly to customers.

What's Next?

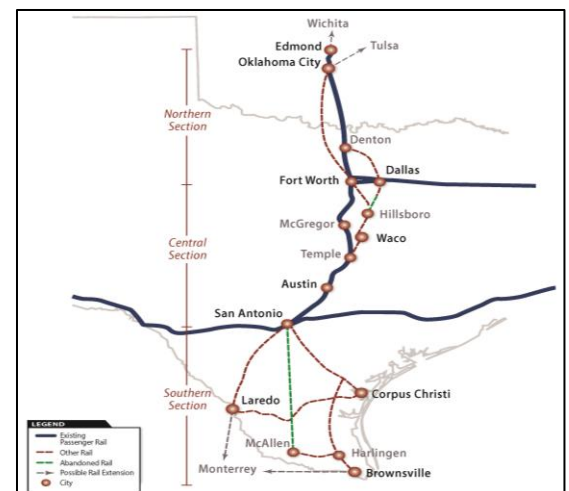
The DFW HSR will follow the federal NEPA process and will need federal assistance with timely and expedited federal reviews and approvals as well as with the identification of federal funding opportunities to implement the project.



Source: NCTCOG, as presented to the Dallas City Council on May 13, 2013.



Source: NCTCOG, as presented to the Commission for High Speed Rail in the Dallas/Fort Worth Region on April 22, 2014.



Source: TxDOT, April 2014

² <http://txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/committees/chsr-dfw.html>

Commission for High-Speed Rail in the Dallas/Fort Worth Region

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