



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: August 29, 2013 WORK SESSION
Prepared By/Phone Number: David Salazar, 854-9555
Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Samuel T. Biscoe
Travis County Judge
Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

DISCUSS TEXAS HIGH SPEED RAIL AND TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION AND UPDATE ON TEXAS HIGH SPEED RAIL DEVELOPMENTS.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:



TEXAS HIGH SPEED RAIL & TRANSPORTATION CORP.

The Future of Transportation and Economic Development in Texas

July 19, 2013

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Tarrant Regional Transportation Coalition

The Honorable Samuel Biscoe
County Judge
Travis County
P.O. Box 1748
Austin, TX 78767

RE: Invitation to join the Texas High Speed Rail and Transportation Corporation (THSRTC)

Dear Judge Biscoe,

When President Eisenhower signed the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act on June 29, 1956, he began a new epoch in the history of America. Through this historic piece of legislation, the coasts came closer together because dependable highways allowed efficient and timely movement of goods and people.

In our lifetime, the emergence of high-speed rail technology will revolutionize transportation and commerce in America and in Texas in a similar way. For Texas specifically, the second largest state in the Union will become strikingly smaller-distances shrink as travel speed accelerates. Travel times from the DFW Metroplex to Houston and Austin and San Antonio will be less than ninety minutes.

High-speed rail is defined as passenger trains capable of operating at speeds in excess of 200 miles per hour, for companies, this dramatic shrinking of travel times opens up new possibilities for employers, workers and customers alike to access new opportunities, and rethink where and how they live, work and shop.

Numerous countries have demonstrated that by embracing and developing true high-speed intercity passenger rail, their ability to reduce traffic congestion, promote higher-density sustainable development, assist economic development, and improve air quality and travel efficiency is dramatically enhanced. In countries around the world high-speed trains have succeeded, and enhanced all modes of travel by connecting major airports, cities and population corridors. Many of these successful countries have sent representatives to Texas, studied our state, and believe their successful technology will work here.

The efforts to bring safe, fast, and energy-efficient high-speed passenger rail to serve the State of Texas have entered a new and rapidly evolving phase of development.

Recent actions signal that high-speed passenger rail (HSR) is closer than ever to becoming a reality in Texas, and the Texas High Speed Rail and Transportation Corporation (THSRTC) has quickly established itself as the preeminent voice for high-speed rail across this state. Many consider THSRTC's unique Texas T-Bone alignment, with its extensions into Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma along the federally designated corridors, an ideal candidate to champion the technology in the United States. We believe that you can play a significant role in helping us make this a reality.

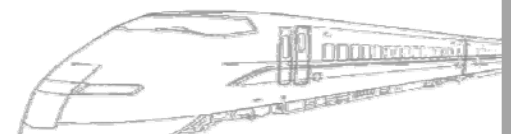
THSRTC's mission is to connect the major population centers of the state: Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio, through the "Texas T-Bone" alignment. The Texas T-Bone is a much more cost competitive and efficient corridor and serves a larger population than the previously proposed and antiquated Texas Triangle from the early 1990s. The "Texas T-Bone" also links a much greater percentage of our population at less cost because it spans a shorter distance. Meanwhile, it facilitates our military's need for quicker deployment of personnel, equipment, and munitions.

DEAN INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Public Policy Consultants

8080 Park Lane, Suite 600, Dallas, Texas 75231

Phone: 214.750.0123 Fax: 214.750.0124





TEXAS HIGH SPEED RAIL & TRANSPORTATION CORP.

The Future of Transportation and Economic Development in Texas

What is THSRTC? THSRTC is a not-for-profit corporation created and owned by its numerous member cities, counties and other transportation related organizations. Our distinguished members share a legitimate concern for the future of transportation and the quality of life along these strategic corridors and a willingness to proactively pursue the development of a HSR network that will be seamlessly integrated into existing and future transportation systems to transform passenger travel and stimulate economic development for generations to come. Led and directed by cities and counties, THSRTC has developed a business plan and performance and design standards that prioritize the mobility and planning needs of the communities and stakeholders along the Corridor.

Global Outreach Program. THSRTC has been executing an extensive outreach program for both domestic and international businesses. This focus arose from the realization that the Federal and State governments will be unable to assist in funding high-speed rail projects. The international business community's knowledge, resources and financing capabilities are a key to success for the THSRTC vision as we seek to leverage their expertise in bringing high-speed rail to Texas. The THSRTC model - a model that is widely used with other modes of transportation including seaports and airports - presents the best financing system for bringing high-speed rail to Texas.

The Financing Model that THSRTC advocates for requires no new taxes. Using a public private partnership between local cities and counties and developers, there will be no need for Federal or even State funds for the project. The private developer will carry the risk, and the citizens of the State of Texas will reap the benefits.

THSRTC has wide-ranging and high-ranking support. In addition to building a stable foundation of city and county membership, THSRTC has gained immense support for the Texas T-Bone at the local, state, and federal levels of government, as well as from our military. We have an established caucus supporting us in the Texas Legislature and in the U.S. Congress.

THSRTC: Providing you a seat at the table. As more and more important decisions regarding project financing, governance, alignments, station locations, and development strategies are made in the coming months, it is especially important that all stakeholders be sufficiently represented. Please join us at our Regional Quarterly Meetings, held each quarter in cities across the state. These meetings provide the opportunity for our member cities and stakeholders to come and work together to bring the best possible high-speed rail system to the citizens of Texas.

Please join THSRTC. We need your help. It is now more important than ever that those cities, counties, businesses, and institutions along the South Central High Speed Rail Corridor and those in the international community create and sustain a collective focus on making this project a champion for high-speed rail in the U.S. We believe that you can and should be a valuable partner in this effort, and we strongly encourage you to consider active membership in our organization. Your knowledge and presence is essential to our success. It is our hope that we can work together to provide the best high-speed rail service in the world to the great State of Texas. Travis County's membership dues are \$50,000 for FYE 2014.

We would like to schedule a meeting with you to discuss this opportunity, a partnership with THSRTC. Russell Schaffner, Sr. Public Policy Consultant or Public Policy Consultant, Matt Brasseaux will contact your office to schedule a formal briefing. Should you have any questions or desire additional information, prior to a scheduled formal briefing on this opportunity, please contact Russell at Dean International, Inc. at 214.750.0123 or at RSchaffner@dean.net or Matt at 214.750.0123 or at Mbrasseaux@dean.net.

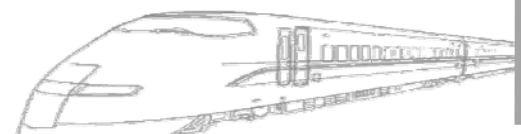
Best Regards,

Rose Cannaday
Councilmember, City of Irving
THSRTC Chair

Gary Fickes
Commissioner, Tarrant County
THSRTC Co-Chair

WWW.THSRCTC.COM
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Texas High Speed Rail & Transportation Corporation



Dean International, Inc.
Public Policy Consultants
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Phone (214) 750-0123 • Fax (214) 750-0124

The Future of Transportation and Economic Development in Texas

THSRTC Vision



A multimodal and inter-modal transportation system linking the four major metropolitan areas of the State of Texas together by the most advanced high speed rail system in the world located in the *Texas T-Bone Corridor*.



Major areas connected:

- Austin
- Dallas/Fort Worth
- Houston
- San Antonio

Grassroots Approach



- THSRTC is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to bringing together specific regions of the State of Texas in a grassroots, collective effort to improve multi-modal surface transportation and bring high speed rail to the State of Texas.
- Since its inception in October 2002, the corporation's membership has grown to represent close to 12 million Texans.
- Our members share a legitimate concern for the future of transportation in the State and a willingness to proactively pursue Texas' best interests.

Siemens-ICE 3 Class 407



Germany

- Siemens Velaro Trains have been a leading competitor in the High Speed Rail Industry.
- Set to begin operation in 2013, the new ICE 3 will not disappoint.
- Travel at speeds over 200 mph
- Seats over 450 passengers
- Energy Efficient
- Safety Tested
- Comfortable atmosphere that provides an enjoyable experience for all those traveling.



Bombardier- Zefiro 380



Germany

- Bombardiers new Zefiro 380 takes traveling by train to the next level.
- Set to begin operation in 2013
- Capable of speeds up to 230 mph
- Compatible to either an 8 or 16 car formation
- Energy Efficient
- Safety tested
- Interior flexibility for maximum comfort for all passengers.



Hitachi- Shinkansen E6



Japan

- Scheduled to begin operation in March of 2013, the Shinkansen E6 series is expected to quickly become an industry leader.
- Travel at speeds up to 200 mph
- Capable of carrying over 300 passengers.
- Energy Efficient
- The Shinkansen not only provides a comfortable, safe, and efficient means of travel but it also provides national pride and heritage behind the sleek design.



Talgo- Avril



Spain

- The Avril High Speed Train is a state of the art high speed rail system that has surpassed all expectations.
- Travel at speeds of 230 mph
- Capacity of 600 passengers
- Energy Efficient due to its lightweight construction
- Proven to provide a comfortable and enjoyable ride for all traveling passengers.



Eurotunnel- EuroStar



United Kingdom, France, Belgium

- The Eurostar has a 20 year track record that has proven its sustainability, its speed, and its comfort.
- Since operation began the Eurostar has become the dominant mode of transportation, carrying more passengers than all airlines combined.
- Capable of maintaining speeds of 186 mph
- It has proven to be safe, comfortable, and efficient for those traveling in England, France, and Belgium.



China South Locomotive- CRH380A



China

- The CRH380A is an upgrade to a long lasting line of high speed rail systems in China.
- Operation began in 2010 and the CRH380A has made its presence in China.
- Cruising speeds reach 217 mph, but is capable of reaching speeds up to 236 mph.
- Option between an 8 car formation (494 passengers) and a 16 car formation (1066 passengers)
- The new sleek design inside and out is allowing the CRH380A to provide a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable experience for all passengers.



Kawasaki, Hitachi- THSR 700T



Taiwan

- Since operation began in 2007 the THSR 700T has progressively become the ideal way to travel in Taiwan.
- The THSR 700T is capable of moving over 900 passengers at speeds of up to 186 mph.
- With upgraded safety features to meet the European safety measures the THSR 700T is able to provide a comfortable, safe, and enjoyable ride through the mountainous terrain of Taiwan.



Korail- KTX



Korea

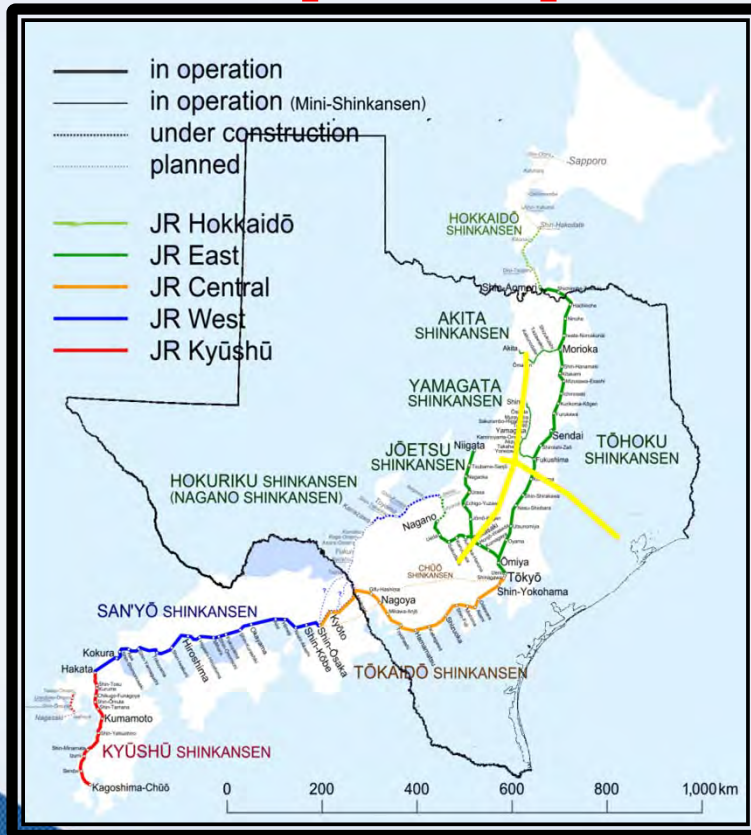
- The KTX has been Korea's preeminent mode of transportation since operation began in 2004.
- Over 110,000 passengers ride the high speed rail everyday.
- Capable of reaching speeds of 190 mph.
- Fast, comfortable, and convenient for all passengers.
- The KTX has performed and proven its sustainability and ranks amongst the top High Speed Rail Systems in the world.



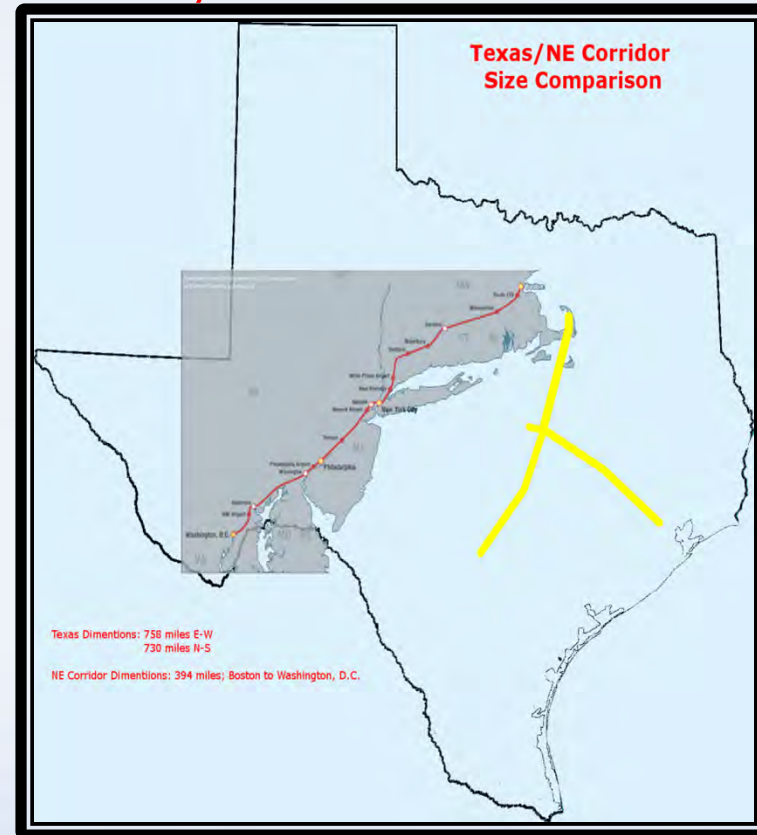
Global High Speed Rail Comparisons



Texas / Japan Comparison



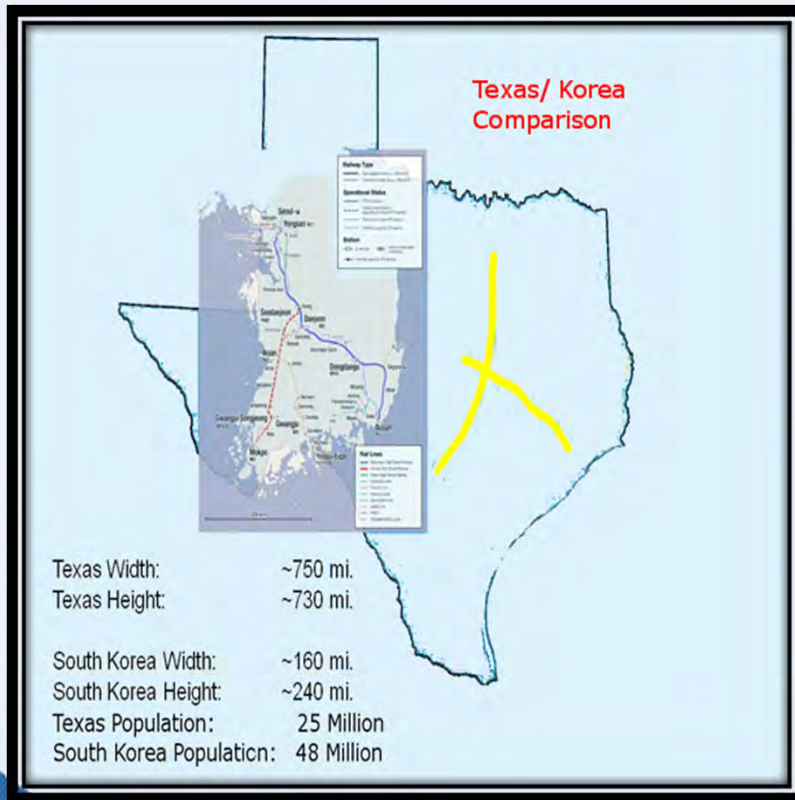
Texas / North East Corridor



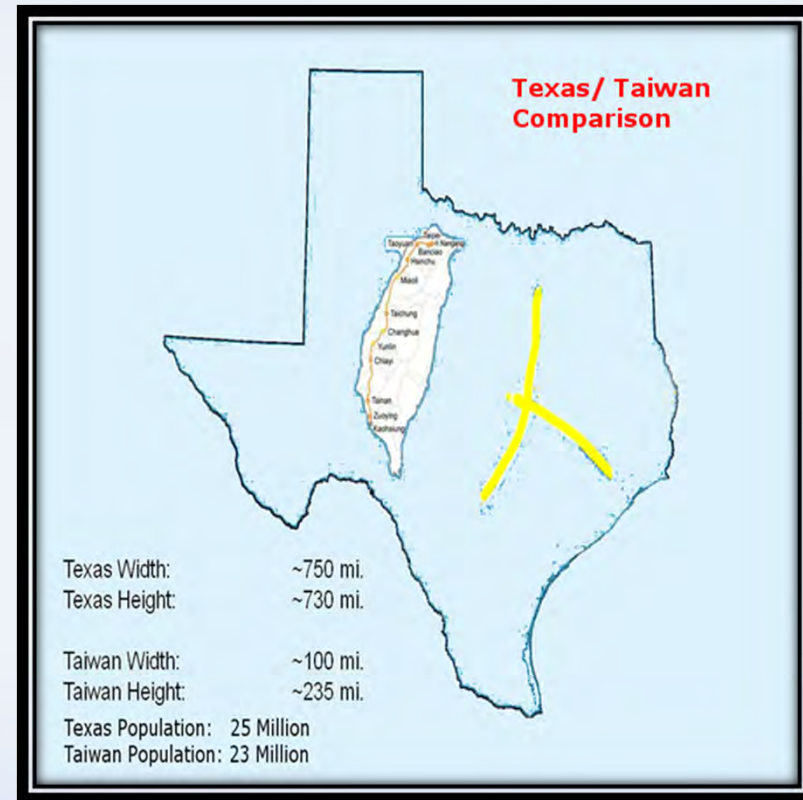
Global High Speed Rail Comparisons



Texas / Korea



Texas / Taiwan



Texas T-Bone

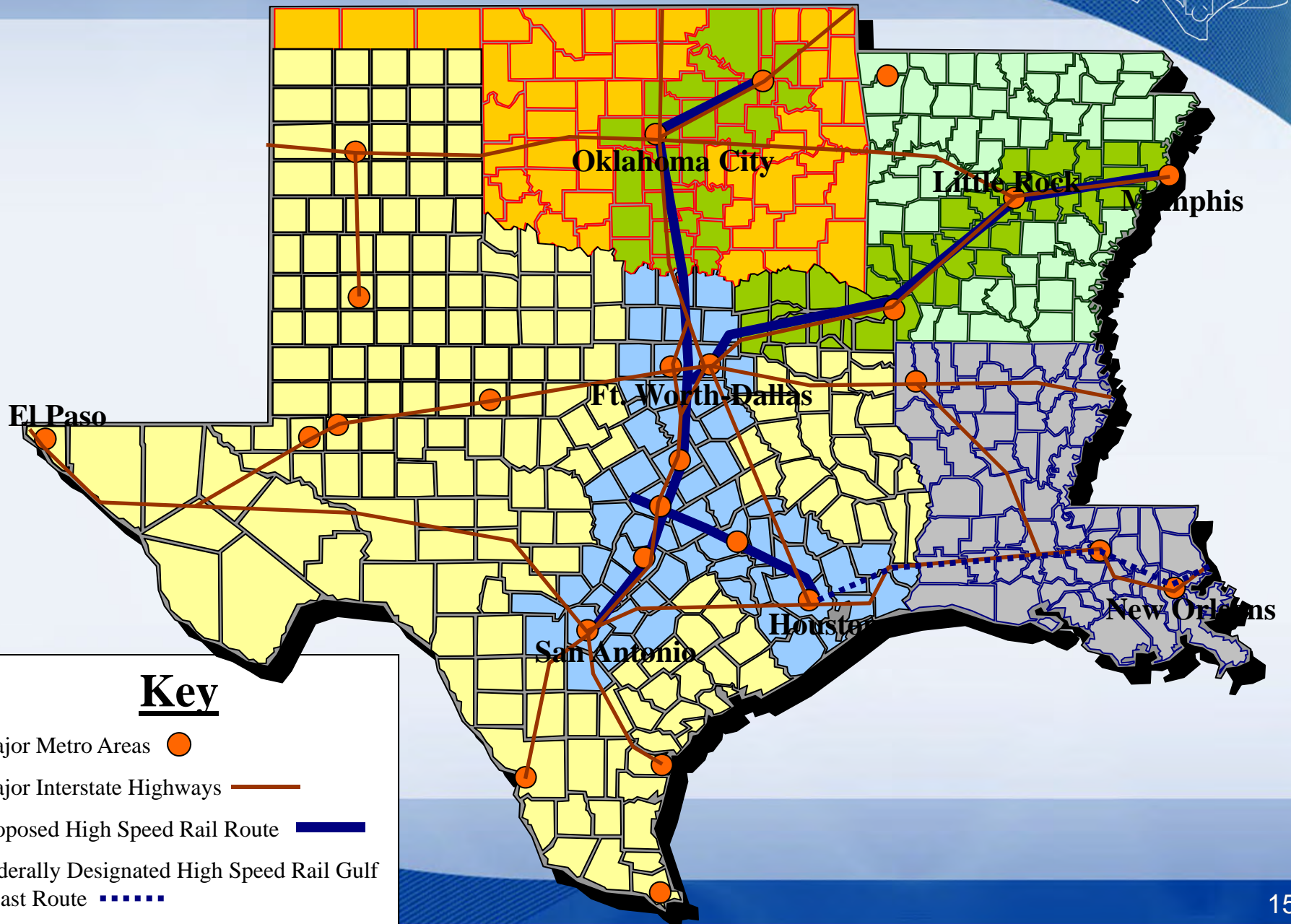


- Most efficient route connecting the 4 largest metropolitan city centers in the state, covering 470 miles
- The route covers over 70% of Texas' current population
- Will cover 80% of population by 2040



The Future of Transportation and Economic Development in Texas

T-Bone Corridor Extensions

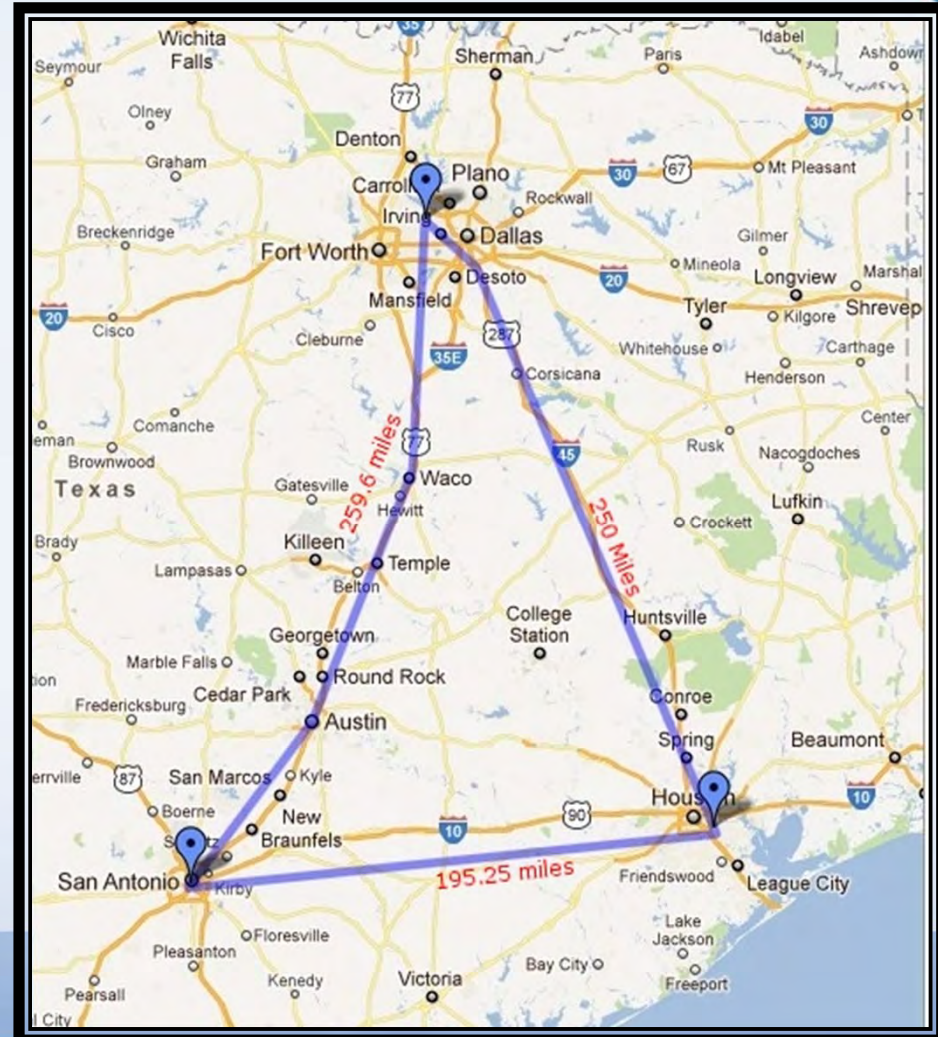
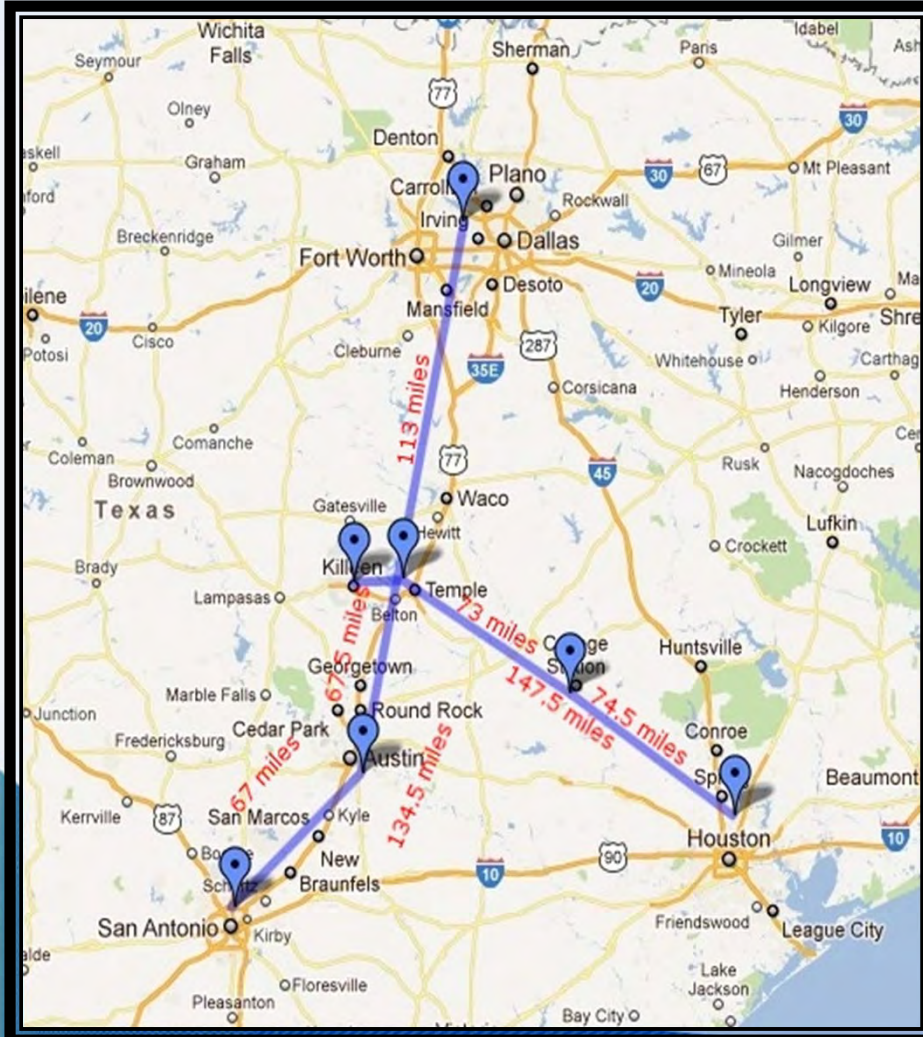


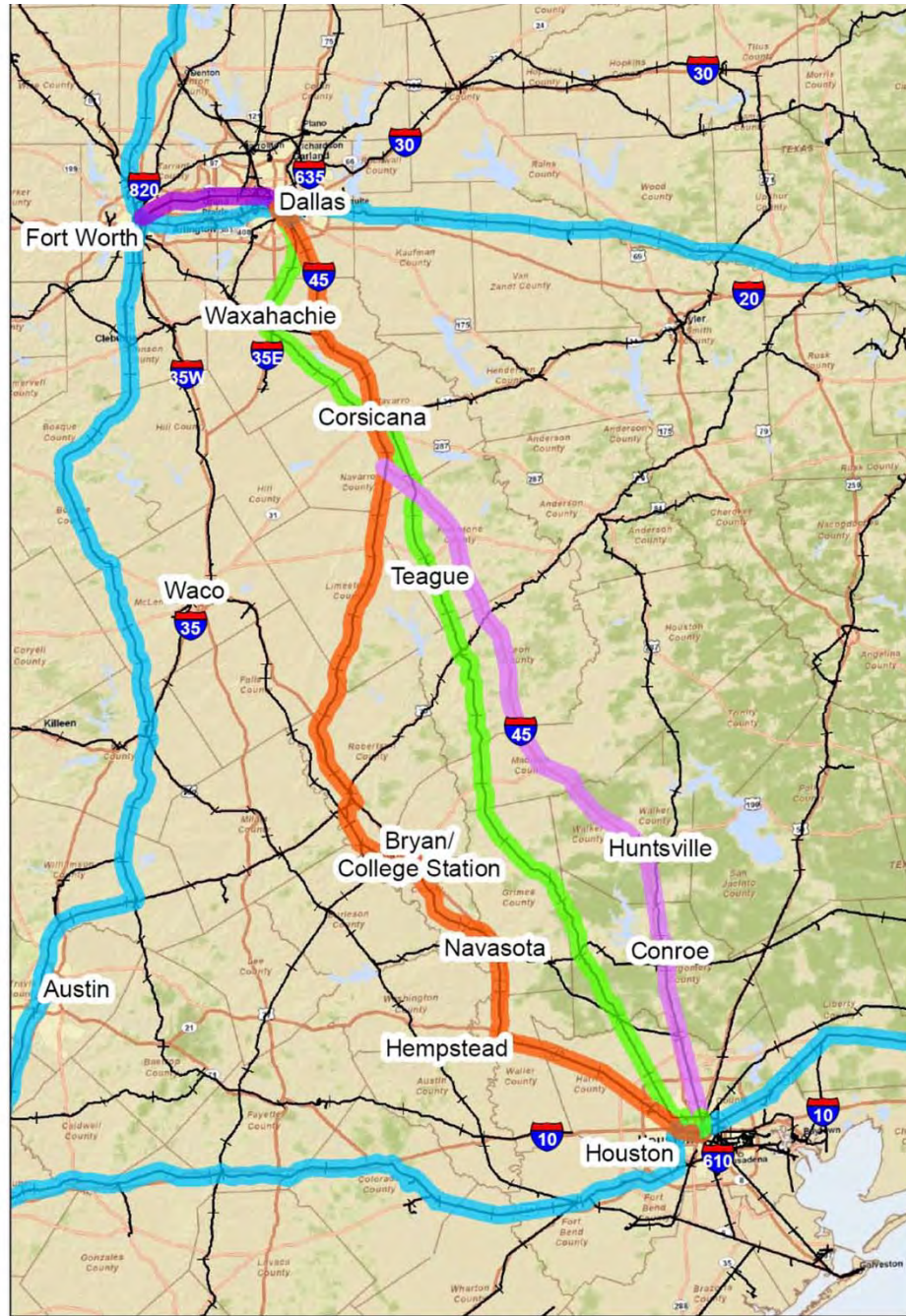
Texas T-Bone vs. Texas Triangle Design



395 Miles

705 Miles



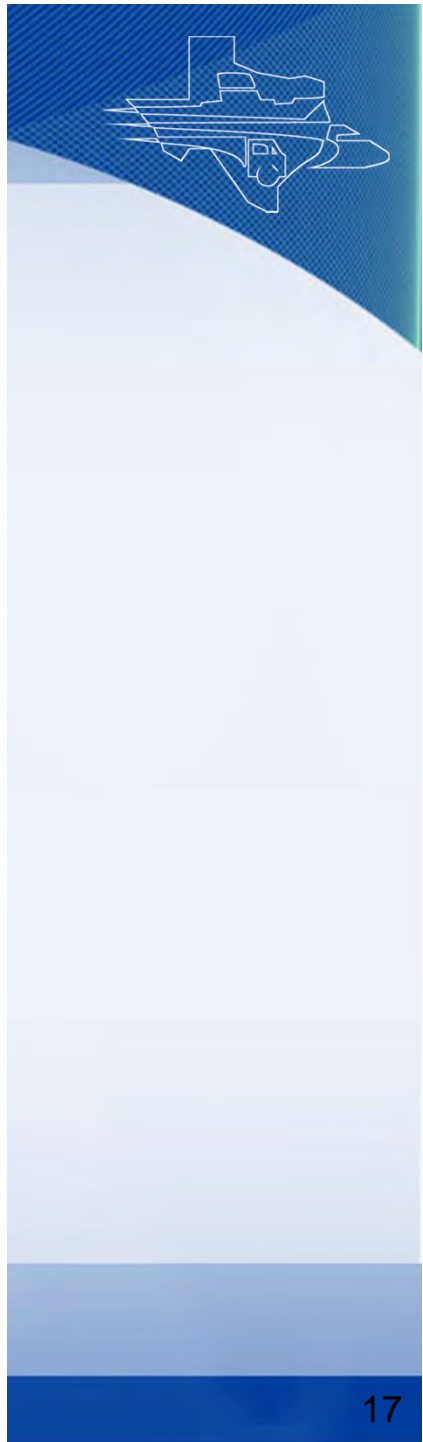


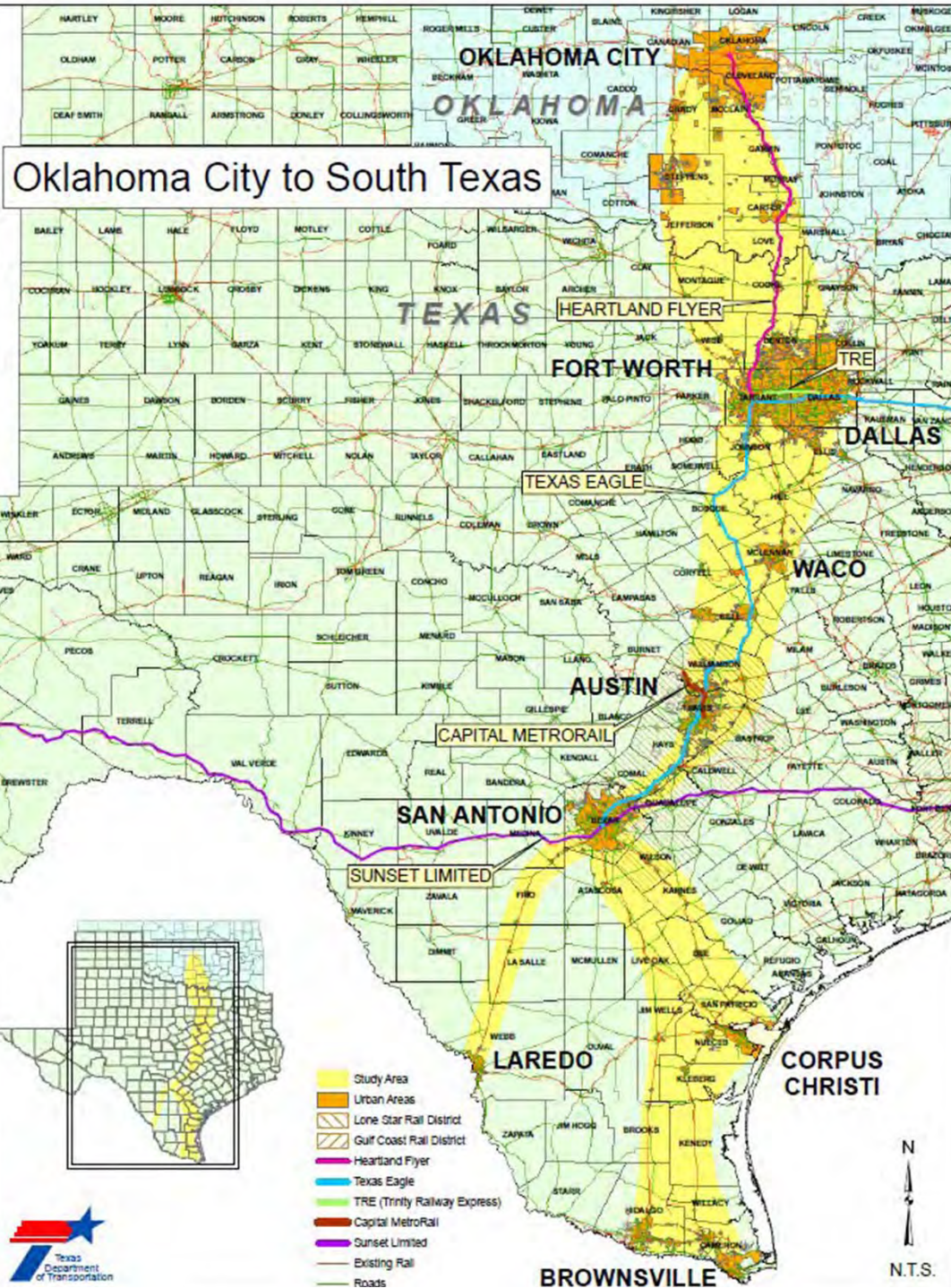
Dallas-Fort Worth to Houston
HSIPR Routes

Legend

- Existing Rail
- Existing Amtrak
- Existing TRE
- BNSF Route
- UPRR Route
- Green Field Route

0 10 20 Miles





Transit Oriented Development



Retail stores thrive from pedestrians

Areas around the stations are ideal for mixed use and dense development

Offices close to the station would allow workers to take the train instead of fighting traffic



Living close to the station allows commuters to work in different city

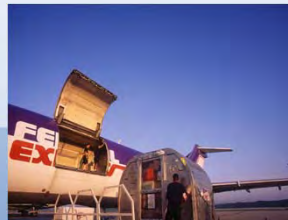
Trade and Economic Impacts



Texas is the *number one* exporter in the U.S.

- Texas accounts for more than 17% of *all* U.S. exports.

Business and Industry Data Center 2011
<http://www.bidc.state.tx.us/>



#12
 World ranking of Texas' Gross State Product in comparison to the Gross Domestic Products of other countries.

Business and Industry Data Center 2009
<http://www.bidc.state.tx.us/>

Why Texas?

- Central Time Zone and Central Location
- Southern climate
- Right to work state
- No corporate taxes
- No personal income tax



Why Texas?



- Surface highway infrastructure is lacking funds for sufficient maintenance.
- 1,200 mile border with Mexico
- 950 mile border with gulf of Mexico
- Sustainable population growth
 - Births
 - Immigration
 - Relocation





80%

Percentage of Texas population along
THSR Texas T-Bone Corridor in 2040.

- The population along Texas T-Bone Corridor is projected to be **40,589,538** in 2040.
- The present population along the Texas T-Bone Corridor is **17,961,075**. That's **over 2/3 (71%)** of Texas' population.

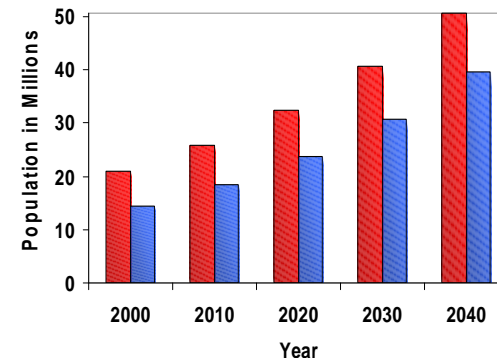
51.7 million

The projected Texas population in 2040.

- An increase of approximately **26.6 million** from 2010.
- Our **population more than doubles!**





Projected Population Growth in Texas
(2000-2040)



■ Total Texas Population
■ Texas T-Bone Population

Trains, Planes and Automobiles



Travel Means	Travel Volume
<p data-bbox="407 386 768 428">Highway – 110,000</p> 	<p data-bbox="1377 386 1514 428">Routes</p> <p data-bbox="1318 459 1572 501">I-35 – 50,000</p> <p data-bbox="1318 526 1572 568">I-45 – 26,000</p> <p data-bbox="1318 592 1572 634">I-10 – 22,000</p> <p data-bbox="1285 659 1606 701">SH 290 – 12,000</p>
<p data-bbox="386 738 795 781">Air – 25,000 (approx)</p> 	<p data-bbox="1377 738 1514 781">Routes</p> <p data-bbox="1115 805 1780 847">Dallas/Fort Worth – Houston 6,500</p> <p data-bbox="1163 872 1732 914">Houston – San Antonio 8,750</p> <p data-bbox="1085 938 1810 980">San Antonio – Dallas/Fort Worth 3,950</p> <p data-bbox="1220 1005 1675 1047">Austin – Houston 2,700</p> <p data-bbox="1136 1071 1759 1114">Dallas/Fort Worth – Austin 2,990</p>
HSR Ridership	
Dallas/Fort Worth to Houston - 294 miles	1 hour 30 minutes
San Antonio to Dallas/Fort Worth – 273 miles	1 hour 20 minutes

Transportation Study




HSR In Texas


- Estimated HSR Market Share: **85%**
- Estimated Texas HSR Annual Ridership : **8 Million**
- Daily Ridership: **22,000**
- Estimated Annual Revenues for HSR Tickets: **\$650 Million!**

Texas High Speed Rail and Transportation Corporation
Temple, TX, October, 26, 2012

**An Outlook for Integrating High Speed Rail
and the Aviation System in Texas**



Stephen P. Mattingly – Associate Professor
mattinlv@uta.edu
Antonio Massidda – Faculty Research Associate
massidda@uta.edu

 UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS
ARLINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING

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Presentation.pdf](#)

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Cheng Kung University

Dr. Dan Jones
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University- Commerce

R. Bowen Loftin
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Houston-Galveston Area
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Gary Fickes
Tarrant Regional
Transportation Coalition

L.D. Williamson
Executive Director
Ark-Tex C.O.G.

Bill Hammond
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Texas Association of
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CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS



John Cornyn, (R-TX)



John Boozman (R-AR)



Eddie Bernice Johnson, (D-TX)



Kevin Brady, (R-TX)



Michael Burgess, (R-TX)



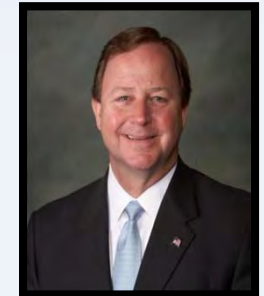
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Henry Cuellar, (D-TX)



Blake Farenthold, (R-TX)



Bill Flores, (R-TX)



Kay Granger, (R-TX)



Gene Green, (D-TX)



Ralph Hall, (R-TX)



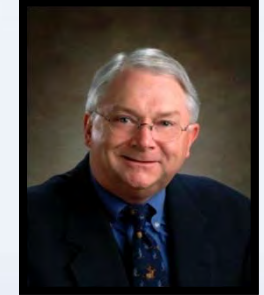
Sheila Jackson-Lee, (D-TX)



Kenny Marchant, (R-TX)



Michael McCaul, (R-TX)



Randy Neugebauer, (R-TX)



Pete Olson, (R-TX)



Ted Poe, (R-TX)



Pete Sessions, (R-TX)



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Mark Veasey, (D-TX)



Don Young, (R-AK)

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Wendy Davis,
District 10, TX



Senator
Robert Deuell,
District 2, TX



Senator
Rodney Ellis,
District 13, TX



Senator
Craig Estes
District 30, TX



Senator
Carlos Uresti,
District 19, TX



Senator
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District 23, TX



Senator
Kirk Watson,
District 14, TX



Senator
John Whitmire,
District 15, TX



Senator
Tommy Williams,
District 4, TX

LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS



State House of Representatives



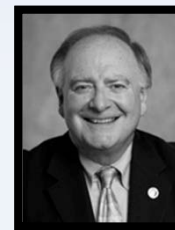
Rep. Joe Pickett,
District 79, TX



Rep. Roberto R. Alonzo
District 104, TX



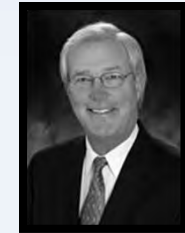
Rep. George Lavender,
District 1, TX



Rep. Dan Flynn,
District 2, TX



Rep. Jim Pitts,
District 10, TX



Rep. Charlie Geren,
District 99, TX



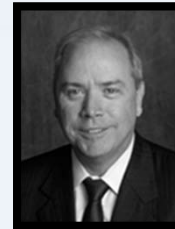
Rep. Linda Harper-Brown
District 105, TX



Rep. Patricia Harless,
District 126, TX



Rep. Wayne Smith
District 128, TX



Rep. Gary Elkins,
District 135, TX



Rep. Ralph Sheffield,
District 55, TX



Rep. Walls McCrary,
District 15, AR

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State House of Representatives



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Ratliff
District 115, TX



Rep. Armando
Walle
District 140, TX



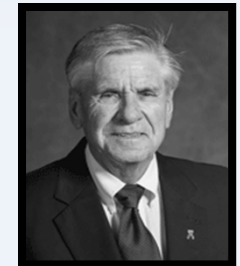
Rep. Jessica
Farrar
District 148, TX



Rep. Lois
Kolkhorst
District 13, TX



Rep. Ruth Jones
McClendon
District 120, TX



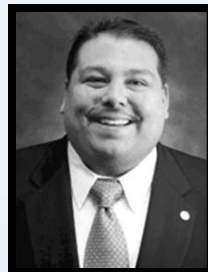
Rep. Phil
Stephenson
District 85, TX



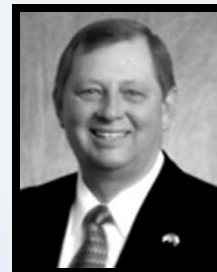
Rep. Senfronia
Thompson
District 141, TX



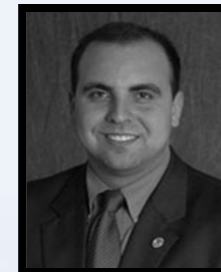
Rep. Michael
Villarreal
District 123, TX



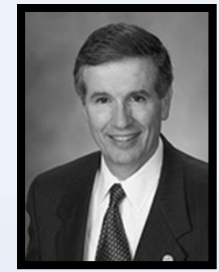
Rep. Ryan
Guillen
District 36, TX



Rep. John
Otto
District 18, TX



Rep. Armando
Martinez
District 39, TX



Rep. Bill
Zedler
District 96, TX



Texas High Speed Rail & Transportation Corporation



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The Future of Transportation and Economic Development in Texas