RAIL IN TEXAS

What freight and passenger rail mean to Texas
What does Rail in Texas Look Like

- Rail network is largely privately owned and operated.
- 3 Class 1 railroads, BNSF, KCS and UP and 46 shortline railroads.
- Largest freight rail network in the nation with over 10,400 mile and 5 international rail crossings.
- Texas led the nation if total tons terminated (206.6 million) in 2012 and was third in total rail tons originated (92.9 million).
- Texas is number one in the nation in rail industry employment and first in payments to retirees.
- Limited intercity passenger rail service provided by Amtrak which is comprised of two long distance routes, the Texas Eagle and Sunset Limited and the state supported Heartland Flyer route.
397.5 million tons of freight moved in Texas in 2014 and this is expected to increase to 746.3 million tons by 2040.

Amtrak carried 409,545 passengers in 2017 and this is expected to increase to 567,568 by 2040.

The railroads invest heavily in the state to improve and maintain their infrastructure. Between 2009-2015 the Class 1 railroads have invested over $4(?)B in the state. And TxDOT has invested over $26 million in the state owned South Orient Railroad.
The Public's Perception of Railroads

- Blocked Crossings
- Congestion
- Delays
The Role of TxDOT in Rail

- Tower 55 – $114.5 M improvement projects to one of the nations most congested rail intersections.

- Neches River Bridge – TxDOT is conducting a PE/NEPA study to replace an aging single track lift bridge over the Neches River in Beaumont, TX.

- Border congestion – The City of Laredo is home to the busiest rail crossing with Mexico and experiences significant congestion caused by blocked crossing as freight trains cross in and out of Mexico.

- The Dallas to Fort Worth Core Express Study looking at developing higher speed passenger rail service across the Metroplex.

- The Texas-Oklahoma Passenger Rail study looking at the feasibility of developing high-speed passenger rail between Oklahoma City, Ok and South Texas.

- Looking at innovative ways to improve the Amtrak’s Heartland Flyer Service.
Role of Rail Advocates

- The Key to Keeping the Movement Going.
- Educating the public on the benefits of freight and passenger rail.
- Help in Developing Community Awareness.
- Asking questions and pushing for increased and improved service.
Recipe for Texas Success

- Leveraging private investment
  - Such as the Dallas to Houston HSR project that is being developed without any public funds.
  - Partnering with private railroads to construct needed infrastructure projects sooner such as with Tower 55.

- Facilitating continued discussions on congestion relief through such projects as grade separations, crossing improvements or adding additional tracks to take more trucks off the road.

- Educating the public on the value of rail and how it is a major part of our transportation network and critical to the continued economic vitality of our state.