



# RAIL IN TEXAS

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What freight and passenger rail mean to Texas

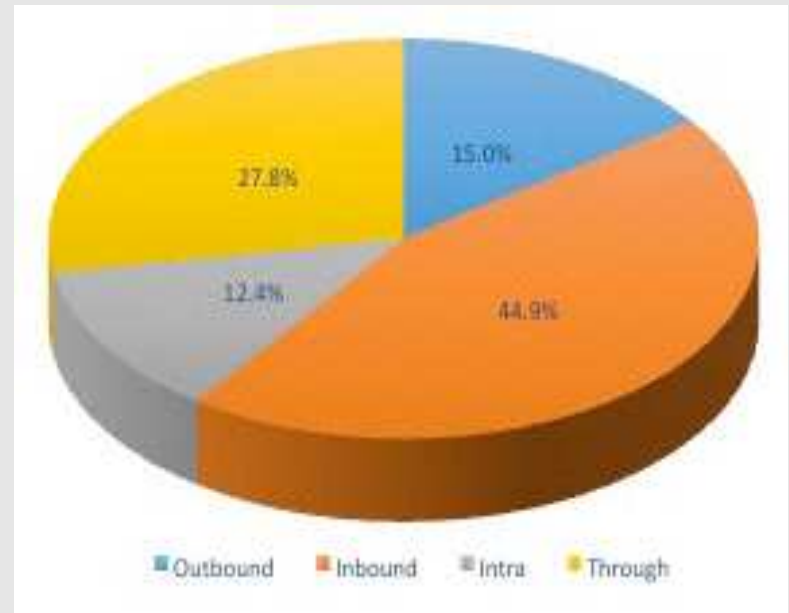
# What does Rail in Texas Look Like

- 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.

# Value of Rail to Texas

- 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.

Texas Rail Tons by Direction, 2013



# 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.