

## TEXAS STATE RAILROAD ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

### Description

This report from the Texas State Railroad Authority (TSRA) will update the commission on recent activity to preserve the historic transportation assets at the Texas State Railroad (TSR) and note progress toward self-sufficiency for this facility.

### Background

Senate Bill 1659, 80<sup>th</sup> Legislature, created the TRSA and transferred ownership of the TSR from Texas Parks and Wildlife to the TSRA. At the time of the transfer, the TSR track infrastructure had deteriorated and rolling stock was in need of refurbishment. TSRA leased operations on the railroad to American Heritage Railways (AHR).

TxDOT has provided \$10 million in transportation enhancement funds toward rehabilitating the track and equipment. These funds have been combined with a \$2 million appropriation to TSRA by the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislature, \$1.6 million in local funding, and \$2.8 million from AHR.

Department staff has worked with TSRA and AHR in the development of plans and specifications for the rehabilitation of track and equipment. Department staff is also administering the enhancement funds and providing limited oversight of the enhancement project. TSRA is providing an update on these activities.

### Criteria

None.

### Problem/Condition

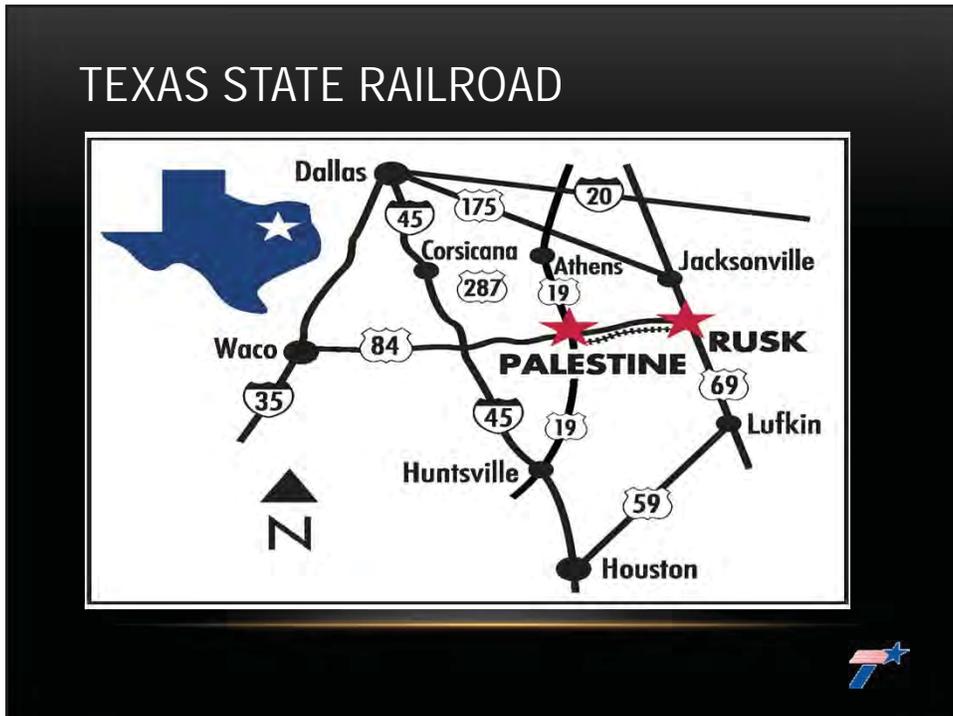
None.

### Other Comments

None.

### Alternate Solution/Actions

None.



## CRISIS IN 2007

- TSRR losing over \$2M Per Year / est. 40,000 paid riders
- TSRR operations suspended; conversion to static display to save money proposed
- 50+ Jobs jeopardized
- Potential loss of historical transportation asset



## SOLUTIONS

- Local control
- Capital improvements
- Private operator: American Heritage Railways (AHR)
- Resume regular excursion operations
- Update marketing with Special Event opportunities

### STATE \$

- TXDOT - \$10M Enhancement

### LOCAL \$

- TSRA - \$2M
- Rusk/Palestine - \$1.6M

### PRIVATE \$

- American Heritage Railroad - \$2.8M



## GOAL – SELF-SUFFICIENCY



## SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES

- Special Events added
- Capital Improvements underway
- Jobs Saved
- Revenues/Ridership UP
- Losses DOWN
- Will breakeven in 2011
- Future Growth / Additional Capacity being added
- Sustainability, Self-Sufficiency is achievable; now in sight



## STEAM ENGINE RESTORATION

### Engine 300 Project

- UNDER BUDGET
- IN SCOPE
- FINISHED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE
- WORK PERFORMED BY TSRA PERSONNEL ON-SITE
- 2<sup>nd</sup> ENGINE PROJECT NOW UNDERWAY



## COACH REFURBISHMENT

BEFORE



AFTER



## TIE & BALLAST REPLACEMENT

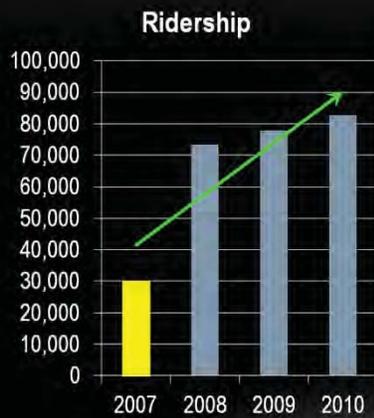
BEFORE



AFTER



## IMPROVED OPERATING RESULTS



\* Not a full year of operation

## THANK YOU

- TSRA thanks the **Texas Transportation Commission** for its support of this important project
- TSRA wishes to commend the following **TxDOT Division and District Staff** for their professionalism
  - Bill Glavin, Director, Rail Division
  - Mark Marek, Director, Design Division
  - Barrie Cogburn, Director, Landscape Section
  - Randy Hopmann – Tyler District Engineer
  - Dale Booth – Advance Planning Engineer
  - Shawn McMahon – State Enhancement Coordinator

