

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, 80th 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 80th 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.