

UPDATE OF THE TEXAS RAIL PLAN (TRP)

DESCRIPTION:

The TRP identifies current and proposed rail projects, determines infrastructure and capacity constraints on the system, and develops an awareness of rail issues in Texas. The department updated the TRP in November 2010 to conform to recently enacted state and federal regulations. SB 1382 of the 81st Texas Legislature requires the department to prepare and update annually a long-term plan for the statewide passenger rail system. At the federal level, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act requires states to establish priorities, objectives, and implementation strategies to enhance rail service in the public interest in order to receive federal funds. This discussion will provide an update of passenger rail projects and corridor studies to the commission.

ISSUES:

- Federal requirements
 - Existing requirements
 - Positioning TxDOT for future federal funds
- State requirements
 - Existing requirements
- Accomplishments and Status
 - Texas Rail Plan
 - Status of recent awards
 - Oklahoma to South Texas Study
 - Houston – Dallas/Fort Worth Preliminary Engineering/NEPA
 - Others
- Public involvement
 - Transportation Commission
 - General public
 - Rail/business/industry stakeholders
 - Communication strategies

REFERENCES:

- SB 1382, 81st Texas Legislature
- Federal Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (2008)

DESIRED RESULTS:

Provide overview and generate discussion of issues surrounding the TRP. Receive direction from the commission regarding advancement of a passenger rail plan for the state.

FURTHER ACTIONS:

None

OTHER:

None