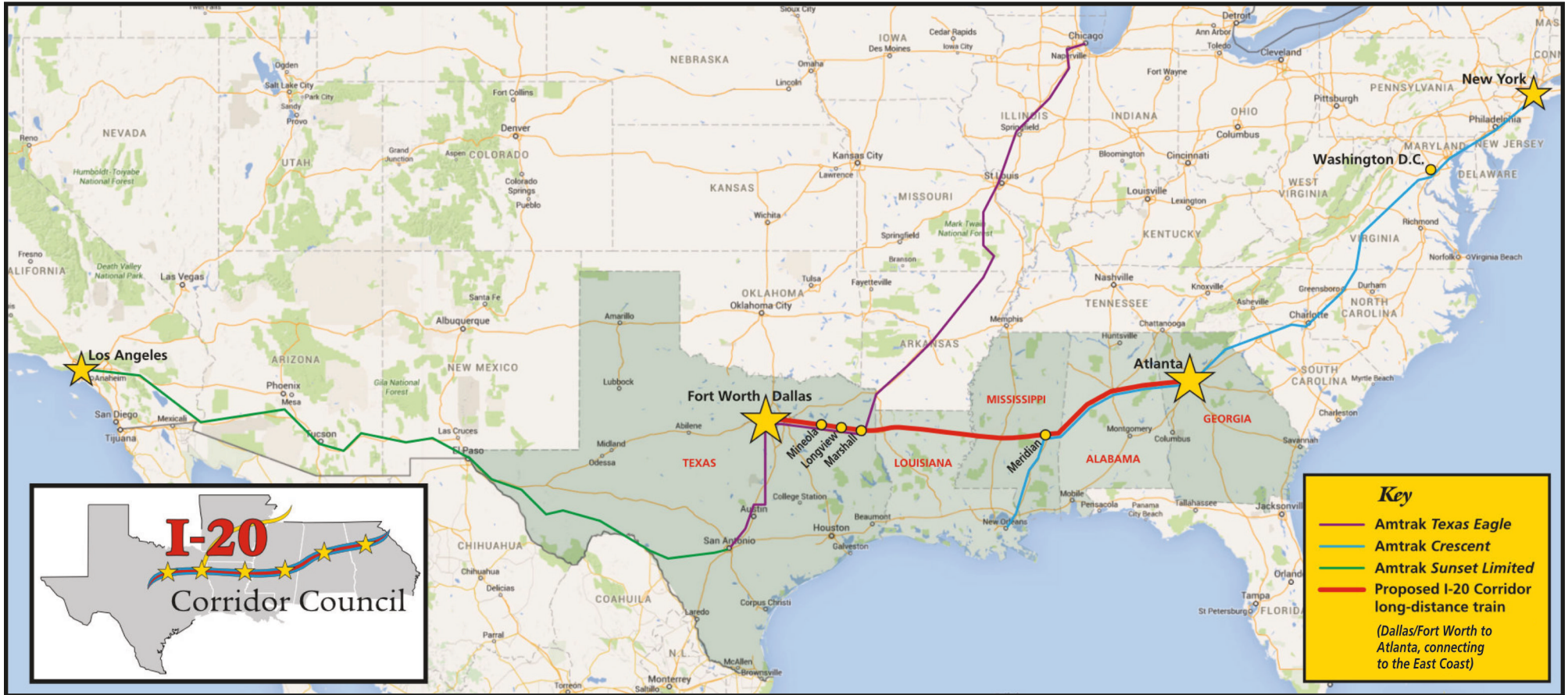


Proposed I-20 Corridor Long-Distance Passenger Rail Connection between Dallas/Fort Worth and Atlanta

*(through Northeast Texas, Northern Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia,
and connecting with the East Coast and New York City)*



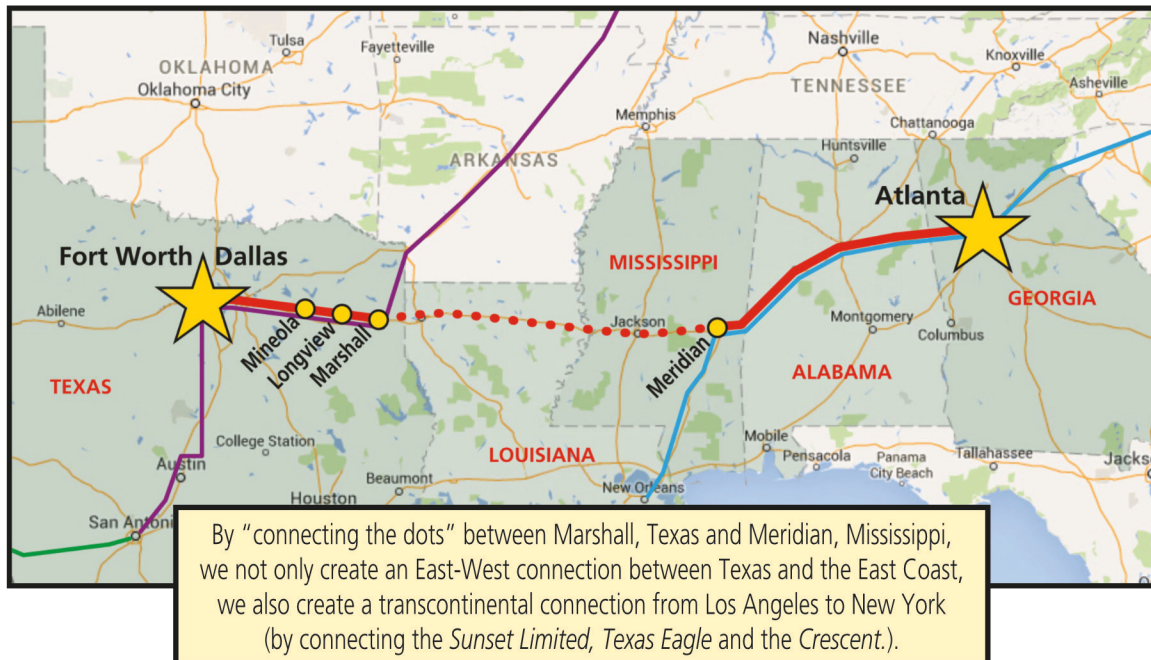
With Congress' passage of the bi-partisan \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), signed into law on November 15, 2021, the time is now to make the proposed I-20 Corridor long-distance passenger rail connection a reality.

This important East-West passenger rail connection across America's Southern region will not only connect two of our nation's fastest-growing urban mega-regions (greater Dallas/Fort Worth with 7.5 million in population and greater Atlanta with 6 million), it would also connect the rural communities and smaller cities along the route with each other and to the East Coast.

This could be a win-win for everyone since the rail route could be established with a comparatively small amount of funding in a relatively short period of time and bring many transportation, economic development, tourism, quality of life, and other benefits to our communities, region, and nation.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE I-20 CORRIDOR LONG-DISTANCE TRAIN

- ★ The I-20 Corridor Council is a strong, grassroots, multi-state coalition of mayors, local, state, and federal officials, business and economic leaders, university and college presidents, and many other stakeholders who have worked together over the past 15 years in support of this long-distance train. We have obtained Memoranda of Understanding from Councils of Governments representing all counties and parishes between Fort Worth eastward through Mississippi.
- ★ The I-20 Corridor Council (formerly East Texas Corridor Council) obtained almost \$740,000 in federal funds in 2007 and 2008, with the assistance of former U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, for two critical studies of the I-20 rail route—a feasibility study and capacity study.
- ★ The feasibility study, carried out by Amtrak and completed in 2015, determined that this long-distance passenger rail connection is economically viable and would:
 - Require **NO** annual operating subsidy for any of the states through which the route traverses
 - Operate over existing railroad track
 - Require no need for the exercise of eminent domain
 - Travel at the currently authorized maximum speed of 79 mph, with the potential to achieve speed up to 115 mph
 - Provide two trains daily (one eastbound, one westbound)
- ★ Using the remaining portion of the federal funding, the Corridor Council expanded the original scope of the study from studying only the Texas portion of the route to also studying the Louisiana and Mississippi portion of the route, at no cost to Louisiana and Mississippi.
- ★ The Corridor Council worked with Amtrak, Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT), HNTB, Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) of Texas A&M, the University of New Orleans Transportation Institute, and the National Center for Intermodal Transportation for Economic Competitiveness from the University of Mississippi. The capacity study was completed in December, 2017.
- ★ The host railroads—*Union Pacific, Trinity Railway Express, and Canadian Pacific* (recently merged with *Kansas City Southern*)—will likely require a one-time capital investment to be paid by the states and/or federal government, once negotiations occur between Amtrak and the host railroads. The 2017 capacity study suggests that a capex investment of approximately \$80 million in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi would enable new passenger rail service on the route without adversely affecting freight traffic along the host railroads.
- ★ Officials who have expressed strong support for the proposed I-20 Corridor long-distance train include U.S. Senator Roger Wicker of Mississippi, Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, Governor John Bel Edwards of Louisiana, and Louisiana Secretary of Transportation Shawn Wilson. The route also has the strong support of the **Southern Rail Commission** with whom we are collaborating.



We appreciate your support for this important transportation project.
The time is now to make this route a reality for the benefit of our states, region, and nation.

For more information, please call the **I-20 Corridor Council** (903) 938-8373
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