



A STRONG voice for rail issues

TEXAS RAIL ADVOCATES SPEAKS FOR BOTH FREIGHT & PASSENGER RAIL DEVELOPMENT IN TEXAS AND THE SOUTHWEST

- Through our website
- In person before the public and private sector
- In Austin before lawmakers on rail legislation

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Key stakeholder that helped establish the TxDOT Rail Division in 2009 culminating nine years of work
- Stakeholder in federally required Texas Rail Plan and Updates
- Host of Southwestern Rail Conference held each year
- Advocates for important rail issues
- Track Texas rail legislation and testify before transportation committees
- Pushed for the Texas Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund Prop 1 that passed in 2005
- Worked with elected and appointed officials to secure federal grant funding for multiple rail projects
- Participant in the I-35 and I-30 TxDOT Advisory Committee on rail issues
- Brought parties together to secure funding for Tower 55—Fort Worth rail chokepoint
- Website that reports the news on current rail issues and developments

Texas Rail Advocates is a 501c3 not for profit grass roots organization, established in Dallas in 2000.

TRA is an educational and informational resource that promotes both freight and passenger rail development throughout Texas and the Southwest.

Our Board of Directors come from diverse backgrounds. Some from within the rail industry, some from the business sector, some to advocate for rail.

www.TexasRailAdvocates.org

Here's where we need your help

We've missed out on our share of over \$19 BILLION in federal rail programs over the last decade. Texas should participate in federal cost-sharing rail programs for needed passenger and freight rail projects. Help us convince our leaders that Texas needs its Fair-Share-For-Rail.

BECOME A TEXAS RAIL ADVOCATES SUPPORTER



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RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF STATE FUNDING TO MATCH COMPETITIVE FEDERAL RAIL PROGRAMS

WHEREAS the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), signed into law November 2021, provides for a generational investment in America's intermodal transportation for five years; and

WHEREAS freight and intercity passenger rail is an integral part and engine of our economy; and

WHEREAS funding programs to be administered by the Federal Railroad Administration will allow for rail improvement projects at the local, region and state level to move people and goods; and

WHEREAS these projects will include eliminating and improving dangerous at-grade highway rail crossings, improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of railroads; and

WHEREAS programs can provide funding for track rehabilitation, elimination of rail bottlenecks and repair or replacement of aging bridges in rural rail districts such as NETEX Rail District; and

WHEREAS the BIL can provide funding for the development of industrial rail parks and transload facilities in rural areas to promote economic growth and jobs; and

WHEREAS programs can identify and develop federal-state partnerships for intercity passenger rail to restore service to towns and cities long deprived of options for surface transportation; and

WHEREAS the State of Texas lost out on its share of over \$19 billion in the last decade because there was no state match available for competitive federal grants and those funds went to other states; and

WHEREAS Appropriated Fund 0306, the Texas Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund, approved in a constitutional amendment in 2005 but never funded; and

WHEREAS the Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund would direct the Texas Department of Transportation and their Rail Division to be involved in the planning, programming, and construction of projects to move people and goods in our state; and

WHEREAS the livelihood of our growing economy depends on a strong multi-modal transportation network that includes rail,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Mineola, duly convened and acting in its capacity as the governing body of the City of Mineola, Texas, does hereby petition the State Legislature during the 2023 session to address Texas' transportation infrastructure needs with a FAIR-SHARE-FOR-RAIL kickstart appropriation to the Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund in an amount determined by the Texas Department of Transportation as sufficient to enable the State to compete for matching funds in federal rail grant programs.

ADOPTED THIS THE 19TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2022.

Jayne Lankford, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cindy Karch, City Secretary

LET'S GET OUR FAIR-SHARE-FOR-RAIL - LETTER OF SUPPORT BULLET POINTS

- **WHAT:** The Infrastructure Law passed last fall by Congress resulted in an historic \$36 billion in advanced appropriation for freight and passenger rail projects to rebuild core infrastructure and improve safety and accessibility. This includes \$5 billion for CRISI, Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Program, over 5 years. Another \$5 billion goes to states for needed highway at-grade rail crossing upgrades.
- **HOW:** **Many of the programs to be administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration will be through a competitive grant process and will require a state match of at least 20-30% of project costs.**
- **WHAT WE MISSED:** **Over the past decade Texas missed out on our share of \$19 billion in funding for worthy rail projects, according to data from the FRA, because the state was not able to pursue competitive grant programs and those \$19 billion in federal funds went to many other states. Texas will not be eligible for competitive federal-state rail project funding in the IIJA if we don't have a state match.** Our state has always been a strong participant in federal-state highway cost-sharing programs – let's take advantage and do the same for rail with this once-in-a-generation IIJA law. We participate in federal-state cost sharing for highways – now let's do it for rail.
- **WHO:** The Rail Division at the Texas Department of Transportation, only established in 2009, lacks the means to pursue federal competitive grants. Give TxDOT Rail Division the financial tools it needs to accommodate the growing needs of moving goods and people by rail throughout the state.
- **FUND THIS STATE TOOL:** **Appropriated Fund 0306 – Texas Rail Relocation and Improvement Fund - approved by voters in 2006 but has remained unfunded. Rail Relo Fund can expand economic opportunity, relieve congestion on public highways, enhance public safety, improve air quality, and construct railroad overpasses and underpasses. We need a kickstart appropriation for the Rail Relo fund to take advantage of competitive federal-state cost-sharing programs.**
- **DO IT FOR SAFETY:** Texas has 10,500 miles of rail, over 10,000 highway-rail crossings, over 5,400 rail bridges and moves more freight rail cars than most any other state. Railroad Crossing Elimination program will send \$5.5 billion to states to eliminate dangerous highway-rail crossings. In 2021 Texas was ranked #1 in highway-rail grade crossing accidents with 247 collisions, 57 injuries and 17 deaths
- **MOBILITY CHOICES:** Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail will send \$43.5 billion to states and provides a five-year authorization of essential public transportation programs that communities and businesses rely upon.
- **ADD YOUR STORY TO THE LETTER:** What can it mean for your area/region? Example: Economic development, mobility, safety, jobs, resilience, needed infrastructure?

We're losing by not matching. [TexasRailAdvocates.org/issues/fair-share-for-rail](https://www.texasrailadvocates.org/issues/fair-share-for-rail)

Please send your letters to:

Senate Transportation Chair, The Honorable Robert Nichols – P.O. Box 12068, Austin, Texas 78711

House Transportation Chair, The Honorable Terry Canales - P.O. Box 2910, Austin, Texas 78768

Texas Department of Transportation Executive Director Marc Williams – 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Texas Transportation Commission Chairman J. Bruce Bugg, Jr. - 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Texas Transportation Commissioner Alvin New – 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Texas Transportation Commissioner Laura Ryan - 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Texas Transportation Commissioner Robert C. Vaughn - 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Your State Senator and Your State Representative