

Preliminary Draft Purpose and Need

9/16/2020

Project Purpose

The purpose of the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections project is to create high-speed intercity passenger rail service or an advanced high-speed ground transportation technology connecting downtown Dallas and downtown Fort Worth, while providing linkages to other developing high-performance passenger rail systems in Texas. Specifically, the project will provide a link between the proposed high-speed rail service between Dallas and Houston on the east and high-speed passenger services linking Fort Worth to south Texas metropolitan areas on the west. The project is being developed to:

- Provide a safe, convenient, efficient, competitive, and reliable alternative to travel by automobile;
- Advance the state high-performance rail transportation network by linking the Dallas-Fort Worth region with other planned high-performance passenger rail corridors/stations linking the large metropolitan areas in Texas;
- Enhance connectivity within the Dallas-Fort Worth region to existing and planned passenger rail services in accordance with the *Mobility 2045: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas*; and
- Support economic development opportunities in the Dallas-Fort Worth region by providing improved access to employment, education, entertainment, health, and shopping for residents of, and visitors to, the region and the State.

Project Needs

Existing and future transportation issues to be addressed by the project include:

- Expected population and employment growth will continue to increase travel demand and place greater pressure on existing transportation services
- Existing transportation network and services have unreliable and lengthy travel times
 - o The existing roadway system is increasingly congested
 - o Travel times on the existing passenger rail system are lengthy
- More transportation choices are needed to support:
 - o Creation of and provide connectivity to the planned high-performance passenger systems connecting major metropolitan regions in Texas
 - o Connectivity to and from large employment centers and major activity centers within North Central Texas