



Commission Update

December 2014

Scoping Meetings

More than 300 individuals attended public scoping meetings in Dallas, Arlington, and Fort Worth on November 18, 19 and 20 to discuss the [Dallas-Fort Worth Core Express](#). Elected officials, business owners, members of the public, and other stakeholders attended the open houses. Presentations regarding project and process details were provided by Erik Steavens and Mark Werner from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), James Maughan from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and consultants.

The meetings marked the next step of the environmental process that began in September with the FRA's publication of a [Notice of Intent \(NOI\)](#) in the *Federal Register*. That process will eventually result in a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a Record of Decision from the FRA.

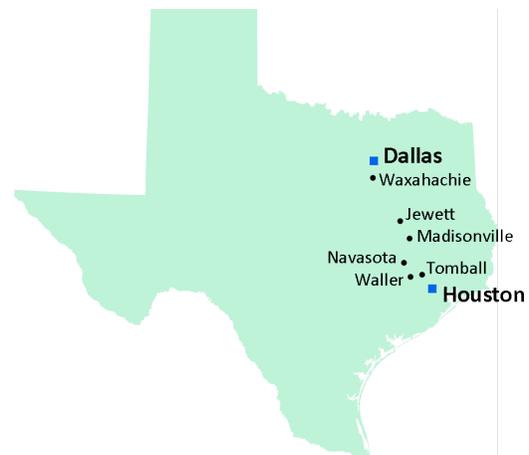
End of Comment Period

The 90-day comment period that began with the publishing of the NOI in September ended on December 15. The comments submitted by the public, governmental agencies, and all other interested parties will help determine the scope of the EIS. The FRA will prepare the EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Texas Central Railway Update

Texas Central Railway (TCR) has been active in the development of high-speed rail in the Houston-to-Dallas corridor. In November, Ron Kirk, former Dallas mayor and former U.S. trade representative, joined Texas Central Railway as a senior adviser for the project. His [statement](#) is available on the TCR website.

This month, FRA held six public scoping meetings along the corridor in the cities of Jewett, Waxahachie, Madisonville, Waller, Tomball, and Navasota (see [Dallas to Houston High Speed Rail: Environmental Impact Statement](#) on the FRA website).



USHSR Conference in Los Angeles

Advocates, experts, and business and political leaders traveled to Los Angeles this month for the U.S. High Speed Rail Conference, sponsored by the U.S. High Speed Rail Association. Panelists such as Beth

Van Duyne, mayor of Irving, Texas; Bill Meadows, chairman of the Commission for High Speed Rail in the Dallas/Fort Worth Region; and Erik Steavens, director of the TxDOT Rail Division discussed the USHSR project pipeline, including the project in the Dallas/Fort Worth Region.

Next Commission Meeting

The next meeting of the Commission for High-Speed Rail in the Dallas/Fort Worth Region will be Monday, January 26, 2015 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Intermodal Transportation Center, 1001 Jones Street, in Fort Worth.



Above: Beth Van Duyne, mayor of Irving, Texas, and Chairman Bill Meadows, Commission for High-Speed Rail in the Dallas/Fort Worth Region, present project updates at the December USHSR Conference in Los Angeles.



Left: Elected officials, business owners, members of the public, and other stakeholders attend the public scoping meeting in Arlington on Nov. 19.

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Members, Commission for High-Speed Rail:

William "Bill" Meadows, Chairman ▪ Councilwoman Vonciel Jones Hill ▪ Dee J. Kelly, Jr. ▪ Lorraine Miller ▪ Jere Thompson ▪ Judge Glen Whitley ▪ Jeff Williams