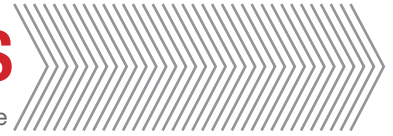




Developing Connections

TxDOT's Multimodal System Moves People & Products Across the State



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In this era of multimodal transportation, most people realize the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) does more than build and maintain highways and bridges — we help people and products move across the state using many different methods.

With congestion increasing around the state, Texans are looking for more travel options. At the same time, manufacturers are searching for faster ways to ship products within the state's borders and beyond. There is no one-step fix to the growing demand on our transportation system, but building more highways is not the sole solution.

Addressing the state's transportation needs calls for a comprehensive approach. Our sophisticated transportation network has evolved beyond a system of highways into a system of systems. TxDOT's multimodal structure includes boats,

planes, buses and trains, in addition to trucks, cars, bikes and more.

TxDOT improves our state's economic future by boosting Texas' non-highway system and developing connections around the state by investing in projects related to rail and maritime transportation (including ports and waterways) to move freight and cargo. Other non-highway programs, including commercial and general aviation, public transit, and accommodations for cyclists and pedestrians, complete our state's multimodal transportation network and help improve the way Texans travel, commute and transport good and services.

We've prepared this brief informational summary for non-highway modes of transportation that TxDOT supports. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at AskTxDOT@txdot.gov.





Rail

Go to www.txdot.gov and search "Rail"



TxDOT's Rail Division (RRD), created in 2009, develops the state's rail plan; oversees rail inspection; manages state and federally funded rail improvement projects; manages Texas' state-owned rail lines, the 391-mile South Orient Railroad in West Texas, and the 33-mile Bonham Subdivision between Paris and Bonham; coordinates rail safety initiatives with the Federal Railroad Administration and with the Federal Transit Administration;

BY THE NUMBERS

- Texas leads the nation in total rail miles with 10,743 miles of rail trail.
- More than 40 railroads operate in Texas, including three of the nation's largest.
- There are more than 10,500 public highway and rail crossings in the state.
- In 2008, more than 9.4 million rail carloads traveled through Texas.
- Approximately 384.4 million tons of freight move by rail in Texas, the equivalent of 21.4 million trucks.
- Railroads can move a ton of freight an average of 480 miles on one gallon of fuel
- Amtrak provides intercity passenger rail service in Texas through the Heartland Flyer, the Texas Eagle and the Sunset Limited.
- Two commuter rail services operate in Texas: the Trinity Railway Express between the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, and the MetroRail Red Line between Austin and the city of Leander.
- Local light rail services in the state are provided by DART in Dallas and METRORAIL in Houston.

and administers rail mobility studies and research projects. The division also monitors rail abandonments in Texas and coordinates the state's involvement in and response to abandonment fillings.

The Transportation Commission approved the Texas Rail Plan in November 2010, which sets Texas' rail policy and directs future improvements for rail development. It complies with both a federal mandate for states to develop an inventory of its freight, passenger, intercity, commuter, light rail and transit facilities, and a 2009 state law that requires Texas to develop a long-term plan for passenger rail.

Because the state's motor fuel tax revenue is primarily reserved for road construction, the state depends on federal funding to carry out some of its rail initiatives.

In 2010, the Federal Railroad Administration awarded nearly \$4 million to Texas to adjust signal timing for portions of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe line in Fort Worth. Another \$7.4 million award will help pay for additional track for a segment of the Trinity Rail Express in Fort Worth. Texas received \$5.6 million to study intercity passenger rail alternatives between Oklahoma City and South Texas. Texas also received two federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grants. The North Central Texas Council of Governments was awarded \$23 million to develop a streetcar service in downtown Dallas, and more than \$34 million will be used to make improvements to Tower 55, a congested freight and passenger rail intersection in Fort Worth.



Gulf Intracoastal Waterway

Go to www.txdot.gov and search "Gulf"

Since 1975, TxDOT has served as the non-federal sponsor of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW), a shallow, man-made waterway connecting ports from St. Marks, Florida, to Brownsville, Texas. The 423-mile section bordering Texas is roughly one-third of

the waterway's total length and handles 58 percent of the annual waterborne traffic.

The waterway has unique transportation advantages in Texas and is an important component of a safe, effective, multimodal transportation system. TxDOT partners with the U.S. Corps of Engineers to maintain the waterway to its authorized depth. TxDOT's primary duties to support maintenance and operation of the GIWW are to provide lands, easements, rights of way, relocations and necessary placement areas for dredged materials. In the last four decades, TxDOT has acquired 15 upland placement areas totaling more than 2,200 acres.

TxDOT also participates with other state agencies and local entities to ensure transportation interests are considered in decisions regarding recreational and commercial uses of the GIWW. Finally, TxDOT is responsible for the continual evaluation of the waterway, including an assessment of its importance, the identification of principal problems and significant modifications to the waterway, and specific recommendations for legislative action.



Texas Ports

Go to www.txdot.gov and search "Ports"

Texas has more than 970 public and private wharves, piers and docks handling waterborne freight. In 2008, more than 473 million tons of commodities moved through these channels. With the deepening of the Panama Canal and the expected increase in worldwide waterborne trade, Texas waterways are projected to move more than 766 million tons by 2030. To meet these expectations, Texas port facilities will need significant improvements and expansions.

The Texas Transportation Commission appoints the seven members of the Port Authority Advisory Committee. This committee develops an annual report detailing the various port projects and funding needs submitted by Texas public

ports. The committee's advice and recommendations provide the commission and TxDOT with a broad perspective regarding ports and transportation-related matters to be considered in formulating department policies. TxDOT staff help ensure port operations and improvements are coordinated with the state's responsibilities as non-federal sponsor of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

Aviation

Go to www.txdot.gov and search "Aviation"

Texas' airport system is one of the largest in the nation, with approximately 304 general aviation airports helping Texas commerce flourish in the global marketplace. TxDOT's Aviation Division assists cities and counties secure state and federal funding for airport maintenance and capital improvements. In turn, these airports create more than 56,000 jobs and pump more than \$6 billion into the state's economy each year.

Administering more than \$85 million in federal grants and state funding annually, the division provides a variety of services to improve aviation safety and airport infrastructure. The full-service division also manages all aspects of the assistance program as a turnkey operation for the sponsors, from the initial concept to planning and design, all the way through to construction.

Capital improvement projects include work on runways, taxiways and aircraft parking areas; lighting systems and navigation aids; weather reporting stations; and security systems. Other programs fund construction of airport terminal buildings, air traffic control towers and hangars, as well other routine maintenance.

The division provides safe, efficient and cost-effective air transportation services to state agencies, as well as maintenance services for state-owned aircraft. The division also offers aviation safety and education programs to pilots, aircraft owners, mechanics and industry professionals.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 304 public system airports
- 450-plus runways
- 47,000 licensed pilots
- 28,620 registered aircraft
- 8.5 million annual flight operations
- \$73.4 million operating budget (fiscal 2010)

Public Transportation

Go to www.txdot.gov and search "Public Transportation"

Public transportation plays a significant role in state and national efforts by providing mobility options, reducing traffic congestion, conserving fuel, improving air quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting emergency preparedness.

TxDOT promotes and supports public transportation by collaborating with local governments, non-profit entities and the Federal Transit Administration. We also provide grant assistance to public transportation providers and planners. In fiscal 2010, TxDOT awarded state and federal public transportation grants to 30 small urban transit districts, 38 rural transit districts and 58 other recipients, including intercity bus operators, private for-profit and nonprofit transit operators, metropolitan planning organizations and independent living centers. Grant funding allowed ridership to grow and afforded the much-needed replacement of vehicles, enhancements to information technology systems and the construction of multimodal facilities.

BY THE NUMBERS

- Employees: 49
- Ridership: 302 million trips
- Vehicle Miles: 228 million
- Transit vehicles: 7,197
- Metropolitan Transit Authorities: 7
- County Transportation Authorities: 1
- Small Urban Transit Districts: 30
- Rural Transit Districts: 38
- Agencies serving elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities: 131

TxDOT oversees a regional public transportation initiative where all areas of the state coordinate to develop regional public transportation plans. They focus on reducing inefficiencies and coordinating transportation service across metropolitan, suburban and rural areas. TxDOT also provides funding for the professional development of the public transportation industry through training classes and scholarships.



Bicycle & Pedestrian Travel

Go to www.txdot.gov and search "Bicycle"

Bicycle and pedestrian travel modes have become increasingly important components of the Texas transportation system. They help reduce traffic congestion, roadway maintenance and air pollution while promoting individual cost savings. These "green" methods of transportation support economic growth, energy conservation, public health and environmental quality. TxDOT is committed to proactively plan, design and incorporate bicycle and pedestrian-friendly facilities into all construction projects, whenever possible.

The Transportation Enhancement Program is a federally-funded program administered by our agency. It provides funding opportunities for non-traditional transportation-related activities, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and safety and education activities for bicyclists and pedestrians. In 2010, the Texas Transportation Commission approved \$76 million in funding for transportation-related enhancement projects across the state, most of which include bicycle and pedestrian modes of travel.

Our Safe Routes to School Program creates practical projects to make school routes safer for children to walk and bicycle by building sidewalks, crosswalks and bicycle facilities. Community leaders, parents and schools also use education programs to help children travel safely to and from school. In May 2010, the Texas Transportation Commission approved \$54.1 million to fund 200 projects in more than 73 communities.

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