

# Passenger Rail in Texas

Intercity passenger rail provides a vital link in the state's transportation network. The population of Texas is expected to grow to over 47 million residents in 2050 according to the Texas Demographic Center. Alternatives to congested roadways will become increasingly important. Scroll down to learn more.



Types of Passenger Rail



Intercity passenger rail services are generally defined as two categories:

- High-speed - rail operating at speeds of at least 125 mph non-stop or with limited stops between cities.
- Intercity passenger - rail serving multiple cities, operating at slower speeds than high-speed rail, over long distances with more frequent stops. (1)

High-speed passenger rail services do not currently operate in Texas, although potential future corridors are under study or development. While TxDOT does not directly oversee passenger rail service in Texas, the agency has a role in long-term planning, monitoring service quality, and in facilitating and advocating for passenger rail improvement in the state. In 2017, TxDOT completed the [Texas-Oklahoma Passenger Rail Study](#), an evaluation of a range of passenger rail service options in an 850-mile corridor from Oklahoma City to South Texas.

Photos: an Amtrak train at the Mineola depot (cover); an Amtrak train passes through Gladewater (left).

(1) TxDOT (2019). *Texas Rail Plan Update (Draft)*.

Modal Profiles

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- Passenger Rail**
- Public Transportation

Passenger Rail in Texas

Texas Passenger Rail Network

**Legend**

**Amtrak Station**

- Rail (Yellow circle)
- Thruway (Orange circle)

**Amtrak Rail Service**

- Heartland Flyer (Purple line)
- Sunset Limited (Orange line)
- Texas Eagle (Blue line)

**Amtrak Thruway Bus Service**

- (Black line)

Intercity passenger rail service in Texas is provided by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (doing business as Amtrak), which operates three routes in Texas:

- The Heartland Flyer, which travels daily between Fort Worth and Oklahoma City. This route is partially supported by state funds from both Texas and Oklahoma
- The Sunset Limited, which travels triweekly between Los Angeles and New Orleans
- The Texas Eagle, which travels between Chicago and San Antonio daily with triweekly connecting service to Los Angeles



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Amtrak Facts & Figures



- There are 1,539 miles of Amtrak track miles in Texas (2)
- There are 19 active Amtrak stations in Texas; the Fort Worth Intermodal Transportation Center serves the greatest number of Amtrak passengers (over 114,000 in FY 2017)
- In FY 2017, there were 393,484 total Amtrak boardings and alightings in Texas, up 8.8 percent from FY 2016 (3)

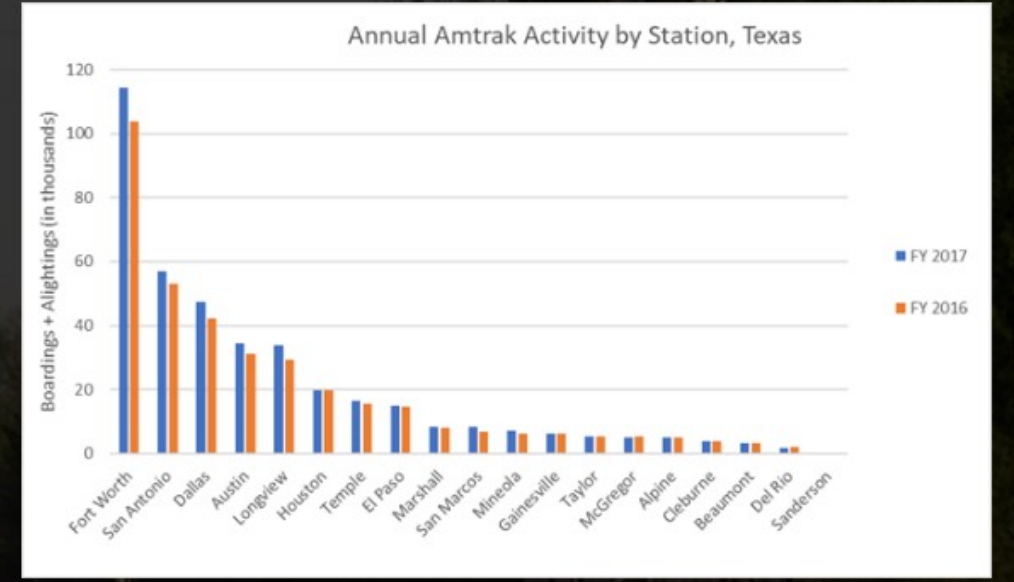


Photo: an Amtrak train near Gainesville.  
 (2) TxDOT (2016). Texas Rail Plan Update.  
 (3) Amtrak (2017). Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2017: State of Texas.

# Modal Profiles

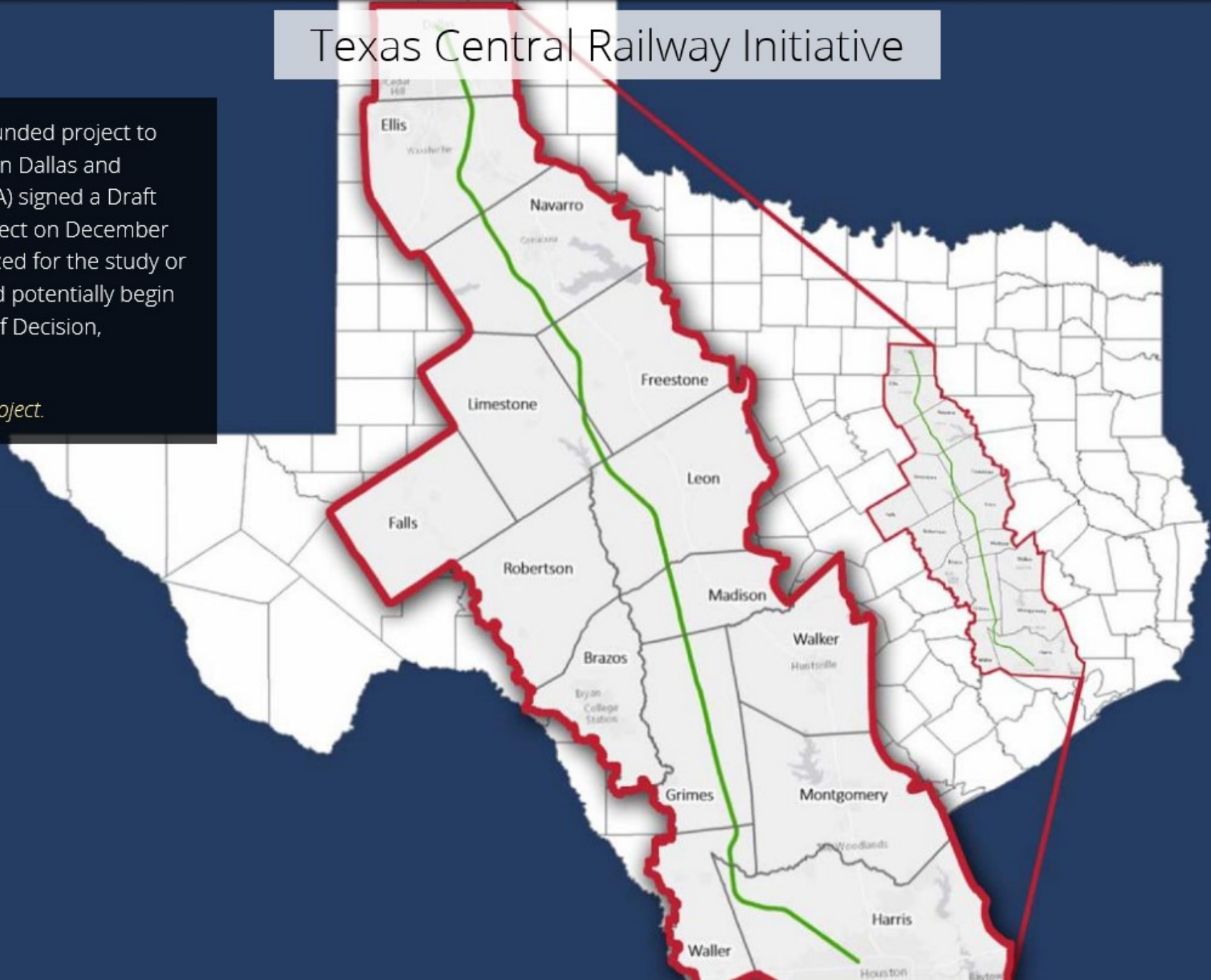
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## Passenger Rail in Texas

### Texas Central Railway Initiative

The Texas Central Railway Initiative is a privately-funded project to develop high-speed passenger rail service between Dallas and Houston. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) signed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project on December 15, 2017. No state or federal funds are being utilized for the study or potential project development. Construction could potentially begin following the release of the Final EIS and Record of Decision, expected in 2019. (5)

(5) TxDOT (2019). *Dallas-Houston High-Speed Rail Project*.



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High Speed Rail Alignment Map | [Federal Railroad Administration](#)

For more information | [TxDOT Rail Division](#)

