

# HIGH-SPEED



# TRANSPORTATION

## Dallas-Fort Worth



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments

July 11, 2024 – Regional Transportation Council Workshop



# Agenda

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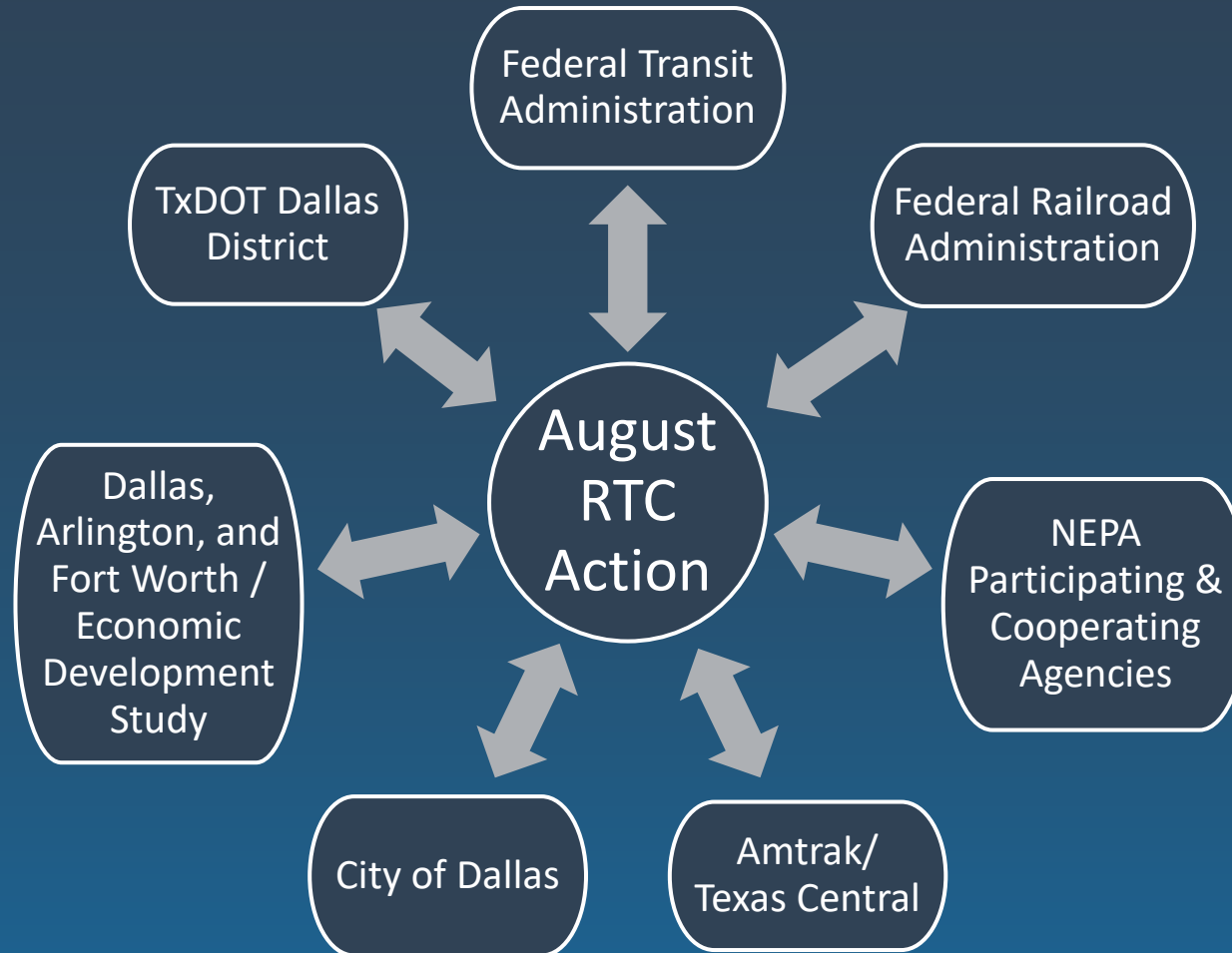
1. Introductions/Context
2. Response to City of Dallas Resolution and Presentation of Alternative High-Speed Rail Route Avoiding Downtown
3. Review of Public Engagement Throughout Study
4. Study Context and Review of Purpose and Need
5. Open Discussion and Lunch

# Dallas to Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Corridor Characteristics

"Top 10" High-Speed Rail Corridors in the World

Location	Line	Line Distance (mi.)	Average Line Speed (mph)
China	Beijing - Shanghai	819	143
★ Texas	Fort Worth - Houston	271	140
Japan	Tokaido Shinkansen - Nozomi	320	129
France	LGV Sud-Est	266	123
France	LGV Atlantique - Bordeaux	371	122
France	LGV Est (all stops)	273	122
Spain	Madrid - Barcelona	390	122
France	LGV Nord - Calais	209	112
Italy	Turin - Milan	92	97
Germany	Berlin - Hanover	160	93

# Effects of July Workshop





# Path to July Workshop

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3/6/24 City Council Briefing by NCTCOG and Amtrak

3/22/24 Dallas City Manager's Meeting

5/15/24 National High-Speed Rail Conference: Briefing by NCTCOG and Amtrak

6/12/24 Dallas Resolution

6/13/24 RTC Decision to Schedule July Workshop

7/11/24 July Workshop/RTC Decision on How to Advance

# Dallas High-Speed Rail Station Planning Background

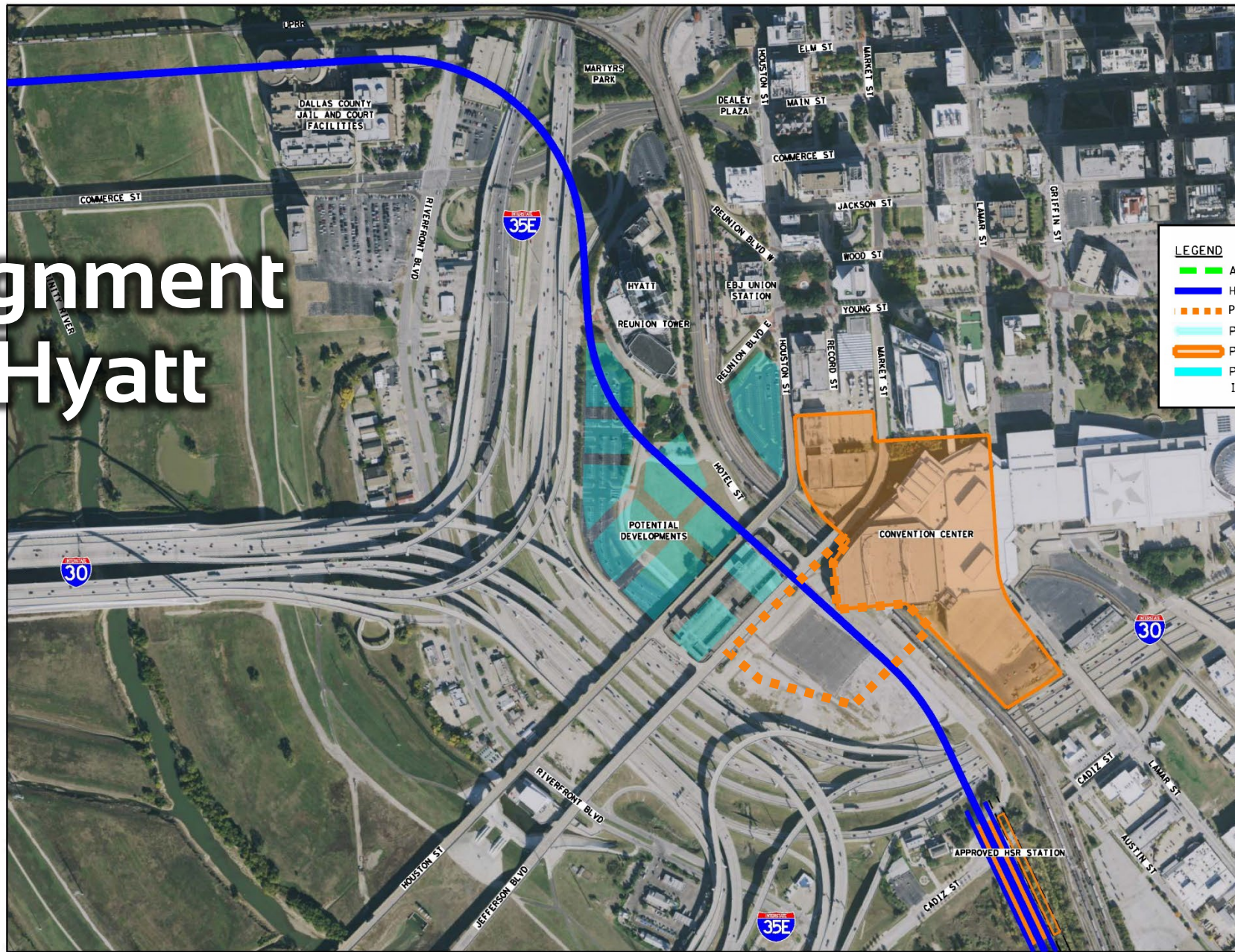
- 2016 RTC Resolution and Memorandum of Understanding between RTC and Texas Central
- 2016 City of Dallas and Texas Central Cooperation Agreement
- 2017 City of Dallas completed Station Area Zone Assessment (Perkins+Will); led by City of Dallas staff
- 2019 NCTCOG funded Dallas Intermodal Transportation Facility Fatal Flaw Analysis (Lot E Study – LAN); led by City of Dallas staff
- 2020 Dallas staff provided comments on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Dallas to Houston High-Speed Rail (including station location)



*Approved Dallas High-Speed Rail Station with platform at 70'+ above existing ground*

*Image Credit: Texas Central*

# HSR Alignment West of Hyatt



**LEGEND**

- █ ALTERNATE PEOPLEMOVER / LOBBY
- █ HSR ALIGNMENT
- - - PREVIOUS CONVENTION CENTER CONCEPT
- █ POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS
- █ POTENTIAL CONVENTION CENTER
- █ POTENTIAL UNION STATION IMPROVEMENTS

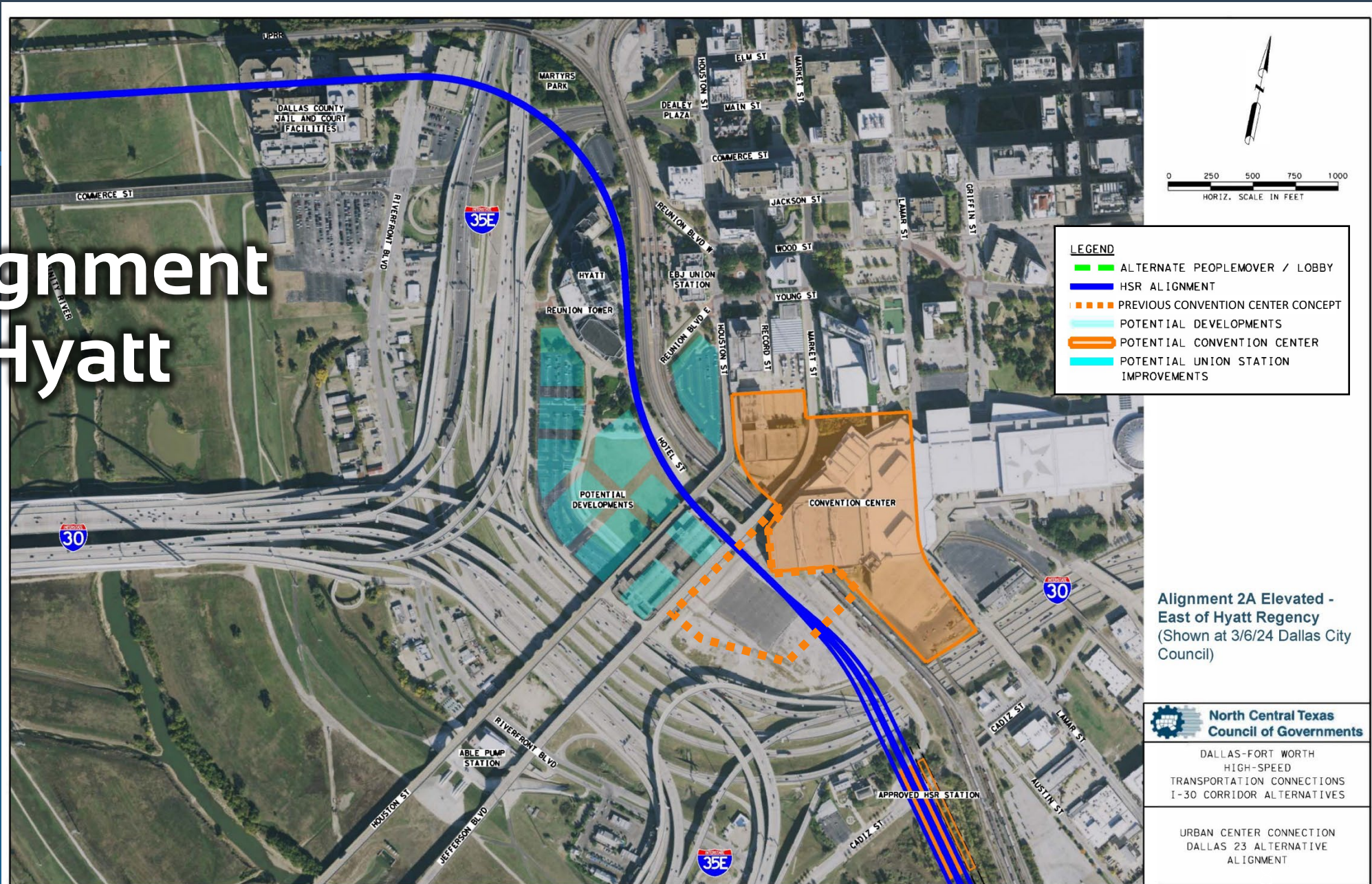
**Alignment 1 Elevated - West of Hyatt Regency**  
(Shown at 3/6/24 Dallas City Council)

**North Central Texas Council of Governments**

DALLAS-FORT WORTH  
HIGH-SPEED  
TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS  
I-30 CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES

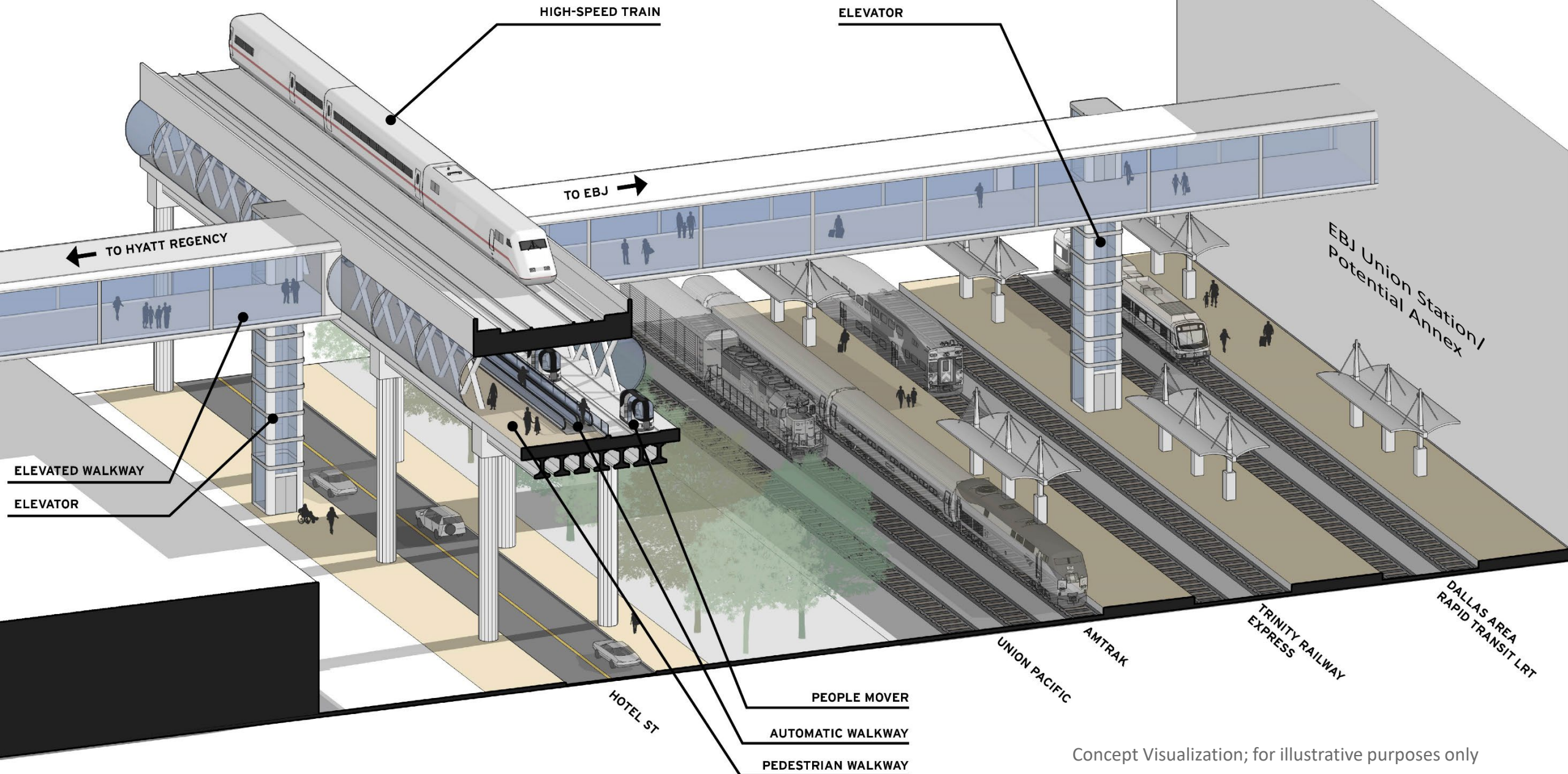
URBAN CENTER CONNECTION  
DALLAS 4B ALTERNATIVE  
ALIGNMENT

# HSR Alignment East of Hyatt





# Leveraging HSR to Create Connections



Concept Visualization; for illustrative purposes only

# Leveraging HSR to Create Connections



Reunion Tower /  
Hyatt Regency

EBJ Union Station /  
Potential Annex

REUNION BLVD E

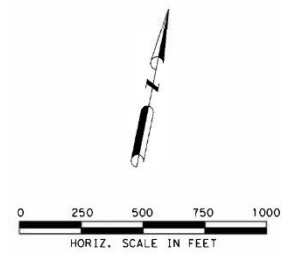
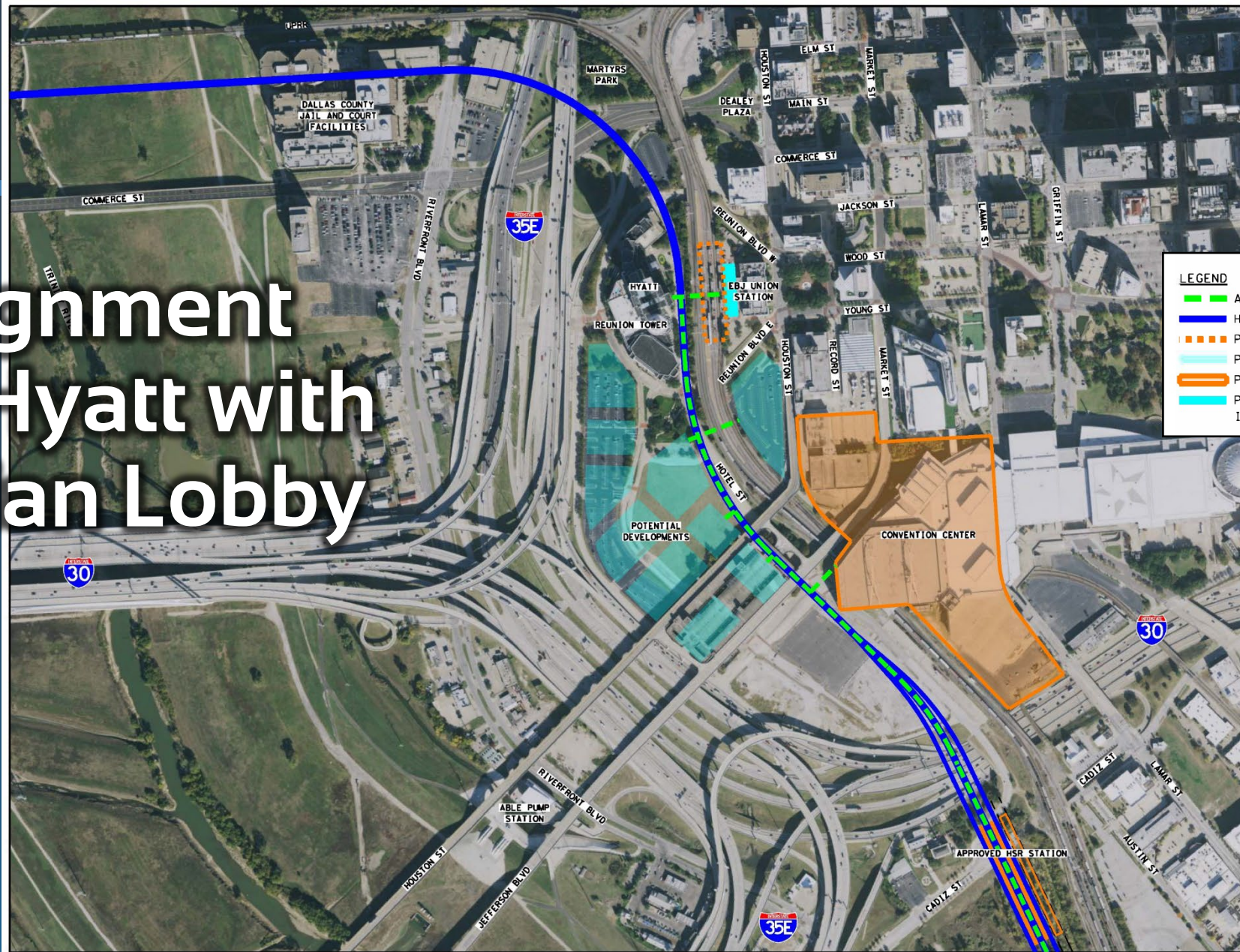
Potential Development

Potential Development

HOTEL ST

S HOUSTON ST

# HSR Alignment East of Hyatt with Pedestrian Lobby



- LEGEND**
- ALTERNATE PEOPLEMOVER / LOBBY
  - HSR ALIGNMENT
  - POTENTIAL TRAIN SHED
  - POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS
  - POTENTIAL CONVENTION CENTER
  - POTENTIAL UNION STATION IMPROVEMENTS

**Alignment 2B Elevated - East of Hyatt Regency with Pedestrian Lobby**  
(Shown at 3/6/24 Dallas City Council)

**North Central Texas Council of Governments**

DALLAS-FORT WORTH  
HIGH-SPEED  
TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS  
I-30 CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES

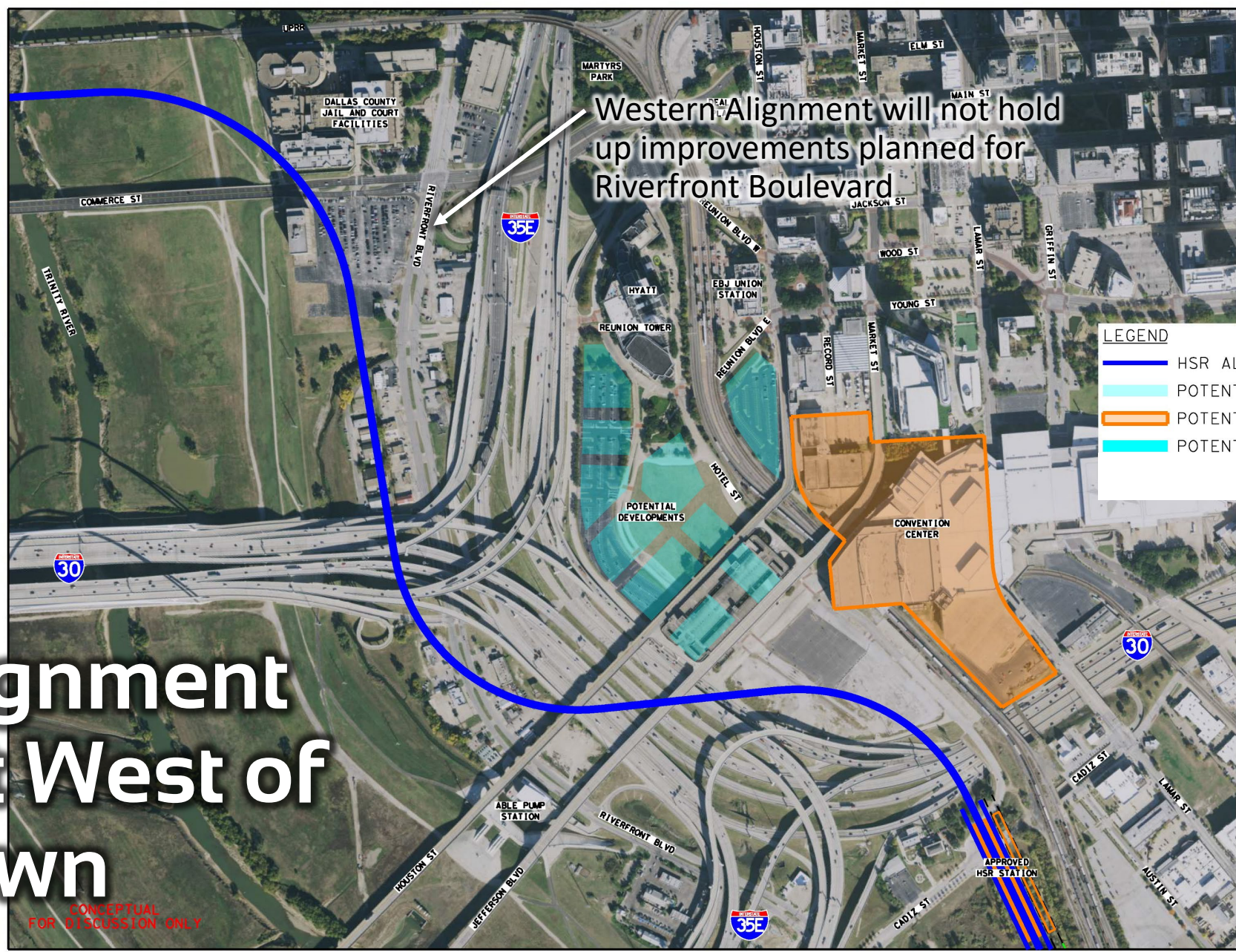
URBAN CENTER CONNECTION  
DALLAS 23 ALTERNATIVE  
ALIGNMENT

# Potential Connections between Points of Interest in Downtown Dallas

Connections between Points of Interest		2B. Elevated -	Family of Elevated
		East of Hyatt Regency Hotel with Pedestrian Lobby (Shown at 3/6/24 Dallas City Council)	Alignments West of Downtown (7/11/24 RTC Workshop)
6	Hyatt Regency Hotel to Union Station	✓	✗
5	Convention Center to Union Station	✓	✗
4	Convention Center to Convention Center Hotels	✓	✗
3	High Speed Rail to Union Station	✓	✗
2	High Speed Rail to Convention Center Hotels	✓	✗
1	High Speed Rail to Convention Center	✓	?

Note: Connections between points of interest considered to be direct, air conditioned/comfortable, and ADA accessible

# HSR Alignment Concept West of Downtown



Western Alignment will not hold up improvements planned for Riverfront Boulevard

- LEGEND**
- HSR ALIGNMENT
  - POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS
  - POTENTIAL CONVENTION CENTER
  - POTENTIAL UNION STATION

CONCEPTUAL FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

CONCEPTUAL FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

North Central Texas Council of Governments

DALLAS-FORT WORTH HIGH-SPEED TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS I-30 CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES

URBAN CENTER CONNECTION DALLAS 4H.11A ALTERNATIVE ALIGNMENT



# Review of Public Engagement Throughout Study



# Public and Agency Engagement

## Over 300 meetings held since 2020

- Public meetings and open houses
- Technical Working Group meetings
- Federal and state coordination, monthly FTA/FRA meetings
- Technology Forum and one-on-ones with providers
- Transportation agencies and railroads
- Study area cities
- Elected officials
- Stakeholder interviews
- Community groups and organizations





# Public and Agency Engagement

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## Official Project Public Meetings – 14

- Virtual meetings in September 2020 (2), January 2021 (2), May 2021 (2)
- In-person open houses in October 2021 (4), August/September 2023 (4):  
Dallas, Grand Prairie, Arlington, Fort Worth

NCTCOG Hybrid Public Meetings (5) in February 2021, December 2022, April 2023, October 2023, May 2024

Elected Official Briefings (2) – January 2021, May 2021

All public meeting documents are available online at [www.nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs](http://www.nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs) under Presentations and Public Outreach Efforts



# Additional Engagement

## DFW High-Speed Update Newsletter

- Latest updates on progress
- Includes upcoming events for the public to attend

## Online Speaker Request Form

Staff continue to present to community groups and organizations

**DFW HIGH-SPEED UPDATE**  
WINTER 2023

### Your High-Speed Rail; Your Input.

To engage the community and collect input on the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connectors Study, open houses were held in Fort Worth, Arlington, Grand Prairie, and Dallas this fall. More than 200 people attended, and the presentations and meeting materials are available on the website of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) at [nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs](http://nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs).

"Our goal continues to be hearing the community's thoughts and concerns. Listening carefully affirms our direction for a successful completion of Phase 2," said Ian Bryant, AICP, HNTB Project Manager.

"We heard several common themes at each open house, and we are using community input to bolster our understanding of how this project could be successful," Bryant continued.

Expressing diverse opinions during the open houses, attendees commented on the proposed I-30 alignments, economic development opportunities, environmental effects, traffic congestion, and right-of-way acquisition.

Phase 2 public comments are varied. Open house participants in the study area saw the potential of a high-speed rail system providing energy-efficient public transit as an alternative to personal vehicles.

Laura from Dallas shared concerns about the effects of construction on ecosystems like the Trinity River. Beth from Fort Worth supports the project but is concerned about flooding and water quality.

"Environmental considerations are being addressed in depth during documentation for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a requirement of this federally funded initiative," said Dan Lamers, PE, NCTCOG Senior Project Manager.

NEPA considers the potential effects a project may have on the environment or community and proposes mitigation measures as needed. Learn more about NEPA here.

See Community, pg. 2

**Let Your Voice Be Heard!**  
Let's Talk About Travel Across DFW. We Want Your Feedback!  
[www.nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs](http://www.nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs)

**CONTACTS**

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HNTB Project Manager  
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**Fall 2023 open house locations**

North Central Texas Council of Governments • 817-695-9240 • [www.nctcog.org](http://www.nctcog.org) | HIGH-SPEED TRANSPORTATION

**DFW HIGH-SPEED UPDATE**

### Phase 2 Public Comment Topics

Topic	Count
Alignments	17
Economic Development	19
Environment	20
Traffic	20
Right-of-Way	15
Other	25

\*Comments are listed based on the topic selected by the commenter. Comments were categorized as "other" when the commenter designated theirs as such or did not select a category. Some comments are listed under multiple categories.

**Arlington House**  
Arlington House Central Texas Council of Governments open house

**Fort Worth House**  
Phil from Fort Worth wants to reduce the number of gas-powered vehicles on the road and supports this "necessary project for sustainable development."

**Dallas House**  
Michael from Arlington noted, "the environmental impact of taking cars off the road would reach outweigh any construction impacts from this rail line."

**Central Station Community Room**  
The project team is also studying enhanced connections from the proposed Dallas high-speed rail station to Dallas Union Station, which would provide easy access to DART rail and bus networks connecting the greater Dallas area. A station location is also planned in the Arlington entertainment district.

**West Dallas Multi-Use Center**  
The majority of the alignment (see pg. 4) is within the I-30 right-of-way, with portions of the track elevated, tunneled, or trench-cut/grade. "We are closely examining each piece of the alignment and proposing station locations and track elevations that would most benefit the community. Looking at the big picture of a regional transportation asset such as this is a core charge of NCTCOG," said Lamers.

**Access the open house report online** to read the complete list of public comments and responses.

North Central Texas Council of Governments • 817-695-9240 • [www.nctcog.org](http://www.nctcog.org) | HIGH-SPEED TRANSPORTATION

# Public Comments

- General comment form online asks for zip code, topic
- Online mapping tool asked for feedback on areas of significance and concern
- 263 Total comments to date
  - Not in Favor – 2%
- FAQs and responses to questions from previous meetings available

[www.nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs](http://www.nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs) see under Project Information (FAQs); Presentations and Public Outreach Efforts (Open House Summary)

**DFW High-Speed Transportation Connections Study**  
The DFW High-Speed Transportation Connections Study will review high-speed passenger service options in the Dallas to Fort Worth corridor.

[Open Project Documents](#) ▾

1) Please enter your comment below: \* Required

Please do not place any personally identifiable information (name, phone, or email) within your comment.

Topics that apply to your comment: (Select up to 3)

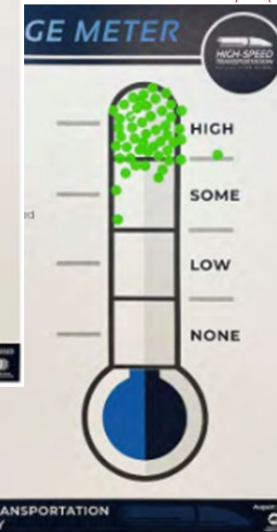
Environment    Environmental    Traffic    Right of Way    Other

How up to date with the project \* Required

Last Name \* Required

Last Name

First Name



*Example of comment form*

*Knowledge meter before and after 2023 open house*

# Project Information

- Project information online in English and Spanish
- Sign up for project notices
- View future public meeting dates
- Request a speaker
- Provide comments or questions:
  - Electronic comment form online
  - In writing to DFW-HSTC Study, P.O. Box 5888, Arlington, Texas 76005
  - Email: [HST\\_DFW@nctcog.org](mailto:HST_DFW@nctcog.org)

The screenshot displays the website for the North Central Texas Council of Governments. The header includes the organization's name, a logo, and navigation links such as 'About Us / Contact Us' and a language selection dropdown. Below the header is a search bar and a navigation menu with categories like 'AGENCY ADMINISTRATION', 'AGING SERVICES', 'ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT', 'EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS', 'ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT', 'EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR', 'NCT 9-1-1', 'PUBLIC SAFETY', 'REGIONAL DATA', 'WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS', and 'TRANSPORTATION'. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Transportation > Regional Planning & Projects > Transit Management and Planning > General Public Information > Transit Planning Activities > Transit Planning Projects > High-Speed Rail > DFW High-Speed Transportation Connections Study'. The title of the page is 'DFW High-Speed Transportation Connections Study'. Below the title, it states 'Current study of high-speed options Dallas to Fort Worth:' followed by a bulleted list of activities: 'Analyzing Potential Routes', 'Evaluating Potential Vehicles', 'Developing Operations/Service Plans', 'Preparing Preliminary Engineering', and 'Compiling Environmental Documentation'. To the right of this list is a logo for 'HIGH-SPEED TRANSPORTATION DALLAS-FORT WORTH'. Below the list, a paragraph explains that the council initiated the study in the spring of 2020 to evaluate high-speed transportation between Dallas and Fort Worth, with a goal of connecting to other proposed high-performance passenger systems. It also mentions that other regional high-speed efforts can be found on NCTCOG's 'High-Speed Rail webpage'. On the right side of the page, there is a vertical navigation menu with dropdown arrows for 'Regional Planning & Projects', 'Congestion Management', 'Maps, Models & Data', 'Quality of Life', 'Funding & Business', and 'Plans, Studies, Reports'.

**Project Website:**

**[www.nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs](http://www.nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs)**



# Study Context and Review of Purpose and Need

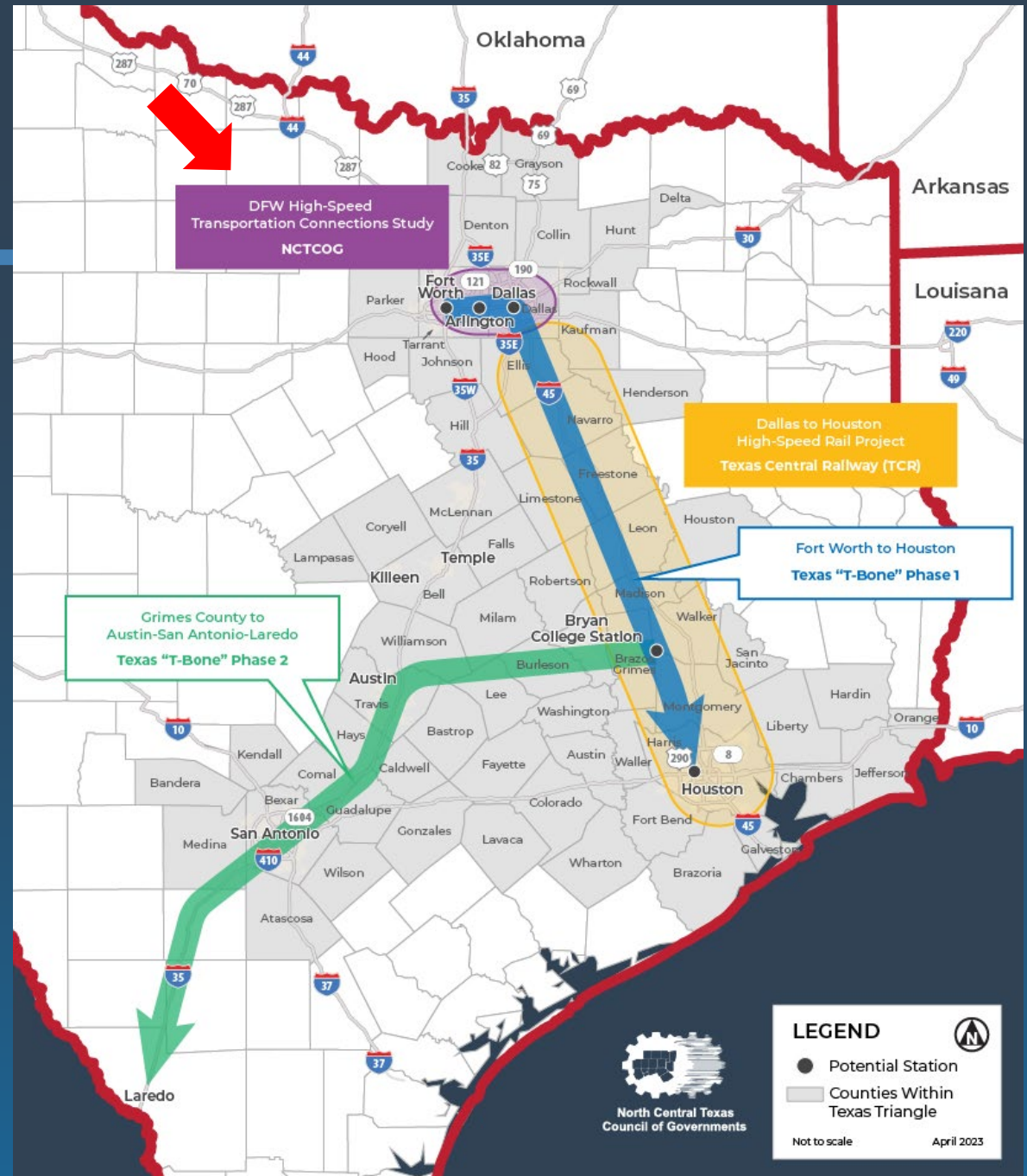
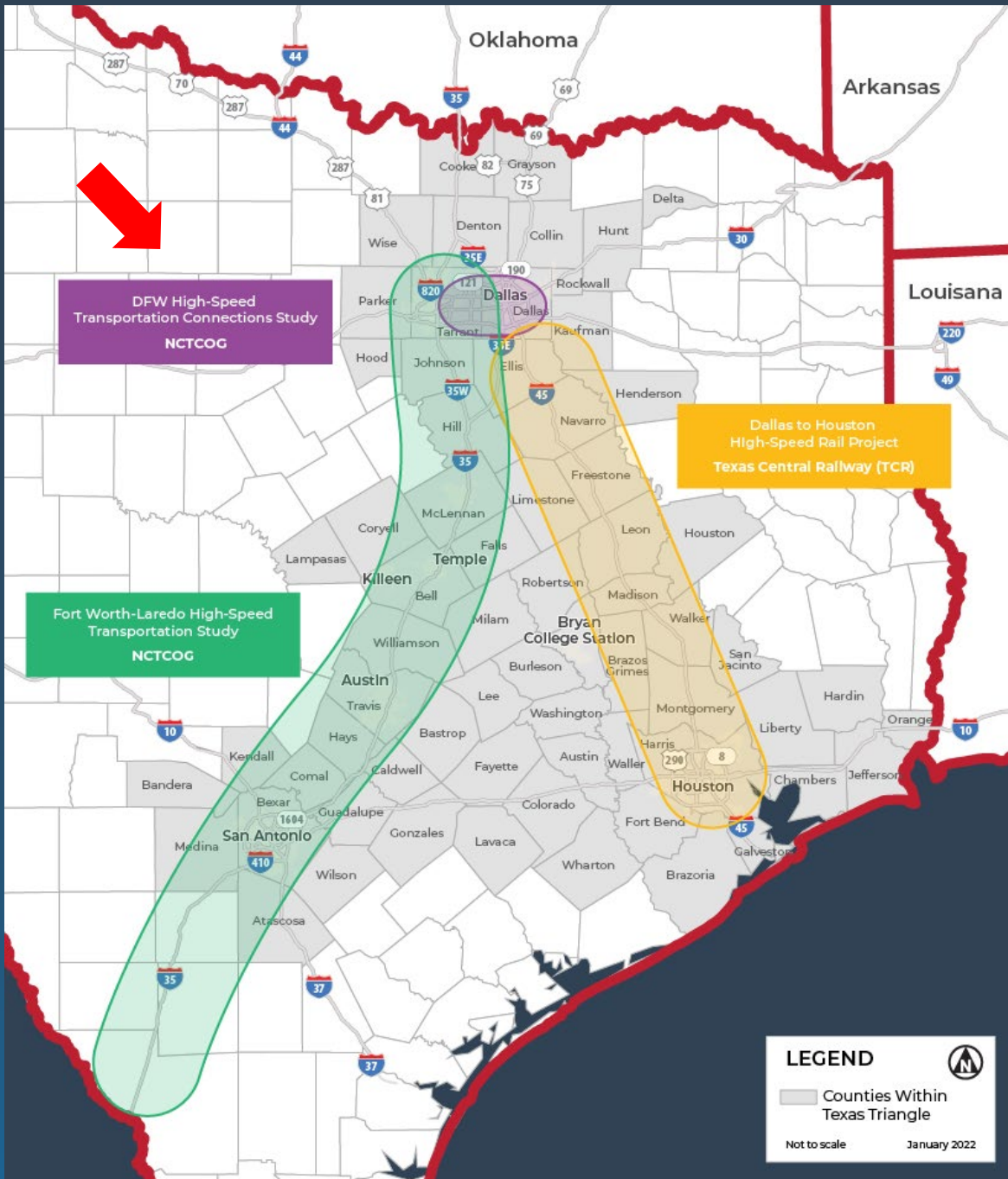




# Milestones Leading To NCTCOG HSR Study

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- Texas Central advances Dallas to Houston (c. 2014)
- RTC passes resolution supporting “one-seat” ride and three station concept; includes in Mobility 2040 (2016)
- TxDOT/FRA completed Texas-Oklahoma Passenger Rail Study and alternatives analysis for DFW Core Express Service (2017)
- Station Area Studies for Dallas, Arlington, Fort Worth (2017)
- NCTCOG initiated Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study (2020)



# Proposed Network of Preferred Routes

## Dallas-Fort Worth Future Central Hub for National Rail Network

### Legend

#### Baseline Network

— Long-Distance, Northeast Corridor, State-Supported, Baseline Projects

#### Preferred Routes

- Chicago – Miami
- Dallas/Fort Worth – Miami
- Denver – Houston
- Los Angeles – Denver
- Phoenix – Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Dallas/Fort Worth – New York
- Houston – New York
- Seattle – Denver
- San Antonio – Minneapolis/St. Paul
- San Francisco – Dallas/Fort Worth
- Detroit – New Orleans
- Denver – Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Seattle – Chicago
- Dallas/Fort Worth – Atlanta
- El Paso – Billings

Further analysis and identification of funding after completion of this study would be necessary to advance the preferred routes through project planning and project development activities prior to implementation.

Presented at Regional Working Group Meetings February 2024

\*Potentially 6 new long-distance routes through Dallas-Fort Worth identified in FRA's Long-Distance Service Study



# Federal Transit Administration Process

NCTCOG Focus:  
Public-Private Partnerships

Alternatives  
Analysis  
(2 years)

Pre-NEPA  
Refinement  
(2 years)

NEPA  
(1 year)

Explore opportunities for Funding and  
Implementation by P3 or Amtrak

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

2026

2027

We are here

# Federal Railroad Administration Process

NCTCOG Focus:  
Federal Funding

Corridor Identification  
and Development Program

\*NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act



# Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study

## Study Purpose

- **CONNECT** Dallas-Fort Worth to other proposed high-performance passenger systems in the state (Texas Triangle)
- Obtain federal **ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL** of the viable alternative

**RTC P21-01 Policy (2021)** reaffirmed support for:

- ❖ One-Seat Ride
- ❖ Three Station Concept

## Study Phases

### ✓ **Phase 1: Alternatives Analysis**

- Alignments and Modes
- RTC advances IH 30 Corridor through Policy P21-01

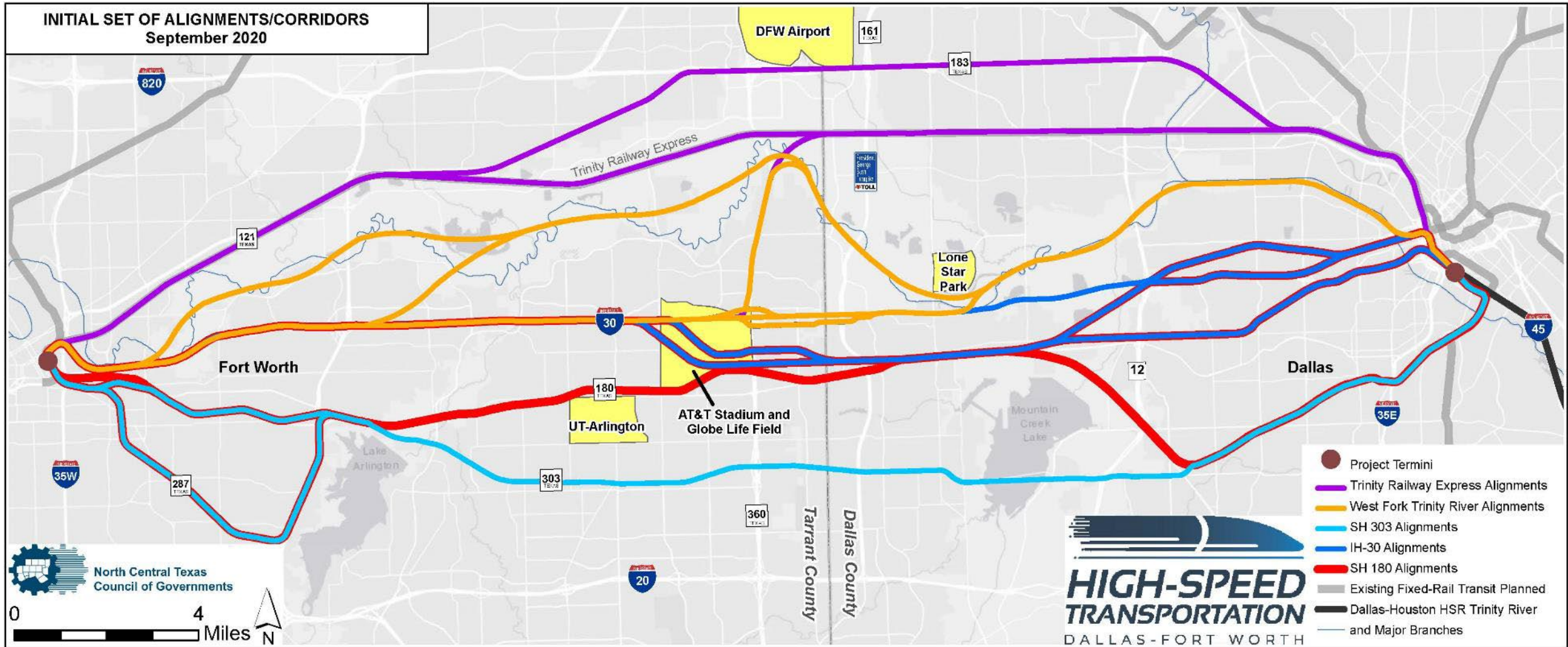
### ✓ **Phase 2: Pre-NEPA Refinement**

- Alignment Refinement
- Urban Connections Screening

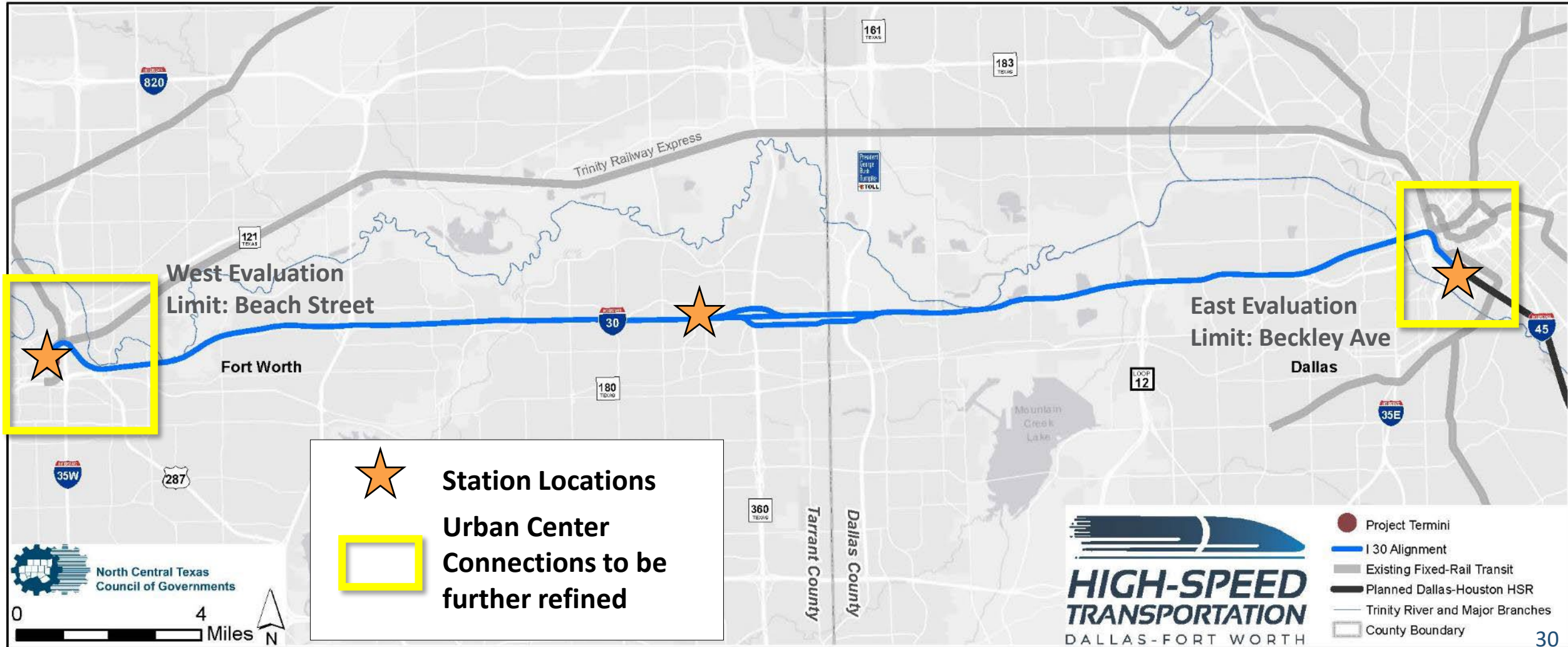
*We are here* → **Phase 2: NEPA**

- Preliminary Engineering
- Environmental Documentation

# Initial Set of Alignments/Corridors (Fall 2020)

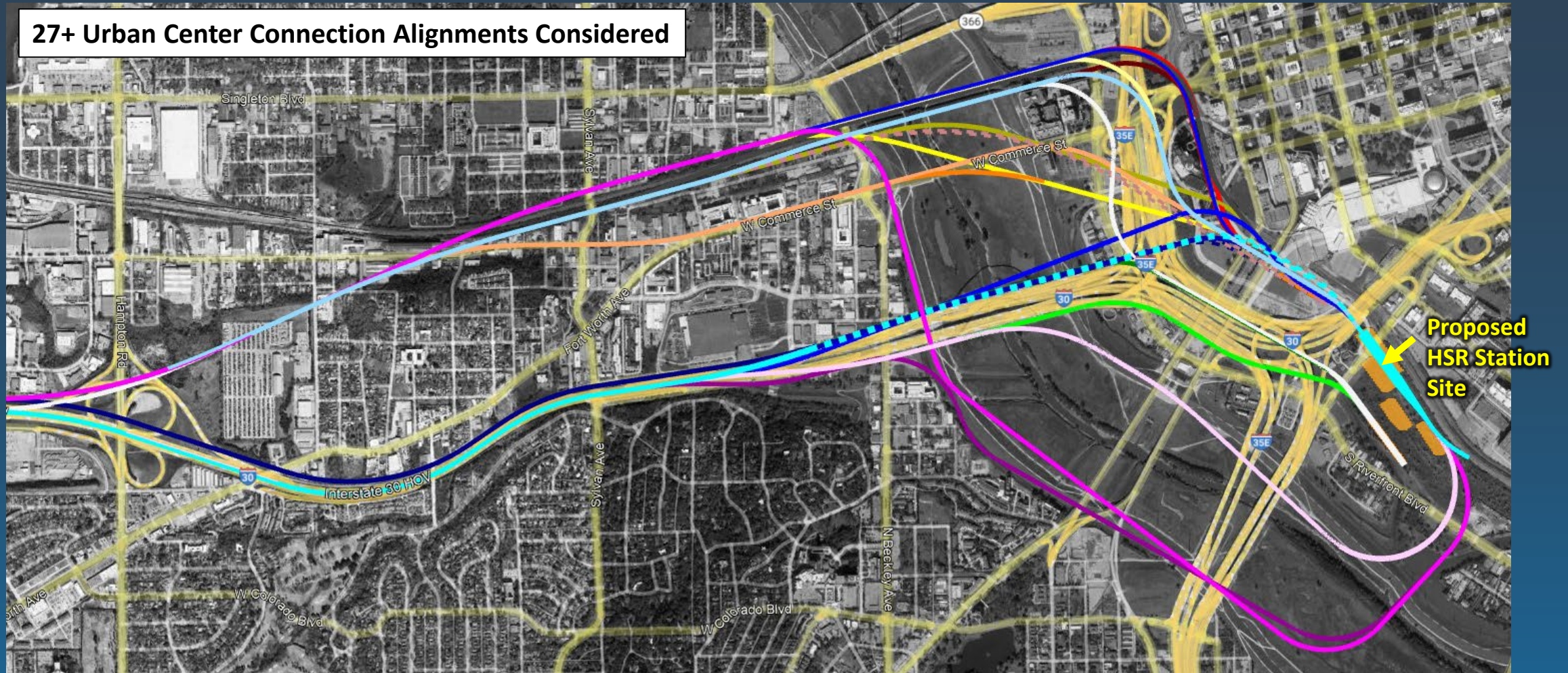


# Phase 1 Results – Alignments (Summer 2021)

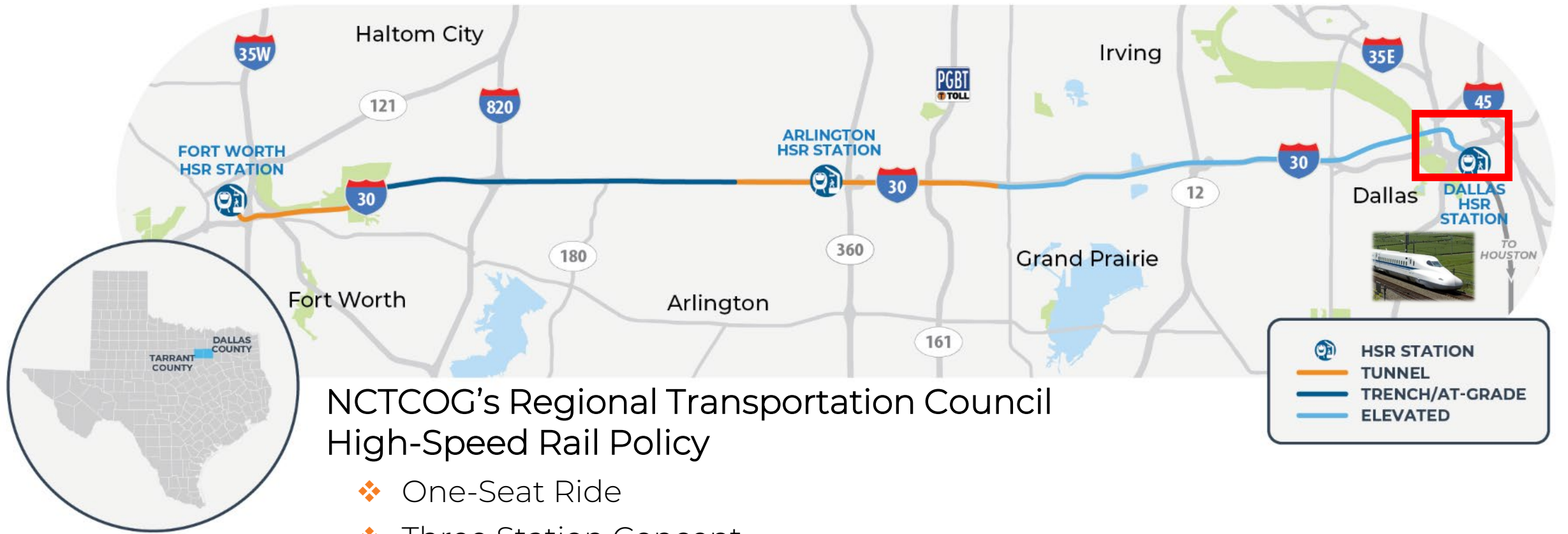


# Example Urban Center Connections (September 2021 - Dallas)

27+ Urban Center Connection Alignments Considered



# Alignment for NEPA Review (Early 2024)





# Supplemental Materials

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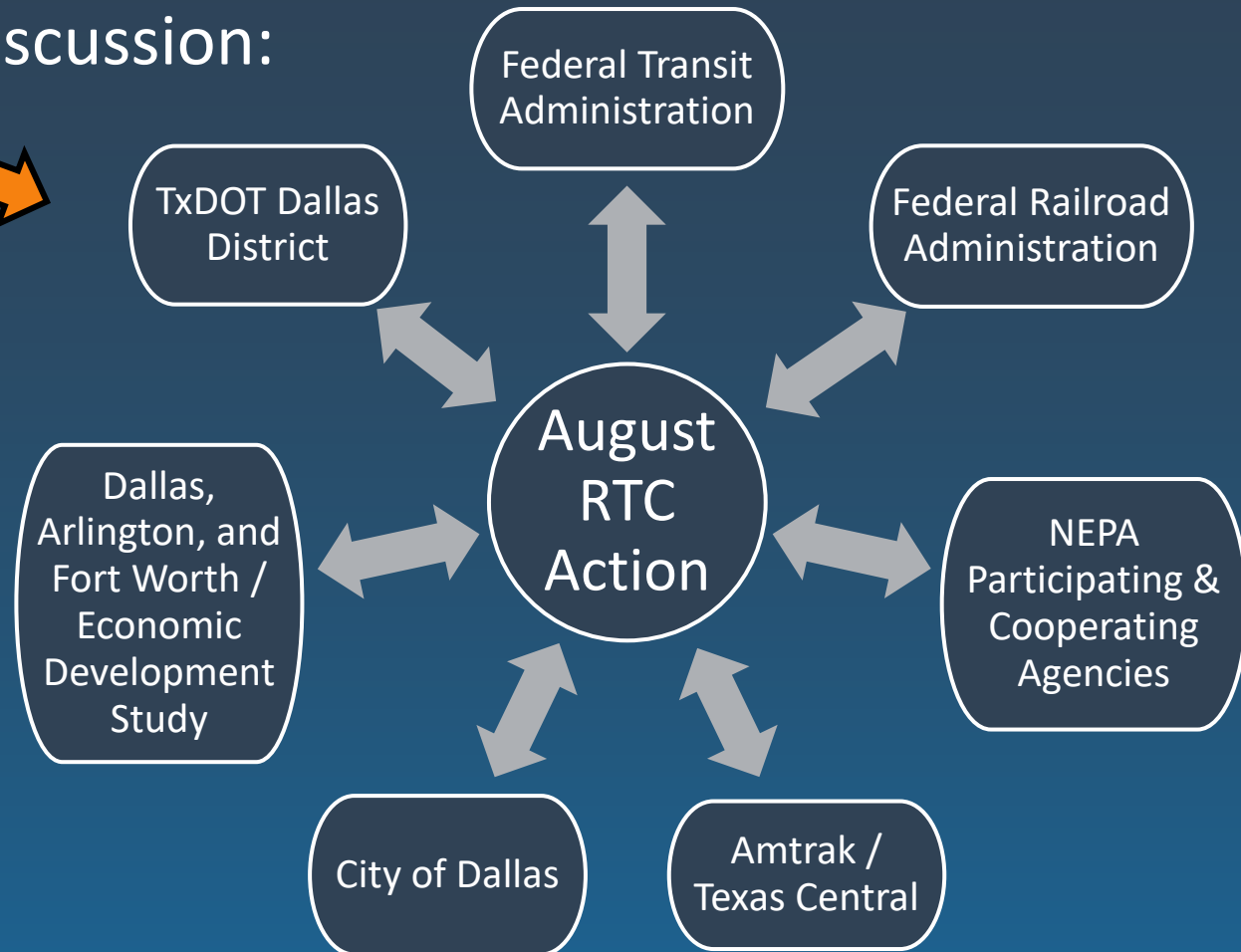
Under newly added “RTC Workshop July 2024” banner on [www.nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs](http://www.nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs):

- Today’s Agenda and Presentation Slides
- Information on Elected Official Briefings
- 3/6/24 Presentation to Dallas City Council
- Dallas Alignment Whitepapers
- Past Resolutions and Policies
- Responsive Information to Public Comments and City of Dallas Questions

# Path Forward

Following result of today's discussion:

- Project team meetings
- Public Meeting (hybrid)
- August RTC Action on Next Steps



# Effects of July Workshop

