### <u>AGENDA</u>

# Regional Transportation Council Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Workshop Thursday, July 11, 2024 11:00 am

(NCTCOG Guest Secured Wireless Connection Password: rangers!)

<b>11:00 – 11:05</b> 1.	Introductions/C  ☐ Action Presenter: Item Summary:	Context  ☐ Possible Action ☑ Information Minutes: 5 Michael Morris, NCTCOG North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) staff will provide the Council with an overview of the agenda and the workshop's purpose.
<b>11:05 – 11:25</b> 2.	Alternative Hig  ☐ Action Presenter:	he City of Dallas Resolution and Presentation of h-Speed Rail Route Avoiding Downtown  □ Possible Action ☑ Information Minutes: 20 Michael Morris, NCTCOG Following a presentation to Dallas City Council on March 6, 2024, where staff presented high-speed rail alignment alternatives traversing through the southwest corner of downtown Dallas to connect with the planned Dallas High-Speed Rail Station, City Council presented questions/concerns related to the alternatives and the purpose and need of the project. Subsequent meetings with City Councilmembers, staff, and other stakeholders have prompted the project team to re-review any and all alternatives that address City concerns. City of Dallas Resolution, passed June 12, 2024, stating "Council does not support construction of new aboveground passenger rail lines through Downtown" and that "Council commits to revisitafter it receives and considers the economic impact study requested by City Council" prompted the immediate need to hold this workshop. Staff will present a new alignment that intends to meet the objectives of both the Regional Transportation Council and the City of Dallas in Reference Item 2.

11:25 – 11:30	3.	☐ Action Presenter:	ic Engagement Thi Possible Action Rebekah Gongora, Regional Transport provided with a brie activities from the b including how and w as an overview of p a detailed backgrou additional resources at www.nctcog.org/	NCT ation of back egin where ublications	Information TCOG TCOG TCOUNCII member TCOG TOURNING OF PUBLIC TOURNING OF THE TEMPLE TOURNI	c engagen in 2020, s shared, a ived to date nent activit	nent as well e. For ies,
11:30 - 11:40	4.	☐ Action Presenters:	and Review of Purp Possible Action Dan Lamers and Br A brief overview of Phase 1 alignment connection refinemed Additional backgrouk Regional Transport resolutions/policies "one-seat ride" and Dallas-Fort Worth reneed for this study, with the next steps NEPA (National Enthe Federal Railroal Identification and DR16-06 approving a Texas Central Partitlem 4.1, and RTC the "one-seat ride" within the region is	rendorthe secretary and in the end of the en	Information on Wheeler, NCT study process, incening and follow-process, will be proformation will incompose that agreements that bee-station concepts, establishing the Emembers will alse Federal Transition and Policy Accompose the program. Included as Response to the process of the process of the process of the program of Units included as Response to the process of the process	cluding the on urban resented. clude previous founded that within the purpose so be proved Administrate) process rridor RTC Resederstanding supporail station	ious ne ne and ided ation's and olution g with ort for

11:40 – 12:40 5. Open Discussion and Lunch: This item provides an opportunity for members to have lunch and discuss the items presented and confirm next steps for a future Regional Transportation Council meeting.

### North Central Texas Council of Governments

# HIGH-SPEED



**Dallas-Fort Worth** 

# **Agenda**

- 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



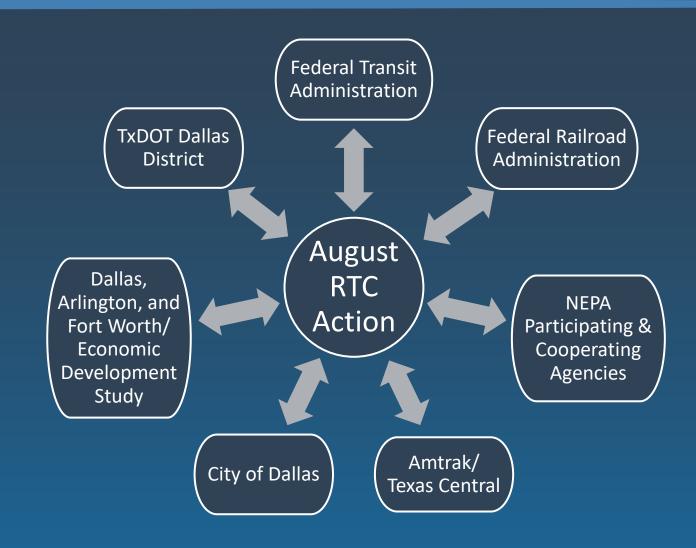
# Dallas to Fort Worth High-Speed Rail Corridor Characteristics

### "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

- 3/6/2024 City Council Briefing by NCTCOG and Amtrak
- 3/22/2024 Dallas City Manager's Meeting
- 5/15/2024 National High-Speed Rail Conference: Briefing by NCTCOG and Amtrak
- 6/12/2024 Dallas Resolution
- 6/13/2024 RTC Decision to Schedule July Workshop
- 7/11/2024 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

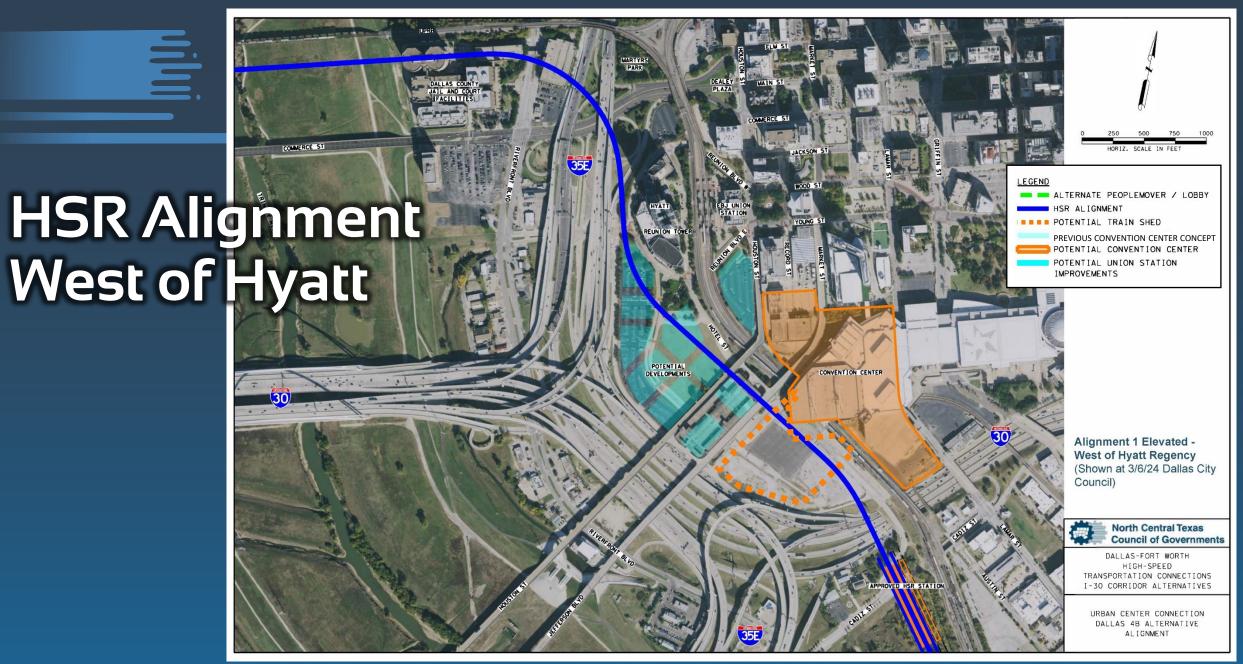
2019 NCTCOG funded Dallas Intermodal Transportation Facility Fatal Flaw Analysis (Lot E Study – LAN); led by City of Dallas staff

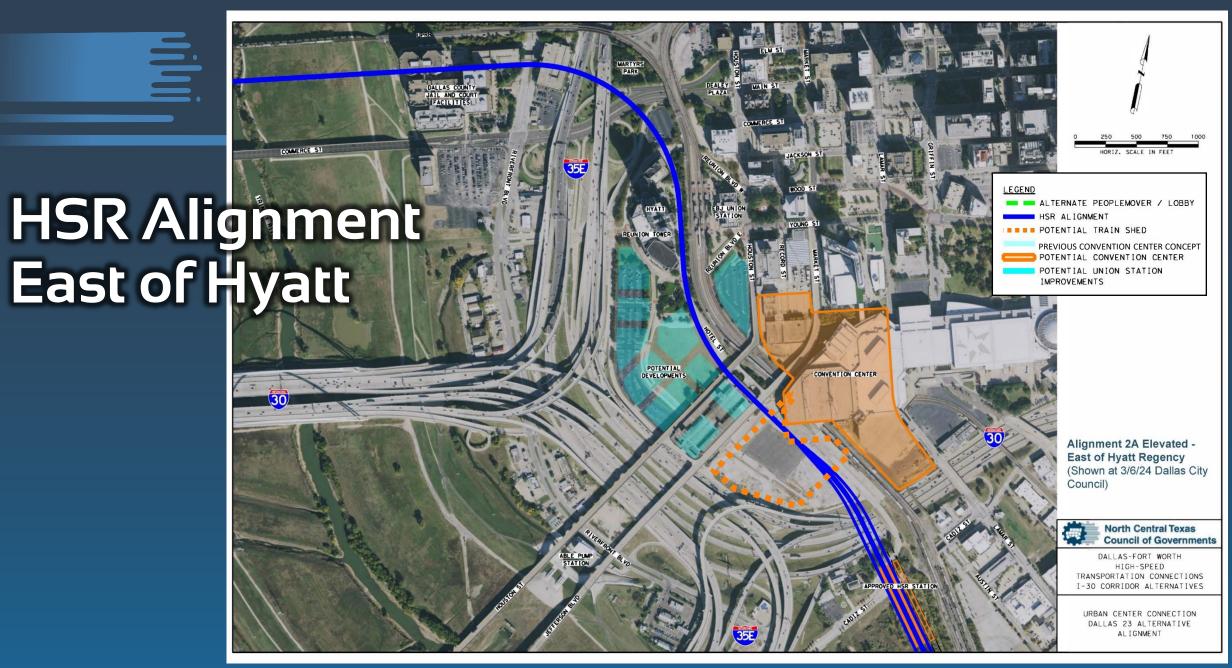
2020 Dallas staff provided comments on Draft **Environmental Impact Statement for Dallas to** Houston High-Speed Rail (including station location)



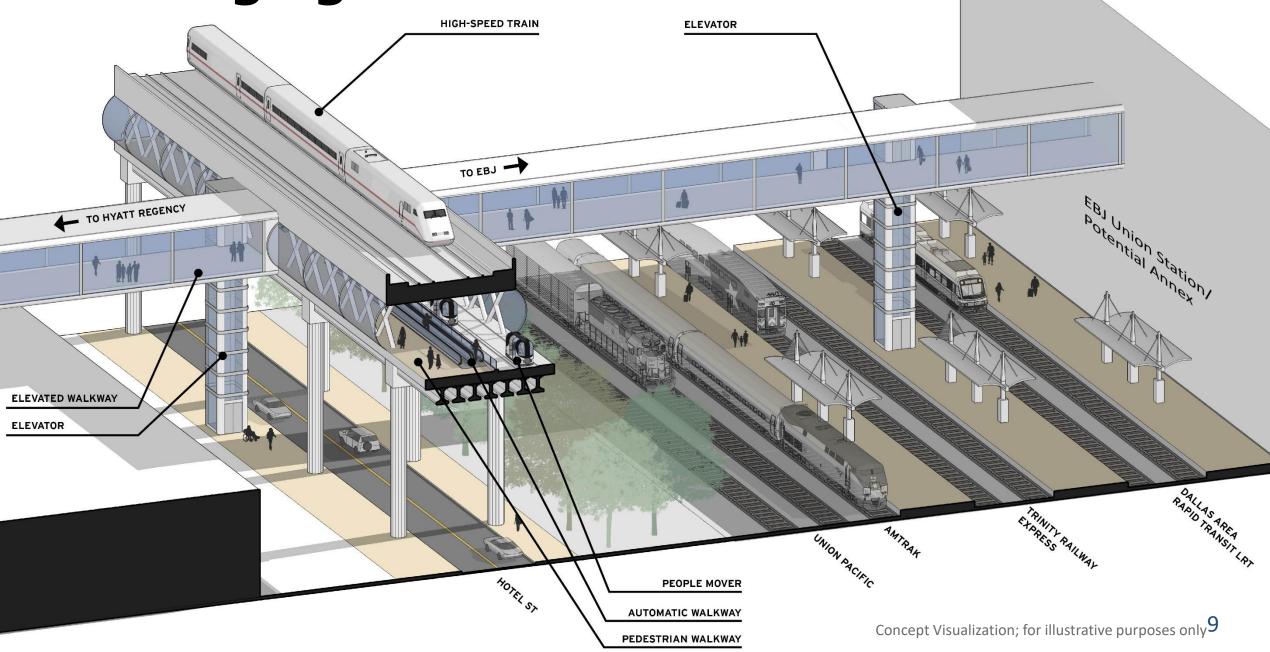
Approved Dallas High-Speed Rail Station with platform at 70'+ above existing ground

Image Credit: Texas Central





# Leveraging HSR to Create Connections



# Leveraging HSR to Create Connections EBJ Union Station / Potential Annex Reunion Tower / Hyatt Regency REUNION BLVD E **Potential Development Potential Development** Concept Visualization; for illustrative purposes only

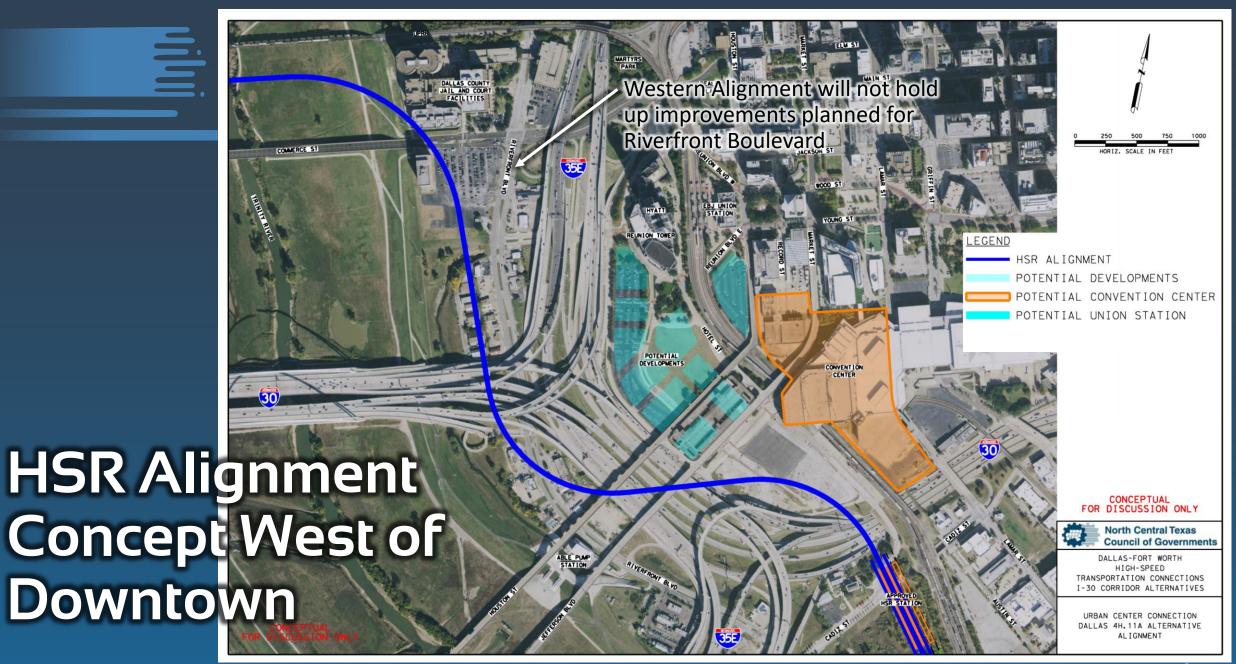




# Potential Connections between Points of Interest in Downtown Dallas

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

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





# 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

### 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 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**

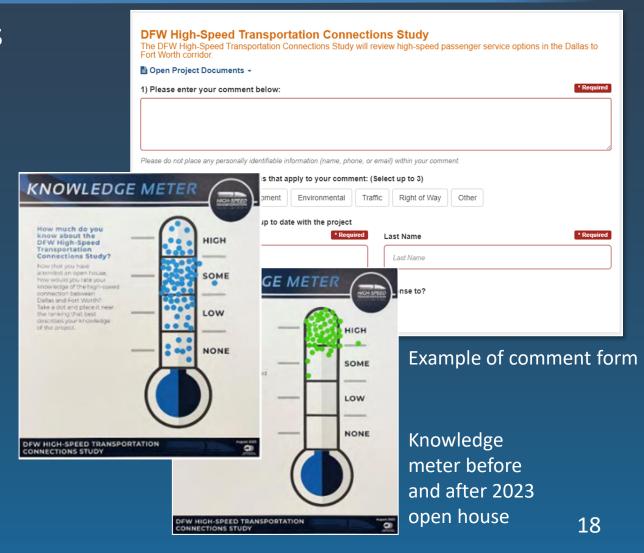
Staff continue to present to community groups and organizations



### Public Comments

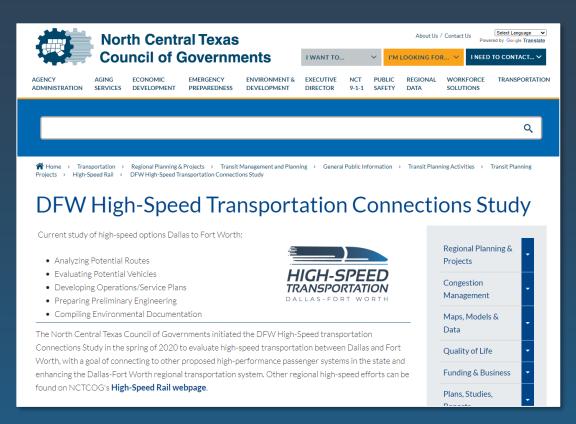
- General comment form online asks for zip code, topic
- Online mapping tool asked for feedback on areas of significance and concern
- 263 total comments to date
   Not in favor 2%
- FAQs and responses to questions from previous meetings available

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



### 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



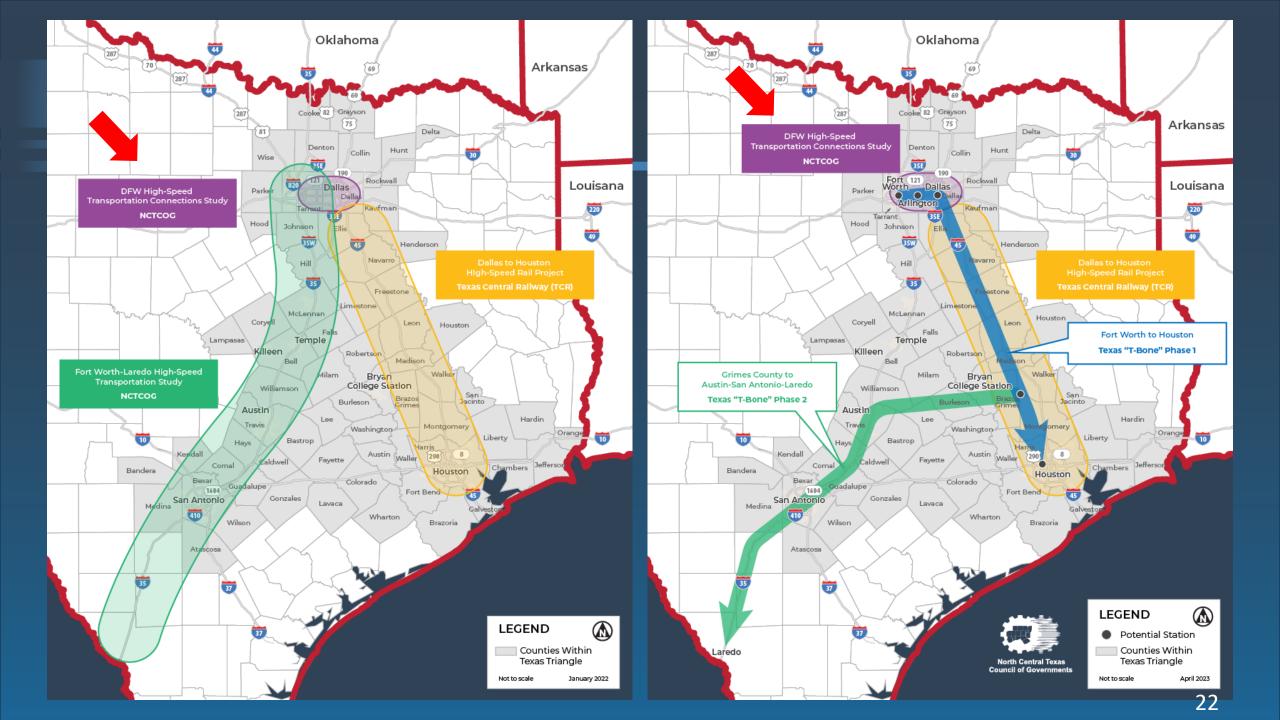
**Project Website: www.nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs** 



# Study Context and Review of Purpose and Need

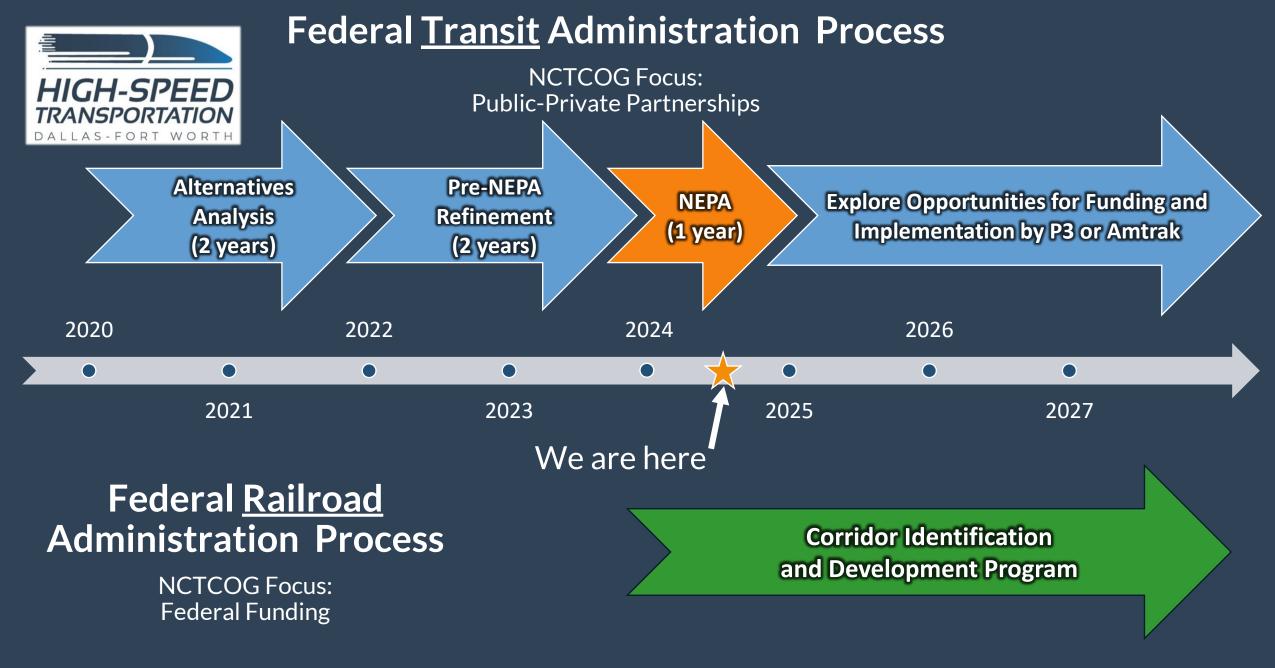
# Milestones Leading to NCTCOG HSR Study

- Texas Central advanced Dallas to Houston (c. 2014)
- RTC passed resolution supporting "one-seat" ride and three station concept; included 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 Hampshire Massachusetts Boston -Rhode Island Casper Wyoming -New Haven Sioux Falls Milwaukee Cleveland Pennsylvania -New York City lowa Chicago, Pittsburgh Sacramento Nebraska Salt Lake City Des Moines Omaha a New Jersey Cheyenne -Delaware San Francisco Nevada Indianapolis -Washington DC Columbus Merced Kansas Illinois City Cincinnati **Grand Junction** St Louis California Kansas Lynchburg Petersburg Colorado Roanoke Newton Bakersfield Las Vegas Trinidad Missouri Flagstaff Charlotte Nashville Carolina Oklahoma Albuquerque Tennesse Los Angeles Chattanooga Oklahoma ... Memphis City Little Rock Legend Phoenix Yuma **Baseline Network** South Arizona Birmingham Arkansas New Mexico Carolina Long-Distance, Northeast Corridor, State-Supported, Tucson Dallas/ Savannah **Baseline Projects** Fort Worth-Marshall Jackson Montgomery El Paso Presented at Regional **Preferred Routes** Chicago – Miami **Working Group Meetings** Jacksonville Dallas/Fort Worth – Miam Texas February 2024 Los Angeles – Denver **Baton Rouge** Phoenix - Minneapolis/St. Paul Further analysis and identification New Orleans Dallas/Fort Worth - New York Orlando of funding after completion of this Houston Houston - New York San Antonio Tampa € Seattle – Denver study would be necessary to San Antonio – Minneapolis/St. Paul advance the preferred routes San Francisco – Dallas/Fort Worth Detroit – New Orleans through project planning and Denver – Minneapolis/St. Paul project development activities Seattle – Chicago Dallas/Fort Worth – Atlanta prior to implementation. El Paso - Billings







# 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: We are here

- 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

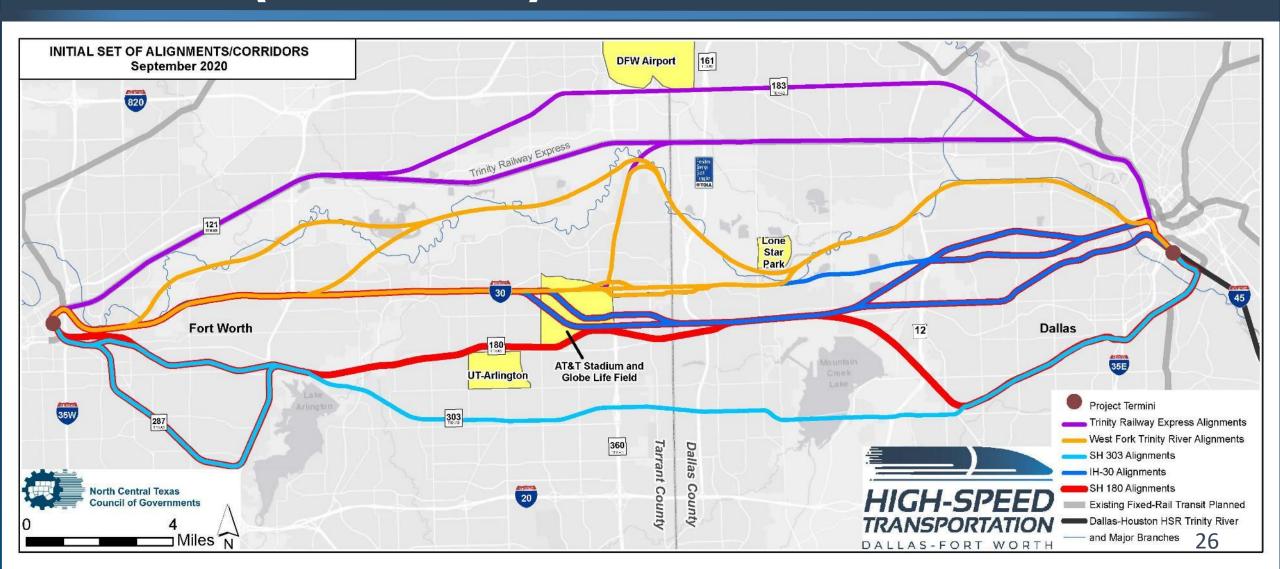
- Alignment Refinement
- Urban Connections Screening



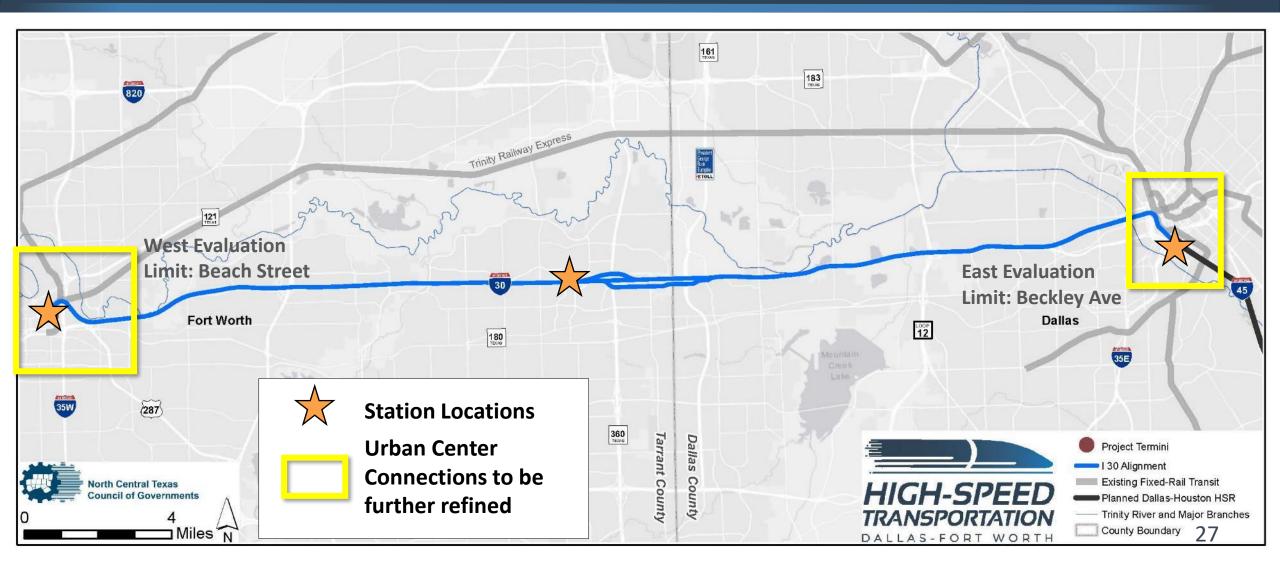
### Phase 2: NEPA

- Preliminary Engineering
- Environmental Documentation

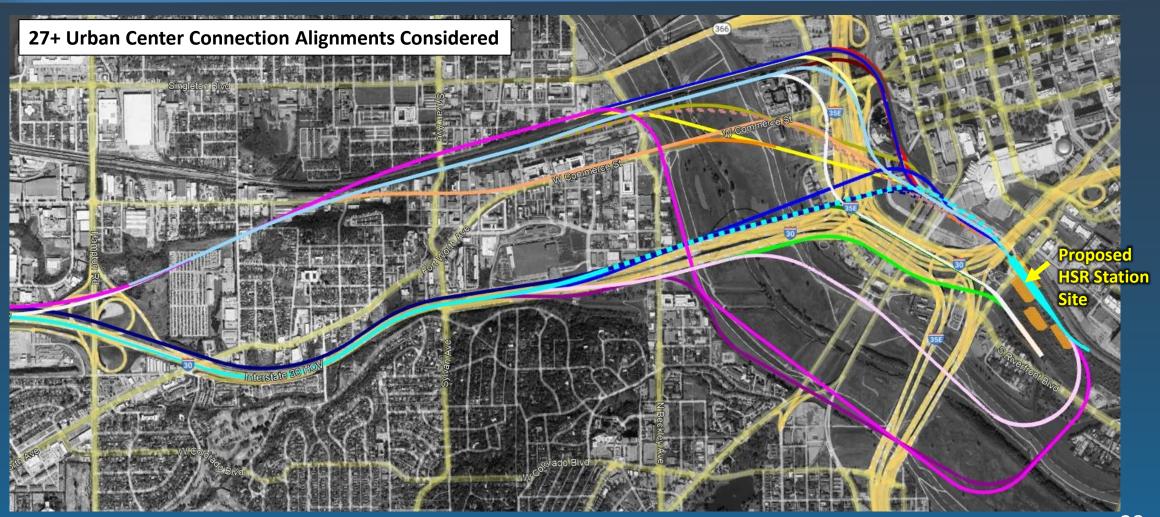
# Initial Set of Alignments/Corridors (Fall 2020)



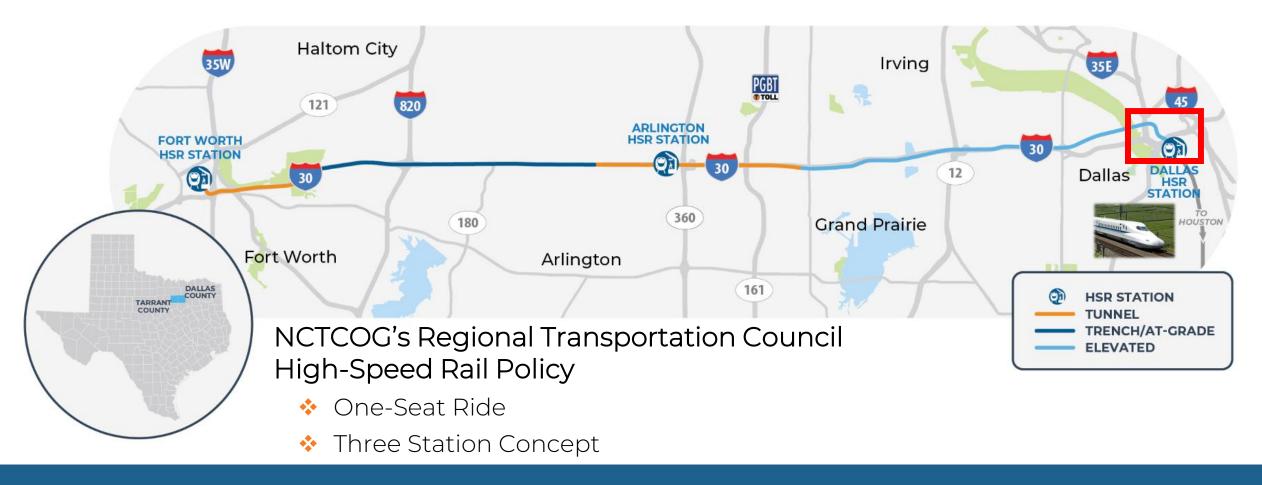
# Phase 1 Results – Alignments (Summer 2021)



# Example Urban Center Connections (September 2021 - Dallas)



# Alignment for NEPA Review (Early 2024)



### **Supplemental Materials**

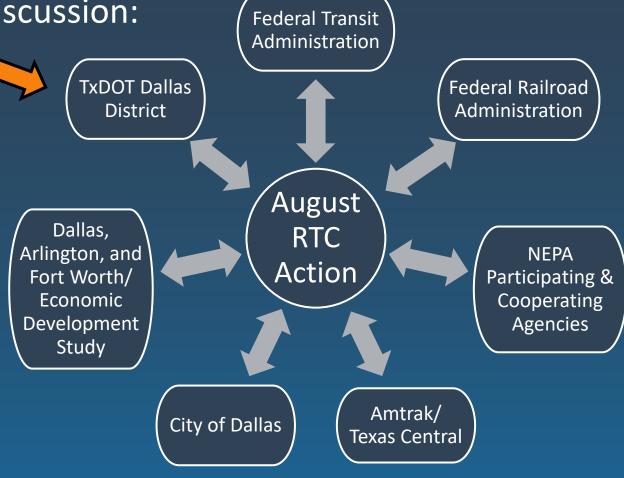
Under newly added "RTC Workshop July 2024" banner on www.nctcog.org/dfw-hstcs:

- Today's Agenda and Presentation Slides
- Information on Elected Official Briefings
- 3/6/2024 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



### RESOLUTION APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH TEXAS CENTRAL PARTNERS REGARDING HIGH-SPEED PASSENGER RAIL INITIATIVES (R16-06)

WHEREAS, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is designated as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area by the Governor of Texas in accordance with federal law; and,

WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), comprised primarily of local elected officials, is the regional transportation policy body associated with the North Central Texas Council of Governments, and has been and continues to be the regional forum for cooperative decisions on transportation; and,

**WHEREAS**, the RTC is responsible for the approval of transportation projects and policies in the region's long-range transportation plan (Mobility 2040); and,

**WHEREAS**, the RTC is responsible for identifying mobility choices within the Dallas-Arlington-Fort Worth Metropolitan Planning Area through Mobility 2040; and,

**WHEREAS**, since 1991, the region has been designated as nonattainment for the pollutant ozone and approximately half of ozone precursor oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>X</sub>) emissions come from on-road mobile sources; and,

**WHEREAS,** the RTC is responsible for identifying projects simultaneously improving mobility and increasing air quality; and,

**WHEREAS,** it is deemed to be in the region's best interests to support Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for the implementation of transportation projects; and,

WHEREAS, NCTCOG's Surface Transportation Technical Committee has recommended Regional Transportation Council approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with Texas Central Partners for High-Speed Passenger Rail initiatives.

### NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

The Regional Transportation Council approves a Memorandum of Understanding with Texas Central Partners for High-Speed Passenger Rail Initiatives, in substantially the same form as Attachment 1.

Section 2. This resolution shall be transmitted to local governments and transportation agencies along the corridor and other interested parties as appropriate.

**Section 3.** This resolution shall be in effect immediately upon its adoption.

Mark Riley, Chair

Regional Transportation Council County Judge, Parker County

I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted by the Regional Transportation Council of the North Central Texas Council of Governments for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area on June 16, 2016.

Rob Franke, P.E. Secretary Regional Transportation Council

Mayor, City of Cedar Hill

### Partnership Position Regarding Texas Central Partners' Delivery of High-Speed Rail Between Downtown Dallas and Houston

- **Whereas** the undersigned share a commitment to creating and leveraging public and private resources to enhance the mobility of travelers in Texas;
- Whereas strong economic growth and projected population increases, combined with widespread local political support for investment in public infrastructure, provide an optimal environment for the development of high-speed rail and complementary systems in Texas;
- **Whereas** growing populations within metro areas in Texas are served by expansive transportation networks including extensive transit networks and world-class tolled and non-tolled highway facilities;
- Whereas the Regional Transportation Council, the policy committee for the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas/Fort Worth area adopted as part of its fiscally constrained, long-range plan a three-station concept whereby an east-west high-speed, grade separated passenger system would connect to a North Texas/Houston rail system in Dallas and an Austin/North Texas system in Fort Worth and provide rail connectivity to Arlington;
- Whereas the Texas Transportation Commission created the Commission on High-Speed Rail in the Dallas/Fort Worth Region to advise TxDOT leadership on the development of intercity rail corridors, new transportation policies and funding and procurement strategies as they relate to the implementation of a proposed high-speed rail system;
- **Whereas** Texas Central Partners, LLC and its affiliates (Texas Central) have spent significant private capital on the validation and the development of a high-speed passenger rail system that will connect North Texas to Houston;
- Whereas Texas Central is developing a privately-sponsored high-speed passenger rail system on which it will deploy the Tokaido Shinkansen total system to connect North Texas, the Brazos Valley and Houston and for which it will not accept public grants or operating subsidies; and
- **Whereas** close coordination among the undersigned is required to maximize the opportunities for connectivity for the benefit of generations of Texans; now, therefore, be it

### Resolved, that the undersigned parties:

- 1. Affirm that developing safe, dependable and interconnected passenger rail and rail transit systems is in the best interest of the travelling public in part because of rail's safety, reliability, air quality improvement and efficient use of land which fosters urban densification and economic development.
- 2. Will, as necessary and as appropriate, provide written and vocal support of Texas Central at the local, state and federal levels.
- 3. Will develop and adhere to the description core messages of each of the undersigned entities and their roles and responsibilities as it relates to planning and connecting with high-speed passenger rail systems.
- 4. Do hereby establish that the total system approved by the Federal Railroad Administration, developed by the private sector and deployed by Texas Central is the Dallas/Fort Worth Region's preferred high-speed rail technology.
- 5. Support the development of one seat/one ticket high-speed rail connectivity between Fort Worth, Arlington, Dallas and Houston through Texas Central's Dallas passenger station, and, should regulatory, environmental, financial or other challenges prohibit the timely development of a one seat/one ticket connection, support and coordinate to help develop as close to a cross-platform solution for rail passengers as possible.
- 6. Will coordinate the siting and planning of routes and facilities to accommodate interconnectivity of high-speed rail passenger facilities in Fort Worth, Arlington, Dallas and Houston and the interconnectivity of high-speed passenger stations and public transit facilities and will, to the extent possible, provide timely review of regulatory and inspection requests made by complementary projects.
- 7. Affirm that if and when high-speed rail or other projects that are separate from but complementary to Texas Central's project receive public funding, Texas Central shall maintain its private capital commitments and take no ownership of these other systems, but will seek to accommodate all reasonable interconnectivity.
- 8. Agree that in the pursuit of public funds, public entities will not describe Texas Central as a recipient of grants or a source of collateral or guarantees.
- 9. Agree that this resolution does not restrict any other high-speed rail entity constructing high-speed rail on their own right-of-way between North Texas and Houston, and

### Resolved, that Texas Central, in addition, will:

- 1. Continue to incur costs associated with the planning and positioning of its Dallas station such that it can accommodate connectivity with the proposed Fort Worth, Arlington to Dallas high-speed rail system.
- 2. Not accept public grants for construction or operational subsidies for its planned North Texas to Houston service.

- 3. Pursue participation in local economic development programs that may be available near its proposed station location.
- 4. Support local efforts connecting Fort Worth, Arlington and Dallas by high-speed rail, understanding that a one-seat ride is only possibly if the same technology is used in both corridors.

Signed and adopted by

NCTCOG's Regional Transportation Council Texas Central Partners, LLC

At a minimum, the following entities are encouraged to approve a similar agreement. Other local governments are also welcome to support the agreement.

Commission for High Speed Rail in the Dallas-Fort Worth Region
City of Arlington
City of Dallas
City of Fort Worth
City of Grand Prairie
City of Irving
Dallas County
Tarrant County
Dallas Area Rapid Transit
Fort Worth Transportaiton Authority
Trinity Railway Express

Policy Support to Advance the Dallas-Fort Worth High-Speed Transportation Connections Study into Phase 2

(P21-01)

Since the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) desires the North Central Texas region to be a national leader in transportation technology, the RTC wishes to advance high-speed transportation technologies between Fort Worth, Arlington, and Dallas.

High-speed rail planning has advanced further in the Dallas to Houston corridor. The Dallas, Arlington, Fort Worth connection directly interfaces with the downtown Dallas high-speed rail station. The RTC has approved a presentation to the Texas Transportation Commission to advance high-speed transportation from Fort Worth to Waco, Temple/Killeen, Austin, San Antonio, Laredo, and Monterrey, Mexico. This policy position supports the connection of a statewide network from Houston to the Dallas-Fort Worth region and south along the IH 35 corridor.

The RTC continues to support Mobility 2045 plan policies TR3-011, TR3-012, and TR3-013, as noted in section 6.4, relating to a "one-seat ride" system operation; station locations in downtown Fort Worth, Arlington, and downtown Dallas; and planning and development of sustainable land uses to support economic development in those three station areas.

Following guidance received from Governor Abbott, the RTC wishes to utilize public right-of-way for this high-speed transportation (HST) facility as much as possible. As such, the RTC directs staff to proceed with the alignment recommendations of the Phase 1 Alternative Analysis for the DFWHST Connections Study, which generally follow the IH 30 corridor, into Phase 2 activities.

The RTC directs staff to advance both high-speed rail and hyperloop into Phase 2 activities pursuant to Phase 1 recommendations, including coordination with the United States Department of Transportation in determining appropriate approval process for environmental clearance. Efforts will continue with the Phase 1 partnership between NCTCOG, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration.

The RTC directs staff to continue coordination with local governments and the Texas Department of Transportation in Phase 2 efforts, including preliminary engineering and environmental documentation required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

RTC directs staff to integrate these alignment and mode recommendations into future mobility, air quality, safety, and other regional planning activities as appropriate.

Phase 1 work is on schedule and on budget. The RTC has already funded all planned Phase 2 activities. The RTC will continue to be regularly briefed on Phase 2 activities.

Approved: July 8, 2021