



RAIL HIGHWAY AGREEMENTS

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FHWA/AASHTO SHRP2 have been instrumental to the implementation of railroad-DOT mitigation strategies. Their support activities include:

- Facilitate workshops
- Peer exchanges
- Community of interest meetings
- Technical support
- Financial Support



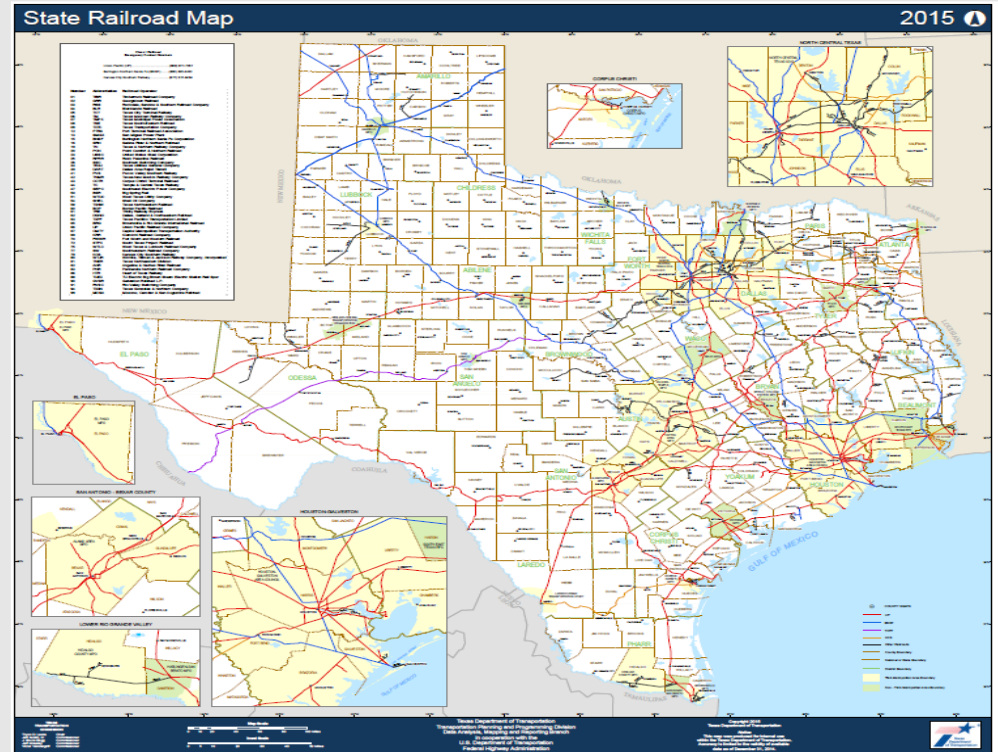
FHWA/AASHTO SHRP2 - Benefits of Using Railroad-DOT Mitigation Strategies

- Expedited project delivery
- Better management of limited resources
- Improve communication, cooperation, and collaboration
- Streamlined processes
- Transparency
- Improved quality
- Win-win solution
- Less risk!



Everything is Bigger in Texas

- Texas has 10,384 route miles of railroad track.
- Three Class 1 Railroads: BNSF, Union Pacific, and Kansas City Southern.
- More than 50 short line and terminal railroads.
- Nine passenger and tourist railroads including Amtrak, CAP MetroRail, TRE, A-Train, and TEX Rail (under construction).



TxDOT Background

- TXDOT has 25 districts that are responsible for project selection, design, and construction.
- Rail Highway Safety Branch in the Traffic Operations Division oversees all railroad highway related agreements.
- Manages Section 130 program and state funded re-planking/resurfacing program.



Rail Highway Safety Branch

- Each year, the Rail Highway Safety Branch handles an average of:
 - 200 construction and maintenance agreements;
 - 90 Section 130 agreements; and
 - 35 re-planking agreements.



Historical Challenges

- Planning for railroad coordination, property rights, plan approvals.
- Negotiating agreements.
- Railroads typically own underlying property.
- 60+ railroads.
- No two railroads are alike.
- Who is the point of contact?



TxDOT Model and Approach

- Streamlined Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) agreements for construction, maintenance and safety projects.
- UPRR standard agreements involved a 2-year process including legal review and acceptance.
- Implemented electronic submittal of agreements to the various railroads.
- TxDOT tracking when agreements are sent to the railroad.
- Railroad able to quickly upload the agreement and do their legal/other reviews and approvals.

Results

- The process has reduced railroad agreement processing from 16+ weeks to as little as 4-6 weeks; when using standard format agreements.
- Simple maintenance agreements which represent 2/3 of Texas' projects and are reduced from 2-3 month turn around to less than 1 month.



- Posting of representative guidelines, etc. on TxDOT Website.
- Updated section guidelines including process, information needed, etc.
- New Rail-Highway Operating Manual went online in August 2015.

Traffic Operations Division Webpage

The screenshot displays the Traffic Operations Division Webpage with the following structure:

- Materials Routes**
 - Highway Safety Engineering
- Grants**
 - Traffic Safety
- Law Enforcement**
 - CRASH System
 - Red Light Cameras
- Signage**
 - Memorial Sign Program
 - Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
 - Standard Highway Sign Designs for Texas
 - Logo and Directional Signs
 - City Pride Signs
- Training**
 - Electrical Certification
- Evacuation**
 - Hurricane Information
- Crash Data and Records**
 - Purchase a Crash Report
 - Download a Driver's Crash Report (Form CR-2) for Filing
 - Request Crash Data
 - Texas Motor Vehicle Crash Statistics Annual Reports
 - Automated Crash Data Interface Files
 - Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report Forms (CR-3) and Instructions
- Rail Safety**
 - Rail-Highway Operations Manual
 - Railroad Design Guidelines
 - Construction and Maintenance Agreements
 - Plans, Specifications and Estimates Requirements on Projects with Railroads
 - Sample Right-of-Entry Agreements
 - Railroad Crossing Information Management
 - FRA Grade Crossing Inventory
 - Rail Safety Inspection Program
 - State Safety Oversight

An arrow points from the 'Signage' section to the 'Rail Safety' section.

TxDOT Model and Approach - TRIMS

- Texas Railroad Information System Database (TRIMS).
- Real time information sharing within TxDOT.
- Allows for updating railroads on existing and planned projects.



New Challenges

- Staff turnover at TxDOT and railroads.
- New processes instituted by the railroads.
- Railroad use of contracted flaggers during construction projects.
- Railroad utility application process and engineering review/ approval.
- Managing additional funding streams and deliverables.



FHWA/AASHTO SHRP2 and TxDOT Contacts/Websites

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TxDOT Resources:

**Traffic Operations Division
Rail Safety
Website:** <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/traffic.html>

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FHWA/AASHTO SHRP2 Key Websites:

www.fhwa.dot.gov/GoSHRP2

http://shrp2.transportation.org/Pages/R16_RailroadDOTMitigationStrategies.aspx