

Federal Railroad Administration Releases Final Environmental Impact Statement and Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for the Dallas to Houston High-Speed Rail Project

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has released the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) for the Dallas to Houston High-Speed Rail Project (Project). FRA prepared the EIS in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act to assess the potential beneficial and adverse environmental impacts of FRA's proposed rulemaking to enable effective safety oversight of the operation of a HSR system based on the Japanese N700-Series Tokaido Shinkansen technology that is described in a Petition for Rulemaking for a Rule of Particular Applicability (RPA) submitted by Texas Central Railroad, LLC (TCRR). TCRR's petition for rulemaking contains TCRR's proposal to construct and operate an approximately 240-mile, for-profit, high-speed passenger rail (HSR) system connecting Dallas and Houston based on the Japanese N700-Series Tokaido Shinkansen technology (the Project). On March 10, 2020, FRA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), proposing a set of minimum Federal safety standards to enable effective safety oversight of the operation of TCRR's HSR system within the United States.

The Final EIS evaluates and documents the reasonably foreseeable potential beneficial and adverse environmental impacts of implementing TCRR's HSR system, including a No Build Alternative and six Build Alternatives between Dallas and Houston. The study area for the Project traverses 10 counties between Dallas and Houston. A preferred alternative has been identified in the Final EIS, which includes terminal station locations in Dallas and Houston, and an intermediate station west of Roans Prairie in Grimes County.

The Final EIS is available for public review on the FRA project website, <https://railroads.dot.gov/current-environmental-reviews/dallas-houston-high-speed-rail/dallas-houston-high-speed-rail> and at these repositories throughout the Project area.

Dallas County

J. Erik Jonsson Central Library: 1515 Young Street, Dallas, Texas 75201

Martin Luther King Branch Library: 2922 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Dallas, Texas 75215

Paul Laurence Dunbar Lancaster-Kiest Branch Library: 2008 E Kiest Boulevard, Dallas, Texas 75216

Pleasant Grove Branch Library: 7310 Lake June Road, Dallas, Texas 75217

Ellis County

Ellis County Courts and Administration: 109 S. Jackson, Waxahachie, Texas 75165

Ennis Public Library Central Library: 501 W Ennis Avenue, Ennis, Texas 75119

Navarro County

Corsicana Library: 100 N 12th Street, Corsicana, Texas 75110

Navarro County Courthouse: 300 W. 3rd Avenue, Corsicana, Texas 75110

Freestone County

Freestone County Courthouse: 118 East Commerce Street, Room 205, Fairfield, Texas 75840

Teague Public Library Central Library: 400 Main Street, Teague, Texas 75860

Limestone County

Gibbs Memorial Library Central Library: 318 E. Main, Mexia, Texas 76667

Limestone County Courthouse: 200 W State Street, Suite 101, Groesbeck, Texas 76642

Leon County

Buffalo Public Library: 1005 Hill Street, Buffalo, Texas 75831

Leon County Clerk's Office: 155 N Cass Street, First Floor, Centerville TX 75833

Madison County

Madison County Courthouse: 103 West Trinity, Suite 104, Madisonville, Texas 77864

Madison County Library: 605 S May Street, Madisonville, Texas 77864

Grimes County

Grimes County Courthouse: 100 Main Street, Anderson, Texas 77830

Navasota Public Library Central Library: 1411 E Washington Avenue, Navasota, Texas 77868

Waller County

Waller County Courthouse: 836 Austin Street, Hempstead, Texas 77445

Waller County Library Central Library: 2331 11th Street, Hempstead, Texas 77445

Harris County

Fairbanks Library: 7122 Gessner Road, Houston, Texas 77040

Houston Public Library: 500 McKinney Street, Houston, Texas 77002

Northwest Branch Library: 11355 Regency Green Drive, Cypress, Texas 77429

Spring Branch Memorial Library: 930 Corbindale Road, Houston, Texas 77024

The list of repositories also can be found in **Appendix B, Distribution List** of the Final EIS and posted on the FRA project website. FRA suggests that the public call the repositories before going there to confirm the availability of, and access to, the Final EIS documents. Additionally, a limited supply of copies of the Final EIS is available to the public in print or electronically (USB flash drive), upon request.

Requests for additional information or for a copy of the Final EIS (as supplies last) may be submitted to Kevin Wright, Environmental Protection Specialist, FRA, at 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, MS-20, Washington, D.C. 20590; or via email at kevin.wright@dot.gov.

30-day review period for Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act/Programmatic Agreement

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, FRA is providing the public a 30-day review period for the Programmatic Agreement that FRA has developed for the Project in consultation with the Texas Historical Commission (THC), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, United States Army Corps of Engineers, TCRR, and other Consulting Parties.

To ensure the appropriate measures to minimize harm to potential impacts to historic properties, FRA, in consultation with the THC, determined that it is appropriate to develop and implement a Programmatic Agreement for the Project because FRA will not be able to fully determine effects to historic properties prior to issuing a ROD.

The Programmatic Agreement establishes the process that governs FRA's compliance with Section 106 after approval of the Project. FRA has provided Consulting Parties with an opportunity to review and comment on the draft Programmatic Agreement prior to the release of the Final EIS. FRA is also providing the public an opportunity to review the Programmatic Agreement, appended to the Final EIS as **Appendix L**. The public can submit comments on the Programmatic Agreement through June 29, 2020 on FRA's Project website at <https://railroads.dot.gov/current-environmental-reviews/dallas-houston-high-speed-rail/dallas-houston-high-speed-rail>.