

# 2015 FRA Rail Program Delivery



## Tower 55: Navigating a P3

Catherine Dobbs  
Regional Manager, Central Region  
Chad Coburn  
TxDOT

# What is Tower 55?

*(hint: it's not just a cool tower)*

- **Proactive P3 Project**
- **Major railway junction in Ft. Worth, TX**
- **Over 100 trains daily, including 2 Amtrak Texas Eagle trains**
- **2 N/S and 2 E/W through tracks meet at grade; *the* major intersection of BNSF and UP in TX**
- **Operating at 90% capacity**
- ***Kind of a big deal***

# Pre-Investment Problem

*(how come a Tower costs so much?!?)*

- **Operating at over 90% capacity, creating rail traffic congestion and delays**
- **Impacts to traffic across entire north TX region**
- **Capacity Constrained for future rail traffic growth due to port expansion and population growth**
- **At grade crossings often blocked by stopped or slow moving trains**

# Project solution

*(what's the new tower look like?)*

- **Installation of an additional N/S Track through rail crossing**
- **Installation of additional tracks and siding N and S of the diamond**
- **Closure of 2 at-grade street crossings**
- **Reconstruction of 2 underpasses with addition of sidewalks and improved vehicle clearances**

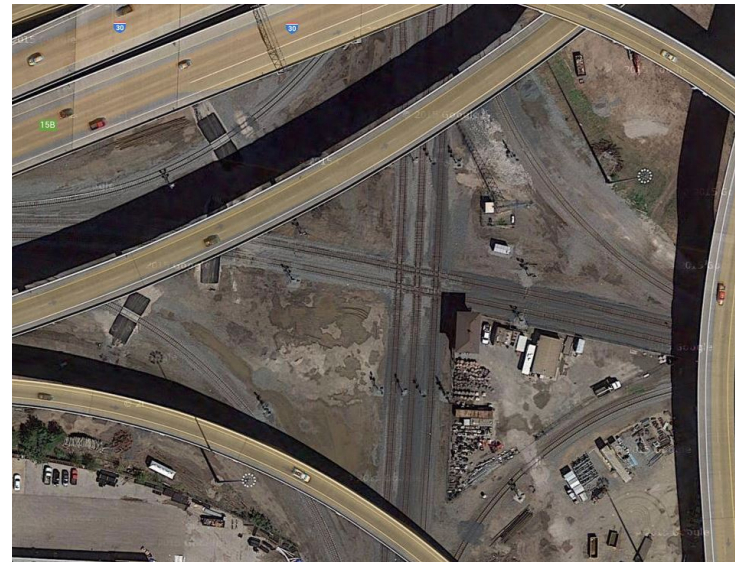
# The Solution—In Pictures!

## Additional North South Track Through Crossing



Crossing Before

Crossing After with Additional  
North-South Track





# The Solution—In Pictures!

## Closure of Two Street Crossings



First Street Crossing Before Closure

First Street Crossing After Closure



# The Solution—In Pictures!

## Improved Underpasses



Cold Spring Road Before

Cold Spring Road After  
Reconstruction



# **P3 Keys to Success**

## **Stakeholder Motivation and Cooperation:**

- **Roles and responsibilities: UP and BNSF committed over \$65 M; remained actively involved through entire project. Flow down agreement specified all stakeholder roles.**
- **Continuous logistical planning: timely and efficient construction needed to minimize disruption to rail traffic.**

## **Partnership:**

- **TxDOT maintained on-site project manager and provided daily oversight, creating daily progress updates to support grant award.**



# **P3 Keys to Success**

## **Comprehensive public outreach plan:**

- **Identify issues up front that matter to the public**
- **Meet with affected constituents early and often**
- **Emphasize project public benefits:**
  - **Reduced Traffic Delays**
  - **Vehicle Clearance Including Emergency Vehicles**
  - **Improved Pedestrian Safety Including School Children**

# P3 Keys to Success

*Outcomes: Everyone is happy*

## Public Outreach



Old Route to School via  
Peach Street Grade  
Crossing, Now Closed

New Route to School via  
Improved Gounah Street  
Underpass



# Thank You!

Name: Catherine Dobbs  
Title: Regional Manager, Central Region  
Email: [catherine.dobbs@dot.gov](mailto:catherine.dobbs@dot.gov)  
Phone: (202) 493-6347