

**Dallas to Houston High-Speed Rail  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

# **Appendix C**



**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

## **Appendix C: Agency Correspondence**

September 2014 – Cooperating Agency Consultation Letters

October 2014 – Agency Scoping Workshop

September 9, 2016 – NRCS Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Letter

Other:

Texas Historical Commission Review/Concurrence Letters: See Appendix E, Cultural Resources Technical Memoranda

Section 106 Correspondence: See Appendix E, Cultural Resource Technical Memoranda



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

10 September 2014

Federal Highway Administration  
Texas Division  
Attn: Mike Leary  
Director, Planning and Program Development  
300 East 8th Street, Room 826  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mike Leary:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with Texas Department of Transportation as a co-lead agency is initiating a third-party Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Central Texas High Speed-Rail Corridor (CTHSRC) from Dallas to Houston. The CTHSRC is a private application by Texas Central High-Speed Railway, LLC (TCR). TCR and/or its affiliates will be responsible for the project's development, construction, operation, and maintenance. FRA, along with other federal agencies must issue approvals for the application.

The purpose of the privately proposed project is to provide reliable, safe and an economically viable passenger rail transportation using proven high-speed rail technology between Dallas and Houston. The proposed project would provide a convenient alternative to automobile travel on Interstate 45 (I-45) or air travel between the two major metropolitan areas and introduces passenger rail capacity in the vicinity of the corridor. Additional information regarding the proposed project may be found in the Notice of Intent (NOI) published in the Federal Register on June 25, 2014 and on the project website:  
<http://www.fra.dot.gov/eLib/Details/L15911>.

The primary federal action(s) for the proposed project are regulatory approvals. For this project, FRA's safety approval of TCR's high-speed rail technology constitutes the primary federal action. As such under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the FRA is the lead federal agency and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has agreed to serve as the co-lead state agency. Your and other federal agencies will likely have other regulatory approvals for the final proposed action.

This project will be coordinated under Section 139 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) (23 USC):. Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have interest in the proposed project due the requirements of various environmental regulations. Furthermore, FRA and TxDOT invite the participation of AGENCY as a Cooperating Agency in preparation of the Draft EIS and Final EIS, in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA.

As a Cooperating Agency your special expertise permits you, as requested by the Lead Agency, to develop information and prepare environmental analyses for the third-party EIS. We suggest that your agency's role in the development of the above project should include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

1. Participate in coordination meetings.
2. Provide meaningful input on refining the purpose and need, determining range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the analysis of alternatives.
3. Identify issues, concerns and any studies that the third-party EIS should address and assist the agency in determining appropriate mitigation strategies
4. Provide timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document.

Once again, FRA and TxDOT are inviting (AGENCY) to serve as Cooperating Agency. Please respond to FRA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitations within 30 days receipt of this letter. In making your determination and response to FRA please consider whether or not your agency:

- Has jurisdiction or authority with respect to the proposed project
- Has expertise or information relevant to the proposed project
- Intend to submit comments on the proposed project

An Agency Scoping meeting was held on June 26, 2014 in Austin, Texas. At that meeting, it was determined that an additional workshop would be useful to provide a project update prior to the Public Scoping Meetings (tentatively scheduled for the last two weeks in October 2014). FRA and TxDOT are inviting your participation in an upcoming Agency Workshop to be held October 8, 2014, at the URS Austin Office located at 9400 Amberglen Boulevard, Building E, Austin, Texas 78729 from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

If you have any questions or require any further information please contact Michael Johnsen ([michael.johnsen@dot.gov](mailto:michael.johnsen@dot.gov); 202-493-1310) or Jamie Maughan ([james.maughan@dot.gov](mailto:james.maughan@dot.gov); 617-494-2881).

Sincerely,



David Valenstein  
Environment & Systems Planning Division Chief



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

10 September 2014

USFWS - Southwest Region  
Attn: Dr. Benjamin Tuggle  
PO Box 1306  
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

Dear Dr. Benjamin Tuggle:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with Texas Department of Transportation as a co-lead agency is initiating a third-party Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Central Texas High Speed-Rail Corridor (CTHSRC) from Dallas to Houston. The CTHSRC is a private application by Texas Central High-Speed Railway, LLC (TCR). TCR and/or its affiliates will be responsible for the project's development, construction, operation, and maintenance. FRA, along with other federal agencies must issue approvals for the application.

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This project will be coordinated under Section 139 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) (23 USC):. Your agency has been identified as an agency that might have interest in the proposed project due the requirements of various environmental regulations. Furthermore, FRA and TxDOT invite the participation of AGENCY as a Cooperating Agency in preparation of the Draft EIS and Final EIS, in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA.

As a Cooperating Agency your special expertise permits you, as requested by the Lead Agency, to develop information and prepare environmental analyses for the third-party EIS.

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Once again, FRA and TxDOT are inviting (AGENCY) to serve as Cooperating Agency. Please respond to FRA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitations within 30 days receipt of this letter. In making your determination and response to FRA please consider whether or not your agency:

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If you have any questions or require any further information please contact Michael Johnsen ([michael.johnsen@dot.gov](mailto:michael.johnsen@dot.gov); 202-493-1310) or Jamie Maughan ([james.maughan@dot.gov](mailto:james.maughan@dot.gov); 617-494-2881).

Sincerely,



David Valenstein  
Environment & Systems Planning Division Chief



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

10 September 2014

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District  
Atten: Darvin Messer  
PO Box 17300 819 Taylor Street, Room 3A37  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Dear Darvin Messer:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with Texas Department of Transportation as a co-lead agency is initiating a third-party Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Central Texas High Speed-Rail Corridor (CTHSRC) from Dallas to Houston. The CTHSRC is a private application by Texas Central High-Speed Railway, LLC (TCR). TCR and/or its affiliates will be responsible for the project's development, construction, operation, and maintenance. FRA, along with other federal agencies must issue approvals for the application.

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<http://www.fra.dot.gov/eLib/Details/L15911>.

The primary federal action(s) for the proposed project are regulatory approvals. For this project, FRA's safety approval of TCR's high-speed rail technology constitutes the primary federal action. As such under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the FRA is the lead federal agency and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has agreed to serve as the co-lead state agency. Your and other federal agencies will likely have other regulatory approvals for the final proposed action.

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Sincerely,



For

David Valenstein  
Environment & Systems Planning Division Chief



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

10 September 2014

Environmental Protection Agency  
Attn: Craig Weeks, Chief  
Office of Planning and Coordination  
U.S. EPA Region 6  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202

Dear Craig Weeks:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with Texas Department of Transportation as a co-lead agency is initiating a third-party Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Central Texas High Speed-Rail Corridor (CTHSRC) from Dallas to Houston. The CTHSRC is a private application by Texas Central High-Speed Railway, LLC (TCR). TCR and/or its affiliates will be responsible for the project's development, construction, operation, and maintenance. FRA, along with other federal agencies must issue approvals for the application.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Valenstein', with the initials 'FSC' written below it.

David Valenstein  
Environment & Systems Planning Division Chief



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

10 September 2014

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District  
Attn: Felicity A. Dodson  
2000 Fort Point Road  
Galveston, TX 77550

Dear Felicity A. Dodson:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with Texas Department of Transportation as a co-lead agency is initiating a third-party Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Central Texas High Speed-Rail Corridor (CTHSRC) from Dallas to Houston. The CTHSRC is a private application by Texas Central High-Speed Railway, LLC (TCR). TCR and/or its affiliates will be responsible for the project's development, construction, operation, and maintenance. FRA, along with other federal agencies must issue approvals for the application.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Valenstein". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

David Valenstein  
Environment & Systems Planning Division Chief



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

24 September 2014

Federal Transit Administration, Region 6  
Attn: Robert C. Patrick  
819 Taylor Street, Room 8A36  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Dear Mr. Patrick:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) with Texas Department of Transportation as a co-lead agency is initiating a third-party Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Dallas to Houston High Speed Rail (DHHSR). The DHHSR is a private application by Texas Central High-Speed Railway, LLC (TCR). TCR and/or its affiliates will be responsible for the project's development, construction, operation, and maintenance. FRA, along with other federal agencies must issue approvals for the application.

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Once again, FRA and TxDOT are inviting Federal Transit Administration to serve as Cooperating Agency. Please respond to FRA in writing with an acceptance or denial of the invitations within 30 days receipt of this letter. In making your determination and response to FRA please consider whether or not your agency:

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Sincerely,

  
For

David Valenstein  
Environment & Systems Planning Division Chief



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Texas Division

September 25, 2014

300 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Rm 826  
Austin, TX 78701  
(Tel) 512-536-5900  
(Fax) 512-536-5990  
[www.fhwa.dot.gov/txdiv](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/txdiv)

In Reply Refer To:  
HPP-TX

Mr. David Valenstein  
Environment & Systems Planning Division Chief  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue  
Washington, DC 20590

Central Texas High Speed-Rail Corridor EIS  
Cooperating Agency Acceptance

Dear Mr. Valenstein:

The Federal Highway Administration Texas Division Office accepts your invitation to serve as a Cooperating Agency for the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Central Texas High Speed-Rail Corridor project. Our point of contact for the project will be Anita Wilson, Urban Engineer, in this office. Ms. Wilson can be contacted at [anita.wilson@dot.gov](mailto:anita.wilson@dot.gov); 512-536-5951. Mr. Greg Wood, Environmental and Transportation Planning Coordinator, also in our office, will be the backup. His contact information is [greg.p.wood@dot.gov](mailto:greg.p.wood@dot.gov); 512-536-5942.

We do plan to participate in the Agency Workshop in Austin on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

If you have questions please call me at 512-536-5940.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Leary  
Director, Planning and Program Development



## United States Department of the Interior

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

#### Division of Ecological Services

10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200

Austin, Texas 78758

512 490-0057

FAX 490-0974



November 5, 2014

Mr. David Valenstein  
Environmental Systems and Planning Division Chief  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Participation as a Cooperating Agency for the Central Texas High Speed Rail Corridor from Dallas to Houston

Dear Mr. Valenstein:

Thank you for your letter of September 10, 2014, in which the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), has requested the participation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) as a Cooperating Agency in the development and review of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provision of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1501.6). The proposed project is the development of the Central Texas High Speed-Rail Corridor between Dallas and Houston, in Texas. This action is being undertaken in order to fulfill the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluation process for this proposed action. This letter confirms our interest in being a cooperating agency in the development of the EIS; however, if FRA/TxDOT specifically requests that the Service develop information or prepare environmental analysis for the EIS, we recommend the development of a mutually agreeable Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize our specific roles and responsibilities.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to be a cooperating agency for this NEPA process. Our assistance will include analyzing effects of various proposed alternatives, identifying potential significant issues and evaluating alternatives as they pertain to our mission while working cooperatively with the FHWA. Pursuant to the mission of the Service, our assistance as a cooperating agency will be directed to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Our cooperation will be consistent with respective authorities of the Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and other appropriate laws and administrative guidance pertinent to the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Valenstein

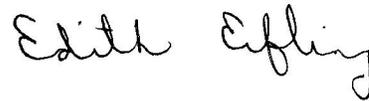
2

The lead point of contact for this project is:

Darren LeBlanc  
Texas Transportation Liaison  
10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200  
Austin, Texas 78758  
512-490-0057 extension 247  
[darren\\_leblanc@fws.gov](mailto:darren_leblanc@fws.gov)

We look forward to working cooperatively with FRA on the NEPA evaluation. Collaboration on the proposed EIS is an opportunity for the Service to assist FRA in ensuring conservation of fish and wildlife resources, and their habitats, while meeting project objectives. If you have any questions, please contact Darren LeBlanc at 512-490-0057, extension 247.

Sincerely,



Edith Erfling  
Field Supervisor  
Coastal Ecological Services Field Office

cc: Melissa Neeley, TxDOT ENV, Austin, TX (electronic)  
Debra Bills, USFWS, Arlington, TX (electronic)  
Vanessa Burge, Regional Transportation Coordinator, USFWS R2, Albuquerque, NM  
(electronic)



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Division of Ecological Services

10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200

Austin, Texas 78758

512 490-0057

FAX 490-0974



November 5, 2014

Mr. David Valenstein  
Environmental Systems and Planning Division Chief  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Participation as a Cooperating Agency for the Central Texas High Speed Rail Corridor from Dallas to Houston

Dear Mr. Valenstein:

Thank you for your letter of September 10, 2014, in which the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), has requested the participation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) as a Cooperating Agency in the development and review of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provision of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1501.6). The proposed project is the development of the Central Texas High Speed-Rail Corridor between Dallas and Houston, in Texas. This action is being undertaken in order to fulfill the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluation process for this proposed action. This letter confirms our interest in being a cooperating agency in the development of the EIS; however, if FRA/TxDOT specifically requests that the Service develop information or prepare environmental analysis for the EIS, we recommend the development of a mutually agreeable Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize our specific roles and responsibilities.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to be a cooperating agency for this NEPA process. Our assistance will include analyzing effects of various proposed alternatives, identifying potential significant issues and evaluating alternatives as they pertain to our mission while working cooperatively with the FHWA. Pursuant to the mission of the Service, our assistance as a cooperating agency will be directed to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Our cooperation will be consistent with respective authorities of the Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and other appropriate laws and administrative guidance pertinent to the Department of the Interior.

Mr. Valenstein

2

The lead point of contact for this project is:

Darren LeBlanc  
Texas Transportation Liaison  
10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200  
Austin, Texas 78758  
512-490-0057 extension 247  
[darren\\_leblanc@fws.gov](mailto:darren_leblanc@fws.gov)

We look forward to working cooperatively with FRA on the NEPA evaluation. Collaboration on the proposed EIS is an opportunity for the Service to assist FRA in ensuring conservation of fish and wildlife resources, and their habitats, while meeting project objectives. If you have any questions, please contact Darren LeBlanc at 512-490-0057, extension 247.

Sincerely,



Edith Erling  
Field Supervisor  
Coastal Ecological Services Field Office

cc: Melissa Neeley, TxDOT ENV, Austin, TX (electronic)  
Debra Bills, USFWS, Arlington, TX (electronic)  
Vanessa Burge, Regional Transportation Coordinator, USFWS R2, Albuquerque, NM  
(electronic)



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

US Army Corps of Engineers - Galveston Division  
Mr. Casey Cutler, Chief of Compliance  
Galveston Division  
PO Box 1229  
Galveston, TX 77553

Dear Agency Representative,

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**PLEASE RSVP TO [james.maughan@dot.gov](mailto:james.maughan@dot.gov) (or hit 'reply' to this e-mail) by close of business on October 3, 2014, and include your name and contact information.**

Our team looks forward to meeting with you to discuss this exciting project. If you have any questions in the interim, please contact Jamie Maughan at 617-494-2881, Michael Johnsen at 202-493-1310, or Melissa Neeley at 512-335-2906.

Sincerely,

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David Valenstein  
Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

US Army Corps of Engineers - Galveston Division  
Ms. Felicity Dodson, Regulatory Project Manager  
Galveston Division  
PO Box 1229  
Galveston, TX 77553

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David Valenstein  
Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, Regional Director  
Southwest Region  
PO Box 1306  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

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David Valenstein  
Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Mr. Darren LeBalanc, Transportation Liaison  
Austin Ecological Services  
10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200  
Austin, TX 78758

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FOR

David Valenstein  
Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Mr. Thomas J. Cloud Jr., Field Supervisor  
Ecological Services  
711 Stadium Drive, Suite 252  
Arlington, TX 76011

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For

David Valenstein  
Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Federal Highway Administration  
Mr. Al Alonzi, Acting Division Administrator  
Texas Division  
300 East 8th Street, Rm 826  
Austin, TX 78701

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David Valenstein  
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U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Federal Highway Administration  
Mr. Tom Bruechert, Environmental Team Leader  
Texas Division  
300 East 8th Street, Rm 826  
Austin, TX 78701

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David Valenstein  
Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Surface Transportation Board  
Ms. Victoria Rutson, Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis  
Office of Environmental Analysis  
295 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20423

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David Valenstein  
Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Federal Transit Administration  
Mr. Robert Patrick, Regional Administrator  
Region 6  
819 Taylor Street, Room 8A36  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

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For

David Valenstein  
Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

US Department of Homeland Security – TSA  
Ms. Terry Lukes, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer  
Region VI  
536 South Clark St, 6th Floor  
Chicago, IL 60605

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Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

US Forest Service  
Mr. Mark Vanevery, Forest Supervisor  
Region 8 (Southern Region)  
2221 North Raguet Street  
Lufkin, TX 75904

Dear Agency Representative,

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U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Mr. Kevin Jaynes, Environmental Director  
Region 6  
FRC 800 North Loop 2888  
Denton, TX 76209

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David Valenstein  
Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

United States Coast Guard  
Mr. David M. Frank, Chief, Bride Administration Branch  
Eighth Coast Guard District  
500 Poydras Street RM 1313  
New Orleans, LA 70130

Dear Agency Representative,

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Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

HUD

Ms. Tammy Trevino, Regional Administrator

Region 6

801 Cherry Steet, Unit 45, STE 2500

Fort Worth, TX 76102

Dear Agency Representative,

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Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

US Environmental Protection Agency  
Mr. Ron Curry, Administrator  
Region -6  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202

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Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Wichita and Affiliated Tribes  
Ms. Terri Parton, President  
Gary McAdams  
P.O. Box 729  
Anadarko, OK 73005

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Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department  
Mr. Carter Smith, Executive Director  
4200 Smith School Road  
Austin, TX 78744

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U.S. Department  
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**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Texas Council on Environmental Quality  
Mr. Zak Cover, Executive Director  
MC-109  
12100 Park 35 Circle  
Austin, TX 78753

Dear Agency Representative,

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DSR

David Valenstein  
Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Texas Historical Commission  
Mr. Mark Wolfe, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 12276  
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Agency Representative,

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U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Texas General Land Office  
Mr. Hal Croft, Deputy Commissioner  
P.O. Box 12873  
Austin, TX 78711

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U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

US Environmental Protection Agency  
Mr. Craig Weeks, Office of Planning and Coordination  
Region -6  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202

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David Valenstein  
Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

US Environmental Protection Agency  
Mr. Michael Jansky, NEPA Environmental Review Coordinator  
Region -6  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202

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David Valenstein  
Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

US Environmental Protection Agency  
Mr. Eric Verwers, Environmental Division Chief  
Fort Worth Division  
P.O. Box 17300  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

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David Valenstein  
Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



U.S. Department  
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**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

September 25, 2014

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

US Army Corps of Engineers - Fort Worth Division  
Mr. Darvin Messer, Regulatory Project Manager  
Fort Worth Division  
P.O. Box 17300  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

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For

David Valenstein  
Division Chief, Environment and System Planning



Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

State Office

101 S. Main Street  
Temple, TX 76501  
Voice 254.742.9800  
Fax 254.742.9819

September 9, 2016

AECOM  
1950 N. Stemmons Freeway, Ste. 6000  
Dallas Texas 75207

Attention: Erin Lee, Department Manager

Subject: Dallas to Houston High Speed Rail Project  
NEPA/FPPA Review

We have reviewed the information provided in your correspondence dated August 31, 2016 concerning the proposed high-speed rail project located near the I45 corridor in East-Central Texas. This review is part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluation for the Texas Department of Transportation (TX-DOT). We have evaluated the proposed site as required by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA).

For this review, each segment was evaluated by county and ratings were provided in order to better identify areas where greater economic and agricultural impacts will be located. We have completed the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating for Corridor Type Projects form (NRCS-CPA-106) for each County that intersects the proposed segments of the rail. The alternate corridors are listed in each county form.

Although the urban areas (as defined by USGS topographic maps) may contain Prime Farmland, we now consider the location to be "land committed to urban development". Additionally, areas with a density of 30 structures per 40-acre area were omitted from review. Three proposed sites for terminals (Industrial Site, Northwest Mall, and Northwest Transit Center) are located within the city limits of Houston, Texas and are exempt from provisions of FPPA. The exempt areas were removed from the shapefile (provided by the client) in order to lessen the influence of artifacts while performing the site assessment for the nonexempt areas of the project.

The combined rating for Segment 1 in Dallas County, Texas is **153**. The combined ratings for Segments 2A and 2B in Ellis County, Texas are **143** and **136**, respectively. The combined ratings for Segments 3A, 3B, and 3C in Navarro County, Texas are **121**, **120**, and **118**, respectively. The combined ratings for Segments 3C and 4 in Freestone County, Texas are **114** and **126**, respectively. The combined rating for Segment 4 in Limestone County, Texas is **107**. The combined ratings for Segments 3C and 4 in Leon County, Texas are **82** and **90**, respectively. The combined ratings for Segments 3C and 4 in Madison County, Texas are **103** and **110**, respectively. The combined ratings from Segments 3C, 4, and 5 in Grimes County, Texas are **69**, **67**, and **87**, respectively. The combined rating for Segment 5 in Waller

County, Texas is **109**. The combined rating for Segment 5 in Harris County, Texas is **118**. The FPPA law states that sites with a rating less than 160 will need no further consideration for farmland protection and no additional evaluation is necessary.

A review of conservation easements was also performed for the entire corridor. Currently, no conservation easements intersect the proposed site.

We encourage the use of accepted erosion control methods during the construction of this project.

If you have any questions regarding our review procedures or need further clarification, please contact me at 254.742.9836 or by email at [carlos.villarreal@tx.usda.gov](mailto:carlos.villarreal@tx.usda.gov).

Sincerely,

Carlos J. Villarreal  
NRCS Soil Scientist

Attachment:  
Farmland Conversion Impact Rating for Corridor Type Projects form (NRCS-CPA-106)

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 8/31/16	4. Sheet 1 of 10
1. Name of Project Houston to Dallas HSR	5. Federal Agency Involved TX-DOT		
2. Type of Project High-Speed Rail	6. County and State Dallas County, Texas		
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS 9/2/16	2. Person Completing Form Carlos J. Villarreal
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated 1416	Average Farm Size 100
5. Major Crop(s) small grains, corn, cotton	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: 83753 % 14	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: 120506 % 21	
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used NCCPI	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System LESA	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 9/9/16	

<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	<b>Alternative Corridor For Segment 1</b>			
	Segment 1	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	116			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	0			
C. Total Acres In Corridor	116			

<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	80			
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	0			
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	.0001			
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	32			

<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>	75			
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<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>	Maximum Points				
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	12			
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	9			
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	12			
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	20			
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	9			
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0			
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	3			
8. On-Farm Investments	20	5			
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0			
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	8			
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	75	0	0	0
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	78	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Reason For Selection:			

Signature of Person Completing this Part: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor**

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request <b>8/31/16</b>	4. Sheet 1 of <b>2 / 10</b>
1. Name of Project <b>Houston to Dallas HSR</b>	5. Federal Agency Involved <b>TX-DOT</b>		
2. Type of Project <b>High-Speed Rail</b>	6. County and State <b>Ellis County, Texas</b>		
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS <b>9/2/16</b>	2. Person Completing Form <b>Carlos J. Villarreal</b>
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form.) YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated   Average Farm Size <b>2175   209</b>	
5. Major Crop(s) <b>small grains, corn, cotton</b>	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: <b>473860</b> % <b>78</b>	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: <b>279792</b> % <b>46</b>	
8. Name of Land Evaluation System Used <b>NCCPI</b>	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System <b>LESA</b>	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS <b>9/9/16</b>	

<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	<b>Alternative Corridor For Segment <u>2A, 2B</u></b>			
	<b>Corridor A</b>	<b>Corridor B</b>	<b>Corridor C</b>	<b>Corridor D</b>
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	<b>805</b>	<b>580</b>		
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
C. Total Acres In Corridor	<b>805</b>	<b>580</b>		

<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>	<b>Corridor A</b>	<b>Corridor B</b>	<b>Corridor C</b>	<b>Corridor D</b>
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	<b>629</b>	<b>574</b>		
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>		
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	<b>0.0013</b>	<b>0.0013</b>		
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>		

<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>	<b>Corridor A</b>	<b>Corridor B</b>	<b>Corridor C</b>	<b>Corridor D</b>
	<b>61</b>	<b>56</b>		

<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Corridor A</b>	<b>Corridor B</b>	<b>Corridor C</b>	<b>Corridor D</b>
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	14	14		
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	10	10		
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	12	10		
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	20	20		
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	10	10		
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0	0		
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	3	3		
8. On-Farm Investments	20	5	5		
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0	0		
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	8	8		
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	<b>Corridor A</b>	<b>Corridor B</b>	<b>Corridor C</b>	<b>Corridor D</b>
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	<b>100</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>0</b>
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	<b>160</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>0</b>

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor**

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request <b>8/31/16</b>	4. Sheet <b>3</b> of <b>10</b>		
1. Name of Project <b>Houston to Dallas HSR</b>		5. Federal Agency Involved <b>TX-DOT</b>			
2. Type of Project <b>High-Speed Rail</b>		6. County and State <b>Navarro County, Texas</b>			
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS <b>9/2/16</b>	2. Person Completing Form <b>Carlos J. Villarreal</b>		
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form.)		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Acres Irrigated   Average Farm Size <b>6702   217</b>		
5. Major Crop(s) <b>small grains, corn, cotton</b>	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: <b>558096</b> % <b>80</b>		7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: <b>289970</b> % <b>42</b>		
8. Name of Land Evaluation System Used <b>NCCPI</b>	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System <b>LESA</b>		10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS <b>9/9/16</b>		
<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		<b>Alternative Corridor For Segment <u>3A, 3B, 3C</u></b>			
		Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		<b>923</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>924</b>	
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
C. Total Acres In Corridor		<b>923</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>924</b>	
<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland		<b>339</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>351</b>	
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland		<b>310</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>251</b>	
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted		<b>0.0013</b>	<b>0.0014</b>	<b>0.0013</b>	
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value		<b>32</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>37</b>	
<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>		Maximum Points			
1. Area in Nonurban Use		15	15	15	
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use		10	10	10	
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed		20	10	6	10
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government		20	20	20	20
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		10	10	10	10
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland		25	0	0	0
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services		5	3	4	3
8. On-Farm Investments		20	5	6	5
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		25	0	0	0
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		10	8	8	8
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>		<b>160</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		<b>100</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>37</b>
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)		<b>160</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>		<b>260</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>118</b>
1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used?  YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		
5. Reason For Selection:					

Signature of Person Completing this Part:

DATE

**NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor**

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 8/31/16	4. Sheet <u>4</u> of <u>10</u>
1. Name of Project Houston to Dallas HSR	5. Federal Agency Involved TX-DOT		
2. Type of Project High-Speed Rail	6. County and State Freestone County, Texas		
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS 9/2/16	2. Person Completing Form Carlos J. Villarreal
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form).		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Acres Irrigated   Average Farm Size 1543   278
5. Major Crop(s) small grains, corn, cotton	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: 421303 % 74		7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: 177907 % 31
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used NCCPI	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System LESA		10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 9/9/16

<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	Alternative Corridor For Segment <u>3C, 4</u>			
	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	1019	824		
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	0	0		
C. Total Acres in Corridor	1019	824		

<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	89	78		
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	401	410		
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	0.0018	0.0014		
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	23	28		

<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>				
	29	35		

<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>		Maximum Points			
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	14	15		
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	10	10		
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	10	16		
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	20	20		
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	10	10		
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0	0		
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	5	2		
8. On-Farm Investments	20	8	10		
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0	0		
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	8	8		
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	29	35	0	0
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	85	91	0	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Reason For Selection:			

Signature of Person Completing this Part: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor**

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request <b>8/31/16</b>	4. Sheet <b>5</b> of <b>10</b>
1. Name of Project <b>Houston to Dallas HSR</b>	5. Federal Agency Involved <b>TX-DOT</b>		
2. Type of Project <b>High-Speed Rail</b>	6. County and State <b>Limestone County, Texas</b>		
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS <b>9/2/16</b>	2. Person Completing Form <b>Carlos J. Villarreal</b>
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form.) YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated   Average Farm Size <b>3399</b>   <b>319</b>	
5. Major Crop(s) <b>small grains, corn, cotton</b>	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: <b>486787</b> % <b>82</b>	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: <b>315864</b> % <b>53</b>	
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used <b>NCCPI</b>	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System <b>LESA</b>	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS <b>9/9/16</b>	

<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	<b>Alternative Corridor For Segment <u>4</u></b>			
	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	<b>167</b>			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	<b>0</b>			
C. Total Acres In Corridor	<b>167</b>			

<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	<b>118</b>			
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	<b>49</b>			
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	<b>0.00002</b>			
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	<b>28</b>			

<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>	<b>31</b>			
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<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>		Maximum Points			
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	15			
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	10			
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	4			
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	20			
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	10			
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0			
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	4			
8. On-Farm Investments	20	10			
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0			
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	3			
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	31	0	0	0
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	76	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Reason For Selection:			

Signature of Person Completing this Part: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor**

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request <b>8/31/16</b>	4. Sheet <b>6</b> of <b>10</b>
1. Name of Project <b>Houston to Dallas HSR</b>		5. Federal Agency Involved <b>TX-DOT</b>	
2. Type of Project <b>High-Speed Rail</b>		6. County and State <b>Leon County, Texas</b>	
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS <b>9/2/16</b>	2. Person Completing Form <b>Carlos J. Villarreal</b>
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form.) YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated   Average Farm Size <b>10110</b>   <b>303</b>	
5. Major Crop(s) <b>small grains, corn, cotton</b>	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: <b>594393</b> % <b>86</b>	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: <b>133982</b> % <b>19</b>	
8. Name of Land Evaluation System Used <b>NCCPI</b>	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System <b>LESA</b>	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS <b>9/9/16</b>	

<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	<b>Alternative Corridor For Segment <u>3C, 4</u></b>			
	<b>Corridor A</b>	<b>Corridor B</b>	<b>Corridor C</b>	<b>Corridor D</b>
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	<b>1189</b>	<b>956</b>		
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
C. Total Acres In Corridor	<b>1189</b>	<b>956</b>		

<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>	<b>Corridor A</b>	<b>Corridor B</b>	<b>Corridor C</b>	<b>Corridor D</b>
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	<b>155</b>	<b>236</b>		
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	<b>83</b>	<b>93</b>		
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	<b>0.0017</b>	<b>0.0014</b>		
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>		

<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>	<b>Corridor A</b>	<b>Corridor B</b>	<b>Corridor C</b>	<b>Corridor D</b>
	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>		

<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Corridor A</b>	<b>Corridor B</b>	<b>Corridor C</b>	<b>Corridor D</b>
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	13	15		
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	8	10		
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	2	1		
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	20	20		
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	10	10		
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0	0		
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	5	3		
8. On-Farm Investments	20	5	3		
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0	0		
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	8	8		
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	<b>Corridor A</b>	<b>Corridor B</b>	<b>Corridor C</b>	<b>Corridor D</b>
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	<b>100</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	<b>160</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>0</b>

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Reason For Selection:			

Signature of Person Completing this Part: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor**

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 8/31/16	4. Sheet 7 of 10
1. Name of Project Houston to Dallas HSR	5. Federal Agency Involved TX-DOT		
2. Type of Project High-Speed Rail	6. County and State Madison County, Texas		
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS 9/2/16	2. Person Completing Form Carlos J. Villarreal
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated   Average Farm Size 4505   300	
5. Major Crop(s) small grains, corn, cotton	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: 291350 % 96	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: 133228 % 44	
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used NCCPI	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System LESA	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 9/9/16	

<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	Alternative Corridor For Segment 3C, 4			
	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	599	523		
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	0	0		
C. Total Acres in Corridor	599	523		

<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	193	167		
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	132	169		
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	0.002	0.002		
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	31	37		

<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>				
	32	38		

<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>	Maximum Points				
		1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	15	15
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	10	10		
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	1	1		
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	20	20		
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	10	10		
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0	0		
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	2	3		
8. On-Farm Investments	20	10	10		
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0	0		
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	3	3		
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	32	38	0	0
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	71	72	0	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Reason For Selection:			

Signature of Person Completing this Part: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 8/31/16	4. Sheet <u>8</u> of <u>10</u>
1. Name of Project <b>Houston to Dallas HSR</b>		5. Federal Agency Involved <b>TX-DOT</b>	
2. Type of Project <b>High-Speed Rail</b>		6. County and State <b>Grimes County, Texas</b>	

<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS 9/2/16	2. Person Completing Form <b>Carlos J. Villarreal</b>
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated <b>27068</b>	Average Farm Size <b>248</b>
5. Major Crop(s) <b>small grains, corn, cotton</b>	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: <b>417142</b> % <b>81</b>	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: <b>191981</b> % <b>37</b>	
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used <b>NCCPI</b>	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System <b>LESA</b>	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS <b>9/9/16</b>	

<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	<b>Alternative Corridor For Segment <u>3C, 4, 5</u></b>			
	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	<b>90</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1478</b>	
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	<b>00</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>00</b>	
C. Total Acres In Corridor	<b>90</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>1478</b>	

<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>229</b>	
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>520</b>	
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	<b>0.00001</b>	<b>0.00001</b>	<b>0.003</b>	
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>	

<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>22</b>	
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<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>	Maximum Points				
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	15	15	13	
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	10	10	10	
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	0	0	2	
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	20	20	20	
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	10	10	10	
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0	0	0	
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	4	4	4	
8. On-Farm Investments	20	5	5	5	
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0	0		
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	1	1	1	
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	4	2	22	0
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	65	65	65	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>0</b>

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor**

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 8/31/16	4. Sheet 9 of 10
1. Name of Project Houston to Dallas HSR	5. Federal Agency Involved TX-DOT		
2. Type of Project High-Speed Rail	6. County and State Waller County, Texas		
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS 9/2/16	2. Person Completing Form Carlos J. Villarreal
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form).		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Acres Irrigated   Average Farm Size 61064   163
5. Major Crop(s) small grains, corn, cotton	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: 314981 % 95	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: NA % NA	
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used NCCPI	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System LESA	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 9/9/16	

<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	<b>Alternative Corridor For Segment 5</b>			
	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	298			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	0			
C. Total Acres In Corridor	298			
<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	126			
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	14			
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	.00001			
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	14			
<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>	37			
<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>	Maximum Points			
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	15		
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	10		
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	2		
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	20		
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	10		
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0		
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	3		
8. On-Farm Investments	20	5		
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	5		
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	2		
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>				
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	37	0	0
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	72	0	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Reason For Selection:			

Signature of Person Completing this Part:

DATE

**NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor**

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING  
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS**

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 8/31/16	4. Sheet 10 of 10
1. Name of Project Houston to Dallas HSR		5. Federal Agency Involved TX-DOT	
2. Type of Project High-Speed Rail		6. County and State Harris County, Texas	
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		1. Date Request Received by NRCS 9/2/16	2. Person Completing Form Carlos J. Villarreal
3. Does the corridor contain prime, unique statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - Do not complete additional parts of this form). YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		4. Acres Irrigated   Average Farm Size 16584   107	
5. Major Crop(s) small grains, corn, cotton	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: 236402 % 21	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: 503604 % 44	
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used NCCPI	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System LESA	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 9/9/16	

<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	<b>Alternative Corridor For Segment 5</b>			
	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	611			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	0			
C. Total Acres In Corridor	611			

<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>	
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	436
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	5
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	0.00004
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	40

<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)</b>	
	46

<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))</b>		Maximum Points			
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15	12			
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10	10			
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed	20	8			
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	20			
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	10			
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0			
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	5			
8. On-Farm Investments	20	5			
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	2			
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	1			
<b>TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	46	0	0	0
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	73	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project:	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
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5. Reason For Selection:

Signature of Person Completing this Part: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor**