

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE May 31, 2024

TO Honorable Members of the City Council Economic Development Committee: Tennell Atkins (Chair), Omar Narvaez (Vice Chair), Carolyn King Arnold, Adam Bazaldua, Paul Ridley, Chad West, Kathy Stewart

SUBJECT **High Speed Rail Economic Impact Study – Dallas to Fort Worth Alignment**

Below is a status update on the Economic Impact Study for the Dallas to Fort Worth High Speed Rail alignment and on recent efforts related to the Dallas to Houston High Speed Rail project.

Dallas to Fort Worth Economic Impact Study

At the City Council briefing on Major Downtown Transportation Initiatives earlier this spring, the City Council directed staff to conduct a study of the economic impacts for Dallas to Fort Worth High Speed Rail alignment.

Staff is in discussions with HR&A Advisors to complete this study. There has been significant discussion between City staff and HR&A Advisors to finalize the scope. Those discussions are wrapping up and it is anticipated HR&A Advisors will be completing the initial analysis of the impact to the City of Dallas within three months. Concurrent to the study of the impact to the City of Dallas, HR&A will evaluate the economic impacts to the region. It is anticipated this portion of the work will be completed in the fall.

Dallas to Houston High Speed Rail Project

- In December, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) selected the Dallas to Houston project for its Corridor Identification Program (CIDP). In addition to the funding, selection for the CIDP provides other important benefits, including:
 1. It places the project in the FRA's 'pipeline of projects' that are eligible to receive additional federal grants. Without this designation, a project cannot apply for the larger FRA grant opportunities.
 2. It allows the project sponsor to negotiate further scope, schedule, and budget directly with the FRA rather than competitively applying when Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) are issued.
 - Amtrak and FRA, in cooperation with Texas Central Partners, are currently negotiating the next grant and anticipate an agreement in the next few months.
- Amtrak and the Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport and Urban Development (JOIN) have completed a Framework Agreement for cooperation on the Project and are now negotiating governance structure and others matters.

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Please feel free to reach out to Economic Development Department Director (I) Kevin Spath, Transportation Department Director, Gus Khankarli, Convention and Events Services Director Rosa Fleming, or me if you have any questions or if you need any additional information.

Thank you,



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Assistant City Manager (I)

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