



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



PROJECT UPDATE

Spring 2014



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BACKGROUND

Spring 2014

Why study rail between Oklahoma and South Texas?

- IH-35 is congested and will continue to get more congested as Texas' population and economy grow.
- Passenger rail service could fit the needs of many travelers and reduce demand on the state's roadways.
- Study will provide a blueprint for feasible rail improvements.



Schedule

We are here

Winter 2013 Spring 2013 Summer 2013 Fall 2013 Winter 2014 Spring 2014 Summer 2014 Fall 2014

Alternatives analysis

Set goals, gather data, develop and screen alternatives

Select and analyze alternatives

Refine analysis and secure agency approvals

A big question about our process

These questions will be answered through the study:

- Is improved passenger rail a good idea?
- What kind of passenger rail service is feasible?
- What are the costs, impacts, and benefits of passenger rail service?
- What cities would be served by passenger rail?

These questions will not be answered through the study:

- Where would new rail be constructed?
- What would the impacts be to specific properties?
- When would new service be available?
- Exactly where would stations be located?






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ALTERNATIVES FOR ANALYSIS

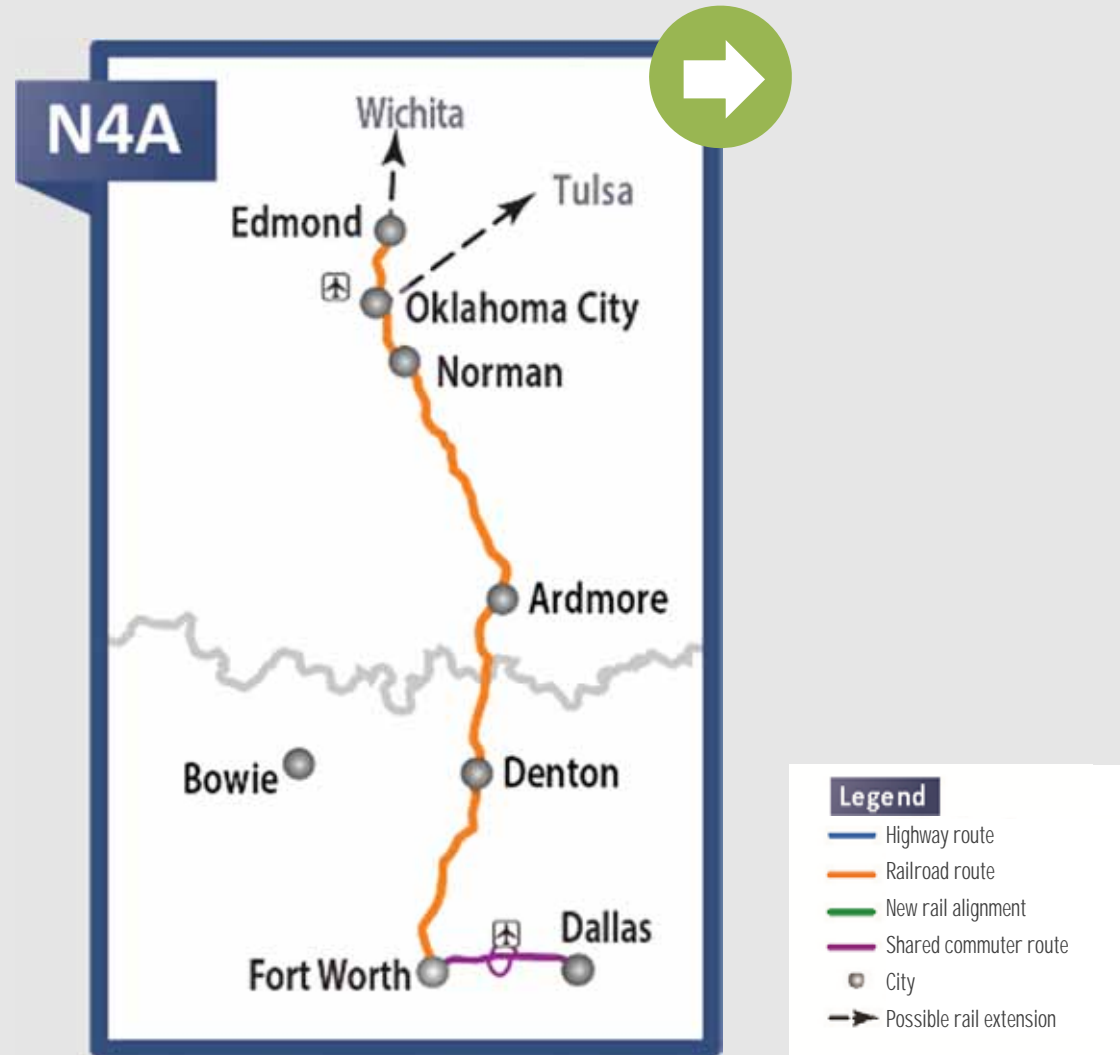
All sections

Different kinds of service

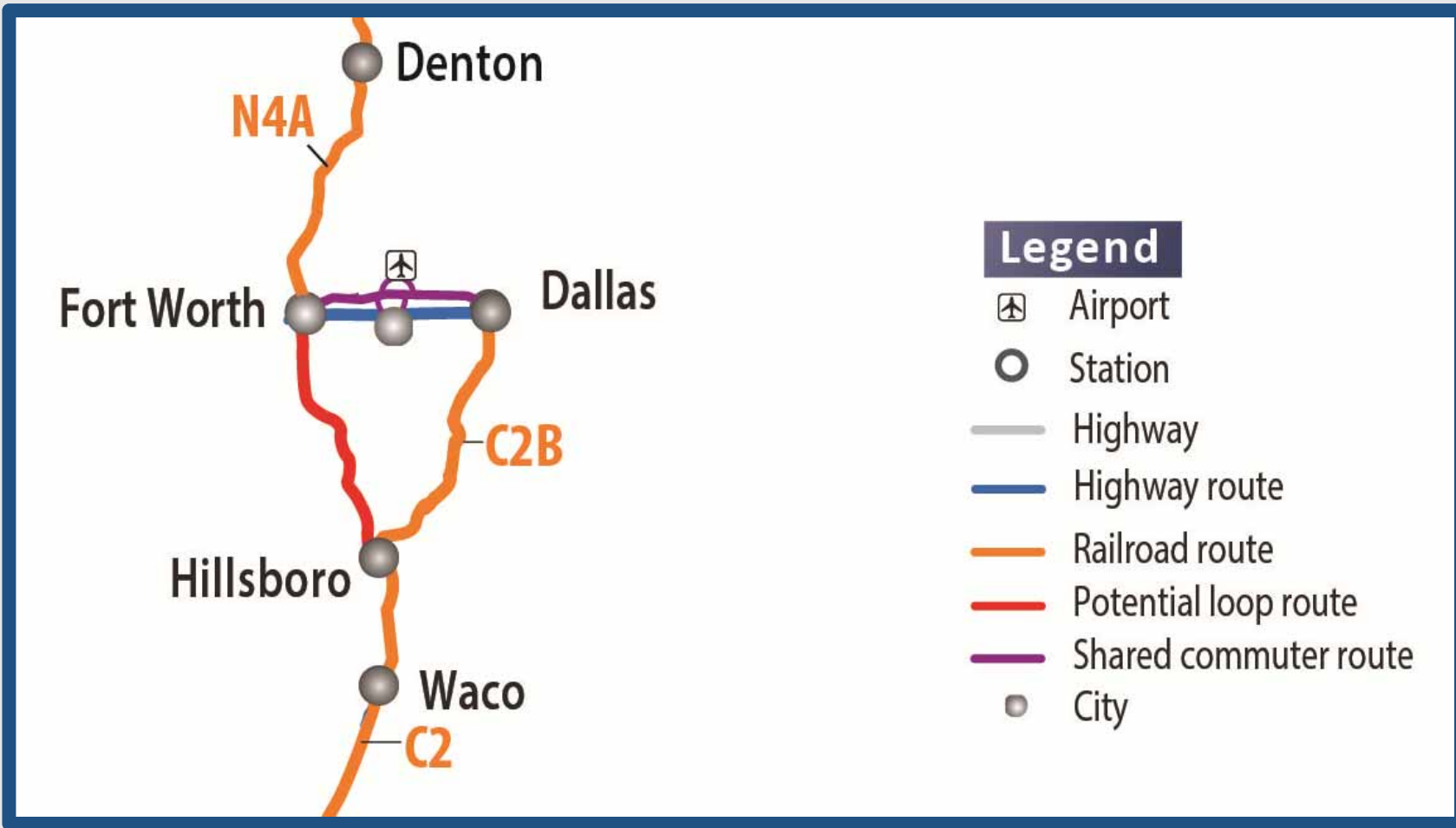
	Speed (miles per hour)	Stops/ frequency
<p>Conventional rail (mostly uses existing tracks)</p> 	<p>Maximum: 70-90 mph</p> <p>Average: 45-60 mph</p>	<p>Stops 15 to 60 miles apart</p> <p>3-6 trains/day each direction (no more than 12)</p>
<p>Higher speed rail (some dedicated tracks)</p> 	<p>Maximum: 110-125 mph</p> <p>Average: 70-85 mph</p>	<p>Stops 30 to 90 miles apart</p> <p>4-8 trains/day each direction (as many as 12)</p>
<p>High speed rail (fully dedicated tracks)</p> 	<p>Maximum: 165-220 mph</p> <p>Average: 100-140 mph</p>	<p>Stops 50 to 100+ miles apart</p> <p>12-24 trains/day each direction</p>

Common Attributes: Single or double deck trains, stations with parking, operation on existing or dedicated tracks

Recommended northern section route alternative



What could Metroplex train service look like?

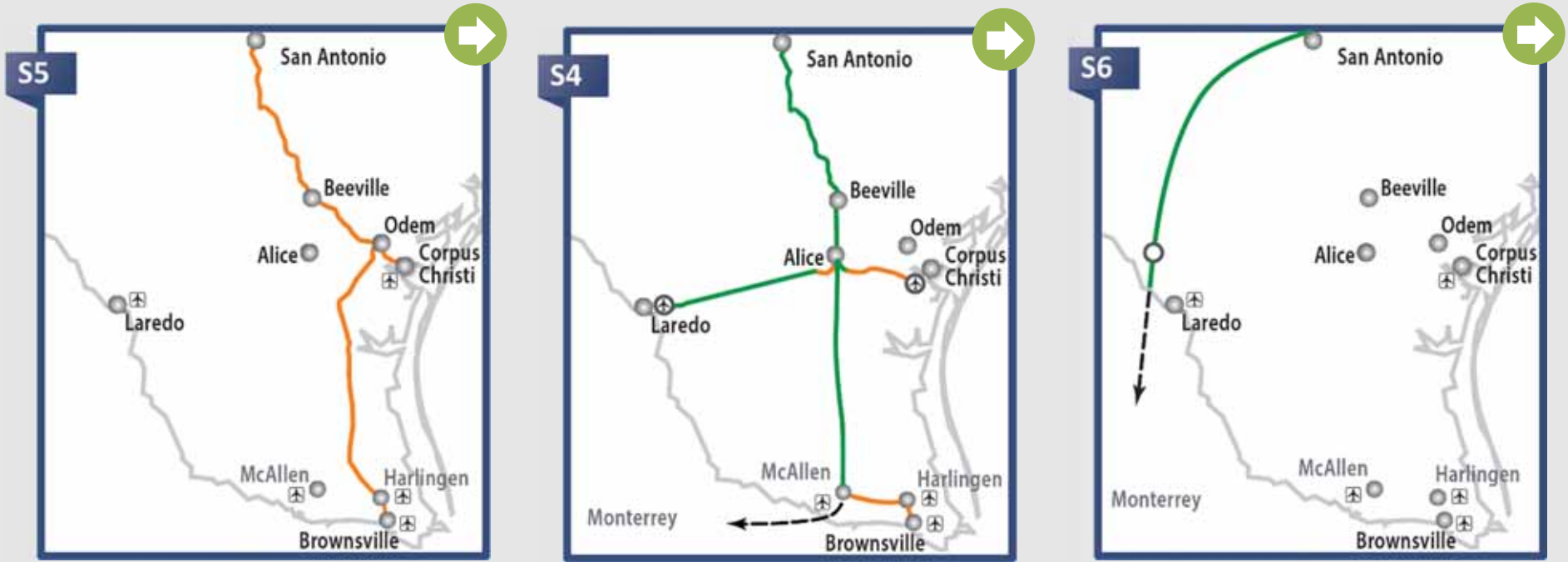


Recommended central section route alternatives



- Legend**
- Highway route
 - Railroad route
 - New rail alignment
 - Shared commuter route
 - City
 - Possible rail extension

Recommended southern section route alternatives



Legend

- Highway route
- Railroad route
- New rail alignment
- Shared commuter route
- City
- Possible rail extension



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NEXT STEPS

Spring 2014

Next steps and your input

- Prepare draft environmental impact statement
 - Project team will conduct detailed environmental analysis
 - Plan to review and comment on the draft environmental impact statement in fall 2014

Questions?

www.TxOkRail.org