



HSR FAQ'S

FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

What are the FRA rules? What do they do?

The FRA issues what is known as a Rule of Particular Applicability, or RPA. An RPA is the safety regulations that apply to a specific railroad or rail project, and create the guidelines that the project must follow if they ever become operational.

When do they come out?

The FRA anticipates publishing the RPA soon, though there is no exact time frame. After they publish the rules, they will open a 60-day public comment period, and will hold public hearings within those 60 days. Congressman Brady has secured a public hearing in Grimes County.

What type of public comments are they looking for?

This is an opportunity for the FRA to collect documented questions from the public, including our landowners and local leaders, on issues such as the impact on our rural communities, safety worries, damage to our rural countryside, and the financial shakiness of this controversial project.

How can you give public comments to the FRA?

Once the FRA publishes the RPA, they will release more information on when and how to submit comments, as well as the schedule of public hearings.

Is the FRA monitoring the environmental impact of the High Speed Rail?

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the FRA must conduct an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for any project that significantly affects the quality of the human environment. Therefore, the FRA is currently in the processes of finalizing the EIS for the HSR, and expects it to be published by the end of May 2020. If you would like to provide comments on the EIS, please send an email to DallasHoustonHSR@urs.com and kevin.wright@DOT.gov.



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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

What permits are the High Speed Rail seeking from the STB?

Texas Central Railroad (TCR) has petitioned the Surface Transportation Board (STB) for recognition as a federal railroad. However, the project remains entirely within the state of Texas and should not be treated as interstate railroad.

What would this recognition do?

If the STB decides to give the TCR federal authority, it would allow the company to pre-empt local and state laws in order to seize land from Texas landowners to build the project.

Has TCR applied for federal railroad status before?

Yes, TCR applied to the STB for federal recognition in 2016, and they were rightly denied by the Board because the proposed route was entirely within the state of Texas.

Has anything in the project changed since the unsuccessful 2016 petition?

TCR drafted a preliminary joint ticketing agreement with Amtrak that could allow some customers to travel out-of-state, but nothing has materially changed to classify the rail line as part of the federal rail network and STB should continue to deny the company federal jurisdiction.

When will the STB release their decision?

The STB is separate from the FRA and acts as an independent, bipartisan regulatory board for certain modes of surface transportation. At this time, the STB has not indicated a timeline for the release of their decision.