



Leveraging Grants and Programs to Promote Rail Safety

October 25, 2023

Brett Sebastian, Texas State Director, GoRail

GORAIL



GoRail

Educating, Recruiting & Mobilizing Support for Freight Rail

Rail in Your State

SEE THE COMMUNITY IMPACT!

Learn more at www.gorail.org

GoRail works with thousands of community leaders across the country to tell the local story of freight rail — stronger economies, more jobs and cleaner skies.

GoRail - Mission and Goals

Who we
are...What
we Do...

National non-profit grassroots organization promoting the public benefits of rail.

Building public support for policies to expand rail.

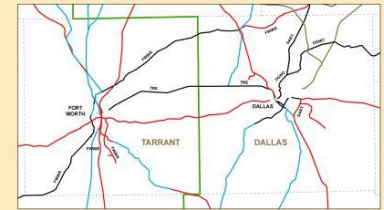
Supporting legislation to expand rail capacity.

Opposing legislation that would shrink capacity.

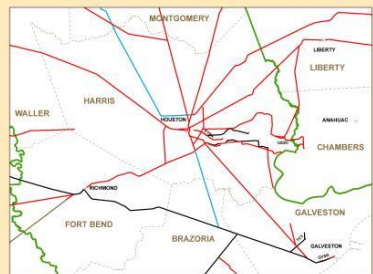
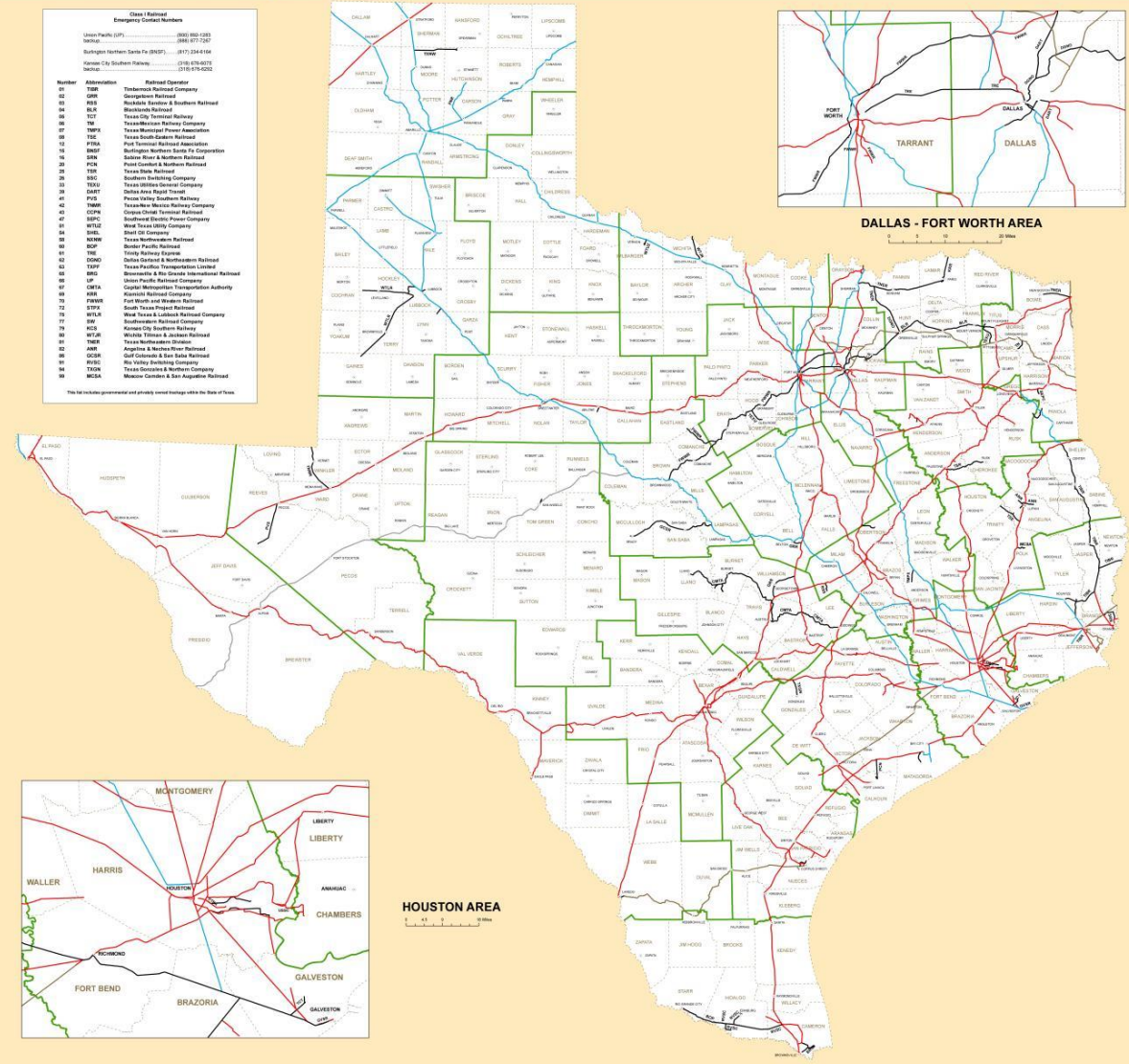
Texas Freight Rail Network

Class	Railroad	Emergency Contact Numbers
1	Union Pacific (UP)	(800) 800-1235
2	BNSF	(800) 677-7247
3	Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF)	(817) 254-6166
4	Kansas City Southern Railway	(316) 674-6725
5	Missouri Pacific	(316) 674-6725

Number	Abbreviation	Railroad Operator
01	TRM	Texas Railroad Company
02	GRM	Georgetown Railroad
03	MRM	Marblehead & Northern Railroad
04	BLM	Blacklands Railroad
05	TCM	Texas City Terminal Railway
06	TRM	Texas Railroad Company
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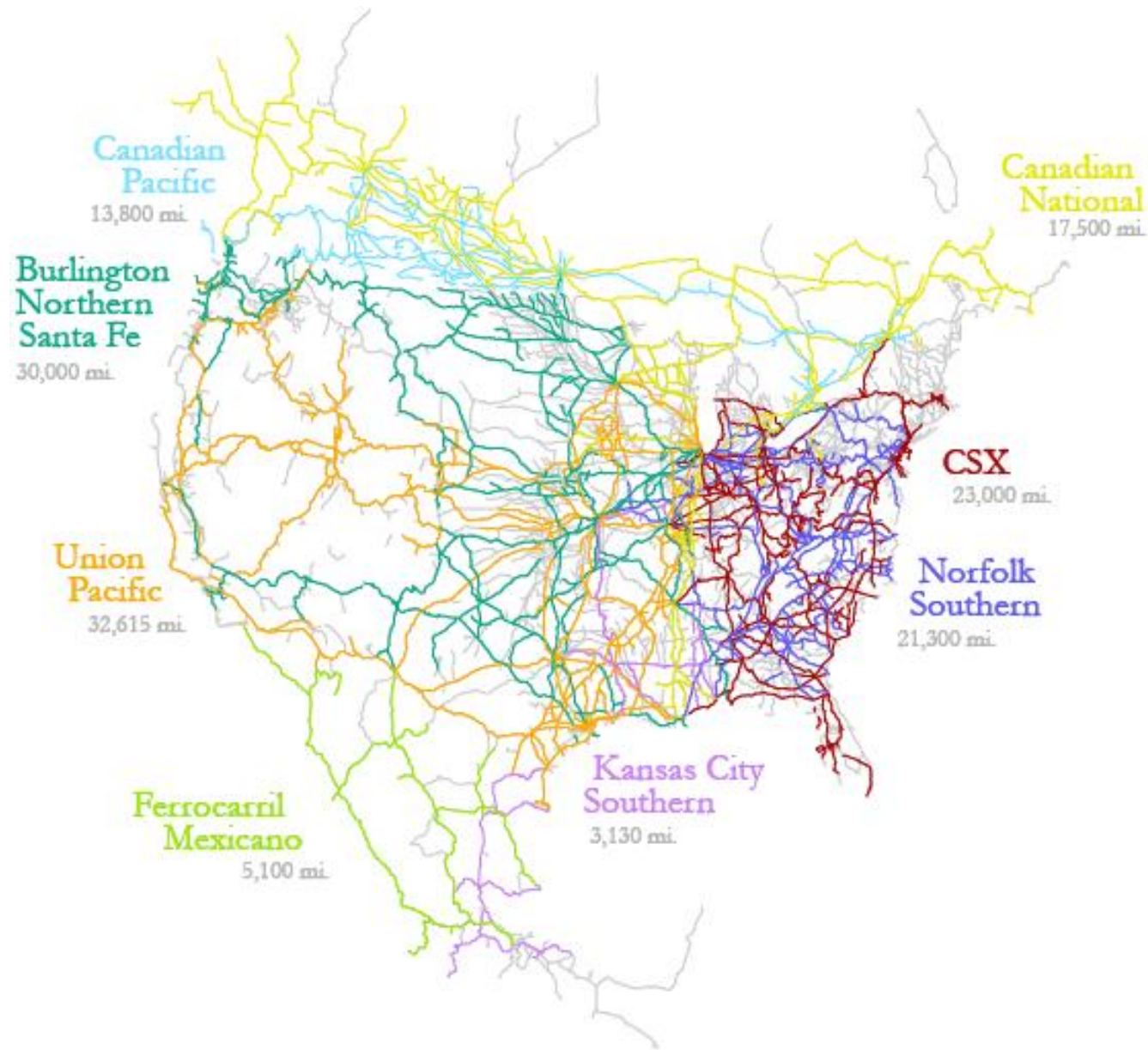


DALLAS - FORT WORTH AREA



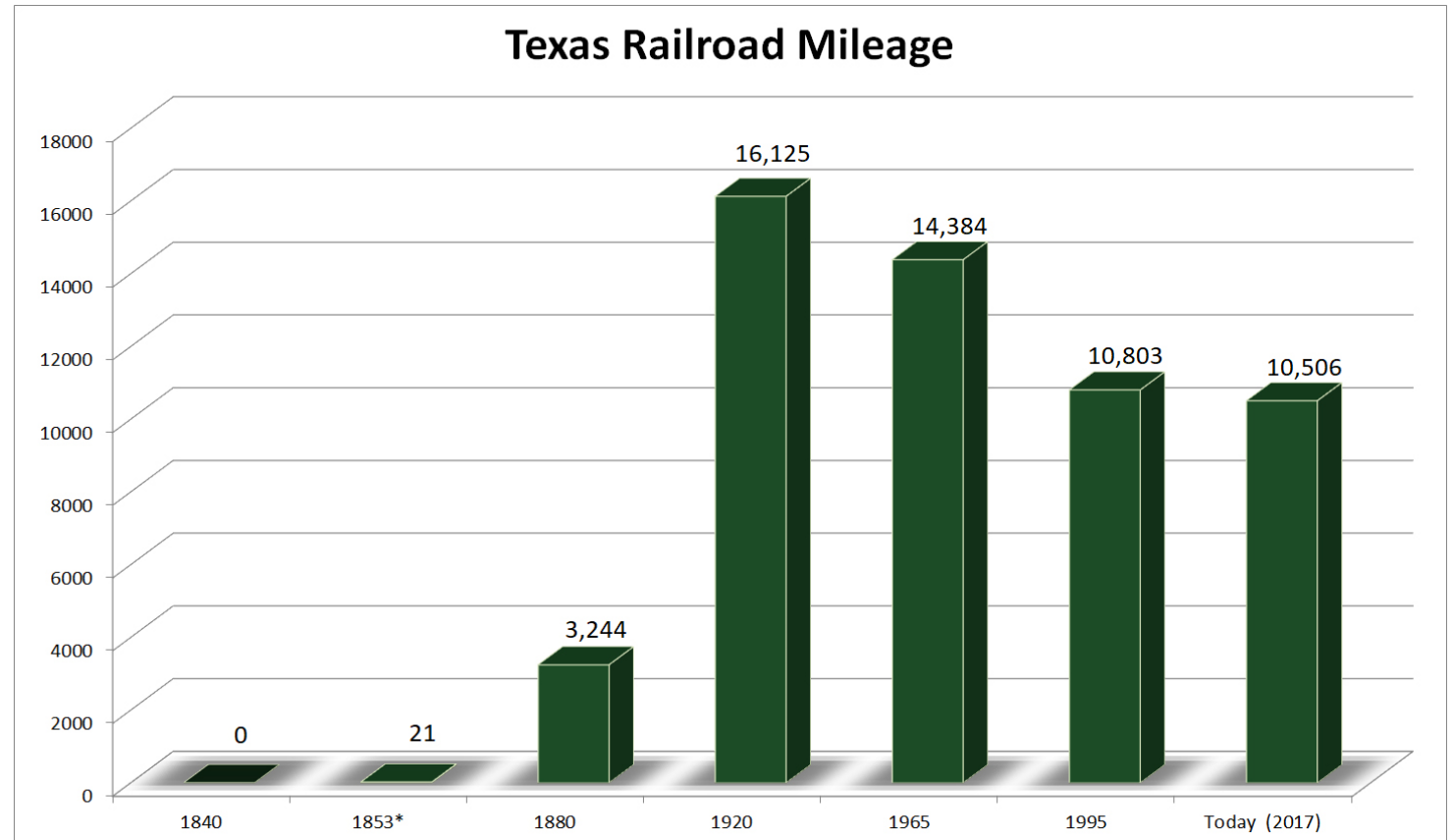
HOUSTON AREA

North American Rail Network



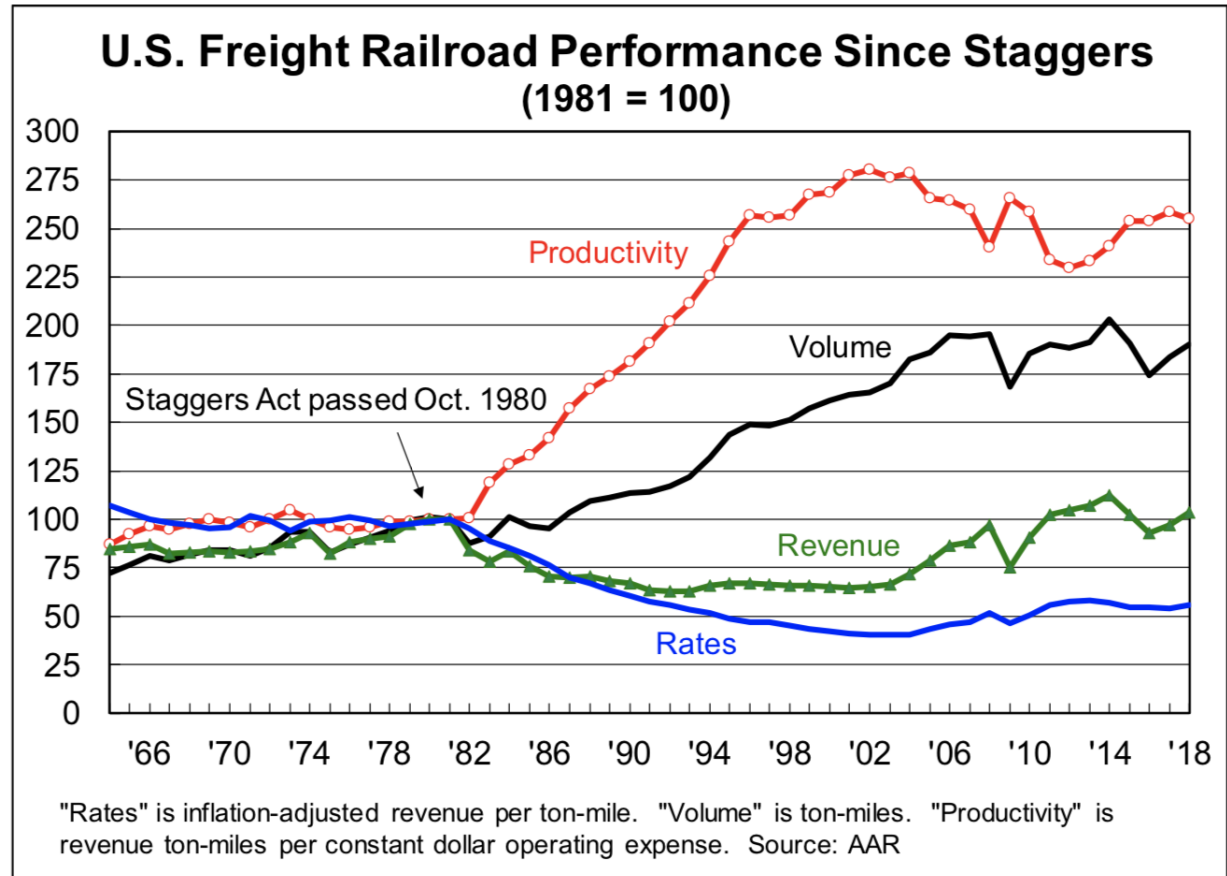
Rise, Fall & Stabilization of US Railroads

- The 19th century was a period of rail growth intermixed with booms, busts, and consolidations.
- The US Rail network “peaked” in the 1920’s but showed weaknesses.
- Rapid decline from WWII to 1980 characterized by bankruptcies, mergers, and government intervention (Conrail/Amtrak).
- 1980-Today: recovery, reinvestment, new growth, new concerns.



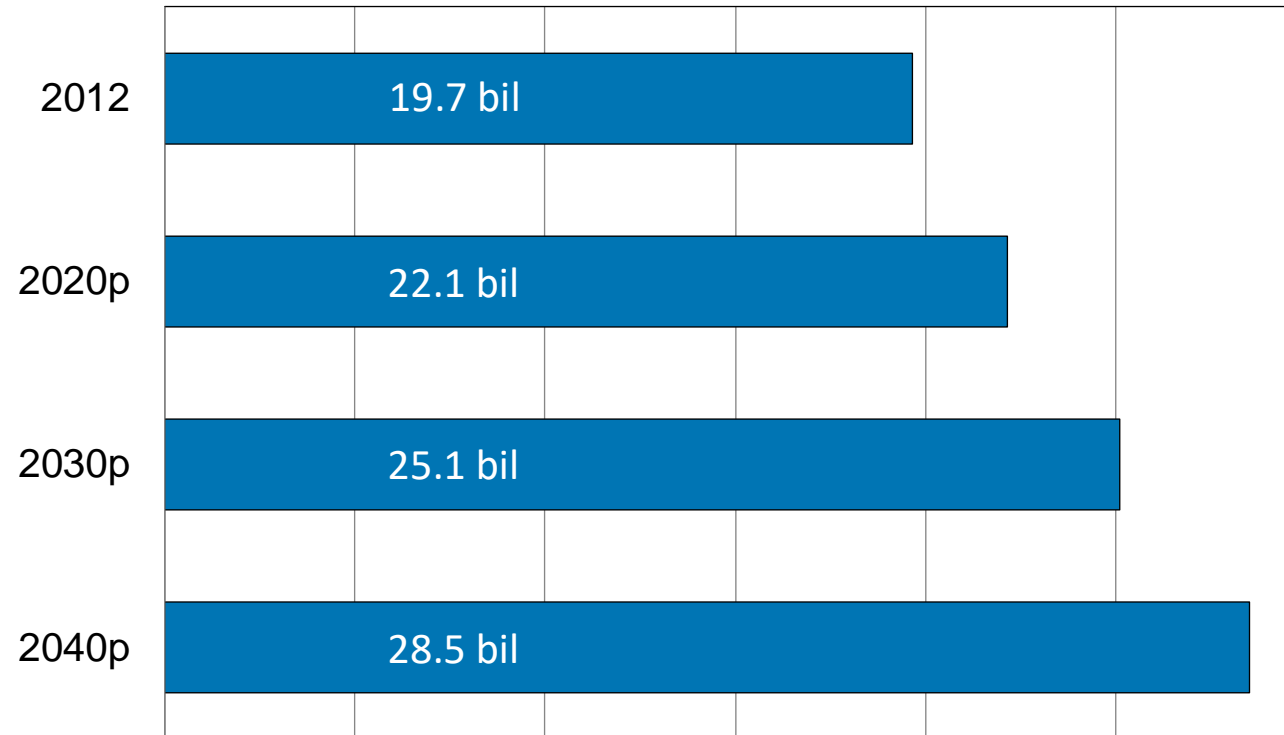
Sources: Stover, John. *Routledge Historical Atlas of the American Railroads, The*. New York: Routledge, 1999.
Lamb, Parker J. "Great Railroad: State-By-State (Texas)." *Trains Magazine*. January 2007. Page 81. Print.
"Freight Railroads In Texas." Association Of American Railroads. January 2019, <https://www.aar.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/AAR-Texas-State-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

Staggers Rail Act of 1980



The U.S. Department of Transportation expects total freight demand to grow 35% by 2040, which means the improvements made today are even more important for world-class service tomorrow.

Demand For Freight Transportation To Rise Sharply (billions of tons transported in U.S.)



p - projected Source: FHWA Office of Freight Management and Operations, Freight Analysis Framework version 3.5

IIJA and Freight Rail



Increases existing grants like CRISI, RAISE, INFRA



Bulk of funding dedicated to passenger but this can benefit freight rail infrastructure



Emphasis on safety esp. at grade crossings



Ties heavily into multimodal supply chain capacity esp. port capacity

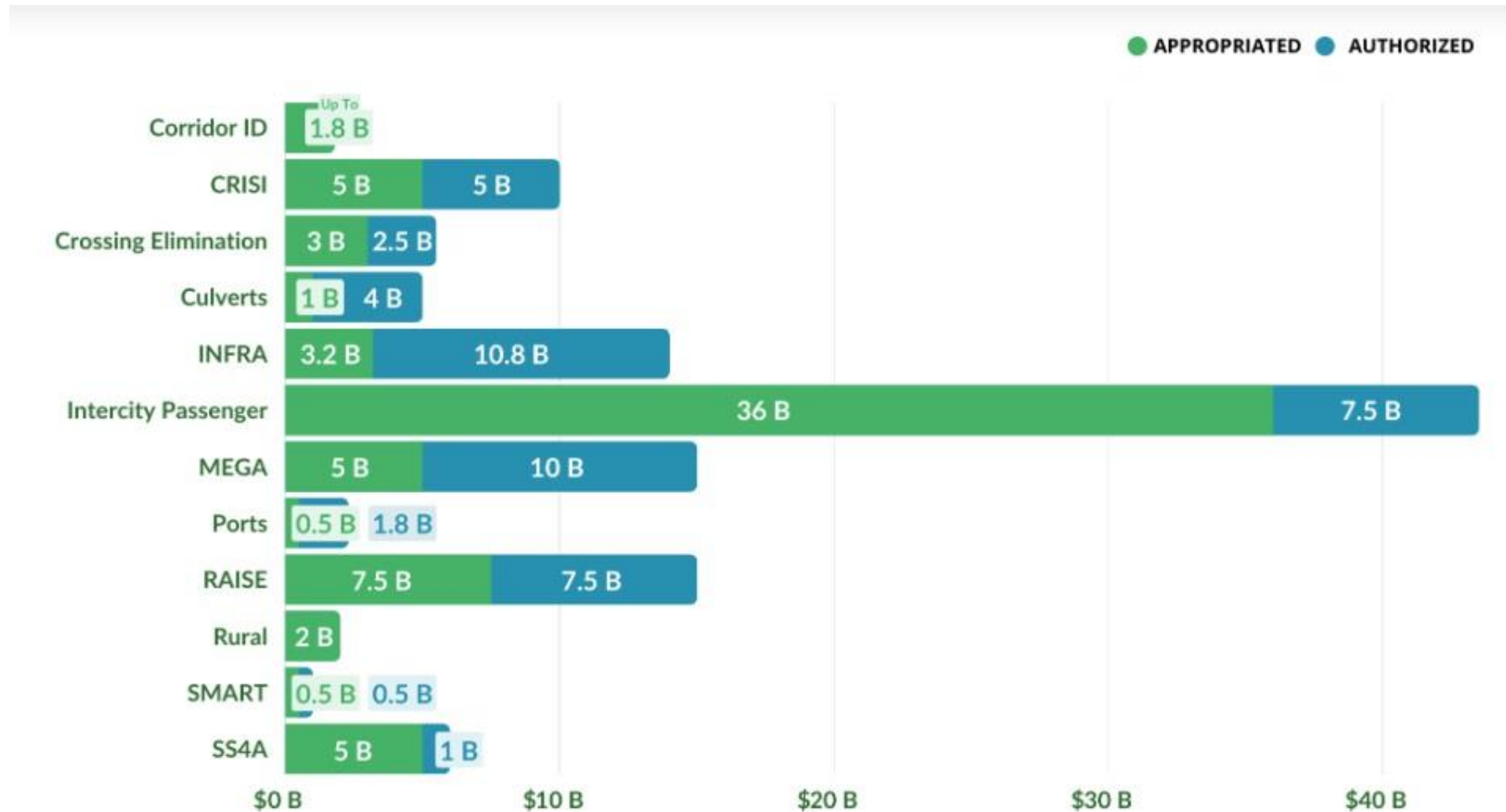


Can get creative with types of projects such as research institutions



Not to mention existing funding like Sec. 130

IJA/Rail Funding Breakdown





Recent Awardees

- FY2022 Grade Crossing Elimination Program
 - City of Dayton
 - City of Amarillo
 - Gulf Coast Rail District
 - City of San Antonio
 - City of Fort Worth
- CRISI
 - Texas North Western Railway Company
 - City of Laredo
 - Rio Valley Switching Company (RVSC)/ City of McAllen
- RAISE and INFRA
- Potential Opportunities
 - Combined MEGA Application
 - Passenger Corridor ID Program this fall

- What are the safety and/or economic development issues in your community that might be related to rail?
- Is there data to back up your idea (TxDOT, FRA, economic analyses)?
- Do you have the buy-in of the railroads and other stakeholders?

- Once you have everyone on the same page, ID the correct grant, timeline, requirements, etc.
- ID the eligible applicant and pursue the application.
- Secure letters of support and other supporting evidence, ensuring you hit all required points in the process.
- Pop the champagne or try try again

Identifying Potential Projects



Take Our Crossing Grant Survey

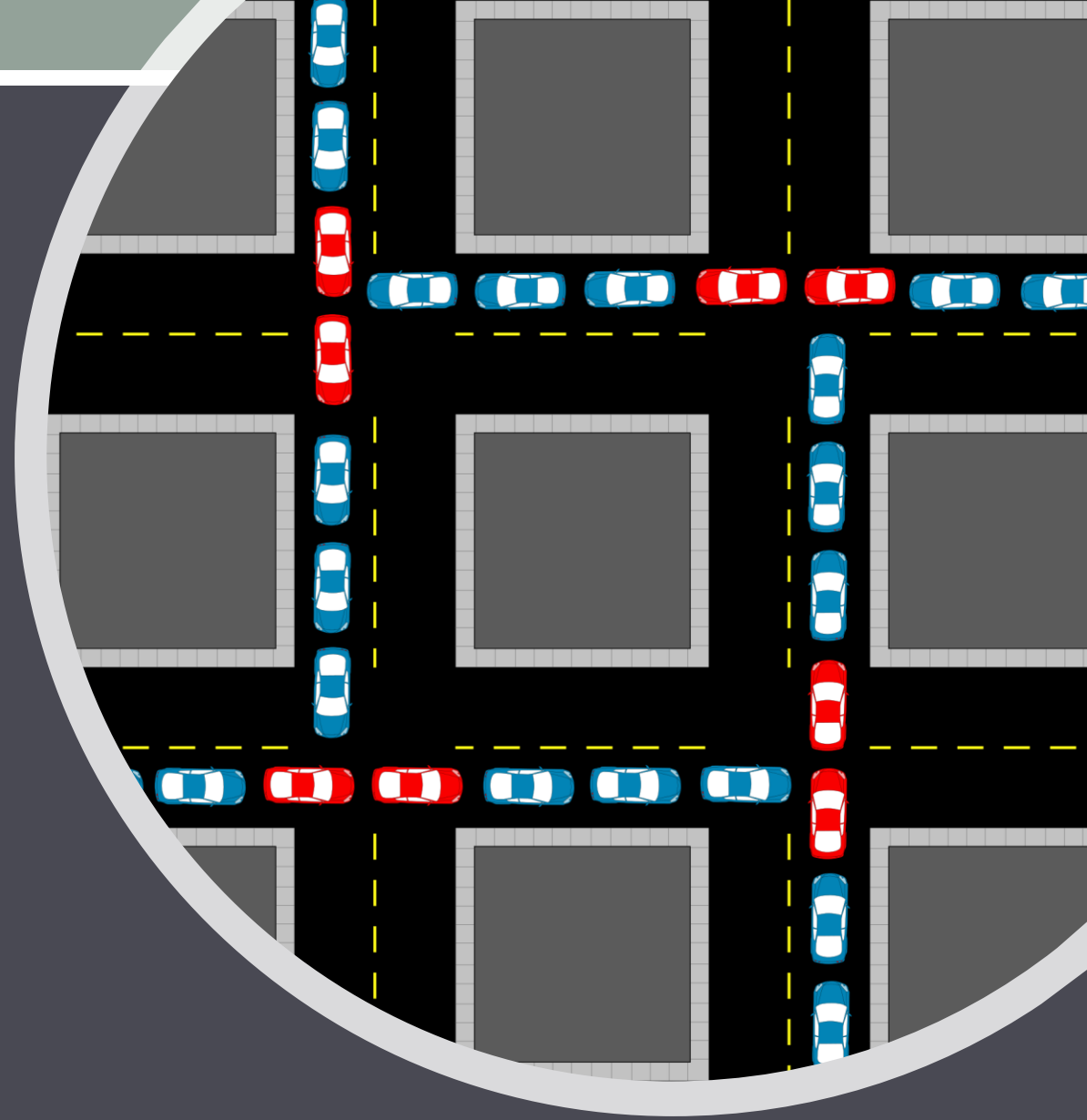
The Federal Railroad Administration's new Grade Crossing Elimination Program will provide \$5.5 billion over five years (\$600 million for FY22) to state and local applicants for grade crossing projects that improve the safety and mobility of people and goods. Use our six-question survey tool to learn more about the program and determine whether your community may be eligible to receive funding for a crossing project.

[> Let's Get Started!](#)

Freight Rail Investments

- According to TxDOT, the following opportunities exist to help the freight rail network develop in Kansas:
- *Enhance rail access through rehab of old lines and development of new lines/rail spurs, and increase intermodal/transload opportunities;*
- *Increase the weight capacity of certain rail track*
- *Reduction of network challenges at hinge points like grade crossings and RR junctions*
- *Highway/Rail Grade Separation and Safety Improvements.*
- *Short line support (esp. for ports, rural development projects and track weight)*

Nationally, the railroads are furthering international opportunities, investing in green economies and intermodal shipping, and preparing for increased freight demands and interactions with passenger traffic.



Ancillary Benefits to Consider

Freight rail provides \$26B in tax revenue nationally

Largely privately supported so no continued investment

Promotes rail jobs and supports job growth

Rail investment leads to fewer accidents & less pollution

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