

From the **Dallas Business Journal**

:<http://www.bizjournals.com/dallas/news/2012/10/16/txdot-launches-study-of-north-south.html>

TxDOT launches study of north-south passenger rail service

Dallas Business Journal by **Matt Joyce, Staff Writer**

Date: Tuesday, October 16, 2012, 12:29pm CDT



[Matt Joyce](#)

Staff Writer- Dallas Business Journal

[Email](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Google](#)

The **Texas Department of Transportation** is launching a \$14 million, two-year study of potential rail service between Oklahoma City and South Texas.

The study is being funded by a \$5.6 million grant from the **Federal Railroad Administration**, \$2.8 million in state money, a contribution from the Federal Highway Administration and in-kind services from Oklahoma and the North Central Texas Council of Governments, said [Penny Mason](#), a TxDOT spokeswoman.

The study will consider multiple options for developing passenger rail service connecting Dallas-Fort Worth, Austin and San Antonio, including various rail systems and funding mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships.

"To truly address congestion, we must look at more than just building and expanding highways," said [John Barton](#), TxDOT deputy executive director and chief engineer. "Passenger rail is a strategic component for the future of Texas transportation."

Contractors working on the project include CH2MHill and HNTB under separate contracts, Mason said.

Earlier this year, [a private consortium called Texas Central Railway Co. announced that it was conducting preliminary](#) engineering, market and financing studies to determine the viability of high-speed train service between DFW and Houston as a private enterprise.

Matt covers transportation, energy, government and economic development.