

## Houston-Beaumont Freight Rail Study

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Rail Division is currently developing a Houston-Beaumont Freight Rail (HBFRS) Study. This HBFRS Study is part of an ongoing process within the region to define projects that will move freight rail efficiently while increasing safety and reducing delay and impacts to the traveling public.

The goal of this HBFRS Study is to analyze the freight rail network and identify potential rail and roadway system improvements to address vehicular/rail interface performance and freight rail performance within the 11-county region bounded by the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) and the South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC), including Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Jefferson, Hardin, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, Orange, and Waller Counties. The HBFRS Study will evaluate freight infrastructure, freight movements, and operations; identify opportunities to increase freight movement efficiency; detail recommendations for near-term and long-range projects that improve freight mobility in the region; and determine the physical and financial viability of potential improvements.

The desired outcomes of the HBFRS Study include: support increasing rail demands with capacity or higher level of service improvements to ensure economic competitiveness; improve reliability like trip travel time of freight and the traveling public; and integrate safety improvements that improve circulation and generally improve conditions at or near grade-crossings.

The presentation will provide an update on the status and initial results of the HBFRS Study including grade separation recommendations; crossing closures; and rail capacity improvement projects.