

Memorandum of Understanding
Between the
Regional Transportation Council of the North Central Texas Council of Governments
and the
Lone Star Rail District

WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Council, comprised primarily of local elected officials is the regional transportation policy body associated with the North Central Texas Council of Governments, the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area, and has been and continues to be the regional forum for cooperative decisions on transportation in the Dallas-Fort Worth region; and

WHEREAS, the Lone Star Rail District (“District”) is a governmental entity planning and developing rail passenger service and freight rail improvements in the Central Texas region; and,

WHEREAS, passenger and freight rail service is a vital and growing part of the Texas transportation system; and,

WHEREAS, federal government emphasis on passenger rail improvements will require increased planning efforts to permit the Texas rail transportation system to participate in the nationwide efforts to improve rail transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the Texas Department of Transportation is in the process of planning for statewide rail transportation improvements; and,

WHEREAS, the Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, and San Antonio region contains a critical part of the existing rail transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the need exists to plan and coordinate planning efforts for rail transportation in the Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, and San Antonio region:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AGREED:

Section 1. The Council and the District agree to develop plans for passenger and freight rail transportation improvements in the Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, and San Antonio region and to serve as a coordinator for planning efforts by governmental and private entities within this region. It is the intent of the Council and District to assist and coordinate governmental and private entities in efforts to improve the passenger and freight rail transportation system within this region.

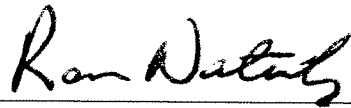
Section 2. The Council and the District will request the Texas Department of Transportation to join as a cooperating member with the Council and the District in order to allow the Council and the District to assist the Texas Department of Transportation with its ongoing rail planning efforts and to coordinate the rail planning activities in the Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, and San Antonio region.

Section 3. The Council and the District will be available to serve as a central point of contact for planning efforts for the region and will fully cooperate with governmental and private entities involved in passenger and freight transportation planning and development within the region. It is the intent of the Council and the District to fully cooperate with local, regional, and statewide planning efforts for passenger and freight rail improvements.

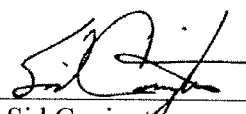
Section 4. The Council and the District will assist each other and governmental and private entities in planning, development of public support, obtaining of funding, reaching agreements between parties, and all other necessary activities to develop an improved and efficient passenger and freight rail transportation system in the region to serve the citizens of the state of Texas.

Dated to be effective this 14th day of APRIL, 2011.

Regional Transportation Council

By: 
Ron Natinsky, Chair
Councilmember, City of Dallas

Lone Star Rail District

By: 
Sid Covington
Chairman, Board of Directors