

FREIGHT RAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Description

Freight rail improvements include strategies that make infrastructure more efficient and encourage freight to move by rail. These include:

- Freight rail relocation or infrastructure improvements
- Intermodal transportation centers
- Rail crossing detection and warning

Investment in freight rail relocation/improvements or the construction of new intermodal centers can consolidate freight movement to rail corridors while removing some long-distance truck traffic from congested corridors.

Improved train detection can allow railroads and local agencies to coordinate incident management and improve crossing safety.

Target Market

- Freeways with substantial truck freight traffic
- Regions containing many train-truck interaction points
- Corridors with traffic congestion caused by freight rail traffic crossings

Freight rail improvements work best in locations where intermodal freight connections can be consolidated and where shipments travel over 500 miles.

How Will This Help?

- Reduce truck traffic on heavily traveled freeways, decreasing congestion.
- Improve safety at crossings (better warning systems) and on freeways (removing freight traffic).
- Increase speeds on freeways, rail corridors and near freight distribution centers.

Success Stories

- TxDOT, the City of Fort Worth, the BNSF Railway, and the Union Pacific Railroad have financially partnered to improve the major rail-rail intersection at Tower 55 in downtown Fort Worth. The project will relieve both rail congestion and highway-rail crossing congestion in the area.
- The Freight Action Strategy (FAST) Corridor partnership in the Seattle-Tacoma region has leveraged \$568 million in public and private funding for freight mobility infrastructure (both truck and rail) improvements along IH 5 since 1998.



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Cost:	●●●●●
Time:	Long
Impact:	Region
Who:	State/City/ Private
Hurdles:	Coordination & Funding

Implementation Issues

Coordination between local, state, and federal agencies and private railroad companies remains critical to improving freight rail efficiency and freeway congestion. The cost of significant freight rail upgrades can be prohibitive or prolong the design and implementation process for many years.