

Tower 55

Located near downtown Fort Worth, Texas, Tower 55 is one of the busiest and most congested railroad intersections in the United States. As many as 100 freight and passenger trains move through the area every day, carrying high priority intermodal goods, agricultural products, industrial and manufactured goods and low-sulfur coal. The result is heavy congestion. Relieving this congestion would positively affect community livability and nationwide economic development while reducing public costs.

Opportunity

Given the high volume of traffic at Tower 55, each train must slow or completely stop prior to passing through the intersection. This creates significant traffic delays, both for railcars and passenger vehicles. Additionally, congestion at Tower 55 can result in lengthy diversion routes, increasing fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. A study by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) has determined that improvements to Tower 55 would provide significant economic, environmental and safety benefits to the region and state.

Solution

BNSF, Union Pacific, NCTCOG, the city of Fort Worth, and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) worked together to secure National Infrastructure Investments Discretionary Grant (TIGER II) funding to make improvements at Tower 55. The improvements that have been proposed will meet freight and passenger rail demand well into the future and are consistent with the NCTCOG study objectives.

Funding will be used to install:

- Additional trackage north, south and through Tower 55 on BNSF and UP
- Improved track alignment and switches to promote faster train movements
- Enhanced signals/interlocker with Positive Train Control (PTC) compatibility
- New and structurally improved bridges and drainage structures
- City arterial street/intersection improvements and grade-crossing closures
- Improved pedestrian safety and viability and new emergency vehicle access adjacent to an elementary school and the neighborhood it serves

Support

The Tower 55 Project was recently rated by a TxDOT organized selection committee as the highest priority TIGER II project in Texas. Other supporters of Tower 55 include the City of Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Dallas and Fort Worth Chambers of Commerce, NCTCOG, Oklahoma DOT, and various other state and federal representatives.

Project Funding

• NCTCOG	\$ 2.5M
• City of Fort Worth	\$ 1.0M
• TxDOT	\$ 1.0M
• TIGER II Grant	\$34.0M
• BNSF/UP	\$55.2M
Est. Total Cost	\$93.7M

Communities and businesses will see benefits from Tower 55 improvements

Community walkability



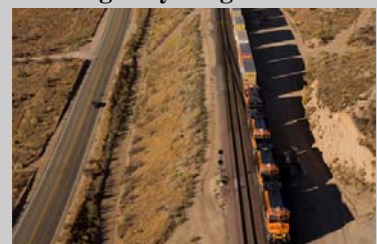
Pedestrian improvements and closed at-grade crossings near Tower 55 will significantly improve safety and mobility in the communities we serve.

Improved rail traffic flow



Train traffic often slows to a stop at Tower 55 as up to 100 trains pass the intersection each day. Improving the intersection will improve air quality and overall mobility in the North Texas region.

Less highway congestion



One intermodal train can carry 280 truck trailers, helping ease highway congestion. Our trains move 1 ton of freight 435 miles on 1 gallon of diesel, benefiting air quality and environmental sustainability.

Tower 55 At-Grade Improvement Benefits:

Livability

- Greater safety and reduced delays (100,000 hours per year) for motorists and pedestrians at crossings and bridges
- Improved air quality in a non-attainment basin
 - Carbon dioxide emissions reduced by over 93,000 tons per year—equivalent to eliminating over 15,000 cars per year
 - Nitrogen oxide emissions reduced by 13,000 tons over 20 years
 - Fuel consumption reduced by 22,600 gallons per day
- Improved emergency vehicle access to local neighborhoods
- Improved commuter rail reliability and performance

Economic Development

- 2,000 job-years of employment and 700 direct jobs spread over eight Economically Distressed Area counties
- Over \$1.1 billion in public benefits, or \$30 per \$1 federal investment
- \$996 million in supply chain costs avoided, benefiting manufacturers, shippers, receivers, and consumers
- Rail volume growth supported for 20 years

Public Affordability

- Faster project implementation than comparable highway projects
- No risk to the public of budget over-runs

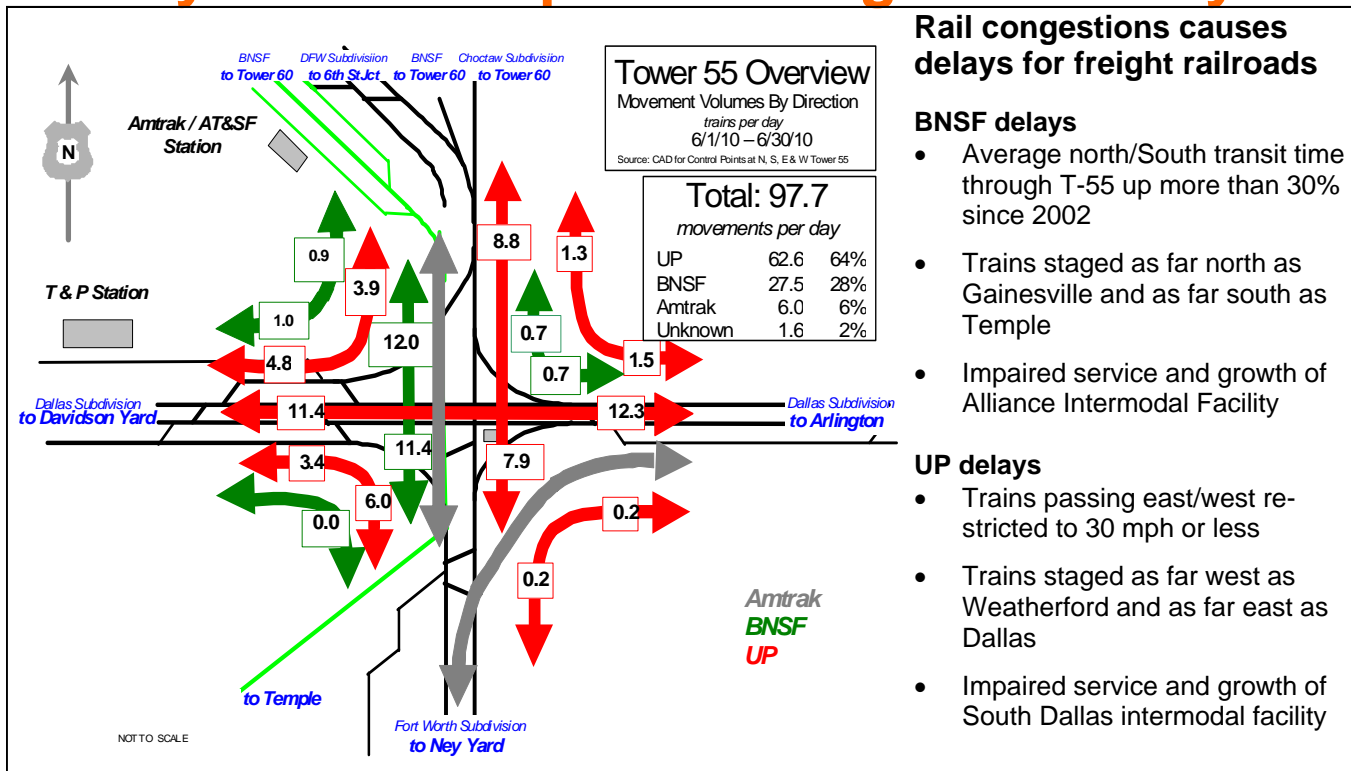
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Faster service



Chemicals shipped north from Houston, Midwest grain headed to Gulf ports and Mexico, intermodal containers traveling across country, travelers, and commuters will all benefit from upgraded track and signal systems at Tower 55.

Nearly 100 trains pass through T-55 daily



Rail congestions causes delays for freight railroads

BNSF delays

- Average north/South transit time through T-55 up more than 30% since 2002
- Trains staged as far north as Gainesville and as far south as Temple
- Impaired service and growth of Alliance Intermodal Facility

UP delays

- Trains passing east/west restricted to 30 mph or less
- Trains staged as far west as Weatherford and as far east as Dallas
- Impaired service and growth of South Dallas intermodal facility

