The I-20 Corridor passenger rail route should provide an excellent Return on Investment.

By connecting the relatively short distance between Marshall, Texas and Meridian, Mississippi (345 miles) on existing right of way to create this long-distance train between Fort Worth and Atlanta (to the East Coast), we open up all kinds of economic development and transportation opportunities.

We believe the I-20 Corridor passenger rail connection will be very beneficial for our states, region, and nation and should provide an excellent return on a relatively small capital investment.
SOME FACTS ABOUT THE I-20 CORRIDOR LONG-DISTANCE TRAIN

★ A 2015 Amtrak feasibility study determined that this long-distance passenger rail connection is economically viable and would:
  - require NO annual operating subsidy for any of the states through which the route traverses
  - operate over existing railroad infrastructure (right of way)
  - require no need for the exercise of eminent domain
  - travel at the currently authorized maximum speed of 79 mph
  - provide two trains daily (one eastbound, one westbound). For Fort Worth, Dallas, Mineola (Tyler), Longview, and Marshall who have Texas Eagle service, this would mean four trains daily between East Texas cities and Dallas/Fort Worth.

★ The I-20 Corridor Council (formerly the Ark-La-Tex Corridor Council) obtained almost $740,000 in federal funds in 2007 and 2008, with the assistance of former U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison for studies of the I-20 rail corridor. Using a portion of the federal grant funding, the Corridor Council is currently working with Amtrak, Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT), HNTB, and Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) of Texas A&M on a multi-state capacity study (TX, LA, MS) which will help identify the capital investments that will be required along the route.

★ A one-time capital investment will likely be required by the host railroads (Union Pacific, Trinity Railway Express, Kansas City Southern) to be paid by the states and/or federal government once the capacity study is completed and negotiations occur between Amtrak and the host railroads.

★ The Corridor Council is a strong, grassroots, multi-state coalition of mayors, local, state, and federal officials, business and economic development leaders, university and college presidents, and many other stakeholders who support this long-distance train. We have obtained Memoranda of Understanding from Councils of Governments representing all counties and parishes between Fort Worth eastward through Mississippi. The route also has the strong support of the Southern Rail Commission.

★ Officials who have already publicly stated their strong support for the proposed I-20 Corridor long-distance train include Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, Louisiana Secretary of Transportation Shawn Wilson, U.S. Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi, and U.S. Senator Roger Wicker of Mississippi.

By "connecting the dots" between Marshall, Texas and Meridian, Mississippi, we not only create an East-West connection between Texas and the East Coast, we also create a transcontinental connection from Los Angeles to New York (by connecting to the Texas Eagle and Sunset Limited).

Thank you for your kind consideration of this worthy transportation project to benefit our states, region, and nation.

For more information, please call the I-20 Corridor Council (903) 938-8373
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