



Tower 55 Fact Sheet

Project: Tower 55 At-Grade Improvements

Location: Fort Worth, Texas

Overview

Tower 55 is one of the nation's busiest and most congested rail intersections. Located just south of downtown Fort Worth, Texas, Tower 55 holds vital national and international significance, connecting freight and passenger travel between the West Coast, Southeast, Midwest, Gulf Coast, Mexico and Canada.

To alleviate congestion and enhance the flow of freight through Tower 55, Union Pacific, BNSF Railway, and city and regional governments developed plans to strategically link Texas' major economic centers with key domestic and international markets.

Problem

At and around Tower 55, multiple rail movements converge. As many as 100 passenger and freight trains travel through the area every day, carrying high-priority intermodal goods, agricultural products, low-sulfur coal, and industrial and manufactured goods.

Due to the volume, trains come to a complete stop prior to crossing Tower 55 and must be staged in sidings miles away as they approach and work their way through the intersection. Tower 55's current track and signaling configurations restrict train speeds, and delays near the tower can exceed 90 minutes per train. These significant delays impact rail and passenger vehicle traffic.

When critical shipments are forced to slow or stop as they reach Tower 55, the congestion can result in lengthy diversion routes that increase fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.

Solution

Union Pacific, BNSF Railway, North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the city of Fort Worth, and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) worked together to secure a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER II) grant – a supplementary discretionary grant awarded for capital investments in surface transportation projects – to make Tower 55 enhancements.

The new intersection will boost the local economy, create jobs and tie together the fastest growing markets in Texas, positioning Tarrant County as a strategic crossroads for goods movement in Texas and the southern U.S.



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Project Elements

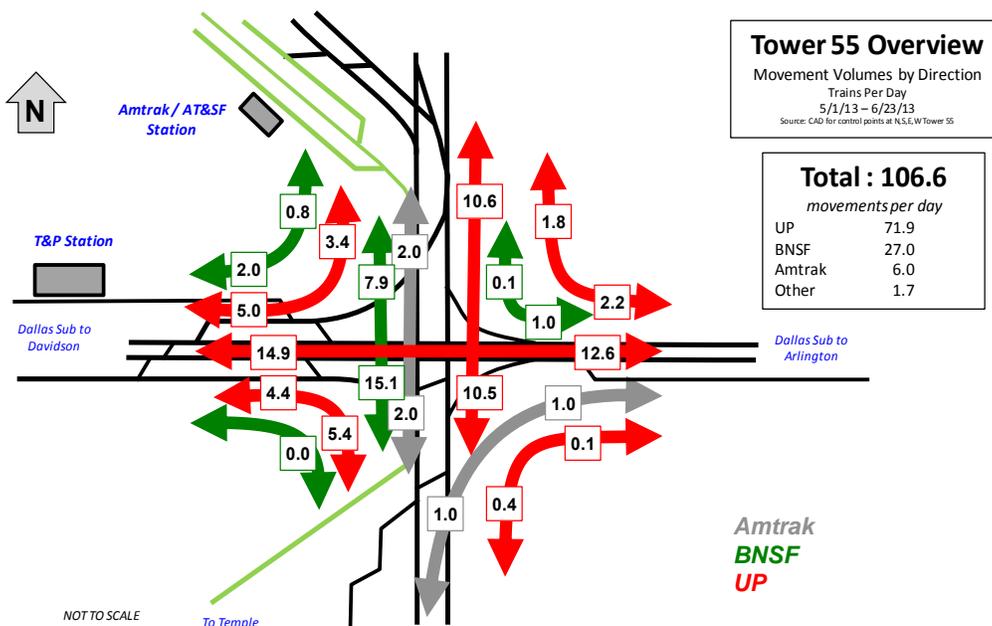
- Constructing a third north-south main line track through Tower 55.
- Building and improving staging tracks near Tower 55 to allow more efficient train flow through the area.
- Enhancing signal arrangement, track alignment and switches to promote faster train movements.
- Improving drainage.
- Building several new bridges.

Project Partners

- **Union Pacific** – \$39M
- **BNSF** – \$37M
- **Tiger II Grant** – \$34M
- **NCTCOG** – \$2.5M
- **TxDOT** – \$1M
- **City of Fort Worth** – \$1M

Tower 55 Current Traffic Flows

Every day, more than 100 trains pass through Tower 55



Benefits



Creates greater safety improvements and reduces vehicle crossing delays.



Generates nearly **900 jobs** throughout the 2-year life of the construction project.



Eliminates **165 million** gallons of fuel use over 20 years following completion of Tower 55.



Remedies one of the most significant transportation choke points in the U.S., and avoids nearly **\$667 million** in transportation costs.



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