



FAST FORWARD

The Newsletter for the
Texas High Speed Rail & Transportation Corp.

THSRTC Mission to D.C. a Success



The THSRTC delegation had a successful trip to D.C. February 5-7, 2008. They attended meetings with key players in D.C. in efforts to further the goals of THSRTC in achieving funding and national support.

The meeting at the U.S. Department of Defense resulted in a planned letter of support for the Texas T-Bone by the Army. Meetings with Texas Senators Hutchison and Cornyn, as well as many Congressional Representatives of Texas at the Capitol proved fruitful in gaining support and increasing the drive of the THSRTC. Another exciting meeting took place with Florida Congressman John Mica (see article for his national high speed rail plan).



Executive Committee

Robert Eckels – Chairman
Partner
Fulbright and Jaworski, LLP

Maurine Dickey – Vice Chairman
County Commissioner
Dallas County

Ed Emmett – Vice Chairman
County Judge
Harris County

William A. Jones III – Vice Chairman
Mayor
City of Temple

Gary Fickes – Secretary
County Commissioner
Tarrant County

James T. Edmonds – Treasurer
Chairman
Port of Houston Authority

Members & Associate Members

Timothy Hancock
Mayor, City of Killeen

Gwynn Orr
City of Hillsboro

Lynn McIlhane
Councilmember, City of College Station

Kenny Mallard
County Commissioner, Brazos County

Nene Foxhall
VP International & State Affairs
Continental Airlines

Kevin Cox
VP State and Community Affairs
American Airlines

Herbert A. Gears
Mayor, City of Irving

Alfred B. Knight
President - CEO
Scott & White Hospital

Resource & Cooperating Agencies

Dennis Christiansen
Deputy Director
Texas Transportation Institute

Carroll Robinson
Associate Dean
Texas Southern University

Da Hsuan Feng, Ph.D.
Senior Executive Vice President
National Cheng Kung University (Taiwan)

Tom Wilkinson, Jr.
Executive Director
Brazos Valley Council of Governments

Shannon Mattingly
Executive Director
Central Texas Council of Governments

Mayor Herbert Gears

Herbert A. Gears was elected to serve a three year term as mayor of the City of Irving in 2005. Mayor Gears served six years on the Irving City Council prior to his election as mayor. During this time he served in the capacity of Mayor Pro-Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem. As mayor, he represented the city on various local and regional boards and committees, including the Regional Transportation Council and the Metroplex Mayors Association.

Mayor Gears is the CFO for CMW Financial, Inc. Through personal and his company's involvement, Mayor Gears has been recognized for his volunteer activity with an emphasis in the field of education.

Mayor Gears joined THSRTC in 2006. He takes a special interest in the project due to the proposed rail link to DFW Airport. The City of Irving is enthusiastic about the positive impacts HSR will have on their community.

The City of Irving under the leadership of Mayor Gears has also enjoyed the continuation of the Transportation Summit. The Summit is the largest gathering



(Continued on page 2)

Chairman's Column



Robert Eckels
THSRTC Chairman

It has been a great spring so far for high speed rail working with our D.C. contacts on appropriations and corridor designation. See the articles on the D.C. Mission and the Global High Speed Rail Forum update in this issue. This issue also feature Irving Mayor Herbert Gears, host of the upcoming HSR Forum. Articles concerning the new French AGV train as well as THSRTC events are also included.

We are currently engaging communities along the corridor through presentations. A planned trip to Asia is also in the works for next month.

THSRTC Speaks at Mayor's Luncheon



City of Hillsboro Mayor Erwin hosted a luncheon on February 11th. The event was organized by Mayor Erwin and Gwynn Orr and was well attended. At the luncheon members of the community heard a one hour presentation by THSRTC. Chairman Robert Eckels spoke regarding the vision of the Texas T-Bone and the future of high speed rail in Texas. The information was well received and helps THSRTC get their message of their goals out to more people and increase support for THSRTC.



Mayor Herbert Gears (cont..)

(Continued from page 1)

of experts, government officials, and industry leaders in the nation and is the premier multimodal transportation conference in world. In conjunction with this year's Summit, Irving will also host the first Global High Speed Rail Forum. At the Forum High Speed Rail Associations from across the United States along with international experts and industry leaders will meet to discuss the future of high speed rail in the U.S. National and international dialogue fostered at this event will center around a national high speed rail initiative, financing options, and breaking the high speed rail policy code in the U.S.



THSRTC Upcoming Events

April 24: THSRTC Quarterly Meeting, Temple, TX

May 2-13: Fact-Finding Mission to Asia (Planned destinations: Korea, Taiwan & Shanghai, China)

August 10-12: Global High Speed Rail Forum, Irving, TX

August 12-15: 11th Annual Transportation Summit, Irving, TX

August 12: THSRTC Annual Meeting, Irving, TX

Mica's H.R. 5644



Nationalized high speed rail supporter John Mica of Florida recently released a new bill, H.R. 5644, to be presented before the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure providing for the "competitive development and operation of high-speed rail corridor projects".

The bill proposes that the current Northeast Corridor become a high speed rail corridor. In this aim

companies would get to bid on the project and the authority would be under the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The next portion outlines the same idea with two more corridors, which, as of yet, are to be determined. Prospective corridors, such as the Texas T-Bone, would be able to submit proposals for consideration.

THSRTC is excited by this revolutionary legislation which is one of the first to call for a national effort in high speed rail implementation in the U.S.

THSRTC Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, April 24th Mayor Bill Jones and the City of Temple will host the Spring Quarterly Meeting at the Wildflower Country Club. A luncheon from 11:30-1:00pm is open to the public while the private THSRTC members' meeting will follow from 1:00- 3:00pm.

Topics of discussion will include the latest high speed rail developments in Texas, Congressman Mica's new National High Speed Rail Bill, and business regarding



the rest of FYE 2008 and upcoming bylaws for FYE 2009.

Be sure to RSVP for the event by April 18th to Stephanie Hubbard at shubbard@dean.net or by phone 214.750.0123.

France Unveils AGV Train

The new 4th generation high speed rail train from Alstom was unveiled in France on February 5th: the AGV (Automotrice Grand Vitesse). The commercial speed of the new very high speed rail trail will average 224 mph but was tested in extreme speeds up to 357 mph.

The AGV is a lighter weight train and requires 15% less energy and can operate on all four kinds of electric tracks in Europe. Another feature is the ability to vary the train's length and capacity from 7 to 14 cars holding between 250 to 650 passengers.

The key innovation of the new train style is its articulation which keeps

the cars close together and increases safety in the event of derailment. Also the distributive drive system differs from traditional trains, as there is no engine car pushing or pulling the train; instead there are motors beneath the floor of the cars.

The new magnet motors also provide for easier maintenance and increased dependability. The wheels are designed to withstand 15% more wear and tear. The capability of recycling its own energy enables the AGV to send the energy not being used during braking to the power grid for redistribution. Overall the costs of operating an AGV train are 15%

less than Alstom's major competitors.

Interestingly, the funding for this model train came from Alstom. With the new design safety increases, noise reduction in the cabin, and the decrease in needed energy, the AGV train is an exciting new development in high speed rail. Alstom had great confidence in its success. The Italian Nuovo Trasporto Viaggiatori (NTV) has already ordered 25 trains and hopes to add more.

In other news from Alstom, Argentina and Morocco have placed orders for TGV duplex trains. Other major endeavors include California, Brazil, and China.



Update: Global High Speed Rail Forum

The first Global High Speed Rail Forum is well underway in development and planning. The City of Irving and Dean International, Inc. are working diligently to get speakers for the upcoming Global High Speed Rail Forum (more information in the right-hand column). Many informative and influential speakers are checking their schedules to appear at the Forum. Just a few of the exciting speakers invited include: companies and operators, such as Alstom, Taiwan High Speed Rail Corp., Samsung, and Bombardier; U.S. Rail Associations from Indiana, Florida, Virginia, California, and the Midwest; as well as U.S. Lawmakers such as, Senators Hutchison and Cornyn, and Congressmen Oberstar and Mica.

THSRTC looks forward with anticipation at the Global High Speed Rail Forum and the national dialogue it will foster concerning high speed rail in the United States.



Global HSR Forum

The need is visible

The solution is available

The technology is viable

Implementation is possible

The time is now
for a national
high speed rail system

AGENDA

Sunday, August 10th

6:00 pm: Registration
7:00 pm: Welcome Dinner

Monday, August 11th

7am - Registration
8am - Breakfast
9am - International Rail
Panel Sessions
12pm - Keynote Luncheon
2pm - Technology &
Finance Panel
Sessions
5pm - Keynote Dinner

Tuesday, August 12th

8am - Keynote Breakfast
9am - US Projects Panel
10am - US Policy Panel
11am - National Strategy
Development
12pm - Keynote Luncheon

Presented by

**Texas High Speed Rail &
Transportation Corporation
& the City of Irving, Texas**

8080 Park Lane,, Suite 600
Dallas , Texas 75231
Phone: 214-750-0123
Fax: 214-750-0124
E-mail: shubbard@dean.net



On October 24, 2002 the Texas High Speed Rail & Transportation Corporation (THSRTC) was incorporated as a not-for-profit Texas corporation with tax-exempt status under Section 501 (C)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. Since then, the corporation has experienced tremendous growth and has gained support at the local, regional, state and national levels as it strives to bring Texas an innovative high-speed rail and multimodal transportation corridor. Officials from the Cities of College Station, Hillsboro, Houston, Irving, Killeen, and Temple; as well as Brazos, Dallas, Harris, and Tarrant Counties have combined efforts with other entities such as the Port of Houston Authority, Scott & White Hospital, the Texas Transportation Institute, the Bush School of Public Policy, the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs, and others to pursue the development of a high-speed rail and multi-modal transportation system in Texas. The THSRTC developed the Brazos Express Corridor to link Ft. Hood, Temple, Killeen and College Station to Houston, and is working diligently to secure Congressional legislative language recognizing this corridor. The organization continues to work daily with elected officials to bring Texas an innovative high-speed rail and multimodal transportation corridor that would transport State residents into the 21st century.

Congressional Supporters

Senators:



Hutchison



Cornyn

Representatives:



Brady



Burgess



Carter



Cuellar



Edwards



Gonzalez



Green



Hall



Jackson



Johnson



Lampson



Marchant



McCaul



Neugebauer



Ortiz



Poe



Sessions

Legislative Caucus

Senators:



Averitt



Brimer



Carona



Deuell



Ellis



Harris



Uresti



Wentworth



West

Representatives:



Driver



Farais



Harper-Brown



Hill



Kolkhorst



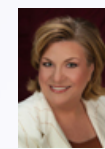
Latham



McClendon



Olivo



Pierson



Smith



Woolley

THSRTC would like to hear your ideas!

If you would like to submit an article or essay to be published in an upcoming edition of *Fast Forward*, please contact Heidi Kessell at Dean International, Inc. at hkessell@dean.net or by phone at 214.750.0123.



For more Information on THSRTC contact Stephanie Hubbard at SHubbard@dean.net or Nate Marsh at nmarsh@dean.net

Dean International, Inc. ■ 8080 Park Lane, Suite 600 ■ Dallas, TX 75231
Phone: 214.750.0123 ■ Fax: 214.750.0124