



FACT SHEET

Feasibility Study: Santa Teresa Rail Bypass & International Rail Port of Entry

What is the Santa Teresa International Rail Study?

The New Mexico Border Authority in coordination with the State of Chihuahua is conducting a study to evaluate the potential environmental impacts and economic benefits of relocating the existing international rail crossing between Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico and El Paso, Texas to a westerly location entering the United States in the vicinity of Santa Teresa, New Mexico. The study is being funded from a grant provided by the Economic Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and matching local funds provided by the City of Sunland Park, New Mexico. The study will be conducted in phases.

The goals of the first phase of the study include:

- Establish the optimum border crossing location
- Explore opportunities to relocate the existing BNSF downtown El Paso rail yard
- Conduct an environmental fatal-flaw analysis
- Engage state, federal, and local stakeholders
- Conduct an economic impact assessment and benefit/cost analysis
- Coordinate with both U.S. and Mexico state and federal agencies to begin the documentation needed to apply for a Presidential Permit, including the preparation and submittal of a Project Information Notification document to the State Department to determine the Lead Agency for the environmental component of a Presidential Permit application.

What is the purpose of the Santa Teresa International Rail Feasibility Study?

The purpose of the Study is to develop a financially viable, safe, reliable, and environmentally sustainable freight rail corridor which stimulates economic growth in southern New Mexico. The planning process will result in conceptual transportation alternatives that would improve rail

and associated vehicular transportation system capacity, address safety concerns, and promote economic development. The economic development would be a result of effective regional rail and associated economic opportunities. Ultimately, the objective of the Study is to evaluate a range of alternatives in order to identify the optimal alternative that best meets the purpose and need of the project.

Where is the study located?

In the United States, the study area is located largely within Doña Ana County and the Santa Teresa area in New Mexico, but it also includes a section of El Paso where current rail yards exist.

This study will coordinate with another rail bypass study being conducted by the State of Chihuahua on the Mexican side of the border. The complete study area is graphically depicted on the back side of this document.

How long will the study take?

This phase of the feasibility study commenced in February 2015 and is scheduled to conclude by November 2015.

What happens after this phase of the study?

The project team will create a report that generally follows New Mexico Department of Transportation Phase A Location Study Procedures, as well as requirements set by the National Environmental Policy Act and other state and federal regulations. Should the findings deem this project as feasible, this information will be used to advance the project, when funding becomes available, to environmental clearance and conceptual engineering, which will support the preparation of a Presidential Permit application.



NEW MEXICO
BORDER AUTHORITY



Transconsult

HNTB