

RAILCET INTELLIGENCE REPORT #15

To: RAILCET
From: Ray Chambers
Date: April 15, 2025

Subject: USDOT cancels grant to Amtrak to assist Texas Central

As of today, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has awarded more than \$28 billion in grant funding for intercity passenger rail projects under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. This figure encompasses a range of programs, including the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (FSP), the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program, and other related initiatives.

Through the Federal-State Partnership program, FRA has awarded Corridor Identification and Development (CID) Program grants across 44 states. Generally speaking, this is a good program or RAILCET contractors. While most of the CID grants have gone directly to states for corridor projects, Amtrak was awarded \$63.9 million to play a lead role in the Texas Central project. This morning, DOT killed that grant. According to Secretary Duffy, DOT and Amtrak agreed on this action and Amtrak withdraw from the project. To my knowledge this is the first CID grant already awarded to be terminated.

Does this mean the flood gates will open with mass termination? Hopefully not. Duffy indicated in Senate hearing last week that he will continue processing IIJA infrastructure grants (that includes in the CID and intercity passenger rail grants, on a bipartisan basis). Hopefully, this recent action is more about the Administration's plan for Amtrak's future that it is about a commitment to shut down the passenger rail infrastructure program.

Ray

https://www.progressiverailroading.com/high_speed_rail/news/Trump-administration-pulls-64M-Amtrak-grant-for-Texas-high-speed-rail-project--74327