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## Dallas Business Journal

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# Texas must unite for rail funds, Federal Railroad Administration official says

Dallas Business Journal - by [Jeff Bounds](#) Senior staff writer

Proponents of passenger rail in Texas must unite in order to get more federal money, a senior official of the **Federal Railroad Administration** said Friday.

Speaking at the Southwestern Rail Conference in Dallas, FRA deputy administrator Karen Rae said that while there were plenty of solid ideas for building passenger rail in the Lone Star State, “you must focus on how to build a (rail) network.”

On Thursday, the FRA awarded \$8 billion under the federal stimulus law’s high-speed and inter-city passenger rail program for efforts in various states. Only \$11 million of that went to projects in Texas, where officials had submitted applications for a total of \$1.8 billion worth of work, according to the **Texas Department of Transportation**.

All told, the FRA received more than \$55 billion worth of grant requests from 37 states and the District of Columbia for the \$8 billion in available funding, according to TxDOT.

“The issue,” Rae said, “is putting a plan together and thinking” about how to implement it.

The good news for rail advocates in Texas is that more federal money will be available in the future. For instance, an FRA spokesman, Rob Kulat, said the \$8 billion in the stimulus act will be bolstered by another \$2.5 billion in appropriations in the 2010 fiscal year.

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