

NATIONAL HIGHWAY FREIGHT NETWORK IN TEXAS

The National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) is focused on improving the efficient movement of freight on the National Highway Freight Network (NHFN). The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act funded the National Highway Freight Network (NHFP) at \$1.49 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 under the extension of the FAST Act. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) authorizes \$1.37 billion in FY 2022 and \$1.40 billion in FY 2023. The FAST Act required the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to establish a NHFN which has been continued under the recent IIJA and is comprised of the following components:

- Primary Highway Freight System (PHFS) The PHFS, as designated by FHWA, is a network of highways identified as the most critical highway portions of the U.S. freight transportation system. Texas' portion of the PHFS totals 3,727.77 miles.
- Other Interstate portions not on the PHFS These highways consist of the remaining portion of interstate highways not included in the PHFS. These routes provide important continuity and access to freight transportation facilities. Texas has a total of 95 miles of non-PHFS Interstates.
- Critical Urban/Critical Rural Freight Corridors These designations were created at the federal level to allow TxDOT and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to add to the NHFN. CUFCs are determined by TxDOT in partnership with metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), and CRFCs are designated by TxDOT. TxDOT is limited by federal law to approximately 745 miles of CRFC corridors and 382 miles of CUFC corridors. These locations must meet federal criteria and are submitted to FHWA to become eligible for NHFP funding.

The FAST Act restricts NHFP funding on non-Primary Highway Freight System (PHFS) interstates in states deemed high mileage states, defined as containing more than 2% of the national PHFS. Texas is a high mileage state, and thus, cannot use NHFP funding on non-PHFS interstate locations. The Exhibit on the left displays the PHFS and non-PHFS interstates on the NHFN in Texas. In addition to these national freight designations, the Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) designation identifies the highways most important for military transportation.

