



# 2020 Southwestern Rail Conference (Jan 23-24<sup>th</sup>)

City Councilor / Mayor pro tem Rick Stephens, City Manager Erik Zimmer

# Conference Content



- ▶ Tourist Rail-lines
- ▶ Technology Improvements (Safety Relevance), Autonomous Rail
- ▶ Rail as Economic Development
- ▶ Interconnection with Local Transport
- ▶ State Level Legislation
- ▶ Federal Level (Infrastructure Bills and how to access the Grant dollars)

# Focus & Take-Aways



- Our Focus – Develop Relationships and Learn
  - Approaches to alleviate blockage of 5<sup>th</sup> Street by UP crew changes
  - Continue engagement with TransPacífico about their plans and the implications for increased train traffic on north/south rail
  - Gather information about how to pursue Federal Grants
- Take-aways
  - Ordinance to help alleviate blocked 5<sup>th</sup> Street for extended periods of time (contemplated this Council meeting)
  - Start developing plans for alternate routes and look towards Federal Grants - CRISI,INFA and BUILD
  - Continued engagement to influence TxDot Regional Freight Study important
  - Prioritize, Prepare, Present, Promote



# What's Next

- ▶ Key Relationships
  - ▶ Megan Kenney – TxDOT Government Liason
  - ▶ Jorge Chozas – VP Operations, TransPacífico
  - ▶ Eric Watkins staff – Economic Development Union Pacific
  - ▶ Jim Mathews – President and CEO, Rail Passenger Association
  - ▶ Chris Cornell – CSA
  - ▶ All elected officials in Region
- ▶ Transportation Vision Plan
  - ▶ Develop City Committee (or Board) to pull Vision Plan – similar to activities for City Vision plan in 2015-16 and Parks Master Plan
  - ▶ Get in front of increased Train and Truck traffic