Railroads – Freight Rail

The Texas Gulf Coast comprises some of the nation’s most extensive freight-rail hubs thanks to a combination of marine shipping, manufacturing, refineries and a large population base.

Railroads Serving the Houston Region

- Eleven mainline tracks radiate from Houston, and there are more than 1,000 miles of freight-carrying railroad track in the Houston region.

- Three Class I Railroads serve the Houston area: Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF), Kansas City Southern Railway (KCS) and Union Pacific Railroad. In addition to the Class I railroads, Houston has three switching and terminal railroads: Galveston Railroad, L.P (GVSR), Port Terminal Railroad Association (PTRA) and Texas City Terminal Railway Company.

- Combined, BNSF and UP operate approximately 2,000 trains of all types across nearly 1,200 at-grade roadway crossings in Greater Houston.

- The four Houston region ports (Houston, Texas City, Freeport and Galveston) have a combined 535,234 railcar transits annually.