



WELCOME!

The purpose of today's workshop is to introduce you to details of the Iowa State Rail and Freight Plans, explain your role in the development process, answer questions and receive your comments.

Today we will:

- Develop a baseline understanding of your thoughts on multimodal freight development, transportation safety, economic development, passenger rail, targeted state investment and hazardous materials transportation; and
- Integrate and coordinate stakeholder and public involvement with technical planning activities that have already occurred.

Background

In September 2013, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) published its Final State Rail Plan Guidance, which provided direction for State Rail Plan stakeholder and public involvement. We are actively engaging private sector rail and freight infrastructure owners, public planning agencies, transit operators, rail authorities, railroad and freight organizations, and passenger rail stakeholders. The Iowa State Rail Plan will identify proposed improvements in urban and rural areas for those who travel through it.

The State Freight Plan outlines freight planning activities that will achieve the objective for the state to provide a safe, efficient and convenient freight transportation system to Iowans. The Freight Plan is a way to connect all of these initiatives and allow them to move forward towards a common goal of optimal freight transportation throughout the state. In addition, the Freight Plan will guide our investment decisions to maintain and improve the freight transportation system, and ultimately strengthen Iowa's economy and raise the quality of life for our citizens.

The development of a comprehensive Iowa State Rail Plan in collaboration with the implementation of the Freight Plan offers an opportunity for us to accurately define what the rail and freight system in the state looks like today and what it needs to look like in the future.

State Rail and Freight Plan Overlap

The State Rail and Freight Plans are closely related and have several overlapping activities. Combining public engagement efforts of both the Rail and Freight Plan allows us to integrate feedback appropriately. Due to the subject matter, there is natural overlap of information, data and analysis for both rail and freight.

Draft State Rail Plan Goals

- Create a state rail vision and a supporting program of proposed public rail investments and improvements that will result in quantifiable economic benefits to Iowa.
- Enable Iowa to implement an efficient and effective approach for merging passenger and freight rail elements into the larger multimodal and intermodal transportation framework.
- Incorporate initiatives from the federal and state level, aligning the priorities of Iowa rail stakeholders.
- Provide a vision for integrated freight and passenger rail planning in the state, unifying the common interests of the various stakeholders within Iowa.
- Coordinate with the development of the Iowa Freight Plan and the Iowa State Transportation Plan.
- Ensure an open and inclusive process.
- Provide an outline to educate the public on Iowa's rail system.

State Freight Plan Goals

- Improve the contribution of the freight transportation system to economic efficiency, productivity, and competitiveness
- Reduce congestion on the freight transportation system
- Improve the safety, security, and resilience of the freight transportation system
- Improve the state of good repair of the freight transportation system
- Use advanced technology, performance management, innovation, competition, and accountability in operating and maintaining the freight transportation system
- Reduce adverse environmental and community impacts of the freight system
- Gather stakeholder input around key areas: multimodal freight development, transportation safety, economic development, passenger rail, targeted state investment and hazardous materials transportation.

What's Next?



STAY INVOLVED

- Participate in the workshop's online survey: <http://engagefreightrailplans.iowadot.gov/resources/surveys>
- Visit us at <http://engagefreightrailplans.iowadot.gov>
- Email us: at info@EngageRailFreightPlans.com

What is the Schedule for the Plans?

