Federal Mandate to Complete State Rail Plans

• The federal Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) of 2008 required states to have approved State Rail Plans, confirmed by FAST Act

• Inclusion within a state rail plan will be considered by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for competitive grant programs
  • TIGER Discretionary Grant program
  • INFRA
  • FRA grant programs
Other Reasons for Completing State Rail Plan

• Engage in dialogue with stakeholders and general public regarding rail priorities, provide guidance for future activities

• Assess rail needs and develop a list of potential rail improvement projects

• Articulate rail’s benefits to Ohio and rail’s role within the Ohio transportation network, communicate with public and decision-makers

• Compile factual information on Ohio’s rail network
Types of Rail Covered by State Rail Plans

**Freight Rail**

![Image of a freight train](source: Tyler Simmons)

**Intercity Passenger Rail**

![Image of an intercity passenger train](source: All Aboard Ohio)

**Commuter Rail**

![Image of a commuter train](source: All Aboard Ohio)
Primary Elements of State Rail Plan

1. Role of Rail
2. Existing Rail System
3., 4. Issues and Opportunities, Initiatives
5. Rail Service and Investment Program
6. Coordination and Review

Organization of the Rail Plan is prescribed by the FRA, although some flexibility is allowed
Chapter 1: Role of Rail Chapter

1. Role of Rail

- State’s goals for the multimodal system
- Rail’s role within transportation system (modal share, etc.)
- How state is set up to support rail, including organizations involved in rail and legislative authority
2.1 Existing Rail System: Description and Inventory

- Description of rail lines including condition
- Summary of passenger and freight terminals, multimodal connections
- Description of passenger rail services, performance
- Inventory of potential sources for funding and financing
- Summary of safety programs and projects
- Analysis of rail’s economic and environmental impacts
2.2 Existing Rail System: Trends and Forecasts

- Demographic and economic trends
- Freight demand and growth
- Passenger demand and growth
- Other
  - Fuel costs
  - Rail congestion
  - Highway and airport congestion
  - Land use
Chapters 3, 4: Issues, Opportunities, Proposed Improvements and Investments

• Chapter 3: Passenger Rail Issues and Opportunities, proposed Improvements and Investments
• Chapter 4: Freight Rail Issues and Opportunities, proposed Improvements and Investments

Example
Rail initiatives:
• Safety and crossings
• State of good repair/corridor preservation
• Economic development
• Connectivity

Focus on Projects in the Planning Stage Rather than Concepts
5. Rail Service and Investment Program

- Vision, Goals and Objectives
- Project list (funded and unfunded)
  - Project costs
  - Description of anticipated benefits
- Estimate of likely available funding (state and federal)
- List of anticipated studies and reports if applicable
- Description of organizational changes if anticipated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Costs</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short line rail, ties, surfacing</td>
<td>$5M</td>
<td>State of good repair, operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand intermodal terminal</td>
<td>$15M</td>
<td>Economic development, shipper savings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build rail spur</td>
<td>$1M</td>
<td>Economic development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New loop track at port</td>
<td>$10M</td>
<td>Shipper savings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 6: Coordination and Review

Summary of how stakeholders and public were involved in preparing the state rail plan

Description of issues raised, how addressed in the state rail plan

Description of how state rail plan was coordinated with other planning efforts

Example

Safety Issues raised
- Concern over crossings on rail line with traffic growth
- Railroads want to close redundant crossings

Economic development issues
- Opportunity to grow logistics-related employment
- Opportunity to support growth industries

State of good repair
- Bridges need improvement
- Excepted track
Stakeholder and public outreach

• Two surveys
  • Survey emailed to short line/regional railroads
  • Online survey for everyone else

• Separate questionnaire for NS, CSX

• Commission meetings

• Meetings with stakeholder groups

• Meetings with specific stakeholders including you
Timing of the Rail Plan

- **Summer 2017**: Role of Rail
- **Now**: Inventory, Issues and Opportunities, Initiatives
- **Summer 2018**: Planning for the Future – Investment Program, Draft and Final Rail Plan
Additional Opportunities for Public Involvement

• Take a survey –


• Review draft materials and draft document when available in Summer of 2018

• Rail plan on agenda of ORDC Policy Committee bimonthly meetings

• Can send comments or set up meeting with ORDC or consultant staff:
  • Tim Brown, ORDC, Timothy.Brown@dot.ohio.gov
  • Alexander King, WSP, Alexander.King@WSP.com
Key Questions

• What opportunities exist?
• What deficiencies need to be improved?
• If Ohio were to chase a new freight rail federal funding opportunity, what sorts of projects should it pursue funding for?
• What state policy or funding issues should be addressed?
## Potential Issues and Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crossing issues</td>
<td>Rail and economic development</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Improvements, safety, grade separations</td>
<td>- Rail-served developments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Blocked crossings</td>
<td>- Improved access to existing customers</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Quiet zones</td>
<td>- Rail and logistics employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land use</td>
<td>- Intermodal Terminals and Freight hubs</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Rail activity v. residential</td>
<td>- International trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short line/rail preservation</td>
<td>- Opportunities for highway to rail diversion</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Condition of short lines/ability to</td>
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<tr>
<td>accommodate 286,000 pound railcars</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Inactive rail lines/corridor preservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Multimodal improvements</td>
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<td>- Mainline access</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Need for infrastructure to support unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>train operations at harbors, in yards,</td>
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<td>or at sidings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passenger rail</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Stations</td>
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