13.0 Crude Oil and Ethanol Transportation: Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Methodology

This section presents a top-level summary of the risks and vulnerabilities associated with transporting crude oil and ethanol by rail through Iowa. The Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA) is a tool that considers crude oil transportation routes, recorded previous events, likelihood of future incidents, and potential impacts from those incidents to derive an aggregate value for risk. County-specific information may be available to those who are authorized to review it upon official request to Iowa DOT.

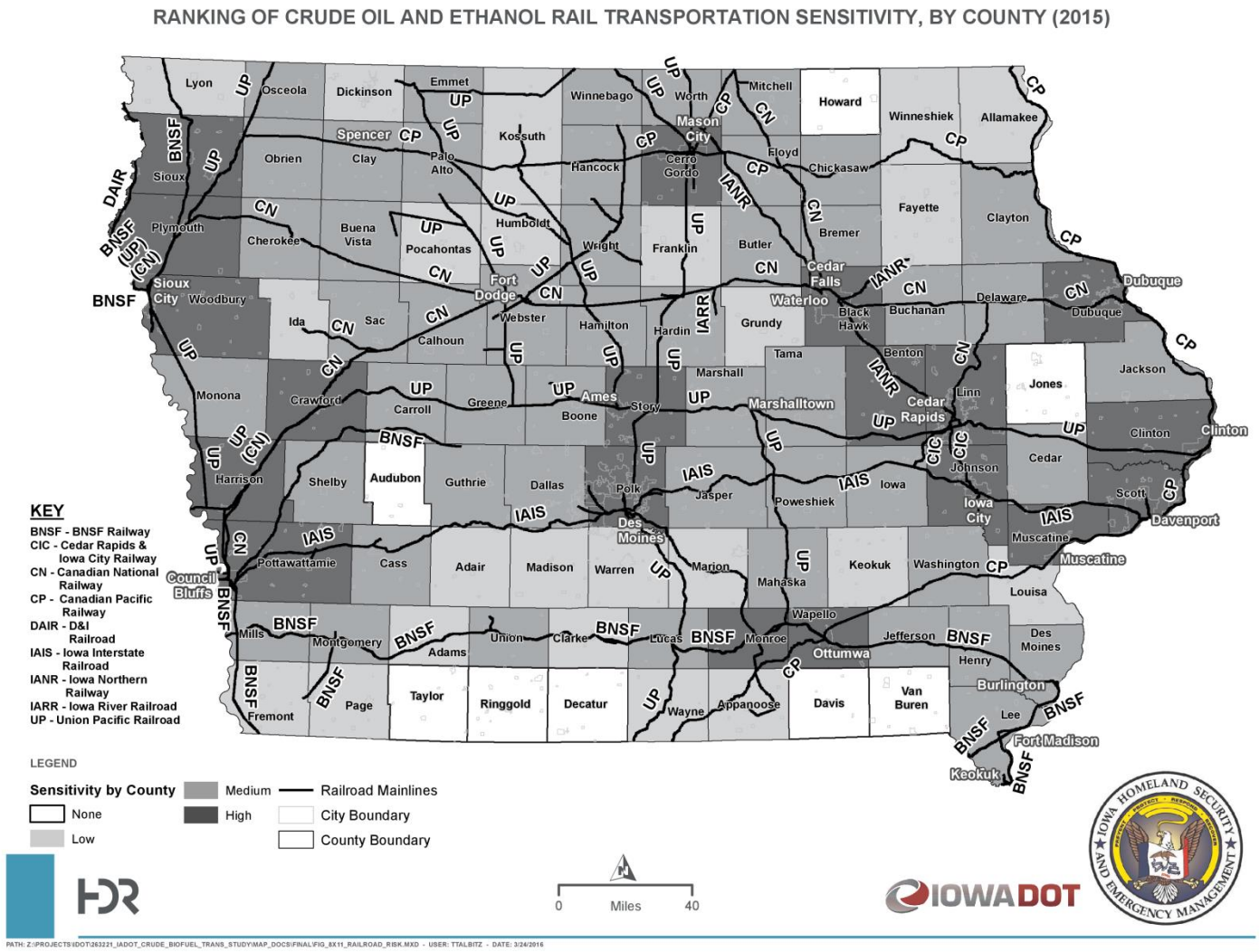
This RVA is a building block process using various factors, such as length of railroad track, volume of traffic on the rails, and populations, critical facilities, and environmentally important segments within an identified hazard area. The individual factors are analyzed to determine and overall risk for a given county. The data and information provided for this RVA are the best available data at the time of collection and should be regarded as a snapshot in time; data could change over time. In addition, all risk assessment results are based on methodology designed specifically for the State of Iowa using Iowa-specific data, statistics, and conditions.

The results of the "Risk and Vulnerability Assessment," in its entirety, can be found in Appendix E. It is intended for planning purposes only, including prioritization and development of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and/or recovery strategies and resources.

13.1 Results

Figure 19, below, depicts a graphical ranking by Iowa county of bulk crude oil and ethanol rail transportation sensitivity. It is crucial to note that this map does not indicate the likelihood of a rail transportation incident, but aids in reinforcing the intended actions of the RVA.

Figure 19. Ranking of Crude Oil and Ethanol Rail Transportation Sensitivity, by County (2015)



Source: HDR, Inc. as of 3/24/2016