

Comprehensive State Rail Plan & Freight Planning Public/Stakeholder Input Support

MPO Quarterly Meeting Update

June 16, 2015

- Consultant: HDR
 - Duration: 12-18 months
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- Iowa is required to update a State Rail Plan every 5 years – per Section 303 of PRIIA (Passenger Rail Infrastructure Investment Act) of 2008
 - Requires each state to develop FRA accepted state rail plans and encourage state involvement in rail policy, planning and development.
 - The guidance explains the process to be followed and the minimum content requirements
 - FRA issued State Rail Plan Guidance was published in September 2013
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- Our plan is go above and beyond the guidance to provide additional information, which would include, but is not limited to:
 - Unique issues to Iowa
 - Identify rail-dependent commodities and industries
 - Identify essential rail corridors by commodity
 - Recommend how to enable short line railroads to better support Iowa's economic development efforts
 - Look at abandonments more closely
 - Identify public benefits of the rail system and public investment to the rail system
 - Identify railroad needs and priorities (identified by those public and private partners)
 - Identify solutions to rail system bottlenecks
 - Linking the State Rail Plan and State Freight Plan
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- Overall Tasks for the State Rail Plan Effort
 - Stakeholder Coordination and Public Outreach
 - Statewide Rail Steering Committee
 - Public Involvement Plan
 - Focus Groups
 - High Leverage Stakeholder Committee
 - Public Meetings
 - Online Public Meetings
 - State Rail Plan Video
 - Selected Shipper Interviews
 - Project Webpage
 - Role of Rail in Statewide Transportation
 - Illustrate the current and proposed future role of rail in Iowa's multimodal transportation system.
 - Existing Rail System: Description and Inventory
 - Provide an overview and inventory of Iowa's existing rail system
 - Describe the trends that will impact the need for rail in Iowa
 - Identify the needs and opportunities for passenger and freight rail service in Iowa
 - Proposed Passenger Rail Improvements and Investments

- Describe the passenger rail improvements and investments that could address the passenger rail needs of Iowa
 - Proposed Freight Rail Improvements and Investments
 - Describe the improvements and investments that could address the freight rail needs of Iowa
 - Rail Service and Investment Program
 - Describe Iowa's long-term vision for rail service and its role in the statewide multimodal transportation system
 - Draft State Rail Plan Preparation and Presentation
 - Final State Rail Plan
 - **Tentative Schedule**
 - Final Public Involvement Plan Complete – July 31, 2015
 - Five Focus Group Meetings – TBD
 - Three High Leverage Stakeholder Committee Meetings – TBD
 - One Public Open House – TBD
 - One Online Public Meeting – TBD
 - Rail Plan Video – December 2015
 - Draft State Rail Plan – June 2015
 - Final State Rail Plan – July 2015
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