2040 NORTH DAKOTA STATE RAIL PLAN
REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

PREPARED FOR
NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PREPARED BY
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MAY 17, 2016 - MAY 19, 2016
Why A State Rail Plan

- Required by 2008 Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act for certain categories of federal funding
- Federal Railroad Administration views as a condition of any federal funding
- Offers an opportunity for stakeholder and the public to influence the future of rail
- Identifies future rail service, infrastructure, and policy needs
- Provides a road map for improving/expanding rail service and rail safety
- Provides an education in rail transportation
North Dakota Rail Plan Elements

- The role of rail in statewide transportation
- North Dakota rail system
  - Infrastructure and Facilities
  - Operations and Performance
  - Traffic and Trends
  - Institutions
  - Safety
North Dakota Rail Plan Elements

- Freight rail needs: infrastructure, service, policy, organization
- Passenger rail needs: stations, routes, service
- The State’s Rail Service and Investment Program
Analytical Framework of the Plan

- Profiles freight and passenger rail traffic, infrastructure services, institutions, safety
- Assesses the performance of rail lines

Vision, Goals, Objectives

- Guides actions, programs, priorities

Issues and Opportunities

- Consultation with stakeholders
- Review of data, including performance data

Planning for the Future – Investment Program

- Improvements
- Prioritization
- Funding plan
Identification of Rail Needs and Opportunities
Stakeholder and Public Input

- Stakeholders:
  - Railroads
  - Freight shippers/passenger advocates
  - State agencies
  - Local agencies, MPOs, economic development groups
  - Tribal nations
  - Multi-state organizations
  - Others
- Website/On-line survey
- Phase I “Listening Tour”
- Three regional workshops
- Three industry forums
- Interest group meetings
- Interviews
- Public meetings
Trends and Other Considerations

- Safety concerns
- Market expansions and emerging industries
- Changing trade patterns
- Reconfiguration of logistics networks
- Railroad strategies
- Demographics
- Changing land-use patterns
- Policy changes
# Needs and Opportunities Identification

**Effectiveness of Institutional Structure, Rail Programs, Policies**

- Evaluation of institutional structure
- Recommended improvements

**Rail Transportation, Economic, Environment, and Safety Assessment: Needs and Opportunities**

- Assessment of rail benefits/contributions
- Identification of needs and opportunities: mobility, connectivity/access, state of good repair, economic development, environment, safety/security
Rail Service and Investment Program
# Rail Service and Investment Program

## Rail Service Investment Projects and Initiatives
- Identification of projects and initiatives: infrastructure, operations, policies, institutions
- Determine costs
- Scoring of Initiatives

## Rail Service and Investment Program
- Prioritization
- Funding alternatives
- Rail Service and Investment Program
- Implementation plan
Rail Plan Roll-Out

Final Plan Preparation  
- Draft plan for public comment  
- Final state rail plan  
- Final state rail plan rollout
North Dakota 2014 Rail Tonnage - Direction

Directional Distribution

- Inbound: 8%
- Intrastate: 3%
- Outbound: 41%
- Through: 48%
North Dakota Rail Tonnage - Trend

North Dakota Rail Traffic Growth 2000-2015 (Est)
North Dakota Rail Tonnage – Commodity Mix

Outbound Rail Shipments by Commodity (Millions of Tons)

- **CRUDE OIL**
  - 2014: 28.4
  - 2015 Est: 33.5

- **FARM PRODUCTS**
  - 2014: 17.6
  - 2015 Est: 19.2

- **FOOD OR KINDRED PRODUCTS**
  - 2014: 4.8
  - 2015 Est: 4.7

- **CHEMICALS OR ALLIED PRODUCTS**
  - 2014: 3.1
  - 2015 Est: 2.5

- **PETROLEUM OR COAL BASED...**
  - 2014: 1.6
  - 2015 Est: 0.9

- **OTHER**
  - 2014: 0.4
  - 2015 Est: 0.4
Today’s Discussion

• What are the strengths of North Dakota’s rail system?
• What are the deficiencies of North Dakota’s rail system?
• What should be the state’s rail priorities?
• What opportunities does Rail transportation provide?
• What improvements are required? What specific projects?