

2018
New Mexico State Rail Plan
Update Presentation



New Mexico Railroad Map



Arizona Eastern (AZER)	NMRX	AMTRAK Sunset Limited
BNSF Railway (BNSF)	Navajo Mine Railroad	AMTRAK Southwest Chief
Cumbres and Toltec Scenic (C&T)	Southwestern (SW)	
Escalante Western (EW)	Texas - New Mexico (TXN)	
Santa Fe Southern (SFS)	Union Pacific (UP)	
	Abandoned Line	
Town	AMTRAK	Major Yard
	Automotive Ramp	Intermodal Ramp



Why Develop a Rail Plan?

- Required by the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA)
- Required to receive future funding from Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
- Coordinates with New Mexico's Long Range Transportation and Freight Plans

Purposes of Rail Plan

- Describes State Rail resources
- Sets forth State policy regarding passenger and freight rail transportation
- Presents priorities and strategies to enhance rail service that benefits the public
- Serves as the basis for Federal and State rail investments

Rail Plan Contents

- Vision, goals and objectives
 - ✓ Guide actions, programs, prioritizations
 - ✓ Provide linkages to State Transportation Plans
- Rail systems inventory and assessment
 - ✓ System inventory (freight and passenger)
 - ✓ Performance assessment
 - ✓ Issues and opportunities
 - ✓ Current and future needs
- Planning for the future
 - ✓ Prioritization of investments
 - ✓ Economic, environmental, community factors
 - ✓ Implementation of plan

Rail Plan Process

- Stakeholder outreach to determine needs, issues, and priorities
- Public involvement
- Draft rail plan
- Public and stakeholder review and comment
- Final rail plan submitted to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for approval
- Update plan every 4 years

Rail Plan Schedule

Milestones	2017									2018										
	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	
Stakeholder Outreach	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■								
Draft Plan									■	■	■									
Public Review													■	■	■					
Final Plan																■	■	■		
FRA Review / Acceptance																			■	■

- Initial outreach to MPOs and RTPOs in Summer of 2017
- Draft Rail Plan – Spring 2018
- Public meetings – Mid 2018
- Second round of presentations to MPOs and RTPOs - Mid 2018

Public Involvement

- Transit and Rail Page on NMDOT Website –
http://dot.state.nm.us/content/nmdot/en/Transit_Rail.html
 - 2014 Rail Plan
 - Public Presentation Schedule
 - Additional information
 - Link to On-Line Rail Survey (Closes 09/15/2017)
- Email Comments and Questions: Rail.Plan@state.nm.us

Updating the 2014 New Mexico State Rail Plan

New Mexico State Rail Plan



2014 Rail Plan

Vision Statement

The State of New Mexico's vision for its rail network is a fully-integrated and safe multimodal rail system that provides efficient passenger services to, from, and within the state; provides a competitive option for New Mexico shippers; is a vital component of the national transportation network; and supports sustainable, inclusive economic development statewide.

2014 Rail Plan Statewide Goals

Four main goals for rail in New Mexico:

1. Support economic growth and development;
2. Improve railroad safety and security;
3. Maintain railroad assets in a state of good repair;
and
4. Promote efficient passenger rail service

Goal: Support Economic Growth and Development

- Increase capacity of long-distance freight corridors
- Develop and promote local freight connections
- Promote rail-related tourism
- Link rail investments to strategies that support economic development

Goal: Improve Railroad Safety and Security

- Positive Train Control (PTC)
- Develop and implement other mandatory safety-related measures
- Improve highway-rail grade crossing safety
- Improve rail security

Goal: Maintain Railroad Assets in a State of Good Repair

- Improve the conditions of the state's Class III rail lines
- Maintain/improve the conditions of the NMRX rail lines

Goal: Promote Efficient Passenger Rail Service

- Improve passenger rail options in New Mexico as part of a multimodal transportation system
- Improve Rail Runner operations
- Identify stable and predictable funding for Rail Runner and NMRX rail lines

2014 Rail Plan Stakeholder Statewide Issues

- Passenger rail service improvements
 - Existing Rail Runner alignment
 - New commuter/regional passenger rail
 - High speed/intercity passenger rail
- Support local economic development
- Grade crossing safety
- Positive Train Control (PTC)
- Santa Teresa border crossing

Factors Affecting Prioritization of Project Funding

- Need to maintain the State's existing railroad infrastructure in a state of good repair
- Need to comply with Federal safety mandates
- Limited overall public funding from Federal, State and local sources
- Restrictions on use of available Federal funding
- Anti-Donation Clause

Major Developments Since 2014

- Santa Teresa intermodal facility opened in 2014
- BNSF double-tracking projects completed through New Mexico in 2016
- New transload facilities in Albuquerque's South Valley being developed
- TIGER Grant funds are being used to replace railroad ties on NMDOT track used by Amtrak Southwest Chief in 2017
- Intermodal facilities being developed along BNSF Transcon (Gallup, Los Lunas)
- New rail-served facilities being developed in southeast New Mexico

We Want Your Comments On

- The Vision Statement
- Rail projects and priorities
- Funding mechanisms for rail
- Rail policy

Thank You



Please send comments and questions to:
Rail.Plan@state.nm.us