2018
New Mexico State Rail Plan
Update Presentation
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder Outreach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Plan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Review</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Plan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>FRA Review / Acceptance</td>
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</tbody>
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- 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
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