Federal Railroad Administration – State Rail Plan Requirements

| State Rail Plan Requirements | |
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| The Role of Rail in Statewide Transportation (Overview) | * The State’s goals for the multimodal transportation system. * A conceptual analysis of rail transportation’s role within the State’s transportation system. * A description of the institutional governance structure of the State rail program(s) and local agencies involved in delivering rail services, * A description of the State’s authority for grant, loan, and public/private partnership financing; * A summary of the freight and passenger rail services, initiatives and plans |
| The State’s Existing Rail System | * The existing freight, intercity passenger, and commuter rail transportation system, services currently operating, operating objectives, and system performance * Major freight and passenger terminals and stations that serve as intermodal connections, including seaports and airports. * Objectives for the passenger rail services operating within the State, including minimum service levels by route, including service frequency, capacity, and projected ridership * A performance evaluation of intercity passenger services operating in the State (both interstate and intrastate services) according to metrics such as those established under PRIIA Section 207 * A statement on public financing for rail projects and service in the State, including a list of current and prospective public capital and operating funding resources, public subsidies, State taxation, and other financial policies * Ongoing programs and projects intended to improve the safety and security * A general analysis of rail transportation’s economic and environmental impacts |
| Trends and Forecasts | * Demographic and economic growth factors * Freight demand and growth by type of service, e.g. intermodal, commodity, manifest. * Passenger travel demand and growth * Fuel cost trends * Rail congestion trends * Highway and airport congestion trends * Land use trends |
| Rail Service Needs and Opportunities |  |
| Proposed Passenger Rail Improvements and Investments |  |
| Proposed Freight Rail Improvements and Investments |  |

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| The State’s Rail Service and Investment Program | * **Vision Statement** * **Program Coordination:** Describe how the State’s long-term vision integrates with other transportation planning efforts, including the State’s Long-Range Transportation Plan, national rail planning efforts and associated activities, the State rail plans of neighboring States and countries, if appropriate, and regional multi-state rail plans, as appropriate. * **Rail Agencies:** Describe any planned State rail agency organizational changes and proposed policy or legislative changes and new programs within the 4 and 20-year time horizons. * **Program Effects:** So as to prioritize individual projects or corridor programs, describe, with specific detail for projects in the short-range, 4-year program, and with the best available information for projects in the long-range, 20-year vision, the effects of the passenger and freight rail elements on: * The State’s transportation system. * Public and private benefits that exist and are anticipated with the 4 year phase and full 20-year plan and the correlation between public funding contributions and the expected public benefits * Rail capacity and congestion by corridor * Transportation system capacity, congestion, safety, and resiliency including the individual and combined effects on local transit, highway, aviation, and maritime modes * Environmental, economic, and employment conditions, including energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. * Distribution of benefits to regions (regional balance) * The program effects of the 4-year program phase of the plan should be described at project level, while more aggregate, corridor level data can be used to describe the program effects of the long-range, 20-year vision. * **Passenger Element** * Describe how passenger rail capital projects were analyzed for their effects on: * Projected ridership, passenger miles traveled, modal diversion from highway and air travel, revenue, and operating expenses associated with existing, 4 and 20-year passenger rail services in aggregate * Livability, including land use changes and improvements to walkability * Capital Financing Plan: describe the 4 and 20-year financing plans for capital expenditures associated with the project * Operating Financing Plan: describe the 4 and 20-year financing plans for supporting operating costs associated with the State’s publicly-financed passenger rail services, including funding sources * Describe the public and private economic benefits that exist and are anticipated * **Freight Element** * Financing Plan: describe the 4 and 20-year capital financing plans for public and private investments in freight rail (Class I, II and III) capital expenses; if there are publicly-financed freight rail services in the State, an operating financing plan for any operating deficits and public capital contributions * Note: It is understood that much of this information for freight rail lines is private and proprietary and will be shared voluntarily for use by States in preparing State rail plans only to the extent acceptable to public and private interests. However, this information is required for those freight projects for which public funding is envisioned. * Describe the public and private economic effects that exist and are anticipated and the expected public benefit * Rail Studies and Reports: Describe existing and needed planning studies |

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| Coordination and Review | * Describe the approach to public and agency participation in the development of the State rail plan including public noticing, opportunities for public and agency participation, and how comments were accepted. * Where applicable, describe how the State rail plan was coordinated with neighboring States with respect to facilities and services that cross State boundaries. * Address how the public, rail carriers, commuter and transit authorities operating in, or affected by rail operations within the State, units of local government, and other interested parties were involved in the preparation and review of the State Rail Plan. * In general, describe issues raised during the preparation of the State rail plan and how they were addressed * Describe how recommendations made by participants such as railroads, agencies, authorities, and municipalities within the State, or in the region in which the State is located, were appropriately considered and presented in the State rail plan * Describe how the State coordinates State rail planning with other transportation planning programs and activities of the State and metropolitan areas, including those conducted under Sections 134 and 135 of Title 23 and Sections 5303 and 5304 of Title 49. |