



WELCOME!

The purpose of today's meeting is to introduce you to the draft Iowa State Rail and Freight Plans, answer questions and receive comments.

Today we will:

- Provide a summary of what is presented in both plans;
- Gather comments on both plans; and
- Provide ways to stay connected with the Iowa Department of Transportation.

Background

In September 2013, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) published its Final State Rail Plan Guidance, which provided direction for State Rail Plan stakeholder and public involvement. We are actively engaging private sector rail and freight infrastructure owners, freight, public planning agencies, transit operators, rail authorities, railroad and freight organizations, and passenger rail stakeholders. The State Rail Plan will identify proposed improvements in urban and rural areas for those who travel through it. The State Freight Plan outlines freight planning activities that will achieve the objective for the state to provide a

safe, efficient and convenient freight transportation system to Iowans. The State Freight Plan is a way to connect all planning initiatives and allow each to move forward towards a common goal of optimal freight transportation throughout the state. In addition, the freight plan will guide our investment decisions to maintain and improve the freight transportation system, and ultimately strengthen Iowa's economy and raise the quality of life for our citizens.

The development of a comprehensive State Rail Plan in collaboration with the implementation of the State Freight

Plan offers an opportunity for us to accurately define what the rail and freight system in the state looks like today and what it needs to look like in the future.

State Rail and Freight Plan Overlap

The State Rail and Freight Plans are closely related and have several overlapping activities. The Iowa DOT combined public engagement efforts of for both plans allowing for the integration of feedback appropriately. Due to the subject matter, there is natural overlap of information, data and analysis for both rail and freight.

2015-2016 Meeting Highlights



Participants in the Issues-Based Workshop in Des Moines, Iowa, voted on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the rail and freight systems in Iowa.



Participants in the second High Leverage Stakeholder Committee meeting in Des Moines, Iowa. (Top) Participants voted on rail capital investments and projects in Iowa. (Bottom) Example of comments participants provided on the Value, Condition, and Performance (VCAP) process by district.

State Rail Plan

Draft Goals of the State Rail Plan



Enhance the safety and security of the rail system



Maintain the rail infrastructure



Provide access and connectivity



Improve efficiency



Ensure economic competitiveness and development



Sustain the environment

The primary purpose of the State Rail Plan is to serve as a statewide, long-range rail planning document, fully integrated with other state planning initiatives.

The State Rail Plan will integrate current and future freight and passenger rail projects into a multimodal framework, identify economic benefits, align initiatives with Iowa priorities, and unify common rail interests.

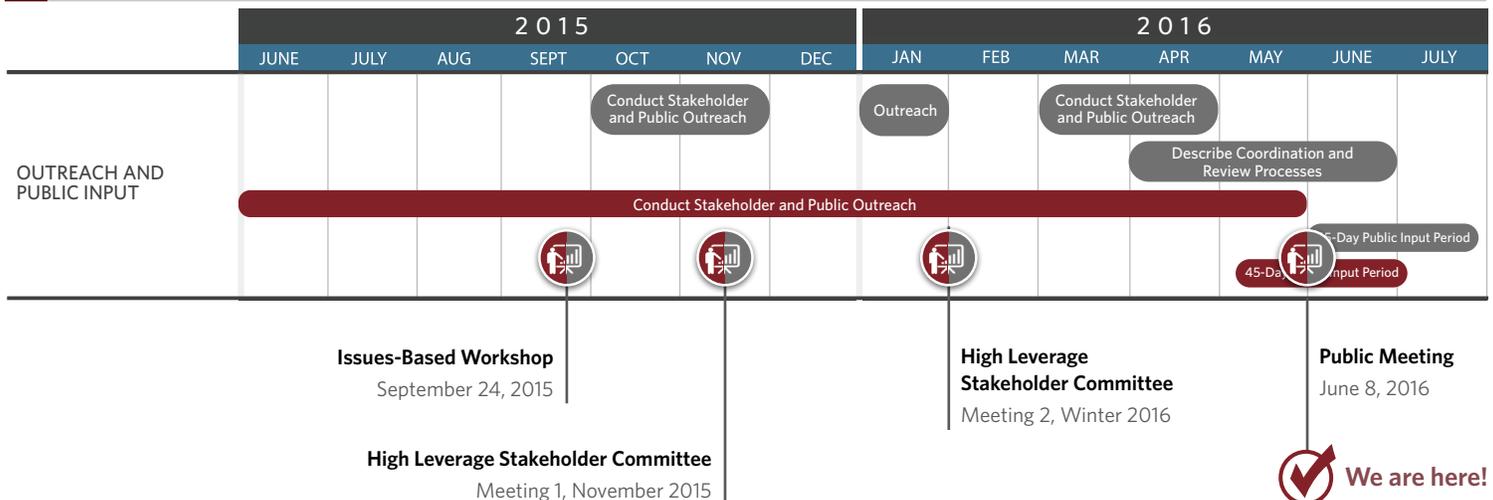
What We Have Heard:

Stakeholder coordination and public outreach recognized the needs and opportunities for:

- Enhanced access to the state's rail network for freight shippers / receivers.
- Improvements to infrastructure and the capacity, safety, and efficiency of the state's rail network.
- Economic development.
- Environmental sustainability.
- Enhancement of existing passenger rail services and development of new passenger rail services in the state.

2016 **IOWA RAIL PLAN**

Progress to Date



We are here!

State Freight Plan

Goals of the State Freight Plan



Improve contribution of freight system



Reduce congestion



Improve safety, security and resiliency



Improve state of good repair



Use advanced technology, innovation and competition



Use performance management and accountability



Reduce adverse environmental and community impacts

The primary purpose of the State Freight Plan is to serve as a statewide long-range freight planning document, fully integrated with other state planning initiatives.

What We Have Heard:

Stakeholder coordination and public outreach recognized the needs and opportunities for:

- Funding for all modes of freight transportation is a constant obstacle.
- Freight industries want reliable transportation above all else.
- There is a need for more intermodal connections.
- Heavy truck traffic on I-80 in eastern Iowa is a concern.

- The nation's locks and dams on the inland waterway system are in need of funding for maintenance and improvements.
- All freight transportation modes are important and impact each other.
- The State of Iowa should be thinking regionally, nationally, and internationally when considering freight movement.
- Some State and Federal regulations hinder freight movement.
- Greater harmonization and standardization of rules in regulation between states is desired by shippers.



Federal Guidelines

The federal government requires each state to develop plans for freight and rail transportation. Iowa's State Rail Plan was first published in 2009. The 2016 State Rail Plan will meet federal guidelines and will be available in late summer, along with the State Freight Plan.

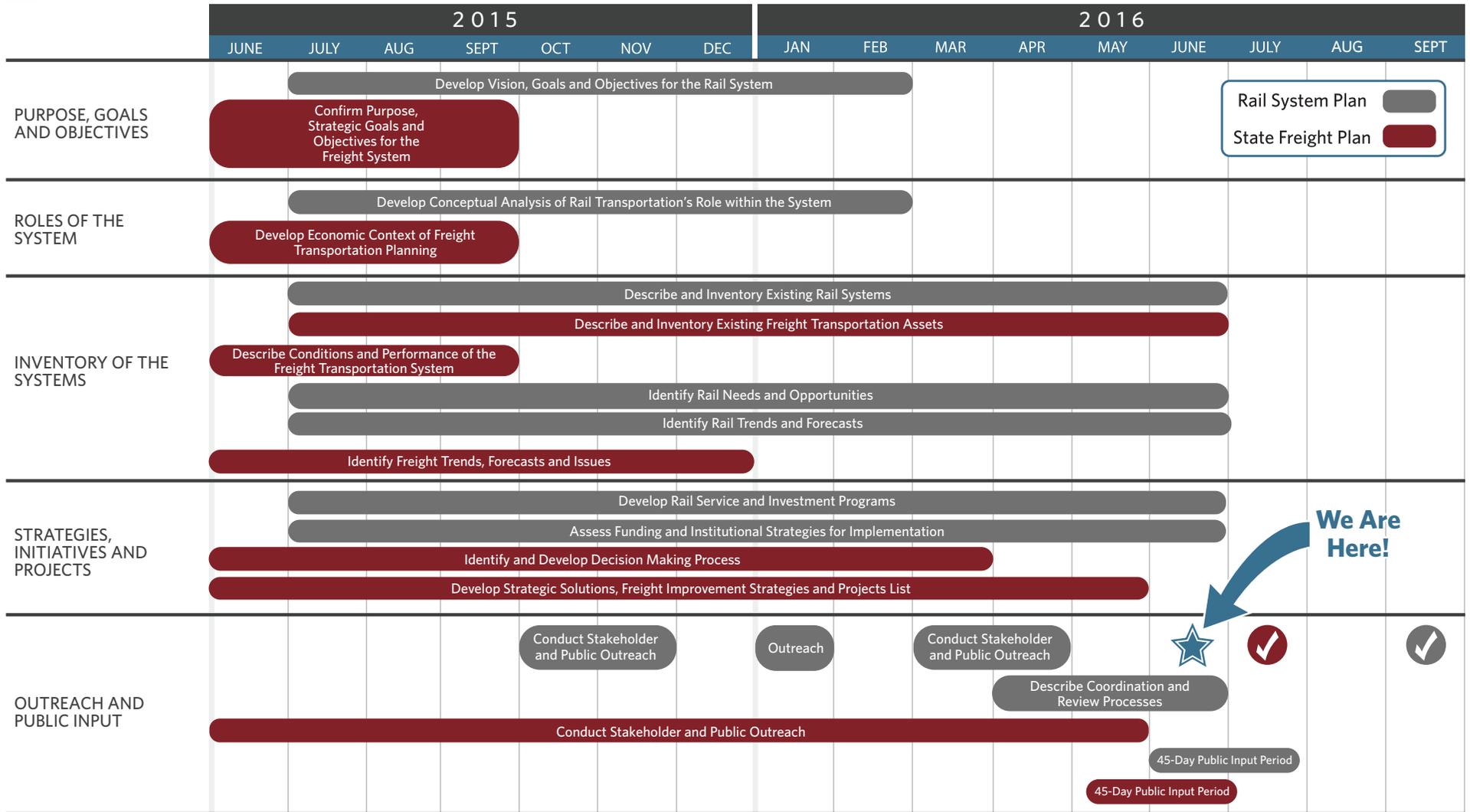
The State Freight Plan will support the National Freight Goals, as defined by the associated federal guidelines.

Each state is encouraged to establish a freight advisory committee composed of a representative cross-section of public and private-sector

freight stakeholders. Each state is also encouraged to develop a comprehensive plan for its immediate and long-range freight-related planning and investments.

The Iowa DOT has met these two federal requirements.

What is the Schedule for the Plans?



Open House: We Are Here!
June 8, 2016

Finalize State Freight Plan
July 12, 2016

Finalize State Rail Plan
September 2016

PROVIDE COMMENTS

Visit <http://EngageFreightRailPlans.iowaDOT.gov> to review the draft State Rail Plan and provide comments until **July 23rd**.

Visit <http://www.iowaDOT.gov/IowaInMotion/Freight.html> to review the draft State Freight Plan and provide comments until **June 15th**.

STAY INVOLVED

Visit us at: <http://EngageFreightRailPlans.iowaDOT.gov>
Email us at: info@EngageFreightRailPlans.com

