

Public Notice of Intent to Develop the Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050

30-Day Public Comment Period - Open from July 2 through July 31, 2020

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is preparing to begin work on its newest state rail plan. The new plan, Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050, is scheduled to be completed by January 2022. This Notice of Intent is published seeking feedback from the public about the contents of the plan. WisDOT will accept public comments on this announcement for 30 days, ending July 31, 2020.

The plan will use existing policies from other WisDOT plans and Connect 2050, Wisconsin's multimodal long-range transportation plan, currently under development. Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050 will meet all federal and state long-range rail transportation planning requirements, including those of the Federal Railroad Administration.

Plan contents

The Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050 will include policies for railroad crossings, freight rail, Wisconsin's state-owned rail system, long distance passenger rail, intercity rail, and commuter rail. The plan will specifically discuss rail data trends, existing and possible future service levels, rail system conditions, and commodity freight movements. Future rail-related improvements or plans will be outlined in a user-friendly format.

WisDOT will consider environmental issues throughout the planning process. A System-plan Environmental Evaluation will be conducted if major or substantial changes to WisDOT's policies or resources would result from the plan's implementation.

The plan will include an environmental justice (EJ) analysis. The EJ analysis will present the plan's potential impacts on racial minority populations, low-income populations, persons age 65 and older, persons with disabilities and households with no vehicles. The analysis in the plan is general and offers a starting point for more specific analysis that will be done when any project is implemented.

Public involvement

Public participation is encouraged throughout the planning process. WisDOT seeks public input, service provider comment, and focused stakeholder involvement from the freight rail industry, state and federal environmental resource agencies, and tribal governments. A complete public involvement plan is being developed and will be provided to the public for comment soon.

Updates to the planning process will be posted on the Wisconsin Rail Plan webpage:
WisconsinDOT.gov/RailPlan2050

Comments or questions on the Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050 initial plan scope, plan requirements, or to request hard copies of the website materials should be sent by **July 31, 2020** to WIRailPlan2050@dot.wi.gov.

Written comments can be mailed to:
WisDOT Bureau of Planning and Economic Development
c/o Diane Paoni
P.O. Box 7913
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Contact

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