Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050

• First Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030 was adopted in 2014
  ▪ Project listing tables within the plan were updated in 2020
• Covers all rail modes
  ▪ Railroad crossings
  ▪ Freight rail
  ▪ Wisconsin’s state-owned rail system
  ▪ Long distance passenger rail, intercity rail, and commuter rail
Approaching the end of the pre-draft stage

Conducting stakeholder outreach and consultation with Tribal Nations to help initial identification of trends, issues and opportunities.
Making the Rail Plan Current

• Need to refresh with
  ▪ Commodity flow data
  ▪ Existing and possible future rail service levels
  ▪ Rail system conditions and inventory
  ▪ Future rail-related improvements or plans (project listing tables)
  ▪ Inclusions from FRA state rail plan guidance from late 2013
  ▪ Latest MPO LRTPs; WisDOT State Freight Plan
Major Plan Components

• Inventory & descriptions of service and facilities
• Commodity flow analysis and forecast with a 2050 forecast horizon
• Policy & Program Discussion – freight, crossings, passenger
• Qualitative system level environmental analysis
• Equity analysis
Expected Plan Policy Discussion - Freight Rail

1. Significant changes since last Rail Plan in the movements of frac sand, oil, timber, forest products and coal

2. New intermodal rail-truck facilities
   - New Richmond – CN; autos to Twin Cities from Midwest & Canada; importing and exporting international intermodal containers (20’ and 40’)
   - Twin Cities – 1st UP terminal in Twin Cities; service to LA area; 53’ domestic containers
Expected Plan Policy Discussion - Rail Crossing Safety

1. Prioritizing rail-crossing safety improvements
2. Safety of all users at rail-crossings
3. FRA state rail crossing safety action plan
   - Included in federal FAST Act
   - Implemented by FRA final rule published Dec. 2020
   - Final safety action plan due by April 2022
Expected Plan Policy Discussion – Passenger Rail
Amtrak; Hiawatha service; Commuter rail

1. Amtrak passenger rail, Hiawatha and commuter rail’s role in non-driver and driver mobility
2. New demand forecast model of long-range passenger rail service in Wisconsin
3. Access to stations by walking, bicycling, vehicles and transit
4. Update on Amtrak’s improvement of station ADA accessibility
System Level Equity Analysis

Environmental Justice & Title VI Communities +

- EJ demographic groups (minority and low income)
- Title VI demographic groups (race, color, national origin)
- Seniors, youth, people with disabilities, and people without cars
System Level Equity Analysis – Geographic Component

Why it matters where people live and work

• Where are communities living relative to rail infrastructure like freight rail lines and train stations?
• What potential negative impacts are possible for those living near active rail lines? Example: air quality issues near a rail yard
• What potential positive opportunities are possible, such as easy access to stations and construction jobs?
Next Steps in Public involvement

• Now: Some presentations and meetings. Webinars focused on certain topics. Signup for notifications of plan updates on Plan website

• Summer: Draft plan released publicly for at least 30 days. Some presentations and meetings. Webinars focused on certain topics. Signup for notifications of plan updates on Plan website

• Late 2021: Final formal review of the draft final plan. At least 30-day comment period; public hearing
Wisconsindot.gov/railplan2050

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