



# Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050

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(held virtually)

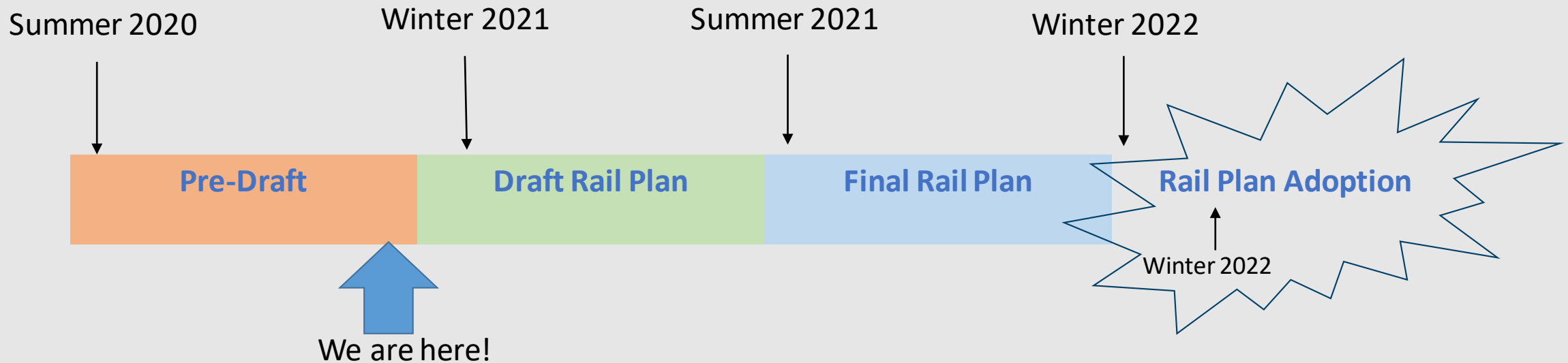
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# Wisconsin Rail Plan 2050

- 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> 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](https://wisconsindot.gov/railplan2050)

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