

WISCONSIN RAIL PLAN

2030



Statewide
Long-Range
Rail Transportation
Plan



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

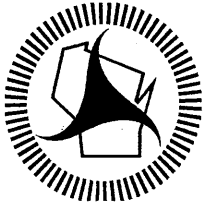
WISCONSIN RAIL PLAN 2030

FINAL

March 19, 2014

Note to the reader:

The Wisconsin State Rail Plan 2030 derives many of its policy recommendations from Connections 2030, the state's long-range multimodal transportation plan adopted in 2009. The initial draft of the rail plan provided critical freight and passenger data, including rail mileage, passenger volumes, top commodities shipped, revenues, and other quantified information. Policies for freight rail, passenger rail, and commuter rail, as well as the chapter on funding, were updated in 2013 during development of the final draft Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030. However, it is important to note that much of the data remains based on the earlier draft plan. Where known, the dates of the data are noted in the narrative and/or appendices of the plan. Future updates will incorporate more recent data, including improved freight commodity flow analysis and updates based on the 2010 Census.



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

www.dot.wisconsin.gov

Scott Walker
Governor

Mark Gottlieb, P.E.
Secretary

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March 19, 2014

Dear Transportation Partner:

I am pleased to announce the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) has adopted *Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030*, the statewide long-range rail transportation plan. It provides the framework within which the state and related stakeholders may maintain, improve and plan for Wisconsin's rail network.

The plan focuses on the role freight, intercity passenger rail, and commuter rail have in the state's multimodal transportation system. It identifies priorities and strategies to establish a basis for future rail investments.

As a modal plan, it builds on the policies and actions identified in the state's long-range transportation plan *Connections 2030*. *Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030* supports the state's multimodal vision for transportation, as laid out in *Connections 2030*:

"An integrated multimodal transportation system that maximizes the safe and efficient movement of people and products through the state, enhancing economic productivity and the quality of Wisconsin's communities while minimizing impacts to the natural environment."

I wish to personally thank you for your participation in the planning process. Your involvement and input ensures that *Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030* reflects the needs and desires of Wisconsin residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Gottlieb".

Mark Gottlieb, P.E.
Secretary



SCOTT WALKER
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 7863
MADISON, WI 53707

February 5, 2014

Mark Gottlieb, P.E., Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Room 120B
P.O. Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Secretary Gottlieb:

The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA), requires states to establish or designate, by State law or by the direction of the Governor, a “State Rail Transportation Authority” (SRTA). The SRTA is a State agency or official responsible for preparing, maintaining, coordinating, and administering the State Rail Plan. The SRTA establishes priorities and implementation strategies to enhance rail service in the public interest and works to ensure that the State Rail Plan fully reflects the state’s policy on freight, passenger rail and commuter rail transportation.

PRIIA also requires states to establish or designate a “State Rail Plan Approval Authority” (SRPAA), with responsibility to review and approve the State Rail Plan. The SRPAA serves as the state approval authority for investment of public funds in rail projects. In most cases, the State Secretary of Transportation is designated as the authority that provides the final approval of the State Rail Plan. As with the SRTA, states have flexibility to designate the most appropriate official or organization within their state government as the SRPAA. The SRTA and SRPAA may be the same state entity or official.

Therefore, I designate you, Mark Gottlieb, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, to be the State Rail Transportation Authority and the State Rail Plan Approval Authority for the State of Wisconsin, as defined in the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008, Public Law 110-432. This designation includes the authority to prepare, maintain, coordinate, and administer the State Rail Plan, and to review and approve the State Rail Plan and serve as the State approval authority for investment of public funds in rail projects.

Sincerely,

Scott Walker
Governor

APPROVAL

System-Plan Environmental Evaluation (SEE)

for

Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030

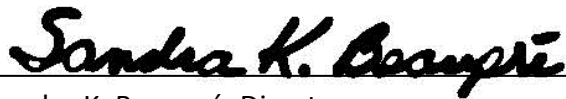
Submitted by:

State of Wisconsin, Department of Transportation

on

March 19, 2014

Comments on *Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030* were accepted November 8, 2013 through December 31, 2013.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030 was prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), Division of Transportation Investment Management (DTIM), Bureau of Planning & Economic Development (BPED). The final plan was developed in collaboration with the other bureaus within DTIM, and the other divisions within WisDOT.

WisDOT extends its appreciation to the many citizens of Wisconsin who attended public meetings or submitted comments during the development of the plan. In addition, WisDOT also thanks:

- Federal and state environmental resource agencies and the Wisconsin tribal governments for participating in the environmental consultation process.

- Wisconsin Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Wisconsin Regional Planning Commissions for working with WisDOT staff in developing the plan.