



Nevada State Rail Plan

Nevada State Transportation Board
September 2012

*Enhancing Rail Infrastructure and Services
to Fulfill Nevada's Transportation Needs*



Rail Law

- Federal
 - Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA)
 - FRA Guidance – prioritization of projects
- State
 - NRS 705.421 – NDOT to develop state rail plan
 - NRS 408.233 – NDOT shall not operate any railroad





Project Goals

1. Enhance the safety and efficiency of the state's rail transportation system
2. Optimize Nevada's rail potential to effectively address social, economic, environmental, and energy effects
3. Develop an organizational structure and strategies yielding a streamlined process for implementing Nevada's rail transportation improvements





Project Goals

4. The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) strongly supports transportation opportunities whether it moves on highways, runways, sidewalks, railroads and will work with all partners on opportunities within the state. The department does not specifically endorse the development of any one project over another





Study Process

- Conducted two rounds of TAC meetings
 - North & South TAC meetings in January and in December 2011
- Conducted two rounds of public meetings
 - Three meetings in Spring 2011 and three in early 2012 (Las Vegas, Reno, Elko)
- Stakeholder Involvement
 - 32 one-on-one meetings with project stakeholders including UPRR, BNSF, Amtrak, WHSRA, ADOT, Caltrans, IDOT, and UDOT
 - 44 returned stakeholder surveys
 - 75 comments from project website
- Defined Mission, Vision, Goals and Objectives





Study Process

- Coordinated with other relevant rail/highway studies
 - I-15 Corridor Long-Range Multimodal study (NDOT)
 - Connecting Nevada (NDOT)
 - North-South multi-state multimodal study (NDOT)
 - Inland Ports (NDOT)
 - Southwest Rail Study (FRA)
- Identify, evaluate, and prioritized full range of passenger and freight projects





Project Evaluation – All Projects

- Step 1: Identify projects based on stakeholder input
- Step 2: Preliminary Project Evaluation—All Projects Table
 - Is **further study** needed to be able to define and evaluate this concept/project?
 - Does the project have **implementation issues** constraining its advancement at this time?
 - Is the request a **private business issue** for UPRR or BNSF to address?
 - Does the project **warrant advancing** to a more detailed evaluation?
- Projects that do not advance to the Evaluation Matrix will be re-evaluated during the next State Rail Plan update.





Project Evaluation – Advanced Projects

- Step 3: Evaluation Matrix—for Advanced Projects
 - Defined projects timeline and estimated cost range
 - Evaluated projects based on the Rail Plan’s goals and objectives
 - Identify needed approvals (Congress, Amtrak, and UPRR)
- Step 4: NDOT Recommendations
 - Policy Support
 - Funding Support





Types of Projects

- Passenger Rail
 - Conventional
 - X Train
 - Reno/Tahoe Winter Games rail service
 - High Speed
 - XpressWest (DesertXpress)
 - Maglev
 - WHSRA / Golden Triangle
 - SW Multistate Rail Plan





Types of Projects

- Excursion Rail
 - Northern Nevada Railway extension
 - Virginia & Truckee extension
- Freight Rail
 - UPRR future in-state projects (CTC, sidings, crossovers)
 - Upgrade UPRR Donner Pass in California
 - Upgrade Northern Nevada Railroad short line
 - Relocate Fallon transload facility & shorten tracks
 - Add spur lines & sidings
- Rail-Highway Grade Crossings
 - Improve selected grade crossings annually





Rail Projects Schedule

- Short Term (0 – 5 years)
 - X-Train
 - XpressWest (DesertXpress)
 - Modoc Sub land-banking
 - UPRR Weso crossover improvements
 - Excursion rail extensions – Northern Nevada and V&T
- Mid Term (6 – 20 years)
 - 2022 Olympics rail service, pending further study
 - Mid-term UPRR siding and CTC improvements, including Donner Pass Phase 2
 - Support White Pine (Northern Nevada RR) Shortline
 - Northern and southern Nevada Inland Ports projects
 - Relocate Fallon transload facility and shorten trackage
- Long Term (20+ years)
 - WHSRA northern Nevada and Golden Triangle initiatives
 - Multimodal HSR transportation hub in Las Vegas area
 - NDOT Multimodal Framework Study



Challenges

- Getting good Technical Advisory Committee participation, given the north and south state dichotomy
 - Addressed with early, advance notice and follow-up
 - Video/teleconferencing for out-of-state and others unable to attend in person
- Dealing with competing conventional rail and HSR passenger projects
- Responding to late-in-the-game projects





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For More Information

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