



# September AASHTO Call

## *Program Update*

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## *Overview of State Rail Plan Guidance*

Federal Railroad Administration

September 6, 2012





# HSIPR Construction Underway

30 HSIPR projects for approximately \$1.6 billion are currently under construction or complete in 14 states.

### *Underway in the Midwest:*

IA: 1 project	MN: 1 project
IL: 1 corridor, 2 projects	MO: 1 project
MI: 3 projects	WI: 2 projects

Including completion of improvements to MI's Battle Creek Station and construction on the Englewood Flyover in IL



### *Underway in the West:*

CA: 1 corridor, 8 projects  
OR: 1 project  
WA: 1 corridor, 2 projects

Including 2 projects that have finished construction in CA, and rerouting to permit 79 mph top speeds in WA

### *Underway in the Northeast:*

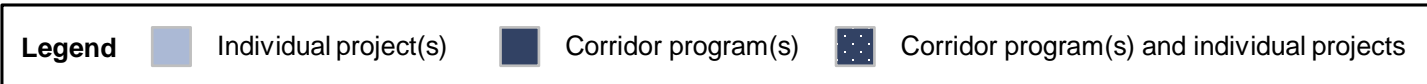
ME: 1 corridor  
NY: 1 project  
PA: 1 project  
VT: 1 project

Including completed work on new passenger platforms in Freeport and Brunswick, ME

### *Underway in the Southeast:*

NC: 1 corridor

Including completed construction at Cary Depot Station, High Point Station, Burlington Station, and Capital Yard in NC





## Rail Development Program Update

Rail development programs continue to make progress.

### HSIPR

- Obligated New Passenger Rail Service in Alabama Planning Project (\$100 thousand, FY 2009) on August 16
- Held public scoping meetings August 13-22 as part of NEC FUTURE environmental review process

### RRIF

- RRIF team continues to provide support to railroads and other entities interested in RRIF via pre-application meetings
- 10 loan agreements for \$980 million have been executed since FY 2009

### Rail Line Relocation

- Over 50% of RLR funding has been obligated (approx. \$46 million FY08-11)
- Announced selections for FY11 funding March 2
- 12 projects in 11 states selected to receive \$17M

### TIGER

- Nearly \$190 million in FRA-overseen TIGER funding has been obligated to date, including 100% of TIGER I funding
- Obligated Kansas - Solomon Rural Rail Project (TIGER III) for \$6.6 million on August 23



Rendering of Moynihan Station (TIGER)





## SCORT National Meeting

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September 16 to 19, 2012 in Portland, Maine

### **FRA Administrator Joseph Szabo**

- Keynote Address: Vision for Rail

### **Paul Nissenbaum, Associate Administrator Corey Hill, Director, Passenger and Freight Programs**

- Program and Organizational News

### **FRA-Led Presentations**

- Navigating Requirements for Buy America Waivers
- Map-21 Freight Plans
- Level Boarding
- Safety Issues

### **Extended Q&A Opportunities with FRA Subject-Matter Experts**

- **Bring your questions** regarding NEPA, grants management, planning, equipment, technical assistance AND MORE

### **Information Exchange**

- Regional Managers and other FRA representatives available to work with you and learn from you





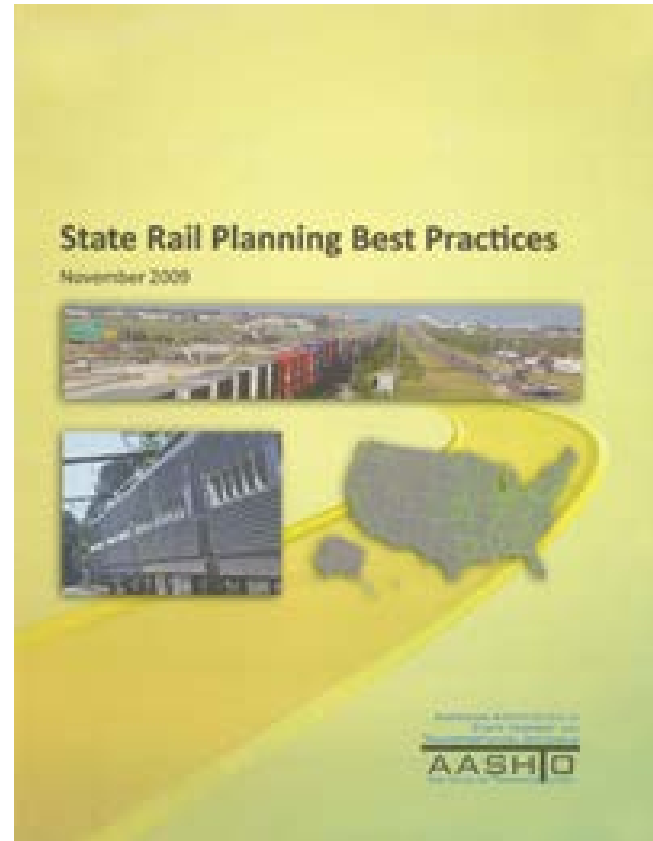
## ***Overview of Proposed State Rail Plan Guidance***





### State Rail Plan Development and Status post-PRIIA

- Much progress has been made since PRIIA was passed in 2008.
- FRA has funded 11 State Rail Plans through \$6.315 million in cooperative agreement grants.
- Dozens of States have funded their own SRPs since 2008.





## **Proposed State Rail Plan Guidance**

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Why has FRA produced this proposed State Rail Plan Guidance?

### **PRIIA Requirement for Grant Eligibility**

- Under Section 303 of PRIIA, States must develop State rail plans according to specific requirements in order to be eligible for high-speed and intercity passenger rail capital assistance grants authorized in Section 301 and Section 501 of PRIIA. Candidate high priority corridors for congestion grants (Section 302) must also be included in the State rail plan.

### **PRIIA Requirement for State Rail Plan Guidance**

- Section 303 of PRIIA requires USDOT to establish minimum standards for the preparation and periodic revision of State rail plans, including:
  - A Standardized Format
  - Data Requirements





## **Proposed State Rail Plan Guidance**

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### Vision and Role for State Rail Plans (SRPs)

#### **FRA's Vision for SRPs**

- Vision for rail's role in an intermodal network.
- Develop strategies and policies for rail service.
- Exhibit full extent of a State's rail program, including costs and benefits.
- Sends a signal to lawmakers and FRA.

#### **The Role of SRPs in State, Regional, and National Rail Planning**

- Coordinate rail programs with Statewide and Metropolitan LRTPs.
- Rail program as part of comprehensive view of statewide transportation investment programs.
- Coordination with neighboring States.







## Proposed State Rail Plan Guidance

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“The Secretary shall prescribe procedures for States to submit State rail plans for review... including standardized format and data requirements.”

### Standardized Format

#### Executive Summary

1. The Role of Rail in Statewide Transportation
2. The State’s Existing Rail System
3. Trends and Forecasts
4. Rail Service Needs and Opportunities
5. Proposed Passenger Rail Improvements and Investments
6. Proposed Freight Rail Improvements and Investments
7. The State’s Long-Range Rail Service and Investment Program
8. Coordination and Review





## Proposed State Rail Plan Guidance

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“The Secretary shall prescribe procedures for States to submit State rail plans for review... including standardized format and data requirements.”

### Standardized Data Requirements

- Standardized data requirements will enable a balanced comparison of projects and programs.
- Many data requirements were drawn from PRIIA and existing SRPs.
- Existing conditions data examples:
  - Rail system infrastructure
  - Freight and passenger service and ridership/tonnage
  - Public financing for rail projects and service
- Trend and forecast data examples:
  - Population
  - Employment
  - Travel demand and growth
  - Freight demand and growth
  - Highway and airport congestion
- Analyze the existing conditions and trends to determine the investment needs as well as the program effects (including costs and benefits) resulting from those investments.





## **Proposed State Rail Plan Guidance**

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“The Secretary shall prescribe procedures for States to submit State rail plans for review... including standardized format and data requirements.”

### **Preparation and Revision Process**

- Coordination with FRA (Optional, but recommended)
- State Approval
- Submission to FRA
- FRA Review and Acceptance
- Future Updates





# Proposed State Rail Plan Guidance

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Questions

- Is new funding available for SRPs?
- Will SRP efforts that are underway be affected by this guidance?
- Does “underway” include SRPs that are currently out as RFPs or that are under contract but work has not yet begun?





### Comments, Contacts, and Next Steps

- Provide comments to the docket at <http://www.regulations.gov>, docket number FRA 2012-0066. (Questions and comments from today's call will be recorded into the docket).
- State Rail Plan Guidance will be finalized in Q1 2013.
- FRA will provide technical assistance to States on SRPs regardless of whether the SRP is funded through a Cooperative Agreement. Contact your Regional Manager who can put you in touch with the appropriate Regional Planner for technical assistance.
- For further questions about this proposed SRP Guidance, contact Kyle Gradinger:
  - [kyle.gradinger@dot.gov](mailto:kyle.gradinger@dot.gov)
  - 202-493-6191

**Thank you! We look forward to your questions and comments.**

