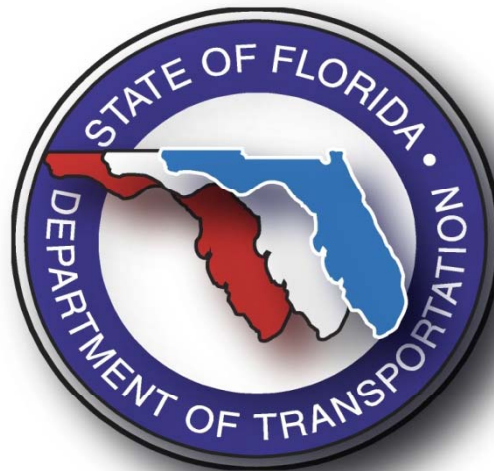


Florida Department of Transportation



Florida Rail System Plan Update

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Rail System Plan Update

- ◆ Required every two years
- ◆ Two elements
 - ✓ Policy Element - completed
 - ✓ Investment Element – completion – Summer 2009
- ◆ Different from past plans
 - ✓ Shifts from descriptive to strategic
 - ✓ Addresses both passenger and freight
 - ✓ Shows rail interaction with other modes
 - ✓ Expanded stakeholder involvement



Rail System Plan Update

◆ Status

- ✓ Policy Element - Adopted
- ✓ Investment Element – Summer 2009
 - Identification of passenger and freight needs
 - Prioritization of needs based on Policy Element
 - Proposed funding plan



Policy Element

- ◆ Policies tied to the five existing Florida Transportation Plan Goals
 - ✓ Safety/Security
 - ✓ Quality of Life/Environmental Stewardship
 - ✓ Maintenance/Preservation
 - ✓ Mobility/Economic Competitiveness
 - ✓ Sustainable Investments
- ◆ Objectives and strategies developed by the Rail Stakeholder Advisory Committee
- ◆ FDOT implementation actions to provide more specificity



Policy Element

- ◆ Safety and Security
 - ✓ Continue investing in existing rail-related programs
 - Grade crossing safety improvements
 - Rail safety inspection
 - Grade crossing opening/closure permitting
 - ✓ Develop programs to address critical issues
 - Trespass safety action plan
 - Security action plans
 - Intelligent transportation management technology
 - Coordination with emergency response agencies
 - Extend public outreach



Policy Element

- ◆ Quality of Life and Environmental Stewardship
 - ✓ Integrate rail and land use planning at all levels
 - Work with Department of Community Affairs and others to integrate growth management and transportation plans
 - Work with local governments to ensure land use decisions support commuter rail
 - Evaluate impacts of rail capacity expansion on communities and the environment
 - ✓ Coordinate with other transportation agencies to expand the use of the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process to identify potential environmental issues



Policy Element

◆ Maintenance and Preservation

- ✓ Work with all partners to maintain rail infrastructure, preserve rail service and modernize the rail system when public benefit can be demonstrated
 - Continue to invest in rail infrastructure including improvements to bring short-line railroads to industry standards
 - Encourage long-term preservation of rail corridors and rights-of-way for future uses
 - Identify and support rail bridge repair/replacement
 - Continue to support modernization of the rail system



Policy Element

- ◆ Mobility and Economic Competitiveness
 - ✓ Passenger rail
 - Focus on key commuter rail hub systems
 - Focus on intercity between commuter rail hubs and key city pairs
 - ✓ Freight rail
 - Invest in infrastructure that improves operational efficiency and eliminates critical chokepoints
 - Invest in upgrades to handle industry standard railcars
 - Invest to ensure key intermodal and industrial access
 - ✓ Invest in new capacity in under-served areas of the state
 - ✓ Evaluate potential abandonments for future uses



Policy Element

- ◆ Sustainable Investments
 - ✓ Promote public awareness
 - Develop an initial review process for rail projects to get input and establish support
 - Support studies to enable better understanding of investment decisions
 - ✓ Capitalize on funding opportunities
 - Identify existing, new and innovative sources and financial tools
 - ✓ Ensure appropriate analysis of investment decisions
 - Expand project assessment tools to prioritize projects
 - Ensure benefit/cost analyses include full range of factors
 - ✓ Ensure funds are available to respond to investment opportunities



Rail Stakeholder Involvement

- ◆ Rail Stakeholder Advisory Committee
 - ✓ Purpose: Develop policy recommendations
 - ✓ Five meetings held Summer/Fall 2008
- ◆ Public Input and Review



Next Steps

- ◆ Needs survey – May 2009
 - ✓ Online
 - ✓ Both stakeholder and citizen input
- ◆ Development of prioritization methodology
- ◆ Development of document
- ◆ 30-day public comment period

<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/rail/plandevvel.shtm>



Questions?

