



Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan Update  
Freight Rail  
Advisory Council Meeting  
October 1, 2013



**AGENDA**

**1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Opening Session**

- Welcome
- Update of the Statewide Transportation Plan
  - Plan Status
  - Needs
  - Financial Forecast
  - Megaprojects
  - Gap and Revenue Scenarios
- Break Out Session Objectives

Eric Kalivoda, DOTD  
Don Vary, CDM Smith

**2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Freight Rail Advisory Council Meeting**

- Welcome/Introductions/Role of AC
- Questions Before Starting
- Presentation
- Issues Discussion
  - Handout – List of Issues
- Preliminary Recommendations Discussion
  - Handout – List of Recommendations from 2008 and Round 1 AC Meetings
  - Potential Additional Recommendations



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**ISSUES**

1. Terminal capacity constraints could limit growth of anticipated increases in grain, coal and oil shipments
2. 286K short line issues can greatly deter growth
3. Other states getting ready for Panama Canal expansion with improved rail access to ports, but Louisiana is not keeping pace
4. A state rail program is needed so state can receive federal funds, especially if there are funds to fix 286k car weight issues
5. Need for education of elected officials to illustrate economic impact if the state does not invest
6. Increasing the Freight/Passenger Rail Partnership
7. Need for intermodal terminal development and multimodal diversity (more options providing greater access to the national rail system) and multimodal integration for moving both people and freight
8. Coordination with LED to create rail-supportive development
9. State rail authority or organization needed to be compliant with PRIIA
10. Need DOTD support for federal grant program
11. Relocation of rail and intermodal connectors
12. Issue of rail-to-rail interchange in New Orleans



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**PREVIOUS PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS**

Rec #	Recommendation	Cost (\$millions)	2008 Status	Preliminary 2012 Status
R-1	Conduct economic impact analysis of freight rail to the state of Louisiana and educate the state's Congressional delegation on the need for federal funding for the State's freight railroads.	\$0.50	Ongoing	Ongoing (Part of Plan Update)
R-4	Help freight railroads secure grants and loans from existing and future federal assistance programs.		Ongoing	Ongoing
R-5	Provide state funding sources for the Louisiana Statewide Rail System Program that is to be periodically updated with input from the Freight Railroad Advisory Council. Program includes assisting shortline railroads with 286 K weight and other issues.	\$3/yr in SC 3 \$5/yr in SC 4	Ongoing	No Progress
R-8	Establish highway/rail grade separation program.	\$8 per year	Complete	Complete
R-11	Add three positions to the Rail Section of DOTD, including a Rail Safety Compliance Officer and two program managers.		Complete	Complete
R-13	Research incentive programs for closures of public and private grade crossings.		Ongoing	Ongoing Researched on public grade crossings and yet to research on private grade crossings
R-14	Provide state funding sources for the New Orleans Gateway Project (\$ 425 M total estimated cost). See Non-Highway MegaProjects.	\$150 M state share	New	Ongoing EIS is Underway
R-15	Continue funding for active warning devices at rail/highway crossings.	\$5/yr in SC 1 & 2 \$9/yr in SC 3 & 4	New	Ongoing

Potential additional recommendations:

- Additional personnel to implement the plan
- Assist the short lines obtain federal funding