

## MICHIGAN STATE RAIL PLAN OVERVIEW

The State Rail Plan will help guide future investments in freight and passenger rail transportation in Michigan. The plan satisfies a federal requirement in the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008. The law established new federal funding programs for passenger rail services, including High Speed Rail. Michigan has made significant investments to its passenger rail system and is committed to improve services on the federally-designated high speed rail corridor between Chicago and Detroit/Pontiac. MDOT anticipates applying for additional federal funds that will require a State Rail Plan to be in place.

The plan sets forth state policy involving freight and passenger rail transportation, including commuter rail operations. It presents priorities and strategies to enhance or preserve rail service that benefits the public, and serves as the basis for federal and state rail investments within Michigan.

Federally-required components of the plan include;

- Inventory of the rail transportation system, services, and facilities;
- Analysis of rail's transportation, economic, and environmental impacts;
- Long-range investment program for freight and passenger rail infrastructure,
- Description of public financing issues;
- Review of major passenger and freight intermodal connections and facilities; and
- Performance evaluation of passenger rail services.

Additional MDOT requirements of the plan include:

- Identification of rail-dependent commodities and industries;  
Trends in industry and freight shipping patterns that affect rail transportation;
- Identification of essential rail corridors and bottlenecks;
- Determination of rail lines at risk for future abandonment; and
- Identification of the public benefits of the rail system and public investments made.

Besides coordinating with the State Long-Range Plan, the MI Rail Plan involved extensive outreach with rail stakeholders (including the railroads, shippers, passenger interest groups, MDOT, local agencies, etc.) and the general public.