

# Transportation Staff Meeting

June 4, 2014  
2:00 PM  
CMGC-601

## AGENDA

### 1. **Statewide Rail Plan** (Gibbs & Cook)

#### Description:

- Review draft responses to survey
- Review proposed projects

#### Background:

NCDOT's Rail Division is currently preparing a Statewide Rail Plan to establish a strategy for investing in freight and passenger rail infrastructure. The plan will cover funding programs and projects in addition to those submitted through and eligible for STI, and is intended to:

- outline short-, mid-, and long-term projects;
- establish a system for prioritizing corridors / programs for investments; and
- enumerate economic benefits of the program.

The Rail Division has asked the state's MPOs to provide input:

1. through a survey; and

a project request form to provide basic information on projects MPOs would like to be considered in the plan.

Attachments: Rail Division survey and project request form

### 2. **Prioritization 3.0-Local Points Allocation Update** (Burke)

#### Description:

- Update on the local points allocation process
- Discuss possible modification of local points methodology

### 3. **TCC Agenda Review** (Burke)

#### Description:

Review of the June 5 TCC agenda.

**Phone Access Number:** 704-432-5485

**Go To Meeting Access:** <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/650524933>



## MPO / RPO Statewide Rail Plan Survey

Under requirements outlined in the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) of 2008, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has initiated the development of a Comprehensive State Rail Plan (CSRP). Section 303 of this Act requires states to develop comprehensive plans accepted by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in order to be eligible for certain capital grants. Once completed, the CSRP will serve as a blueprint for improvements over the next twenty years to freight and passenger rail service in North Carolina. The Plan will also provide an overview of potential funding opportunities, costs, and economic benefits associated with an enhanced rail system.

AECOM, in partnership with NCDOT, has begun the process of creating a rail plan that will establish a vision for the future of rail in NC and outline a blueprint to achieve this vision. A key part of this effort is to engage a broad spectrum of stakeholders that can provide input, vet assumptions, participate in a cooperative dialogue, identify emerging markets and issues, and identify potential infrastructure needs and projects to be considered in the plan. The plan will identify near-term (5-year), mid-term (10-year), and long-range (20-year) systems of projects. The projects provided will be considered for inclusion in the plan. Methods for evaluating corridors are being developed concurrent to this request effort.

This survey has been developed to solicit input from your MPO / RPO on rail and freight related needs and issues. Please submit this form by **June 15** to ensure the input can be incorporated into the development of the plan. Additional information regarding the schedule and scope of the Statewide Rail Plan will be available at <http://www.ncbytrain.org/projects/rail-plan.html>. **Specific projects should be submitted on the State Rail Plan Project Submission Form available at the AECOM booth at the MPO conference.**

The survey will take approximately 10 to 25 minutes to complete. You may send completed forms by mail or email to the contact below. In addition, if you have additional comments beyond those solicited by the survey, you may submit them as well. Thank you in advance for your time and input into the Statewide Rail Plan.

**Eddie McFalls, P.E.**

Project Manager

AECOM – Transportation Planning Group

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Phone: (919) 854-6211

## **MPO/ RPO Statewide Rail Plan Survey**

### **General Questions**

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1. Your response to this survey may generate follow-up questions. If you are willing to be contacted, please provide your name, title, email, and phone number.
  
2. What MPO or RPO do you represent?

### **Existing Conditions**

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3. What are the key rail corridors in your region?
  
4. How is rail currently used in your region?
  
5. What are the main rail-dependent industries in your region?
  
6. What are the main freight-traffic generators in your region?
  
7. Please describe any current transportation problems in your region that rail might address.
  
8. What are the primary obstacles to economic development in your region that could be overcome with investments in rail?

9. What rail improvements are needed in your region now, if any? (Please use the Project Submission Form for specific projects)

### **Future Needs**

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10. How are rail needs identified in your region?
11. What trends do you see in the demand for rail services in your region?
12. What economic development opportunities exist in your area that may be supported by rail?
13. What improvements to rail services in North Carolina are of greatest interest to your region?
14. Are there any transportation or land use planning obstacles your MPO/RPO encounters that relate to railroads and/or railroad policies? If so, please describe.
15. How is freight rail addressed in your regional short- and long-term planning documents?
16. How is passenger rail addressed in your regional short- and long-term planning documents?

17. Does your MPO/RPO have any current freight or passenger rail improvement plans or feasibility studies, including commuter rail? If yes, please describe.

### **Funding**

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18. What funding, if any, has your MPO/RPO applied towards rail or station projects?

### **Additional Considerations**

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19. How can NCDOT best support MPOs and RPOs in planning for rail?

20. How can the comprehensive statewide rail plan benefit your MPO or RPO?

21. Do you have any suggestions for a long-term vision for rail in North Carolina?

22. Please provide any further comments or suggestions. If there are links to studies or documents we should review, please provide them here.

Thank you for your responses. If you have any supporting studies or documents that may be provided, please send them along with this form to the following mailing or email address. Also, if you have specific project requests, please use the NC Statewide Rail Plan – Project Submission Form.

**Eddie McFalls, P.E.**

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## **NC Statewide Rail Plan - Project Submission Form**

Under requirements outlined in the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) of 2008, the North Carolina Department of Transportation has initiated the development of a Comprehensive State Rail Plan (CSRP). Section 303 of this Act requires states to develop comprehensive plans accepted by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) in order to be eligible for certain capital grants. Once completed, the CSRP will serve as a blueprint for improvements over the next twenty years to freight and passenger rail service in North Carolina. The Plan will also provide an overview of potential funding opportunities, costs, and economic benefits associated with an enhanced rail system.

AECOM, in partnership with NCDOT, has begun the process of creating a rail plan that will establish a vision for the future of rail in NC and outline a blueprint to achieve this vision. A key part of this effort is to engage a broad spectrum of stakeholders that can provide input, vet assumptions, participate in a cooperative dialogue, and identify potential infrastructure needs and projects to be considered in the plan. The plan will identify near-term (5-year), mid-term (10-year), and long-range (20-year) systems of projects. The projects provided will be considered for inclusion in the plan. Methods for evaluating corridors are being developed concurrent to this request effort. The plan will help identify subsequent studies and information needed to advance these projects. It is recognized that the level of information available for longer range projects may be less than that of near-term projects. If you envision your project as a near-term project, most of the requested information should be available. Please note this planning process is different than the recent Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) effort. Ideally, it is anticipated that projects' inclusion in the rail plan, and subsequent studies recommended will help to generate data needed for funding / grant prioritization processes such as STI and / or Freight Rail and Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Fund (FR&RCSI).

**If there are freight and / or passenger rail, intermodal, transload, or other associated infrastructure projects that you would like to be considered in the rail plan, please complete the form on the back of this page for each project.**

Please submit this form by **June 15** to ensure this project is considered in the statewide plan. Additional information regarding the schedule and scope of the Statewide Rail Plan will be available at <http://www.ncbytrain.org/projects/rail-plan.html>. The accompanying form will take approximately 10 to 25 minutes to complete. The information provided will help to initiate a prioritization process. If additional data is needed for submitted projects, the State Rail Plan team will contact you. You may send completed forms by mail or email to the contact below:

**Eddie McFalls, P.E.**

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## Project Submission Form – NC Statewide Rail Plan

<i>Required for all projects</i>	
<b>Name of Person Submitting Project (Project Contact)</b>	
<b>Railroad, MPO, RPO, or Other Entity Submitting Project</b>	
<b>Email Address of Project Contact</b>	
<b>Telephone Number of Project Contact</b>	
<b>Project County</b>	
<b>Project City (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Nearest Projected Rail / Transload / Freight Service Company</b>	
<b>Project Description</b>	
<b>General Project Type (Freight, Passenger, Joint Use)</b>	
<b>Project Purpose and Need</b>	
<b>Project Categories (Check all that apply)</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Track Repair and Rehabilitation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade Crossing
<input type="checkbox"/> Rail Signaling Upgrade	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade Separation
<input type="checkbox"/> New Main Line	<input type="checkbox"/> Intermodal Terminal / Transload
<input type="checkbox"/> Siding or Double Track	<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger Station Improvements
<input type="checkbox"/> Track Relocation	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<b>Provide Any "Other" or Additional Project Features</b>	
<b>Project Timeframe</b>	
<b>Expected Economic and Societal Benefit Categories (Check all that apply)</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduction in Crashes	<input type="checkbox"/> Shipper Cost Savings
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduction in Travel Time	<input type="checkbox"/> Access to New Industries / Sites
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduction in Delay Minutes / Increase in Reliability	<input type="checkbox"/> Access to Intermodal Network
<input type="checkbox"/> Diversion of Trucks to Rail	<input type="checkbox"/> Access to Passenger Rail Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<b>Explain Any "Other" Benefits</b>	
If available, list specific benefits for those items checked (carloads served, jobs created, travel time savings, shipper savings, etc) or studies detailing anticipated project benefits.	
Is this project included in other capital or long range public plans? If yes, please describe.	
Describe any previous studies or plans completed for the project	
<i>Required for mid-term and short-term projects; provide for long-term projects if available</i>	
<b>Describe any environmental documents (e.g., NEPA) / studies completed for the project</b>	
<b>Describe any planning or environmental studies currently underway for the project</b>	
<b>RR Track / Branch Name</b>	
<b>RR Milepost start (if known)</b>	

<b>RR Milepost end (if known)</b>	
<b>If RR crossing, include crossing number (CrossNo) from NCDOT Rail Crossings shapefile downloadable from</b> <i><a href="https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/gis/Pages/GIS-Data-Layers.aspx">https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/gis/Pages/GIS-Data-Layers.aspx</a></i>	
<b>If applicable, is the RR crossing public or private?</b>	
<b>Describe any matching funds for the project</b>	
<b>Are there any partnerships or joint ventures with other private or public parties for this project? If yes, please describe.</b>	
<i>Required for short-term projects; provide for long-term and mid-term projects if available</i>	
<b>Was this project submitted as a candidate improvement for NCDOT's Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) program?</b>	
<b>Right-of-Way Cost (\$)</b>	
<b>Cost provided in dollars of what year?</b>	
<b>Cost Based on what level of engineering?</b>	
<b>Construction Cost (\$)</b>	
<b>Cost provided in dollars of what year?</b>	
<b>Cost Based on what level of engineering</b>	
<b>Does Construction Cost include any soft costs such as preliminary engineering, environmental, contingencies, and agency overhead? Please list.</b>	
<b>Project Construction Start Date</b>	
<b>Project Construction End Date</b>	

Thank you in advance for your project submission. If you have any supporting studies or documents that may be provided, please send them along with this form to the following mailing or email address:

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