



# WV State Rail Plan

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**Presented by:**

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# STATE RAIL PLAN PROJECT TEAM



WV STATE RAIL PLAN  
STEERING COMMITTEE

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# WHAT IS A STATE RAIL PLAN?

Specified by the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) of 2008, a State Rail Plan:

- Articulates passenger and freight rail visions for a state
- Specifies long-term investment strategies, program of improvements
- Identifies benefits of improvements
  - Benefits used to prioritize investments



# WHY DEVELOP A STATE RAIL PLAN?



- Provide guidance for future freight and passenger rail planning, investments, and activities.
- Educate the public as to the importance and benefits of WV's rail system.
- To meet federal PRIIA requirements for future federal rail financial assistance eligibility.

# PLAN ELEMENTS

- Public outreach
- Profile the freight and passenger rail systems
- Identify and analyze high(er) speed rail alternatives
- Identify and analyze public benefits of potential investments





# PLAN ELEMENTS

- Vision, Goals, and Objectives for freight and passenger rail services
  - Consultation with stakeholders, public, and other states in the region
- Rail System Inventory and Assessment
  - Rail's role within transportation system
  - Assess performance freight and passenger service



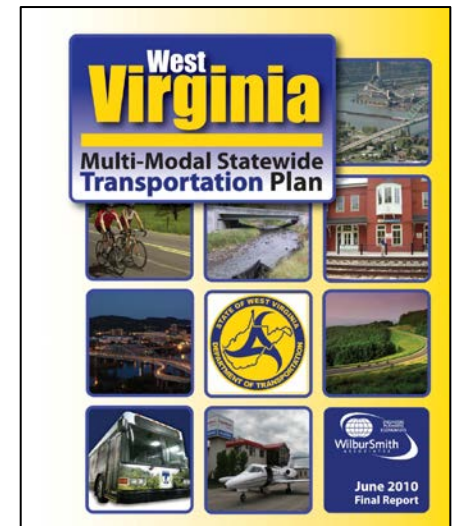
# PLAN ELEMENTS

- Identify Issues, Opportunities and Needs
  - Identify infrastructure improvements
  - Public financing issues, policies, and funding sources
- Develop Short and Long-term Investment Plans



# CHALLENGES

- Integrated Freight and Passenger System
  - Shared Corridors
  - Capacity Analysis
- Future Rail Funding
- Project Identification and Prioritization
- Multimodal Integration
  - Ports, Rail, Aviation, Highways
- Economic Development





# PROJECT APPROACH

- Develop a stakeholder and public outreach plan
- Conduct comprehensive analyses of existing or prospective rail issues:
  - Detailed freight corridor/commodity analysis
  - Economic development analysis of rail operations and/or tourist rail operations
  - Development of a project investment analysis tool



# PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Previous Studies

Databases

Inspection

Stakeholder Input

Freight System  
Assessment

Passenger System  
Assessment

Impact Analysis

Federal  
Requirements

Rail Plan

WV  
Objectives

Funding

Measurement



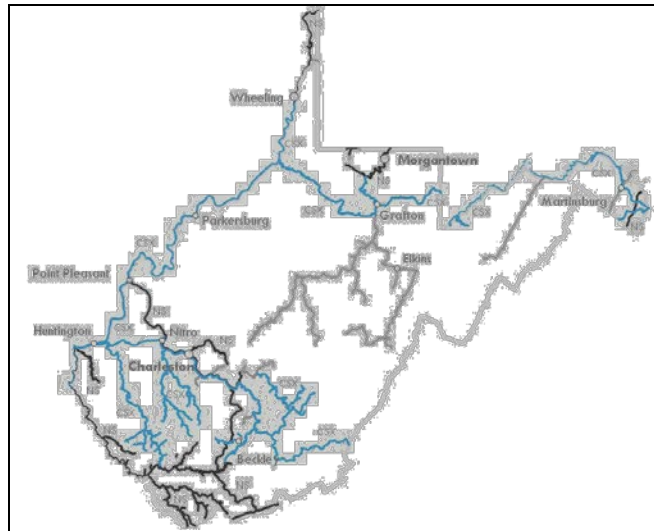
# KEY ISSUES

- Analysis Feasibility, Capacity and Cost of Potential New Intercity Passenger, HSR Corridors, and of Existing /Potential Commuter Rail Corridors.
- Economic Impact Analysis of Existing/Potential Commuter Corridors
- Feasibility, Costs and Benefits Tool for Rail Corridors and Projects
- Passenger Rail
- Short Line Railroads
- Class I Railroads



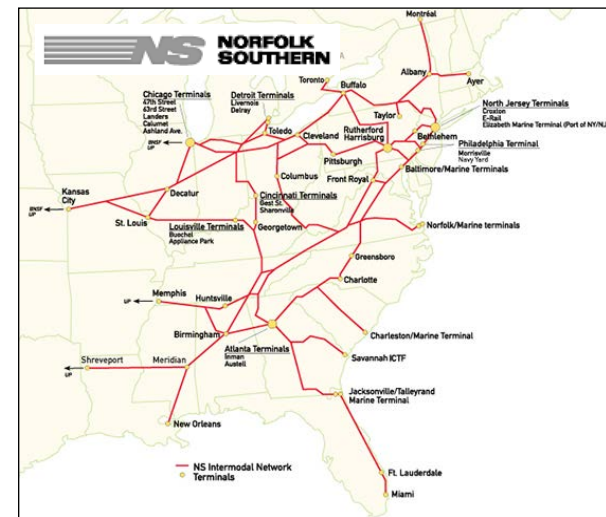
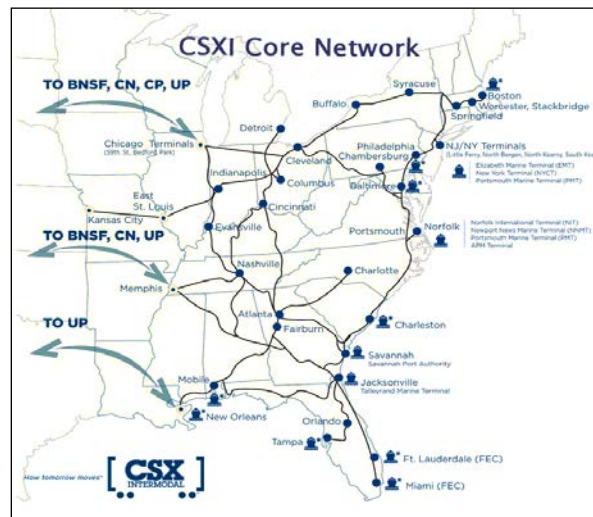
# WV FREIGHT TRAFFIC AND NETWORK

- NS and CSX Operate 84% of Rail Miles; Remainder Comprised of Local Railroads
- Main Lines in WV Largely Double Track
- Coal Dominates WV Originating (94%) and Terminating (77%) Traffic



# INTERMODAL LOGISTICS

- Unlike in Surrounding States, No Truck/Rail Container Intermodal Terminals are Currently Located in WV
- Previous Work Found That,
  - West Virginia Shippers Bring Containers into WV from Norfolk or Chicago by Truck
  - Potential Savings from Having an Intermodal Terminal are Significant





# HEARTLAND CORRIDOR

- WV a Partner and Contributor
- Opened September 2010
- Improve Intermodal Access to Norfolk, Chicago and Beyond
- Prichard Infrastructure Construction Underway
- ***How to Maximize WV Economic Development Benefits?***





# NS CRESCENT CORRIDOR/ CSX NATIONAL GATEWAY



- New Corridors Currently Being Developed
- Two of Largest Rail Projects in North America
- WV a Partner and Contributor
- Both Potentially Give WV Shippers Access to East Coast Ports
- Both Could Be Considered for Joint Freight/Passenger Use

# FREIGHT NEEDS ASSESSMENT



- Rail capacity and congestion effects
- Effects on highway, aviation, and maritime capacity, congestion, or safety
- Regional balance
- Environmental impact
- Economic and employment impacts
- Shipper Identification
- Carrier Identification
- Capacity Modeling



# PASSENGER NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- Analyze Passenger Systems in West Virginia
  - Corridors, Stations and Amenities
  - Schedules and Ridership
  - Existing & Developing Plans
  - State Passenger Flows (All Modes)
  - Multimodal Connections
- Economic Development Opportunities
- Partnerships (Public & Private)
- Constraints and Remaining Capacity
- Engage the Stakeholders

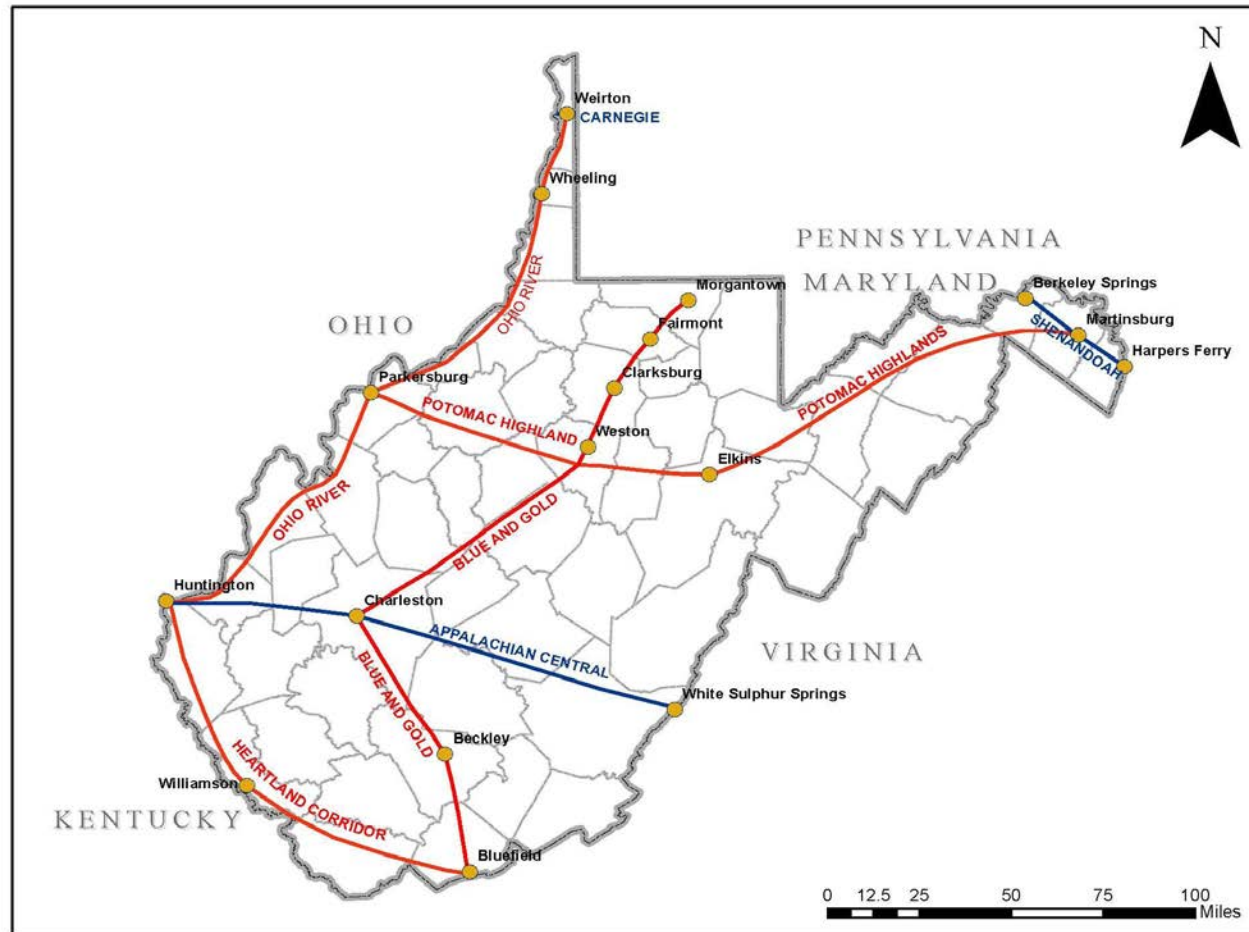


# VALIDATE INVESTMENT IN PASSENGER RAIL

- Mobility Benefits
- User Benefits
- Environmentally Friendly Alternative
- Quality of Life Benefits
- Economic Development Benefits
  - Station Area Development
  - Transit Oriented Development
- Goal – Develop a Multi-Year Strategic Plan



# POTENTIAL HIGH SPEED RAIL CORRIDORS



- Assessment of Currently Proposed HSIPR Corridors and their Potential Connectivity to West Virginia (i.e. Economic Development)



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Identify Locations with Development Potential:
  - Central Location
  - Excellent Highway, Rail and/or River Access
  - Land Suitable for Development
- Identify Energy and Manufacturing/Distribution Opportunities
- Maintain and Improve West Virginia's Competitive Position

***Rail Plan Should Drive Economic Development***





# INVESTMENT MEASURES

(PRIIA REQUIRES OVERALL BENEFITS BE DEFINED IN THESE TERMS)

- Freight and Passenger Mobility
- Economic Development
  - Job Creation/Job Retention
  - Tax Base
  - New Investments
- Land Use (Industrial Access vs. Noise)
- Environment (Rail vs. Truck)
  - Pollutants
  - Noise
- Energy Consumption
- Community Quality of Life



# NEXT STEPS

- Conduct first round of outreach meetings
- Complete rail system inventory
- Begin development of a rail vision, goals and objectives
- Begin rail analysis and assessment



# PUBLIC OUTREACH



- Conduct Rail Plan Stakeholder and Public Meetings Statewide
  - Two rounds of eight meetings
  - Fall 2012 meetings to be held in:
    - Elkins
    - Fairmont
    - Huntington
    - Lewisburg
    - Martinsburg
    - Ripley
    - Wheeling
    - Williamson
- Rail Plan Website  
([www.westvirginiarailplan.com](http://www.westvirginiarailplan.com))

# PROJECT SCHEDULE



- Project Planning – 6/12 – 12/12
- Data Collection – 6/12 – 12/12
- Rail Assessment – 8/12 – 1/13
- Develop Alternatives – 1/13-4/13
- Complete Rail Plan – 5/13-7/13
- Project Completion – 12/13

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?



- Recommend knowledgeable stakeholders to be interviewed or surveyed
- Identify issues, problems, opportunities, etc. that should be investigated
- Attend public meetings (Nov-Dec 2012)