



Division of Finance & Management

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TO: South Dakota Railroad Board

FROM: Jack Dokken, Office of Air, Rail, and Transit

DATE: February 10, 2022

SUBJECT: State Rail Plan Update

In accordance with FRA requirements, SDDOT maintains a State Rail Plan (SRP). The SRP will document the current role of rail in South Dakota and the institutional governance structure of the state's rail programs; inventory the state's existing rail lines and assets; illustrate the safety, environmental, and economic impacts of rail; determine current rail needs and issues; evaluate the potential for future passenger rail service implementation; list the projects and studies needed to achieve the state's rail vision and identify potential funding sources for rail projects. The SRP will be submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration. Separate from the SRP, the SDDOT is also creating a Rail Investment Guide (RIG). The RIG will establish asset management strategies and analyze the continued feasibility of maintaining State-owned rail assets.

Current Progress:

- The SRP technical panel was created, and monthly meetings are held to discuss the direction of the SRP and advise the consultant.
- Stakeholder interviews have been completed with the railroad companies, authorities, shippers and more to gather information about recent progress and future needs of the individual rail lines and the state rail network.
- Outlines for the SRP and RIG have been created.
- Public outreach meetings have been scheduled to provide SD communities information and gather feedback on the SRP. All meetings will be in person and have the option to attend online.
- Meetings across the state are scheduled as follows:
  - Sioux Falls, February 28
  - Mitchell, March 1
  - Aberdeen, March 2
  - Rapid City, March 3
- SRP website can be accessed at <https://www.southdakotasrp.com>