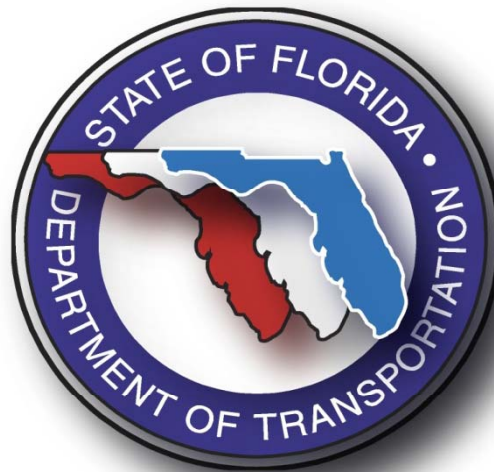


# Florida Department of Transportation



## Florida Rail System Plan Update

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# *Rail System Plan Update*

- ◆ Required every two years
- ◆ Two elements
  - ✓ Policy Element - completed
  - ✓ Investment Element – completion – Summer 2009
- ◆ Different from past plans
  - ✓ Shifts from descriptive to strategic
  - ✓ Addresses both passenger and freight
  - ✓ Shows rail interaction with other modes
  - ✓ Expanded stakeholder involvement



# *Rail System Plan Update*

## ◆ Status

- ✓ Policy Element - Adopted
- ✓ Investment Element – Summer 2009
  - Identification of passenger and freight needs
  - Prioritization of needs based on Policy Element
  - Proposed funding plan



# *Policy Element*

- ◆ Policies tied to the five existing Florida Transportation Plan Goals
  - ✓ Safety/Security
  - ✓ Quality of Life/Environmental Stewardship
  - ✓ Maintenance/Preservation
  - ✓ Mobility/Economic Competitiveness
  - ✓ Sustainable Investments
- ◆ Objectives and strategies developed by the Rail Stakeholder Advisory Committee
- ◆ FDOT implementation actions to provide more specificity



# *Policy Element*

- ◆ Safety and Security
  - ✓ Continue investing in existing rail-related programs
    - Grade crossing safety improvements
    - Rail safety inspection
    - Grade crossing opening/closure permitting
  - ✓ Develop programs to address critical issues
    - Trespass safety action plan
    - Security action plans
    - Intelligent transportation management technology
    - Coordination with emergency response agencies
    - Extend public outreach



# *Policy Element*

- ◆ Quality of Life and Environmental Stewardship
  - ✓ Integrate rail and land use planning at all levels
    - Work with Department of Community Affairs and others to integrate growth management and transportation plans
    - Work with local governments to ensure land use decisions support commuter rail
    - Evaluate impacts of rail capacity expansion on communities and the environment
  - ✓ Coordinate with other transportation agencies to expand the use of the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) process to identify potential environmental issues



# *Policy Element*

## ◆ Maintenance and Preservation

- ✓ Work with all partners to maintain rail infrastructure, preserve rail service and modernize the rail system when public benefit can be demonstrated
  - Continue to invest in rail infrastructure including improvements to bring short-line railroads to industry standards
  - Encourage long-term preservation of rail corridors and rights-of-way for future uses
  - Identify and support rail bridge repair/replacement
  - Continue to support modernization of the rail system



# *Policy Element*

- ◆ Mobility and Economic Competitiveness
  - ✓ Passenger rail
    - Focus on key commuter rail hub systems
    - Focus on intercity between commuter rail hubs and key city pairs
  - ✓ Freight rail
    - Invest in infrastructure that improves operational efficiency and eliminates critical chokepoints
    - Invest in upgrades to handle industry standard railcars
    - Invest to ensure key intermodal and industrial access
  - ✓ Invest in new capacity in under-served areas of the state
  - ✓ Evaluate potential abandonments for future uses





# *Policy Element*

- ◆ Sustainable Investments
  - ✓ Promote public awareness
    - Develop an initial review process for rail projects to get input and establish support
    - Support studies to enable better understanding of investment decisions
  - ✓ Capitalize on funding opportunities
    - Identify existing, new and innovative sources and financial tools
  - ✓ Ensure appropriate analysis of investment decisions
    - Expand project assessment tools to prioritize projects
    - Ensure benefit/cost analyses include full range of factors
  - ✓ Ensure funds are available to respond to investment opportunities



# *Rail Stakeholder Involvement*

- ◆ Rail Stakeholder Advisory Committee
  - ✓ Purpose: Develop policy recommendations
  - ✓ Five meetings held Summer/Fall 2008
- ◆ Public Input and Review



## *Next Steps*

- ◆ Needs survey – May 2009
  - ✓ Online
  - ✓ Both stakeholder and citizen input
- ◆ Development of prioritization methodology
- ◆ Development of document
- ◆ 30-day public comment period

<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/rail/plandevvel.shtm>



*Questions?*

