

BNSF Railway

Northwestern University Transportation Center **Freight Policy Panel**

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***Do we need
a National Freight Policy?***

Potential Freight Policy Benefits

- **Vision, goals & implementation strategies**
- **Increase awareness of goods movement**
- **More \$ for freight projects?**
- **Focus attention on freight / passenger infrastructure “conflicts”**

U.S. System Doesn't Favor Policy Approach

- **Who would establish the vision, goals & implementation strategies?**
 - **Congress?**
 - **Administration?**
 - **States?**
- **Congress / Administrations change frequently; not bound by predecessors**
- **Best scenarios:**
 - **Landmark legislation (Staggers Act, ISTEA)**
 - **Presidential Commitment (passenger rail)**

FREIGHT Act of 2010 (S. 3629)

“It is the policy of the U.S. to improve the efficiency, operation, and security of the national transportation system to move freight by leveraging investments and promoting partnerships . . . promote economic competitiveness . . . improve the safe and efficient mobility of goods, and protect the public health and the environment.”

FREIGHT Act of 2010 (S. 3629) cont.

- **Objectives**

- **Target investments in freight**
- **Promote energy conservation**
- **Advance safety**
- **Improve reliability**
- **Promote partnerships**
- **Encourage Intelligent Transportation systems (ITS)**

FREIGHT Act of 2010 (S. 3629) cont.

- **Goals**

- **Reduce delays**
- **Increase reliability**
- **Reduce freight fatalities by 10% by 2015**
- **Reduce freight-related carbon emissions by 40% by 2030**

FREIGHT Act of 2010 (S. 3629) cont.

- **Establishes in OST an Office of Freight Planning and Development**
- **Develops national freight transportation strategic plan**
- **Establishes grant program for freight projects, (ports, multi-modal terminals, freight rail, ITS for freight, etc.)**
- **NO REVENUE SOURCE!**

FREIGHT Focus Act of 2010 (H.R. 6291)

- **Creates Office of Freight Planning
(administers new trust fund)**
- **Develops national freight plan and process for
funding prioritization**
- **Designates freight corridors & forms corridor coalitions**
- **Establishes goods movement trust fund:**
 - **12¢/gal. increase in truckers' diesel tax**
 - **\$3 billion annually from general fund**
 - **50% of GF contributions and 100% of diesel tax
revenues are restricted to highway projects**

FRA Rail Plan

- **Progress Report**

- **More people, more freight**

- **Safety**

- **Energy**

- **Passenger rail**

- **Goal:**

- **Move 50% of freight shipments greater than 500 miles by “Intermodal Rail”**

- **Platitudes, Generalities, Clichés**

The Staggers Act

It takes a sophisticated freight rail system to deliver the goods. A system created by companies that continually invest – making America’s rail network fast, efficient, safe, green, and low-priced compared to the rest of the world. It’s a system made possible by the foresight of leaders who 30 years ago – October 14, 1980 – passed the Staggers Act, creating an effective partnership between freight rail companies and their customers. The Staggers Act helped unleash a freight Rail renaissance that’s delivering for America.

**Congratulations. . .
And here’s to the next 30 years.**

Freight Rail Works



