

# 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*



