



**Statewide Rail Framework Study
Summary
December 2008**

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

As one of a series of Framework Studies, the Statewide Rail Framework Study ("the Study") will describe a rail development program and investment strategy for the state of Arizona to promote the development of an efficient, multi-modal transportation system for people and goods. The Study will address rail transportation needs across Arizona. It will consider existing conditions and estimated future needs for both freight rail and passenger rail, with the latter including potential intercity and commuter service. Objectives of the Study will be:

- To stimulate responsible economic growth within the State of Arizona.
- To maximize the use of existing rail infrastructure through strategic investments to facilitate efficient movement of people and goods.
- To complement other existing and planned transportation systems (highway and transit).
- To help address global and local economic, climate, environmental and energy issues.
- To partner with the private railroad companies to the mutual benefit of all parties.

To meet identified needs for improvements to the existing rail system, appropriate programs and projects will be recommended. These programs and projects may consist of modifications to existing systems or the establishment of new facilities and services. When completed, the Study will become the rail component of the Statewide Transportation Planning Framework (STPF).

Study Area

The study area will encompass Arizona and areas of influence in adjacent jurisdictions. "Areas of influence" are those portions of California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Sonora (Mexico) that affect Arizona rail systems.

Rail Framework Technical Advisory Team

At the inception of the Study, a Rail Framework Technical Advisory Team (RTAT) will be convened to provide input for the Study. This group may include, among others:

- Arizona statewide agencies: ADOT, Corporation Commission, State Land Department, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Commerce (including Office of Tourism), Governor's Office of Highway Safety, State Parks
- Arizona regional and local Agencies: MPOs, COGs, counties, tribal communities, selected transit agencies, major cities and towns along existing and proposed corridors,
- Railroads (Union Pacific, BNSF, Amtrak, short lines operating in the state, and transfer/switching lines)
- Federal agencies: Federal Railroad Administration, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Bureau of Land Management (for corridors that cross federal lands), National Park Service, USDA Forest Service
- Rail interest groups: Arizona Rail Passenger Association, Southwest Rail Corridor Coalition, Shortline Association, American Public Transit Association, Arizona Transit Association.
- Border states: California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Sonora (Mexico)



- Trade and economic development organizations: port authorities, foreign trade zones, economic development authorities
- Major freight users: Mining companies, power plants, shippers, lumber interests, etc.

The RTAT will meet to provide input for each major task. The schedule will include working sessions coordinated with the completion of each major task. Members of the RTAT will have an opportunity to review and comment on each work product.

Task 1 – Study Initiation

Purpose: To provide a solid foundation for collaborative relationships between ADOT and stakeholders, and to establish processes allowing timely completion of the study

Task 2 – Data Collection

Purpose: To compile and document pertinent and necessary information on existing and proposed rail systems, as well as related physical, social, and economic conditions that affect current and potential future rail facilities.

Task 3 – Freight and Passenger Rail Travel Demand Forecast

Purpose: To estimate the demand for freight movement, focusing on opportunities for value capture and passenger travel, and to analyze the implications of these as the basis for developing alternatives. This task will include an explicit focus on the potential for intercepting cargo at intermodal centers to create value-added opportunities.

Task 4 - Identification of Issues

Purpose: To identify issues that may determine alternative futures (scenarios) for statewide rail system development.

Task 5 – Development of Rail System Alternatives

Purpose: To describe alternatives for the future development of freight rail and passenger rail, including commuter and intercity rail, for subsequent evaluation. Key measures of effectiveness for evaluation of alternatives will be described.

Task 6 – Evaluation of Alternatives

Purpose: To compare alternatives according to the vision, goals, objectives, and measures of effectiveness, in order to determine the most effective set of recommendations.

Task 7– Draft and Final Rail Framework Recommendations

Purpose: To elaborate and refine the preliminary recommendation into a package of freight and passenger rail transportation improvements.

Task 8 - Study Documentation

Purpose: To convey information on the study and its findings, in a manner that will be most useful to ADOT, the stakeholders, and the STPF management.



DELIVERABLES

- Working Paper #1, *Study Management Plan*
- Working Paper #2, *Summary of Existing Conditions*
- Working Paper #3, *Forecast of Freight and Passenger Demand*
- Working Paper #4, *Summary of Key Issues*
- Working Paper #5, *Definition of Alternatives*
- Working Paper #6, *Evaluation of Alternatives.*
- Working Paper #7, *Draft Recommendation.*
- *Draft Final Report and Final Report* documenting the entire study, including extensive graphics, an Executive Summary (which will be included in the report and will also stand alone), appendices with meeting minutes, public and stakeholder input, and additional technical materials.