

ARIZONA STATE RAIL PLAN



Rail Technical Advisory Team May 5, 2010





Arizona's Transportation Future



Welcome to the State Rail Plan



Introductions





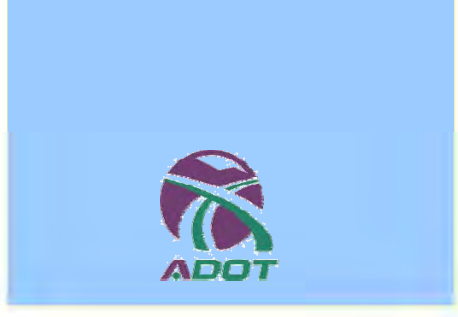
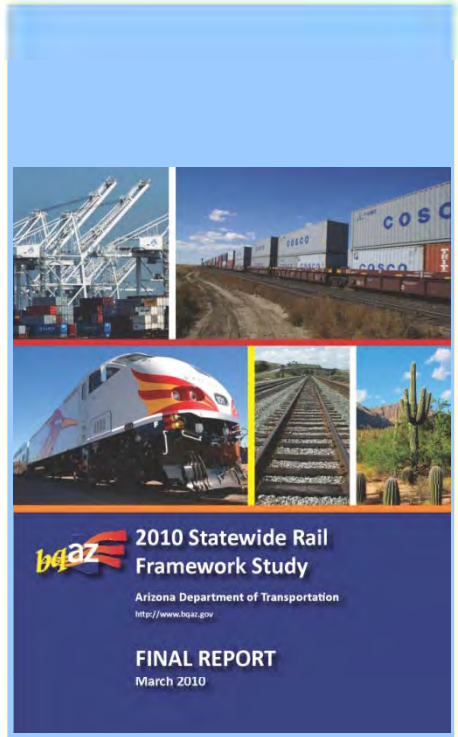
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RTAT Agenda

- Rail Framework Recommendations
- State Rail Plan – Purpose/Outline
- Issues, Opportunities, and Actions
- Implementation Priorities
- Funding
- Discussion

Rail Framework Study Outcomes



- Identified 13 strategic rail opportunities
 - 5 Passenger Rail related
 - 8 Freight Rail related
- Organized into 7 implementation pursuits, including phasing
 - 2 Passenger Rail related
 - 4 Freight Rail related
 - 1 Governance related
- Incorporated as Rail Element in Statewide Transportation Planning Framework Final Report



State Rail Plan

- Provides additional opportunities for Federal Funding
 - High Speed Rail (HSR) Funding
 - Federal Rail Administration (FRA) Grants
- Comprehensive State Transportation Planning
 - State Rail Plan
 - Long Range Transportation Plan
 - Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan
 - Aeronautics Plan
- Documents the issues, opportunities, and needs for rail investments in Arizona





State Rail Plan Outline

- Rail Vision and Benefits
 - Goals, Objectives, and Rail benefits
- Inventory of Existing Conditions
- Issues, Opportunities, and Needs
 - Passenger Service
 - Network Requirements
 - Safety and Congestion Mitigation
- Prioritization of Proposed Rail Actions
 - Evaluation Process
 - Recommended Investments
 - Implementation Plan
- Potential Funding Strategies
- Appendix





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Issues, Opportunities, and Needs

- **Passenger Rail Service**
 - High Speed Rail
 - Intercity Rail Service (including Amtrak)
 - Commuter Rail
 - Tourist Railroads
- **Network Requirements**
 - Transcontinental Corridors
 - Intermodal and distribution systems
 - Class I Branch and Shortline Railroads
- **Safety and Congestion Mitigation**
 - Grade Separations and Safety Improvements
 - Capacity enhancements



Recommended Rail Priorities

Rail Framework Study –

- Reviewed all suggested needs
- Recommended the highest importance

State Rail Plan –

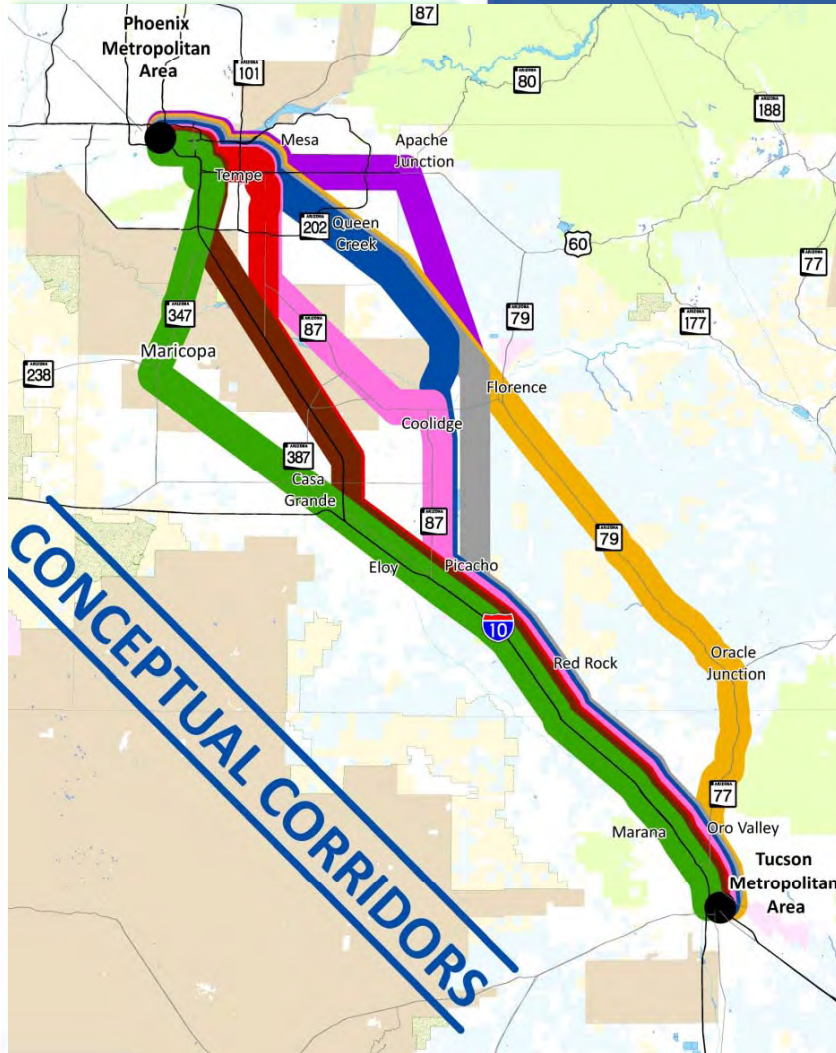
- Prioritization of Rail Framework recommendations
- Evaluation Criteria
 - Statewide Framework Public Outreach
 - Rail Framework / RTAT
 - State Rail Plan Focus Groups





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Passenger Rail Priorities



- Intercity and Commuter Rail System
 - Intercity Rail provides transit backbone for Sun Corridor
 - Prescott/Flagstaff to Nogales
 - Phased Implementation
 - Phoenix to Tucson highest priority
 - Seamless coordination with Commuter Rail



Passenger Rail Priorities



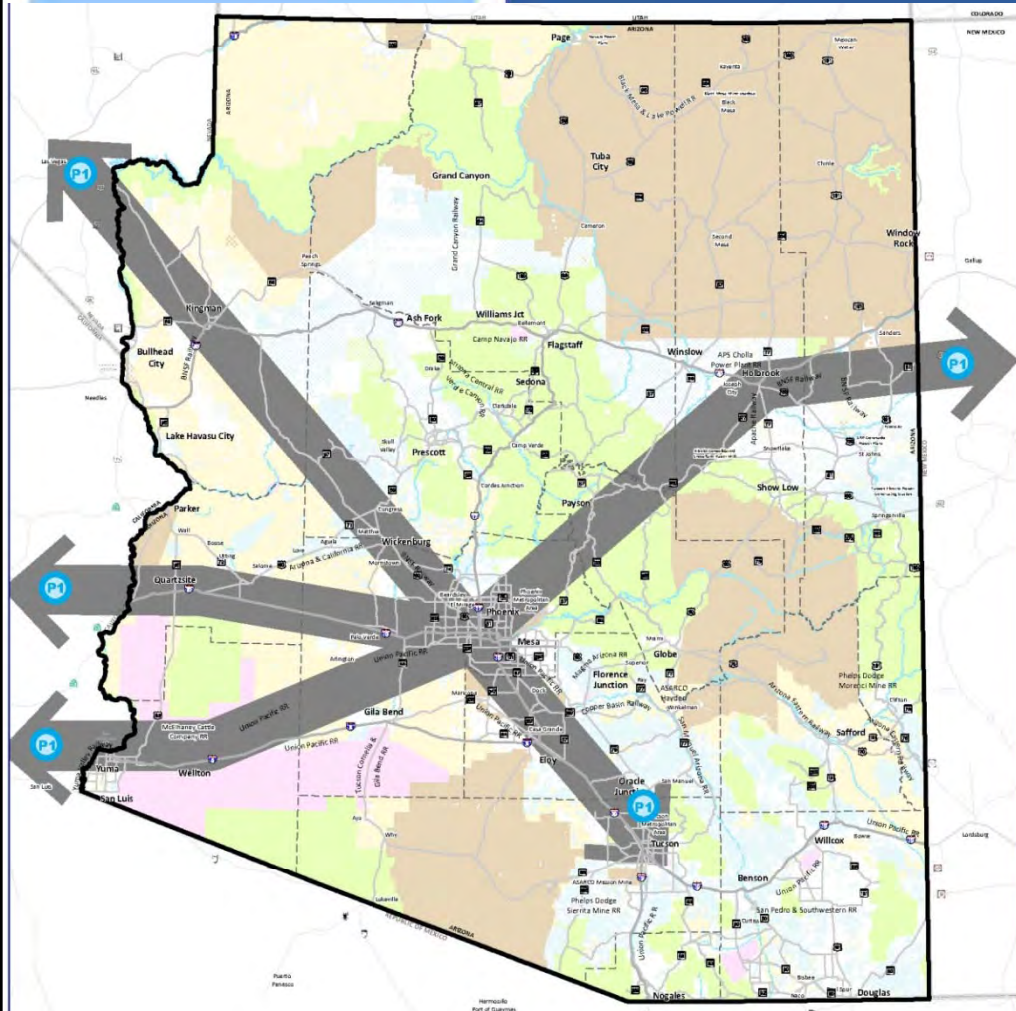
- **Commuter rail systems in Phoenix and Tucson**
 - **MAG System Development**
 - Grand – Tempe; Yuma Branch – SE
 - **PAG System Development**
 - I-10 Corridor; Oracle Corridor
 - **Coordinated with Intercity Rail recommendations**



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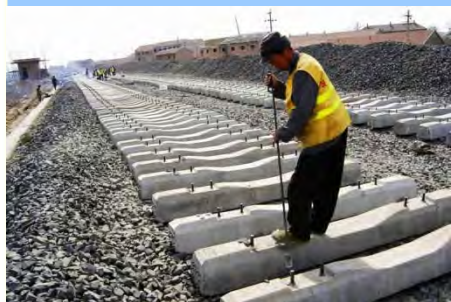
Passenger Rail Priorities

- Complete feasibility and route studies to establish a Western High Speed Rail Network
 - Western High Speed Rail Alliance
 - Possible connections to California, Nevada, and New Mexico





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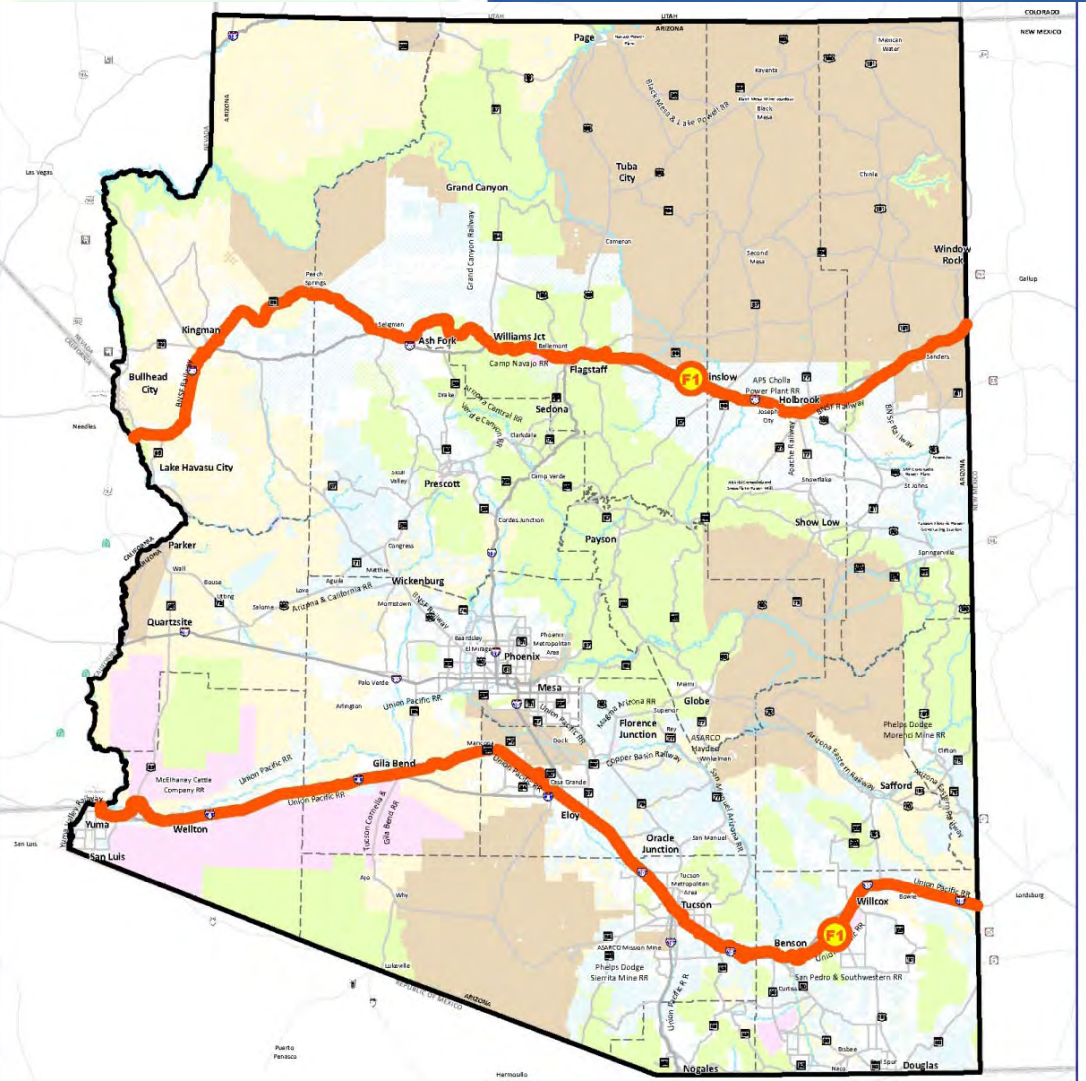
Other Passenger Rail Opportunities

- Partner with Amtrak to improve existing service
 - Southwest Chief (BNSF)
 - Sunset Limited (UPRR)
 - Provide service to Phoenix Metro Area
- Partner with Class I Railroads to implement operational improvements along branch lines
 - Geometric enhancements along BNSF Peavine
 - Rehabilitation of UPRR Wellton Branch
 - Efficiency improvements along UPRR Nogales Branch



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Network Priorities



- Partner with Class I railroads to implement operational improvements along transcontinental corridors
- Bottleneck improvements
- Classification yard capacity
- Intermodal improvements



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Network Priorities

- Partner with railroads to locate and develop intermodal and logistic centers along key railroad corridors
 - Inland ports within Arizona
 - Intermodal Distribution Centers





Safety and Congestion Mitigation Opportunities

- Create a program to replace existing at-grade rail crossings with grade separated crossings
 - Expand data collection and monitoring
 - Construct high priority grade separations
 - Safety enhancement program
 - Traffic flow enhancements

At-Grade Crossing



Grade Separated Crossing





Safety and Congestion Mitigation Opportunities

- Investigate freight rail bypass
 - Yuma
 - Tucson
 - Nogales
 - Railroad Small Area Transportation Study
 - Flagstaff
 - Flagstaff Bypass Study





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Other Opportunities

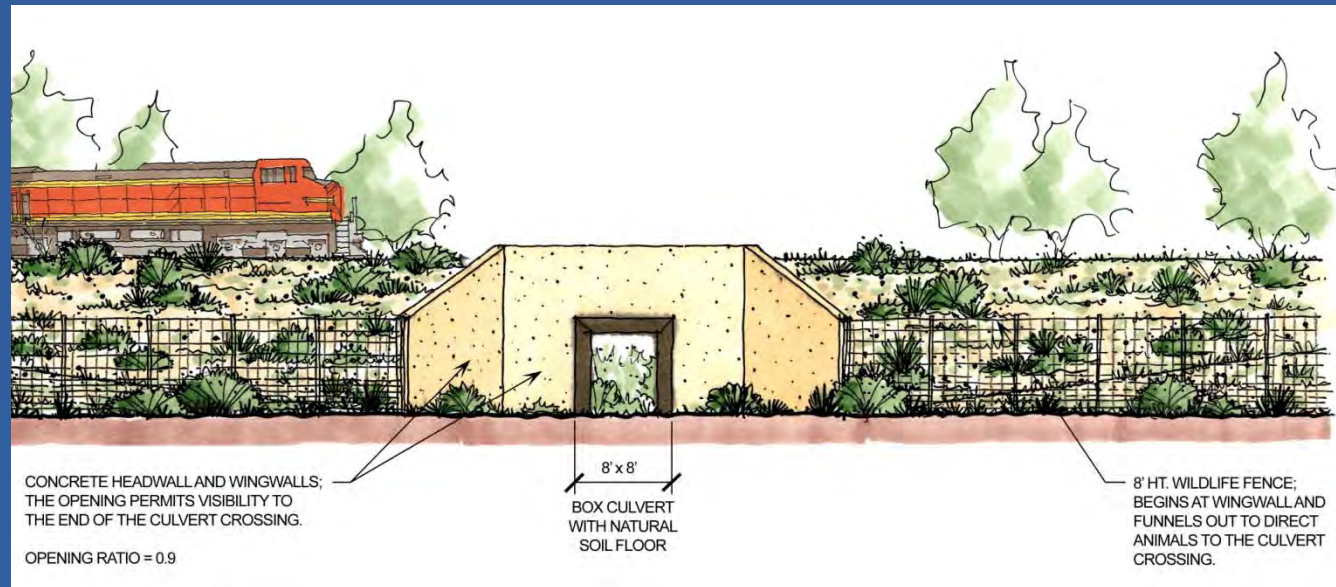
- Develop a Short Line assistance program for strategic rail investments in the Class III railroads
 - Potential loan program
 - Potential dedicated funding source
- Establish New Rail Corridors
 - Hassayampa Multi-modal Corridor
 - Other Freight/Passenger Corridors
- Create a rail corridor preservation program to preserve abandoned rail lines for future uses
 - Rails to Trails program
 - Right of Way Preservation



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Other Opportunities

- Collaborate with Arizona Game and Fish to implement wildlife mitigation measures along existing rail corridors
 - Potential program for research projects
 - Wildlife crossing/fencing projects
 - Opportunities for range management





Funding Options

Federal Funds

- FHWA Surface Transportation Program
- FRA Section 130, Grade Crossing Safety Improvements
- New Federal Funding via Re-authorization
- FHWA Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Funds
- FRA High Speed Rail Grants

State & Local Funds

- State & Local Match Options





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Additional Information & Assistance:

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