

# IDAHO STATEWIDE RAIL PLAN



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## Background and Project Information

Rail is one of the most established and oldest modes of transportation in the state. Today, rail is a critical component of Idaho’s growing economy. It directly supports many of Idaho’s most important and emerging industries, from mining and semiconducting manufacturing, to agriculture and fertilizer production.

Recognizing these valuable benefits, the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is updating its State Rail Plan. The overarching purpose of the State Rail Plan is to provide a strategic path forward for the state’s rail system. This includes a comprehensive assessment of existing infrastructure, systemwide activity, and strategies across the state. The State Rail Plan will highlight the economic value and overall importance of rail to the state, while identifying needs and potential investment opportunities. It will also consider the needs of Idaho’s passenger rail system, and related goals for ridership growth.

### Project Timeline

The State Rail Plan will be developed in four sections, adhering to the timeline shown below.

Throughout this process, we will collaborate with stakeholders to discuss these components and develop recommendations. Stakeholder engagement and public participation will go a long way in developing a meaningful and effective strategy to guide rail planning in Idaho. We look forward to a successful plan and encourage those involved to reach out with any questions.

### Plan Goals



Provide for and improve the safety and security of the rail system.



Enhance mobility of the freight rail system to safely and efficiently transport goods to market.



Invest strategically in the rail system to maximize existing capacity, preserve infrastructure, and drive innovation.



Participate in effective partnerships that leverage resources and opportunities for the rail system.



**FALL 2024:**

Development of Vision, Goals, and Objectives to guide rail statewide planning.



**WINTER 2025:**

Assessment of existing physical conditions, systemwide usage, and related characteristics, including ongoing stakeholder outreach.



**SPRING 2025:**

Development of draft State Rail Plan, including systemwide needs and the Rail Investment Plan.



**SUMMER 2025:**

Development of finalized State Rail Plan, including related findings and next steps.

### CONTACT

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