

FLORIDA RAIL SYSTEM PLAN

NOVEMBER 2023

Appendix I:

Rail System Plan Checklist
49 U.S. Code Chapter 227



Appendix I: FRA Rail System Plan Checklist

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About This Checklist

This document contains a checklist identifying the locations in the newly prepared 2022 Florida Rail System Plan of content required for state rail plans under U.S. Code. The checklist is presented as Table 1.

Under 49 U.S. Code Chapter 227, each State, at its own election, may prepare and maintain a State rail plan as a means for:

- Setting forth State policy involving freight and passenger rail transportation, including commuter rail operations, in the State
- Establishing the period covered by the State rail plan
- Presenting priorities and strategies to enhance rail service in the State that benefits the public
- Serving as the basis for Federal and State rail investments within the State

To aid States in preparing such plans, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) issued final State Rail Plan Guidance on September 17, 2013. The guidance explains the process to be followed in developing State rail plans, including minimum content requirements, a standardized format, and FRA's review and acceptance process.

Section 11315 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015 (FAST Act) made subsequent changes to State rail plan requirements, including specifying that a State-approved rail plan be submitted every four years for acceptance by FRA, rather than the five years specified under the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA). There is no set schedule for States to submit rail plans to FRA for review and acceptance because the preparation and maintenance of a State rail plan is at the discretion of each State, and if a State rail plan exists, four-year update cycles vary.

The State rail plan may be published and presented to FRA either as a stand-alone document or as an element of the State's Long-Range Transportation Plan, as required in 23 U.S.C. 135 and 49 U.S.C. 5304. Incorporation of the State rail plan within the statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan may provide an opportunity for States to more fully envision and present their rail program within a broader context of the State's multimodal statewide transportation system. If the State rail plan is incorporated within the State's Long-Range Transportation Plan, it is important that the State rail plan standard format be used (for the State rail plan section of the statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan) and that the State Rail Plan Approval Authority, as described in Section III of the FRA Guidance, explicitly approves the State rail plan element.

Appendix I: FRA Rail System Plan Checklist

Table 1 | Certification of an FRA Rail Plan

ITEM FOR REVIEW		ASSESSMENT		
		Yes	No	N/A
Section 49 U.S.C. Section 22705 Requirements				
(a) IN GENERAL. — Each State rail plan shall, at minimum, contain the following:		✓	✓	
Observations:	<p>The 2022 Florida Rail System Plan contains all the following information and is a complete update, bringing the plan in line with federal guidance, including updated data to within 4 years of the current plan. References made to specific chapters and sections below all pertain to the 2022 Florida Rail System Plan prepared by the Florida Department of Transportation.</p> <p>Projects identified and efforts recommended in this plan fulfill the requirements for funding as established by the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA), seeking capital grants under Sections 301, 302, and 501 of PRIIA.</p>			
	(1) An inventory of the existing overall rail transportation system and rail services and facilities within the state and an analysis of the role of rail transportation within the state’s surface transportation system.	✓		
Observations:	<p>An inventory of Florida’s existing rail transportation system, including rail services and facilities in the state, can be found in Chapter 2. Appendices A, B, C and D contain profiles and information of all rail lines, passenger services, and train stations. Chapter 1 analyzes the role of rail transportation within the state’s surface transportation system.</p>			
	(2) A review of all rail lines within the state, including all freight rail lines, intercity passenger rail lines, commuter rail lines, and proposed high-speed rail corridors and significant rail line segments not currently in service.	✓		
Observations:	<p>Chapter 2 provides an overview and inventory of the state’s existing rail system. Section 2.1.1 discusses the existing freight rail system. Section 2.1.2 discusses the existing passenger rail systems (Intercity passenger rail, commuter rail, and urban rail transit). Appendices A and B contain profiles of the rail lines in the state operated by Class I, Class II, and Class III freight railroads. Appendix C contains a profile of Florida’s passenger rail network. In Chapter 3, Section 3.5.1 contains a review of a passenger rail corridor assessment to identify and evaluate new intercity passenger rail corridors proposed for development, as well as existing intercity passenger rail corridors proposed for an expansion of service. Table 2-3 lists the railroad</p>			

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ITEM FOR REVIEW		ASSESSMENT		
		Yes	No	N/A
Section 49 U.S.C. Section 22705 Requirements				
	abandonments in Florida since 2015, including lines identified for potential future trail use/rail banking.			
	(i) An illustration of the state’s entire rail system to include: (1) the operating carrier or carriers, (2) location of freight, intercity passenger, high-speed, and commuter rail service, and (3) rail rights-of-way that have been preserved for potential reactivation	✓		
Observations:	<p>In Chapter 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Figure 2-2 presents a map of Florida’s freight and passenger rail network (2) Figure 2-3 presents a map of lines operated by Florida’s Class I, Class III, and Class III railroads (3) Figure 2-7 presents a map of Florida’s Class III railroads (4) Figure 2-9 presents a map of Florida’s passenger rail network (5) Figure 2-10 presents a map of intercity passenger rail lines and stations served by Amtrak (6) Figure 2-11 presents a map of intercity passenger rail lines and stations served by Brightline (7) Figures 2-12 and 2-13 present maps of the Tri-Rail and SunRail commuter rail systems and stations, respectively (8) Table 2-3 lists the railroad abandonments in Florida since 2015, including lines identified for potential future trail use/rail banking (9) Figure 2-8 shows the locations of railroad abandonments in Florida since 2015 			
	(ii) The most recent available data on freight rail tonnage originated and terminated within the state by major commodity	✓		
Observations:	<p>Section 2.2.2 provides more detail on the commodity movements. Table 2-38 details the predictions of tonnage originated and terminated within the state by major commodity. Table 2-39 details current rail tonnage originated and terminated within the state.</p> <p>Appendix G: Commodity Flows and Forecast provides detailed information on existing and forecasted freight rail tonnage originated and terminated by major commodity.</p>			
	(iii) Information on the use of passenger and freight rail facilities	✓		

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ITEM FOR REVIEW		ASSESSMENT		
		Yes	No	N/A
Section 49 U.S.C. Section 22705 Requirements				
Observations:	<p>Section 2.1.3 discusses the major freight rail facilities in the state. Section 2.1.4 discusses the rail-served seaport facilities in the state. Section 2.1.5 discusses the passenger and commuter rail facilities in the state. Summary facility information can be found in Section 2.1.1, which discusses Florida’s freight railroads and identifies major freight rail yards and facilities, and Section 2.1.2, which discusses Florida’s intercity passenger, commuter, and rail transit systems and identifies major passenger facilities.</p> <p>Appendix C contains additional information on Florida’s intercity passenger, commuter rail, and tourist railroad services and facilities. Appendix D contains detailed information on the characteristics of Florida’s Amtrak passenger rail stations.</p>			
	(3) A statement on the state’s passenger rail service objectives, including minimum service levels, for rail transportation routes.	✓		
Observations:	<p>Section 1.5.3 summarizes Florida’s vision for passenger rail service in in the state. Section 1.1 discusses key strategies for the Rail Plan.</p> <p>Chapter 3 discusses Florida’s goals and objectives for intercity passenger rail service. Discussions of specific projects in Chapter 3 include minimum service levels, where known. Section 3.1 discusses the passenger rail vision, opportunity and capacity. Planned service improvements are discussed in sections 3.4.5, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, and 3.8.</p> <p>In Chapter 5, section 5.1 discusses the state’s overall rail vision, section 5.1.1 discusses the goals, and Chapter 5.1.2 discusses the objectives.</p>			
	(4) A general analysis of rail’s transportation, economic, and environmental impacts in the state, including congestion mitigation, trade and economic development, air quality, land use, energy-use, and community impacts.	✓		
Observations:	Section 2.1.9 discusses the socioeconomic and livability impacts of freight and passenger rail service in Florida. More detailed information can be found in Appendix E: Economic Impacts of Freight Rail, and Appendix F: Economic Impacts of Passenger Rail.			

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ITEM FOR REVIEW		ASSESSMENT		
		Yes	No	N/A
Section 49 U.S.C. Section 22705 Requirements				
(5) A long-range rail investment program for current and future freight and passenger infrastructure in the state that meets the requirements of subsection (b) [of this section – “Long-Range Service and Investment Program”].		✓		
Observations:	Chapter 5 discusses Florida’s rail service and investment program and includes tables listing the future short- and long-range rail freight and passenger rail projects that have been identified for funding by the state.			
(6) A statement of public financing issues for rail projects and service in the state, including a list of current and prospective public capital and operating funding resources, public subsidies, state taxation, and other financial policies relating to rail infrastructure development.		✓		
Observations:	Section 2.1.7 summarizes the state and federal funding resources currently utilized and proposed for future railroad improvements in Florida. Sections 5.5 and 5.6 provide further detail about freight and passenger rail funding sources.			
(7) An identification of rail infrastructure issues within the state that reflects consultation with all relevant stakeholders.		✓		
Observations:	Chapter 6 discusses the consultation and outreach activities conducted with relevant stakeholders during the preparation of the 2022 Rail System Plan. Appendix H: Passenger & Freight Rail Outreach provides further information about stakeholder outreach and consultation. Section 2.3 identifies rail service needs and opportunities, including rail infrastructure issues within the state.			
(8) A review of the major passenger and freight intermodal connections and facilities within the state, including seaports and Marine Highway routes, and prioritized options to maximize service integration and efficiency between rail and other modes of transportation within the state.		✓		
Observations:	Section 2.1.3 discusses the major freight rail facilities in the state, including intermodal container transfer facilities and rail-truck transload terminals. Section 2.1.4 discusses the rail-served seaport facilities in the state. Section 2.1.5 discusses the passenger and commuter rail facilities in the state and identifies where modal transfers occur. Appendix C contains additional information on Florida’s intercity			

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		Yes	No	N/A
Section 49 U.S.C. Section 22705 Requirements				
	<p>passenger, commuter rail, and tourist railroad services and facilities. Appendix D contains detailed information on the characteristics of Florida’s Amtrak passenger rail stations.</p> <p>Section 2.3 discussing freight and passenger rail needs and opportunities identifies specific needs related to the improvement and expansion of intermodal connections and facilities. Chapter 3 discusses proposed future passenger rail intermodal improvements and Chapter 4 discusses proposed future freight rail intermodal improvements. The Rail Service and Investment Program in Chapter 5 includes projects that expand or improve freight and passenger rail intermodal connections and facilities.</p>			
	(9) A review of publicly-funded projects within the state to improve rail transportation safety and security, including all major projects funded under section 130 of title 23.	✓		
Observations:	<p>Rail safety project funding information is found in Section 2.1.7 and Chapter 5.</p> <p>The review of ongoing program and projects to improve safety and security can be found in Section 2.1.8.</p> <p>The review of safety related passenger rail projects can be found in Chapter 3.</p> <p>The review of safety related freight rail projects can be found in Chapter 4.</p> <p>Section 130 funds are highlighted in Chapters 4 and 5.</p>			
	(10) A performance evaluation of passenger rail services operating in the state, including possible improvements in those services and a description of strategies to achieve those improvements.	✓		
Observations:	<p>Chapter 2 contains a passenger rail performance evaluation, as well as a discussion of passenger rail needs and opportunities that improved services could address. See Section 2.1.6 and Section 2.3.</p> <p>Chapter 3 describes the ongoing, proposed, and potential initiatives to develop or improve intercity passenger rail, commuter rail, and urban rail transit services in</p>			

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		Yes	No	N/A
Section 49 U.S.C. Section 22705 Requirements				
	Florida. The Rail Service and Investment Program in Chapter 5 includes projects that expand or improve passenger rail services operating in the state.			
	(11) A compilation of studies and reports on high-speed rail corridor development within the state not included in a previous plan under this subchapter, and a plan for funding any recommended development of such corridors in the state.	✓		
Observations:	In Chapter 3, sections 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5 discuss plans and current initiatives concerning the development of high- and higher-speed passenger rail corridors within Florida. The Rail Service and Investment Program in Chapter 5 includes projects that expand or improve passenger rail services operating in the state. Sections 2.1.7 and 5.5 identify specific funding sources that could be used for potential development of passenger rail corridors.			
	(12) A statement that the state is in compliance with Title 49 United States Code Section 22102 as follows: “A state is eligible to receive financial assistance under this chapter only when the state complies with regulations the Secretary of Transportation prescribes under this chapter.”	✓		
Observations:	This statement appears in Section 1.3.1.			
As a minimum requirement noted in subsection (a)(5) for				
	(b) Long-Range Service and Investment Program	✓		
Observations:	The state’s Long-Range Service and Investment Plan is located in Chapter 5. Tables 5-4, 5-5, and 5-6 identify specific long-range investments.			
	(1) Program content. A long-range rail investment program included in (a)(5) above shall, at minimum include the following matters:	✓		
	“(A) A list of any rail capital projects expected to be undertaken and supported in whole or in part by the state.	✓		
Observations:	Tables 5-4, 5-5, and 5-6 identify the rail capital projects proposed for funding under the state’s long-range rail investment program.			

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Section 49 U.S.C. Section 22705 Requirements				
“(B) A detailed funding plan for those projects		✓		
Observations:	Chapter 2 provides a list of available funding sources to be utilized for the implementation of rail capital projects. Sections 5.5 and 5.6 identify the principal funding sources for proposed passenger and freight rail projects. Section 5.8 highlights programmed funding and unfunded amounts for projects included in the state’s rail service and investment program.			
(2) Project List Content. The list of rail capital projects shall contain--				
(A) A description of the anticipated public and private benefits of each such project		✓		
Observations:	Chapter 5 describes the anticipated public and private benefits of the state’s Rail Service and Investment Program. Projects highlighted in Chapters 3 and 4 provide additional detail in what these investments will provide to the state. Appendices E and F highlight the economic impact of rail service and investments.			
(B) A statement of the correlation between –				
“(i) public funding contributions for the projects; and		✓		
“(ii) public benefits.				
Observations:	Section 2.3 on needs and opportunities discusses correlations between public funding and public benefits. Sections 5.4, 5.5, and 5.6 discuss the public and private benefits anticipated from public investments in the state’s Rail Service and Investment Program. Chapters 3 and 4 provide additional information about public benefits and outcomes of projects proposed for funding in Chapter 5. detail in what these investments will add to the state. Appendices E and F highlight the economic impact of rail service and investments.			
(3) Considerations for Project List. In preparing the list of freight and intercity passenger rail capital projects, a state rail transportation authority should take into consideration the following matters:		✓		
Observations:	See below for references to specific topics.			

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Section 49 U.S.C. Section 22705 Requirements				
“(A) Contributions made by non-federal and non-state sources through user fees, matching funds, or other private capital involvement.		✓		
Observations:	Section 2.1.7 notes the contributions of different funding sources on the rail system. Section 2.3 discusses opportunities for improvements funded with a mix of public and private sources. Chapter 3 discusses private capital involvement in projects to expand intercity passenger rail in Florida. Chapter 4 discusses freight rail improvements funded mainly or exclusively with private capital.			
(B) Rail capacity and congestion effects.		✓		
Observations:	Sections 2.2.5, 2.2.6, and 2.2.7 discuss rail capacity and congestion on roadways and rails. Section 2.3 discusses needs and opportunities related to rail capacity expansion and congestion reduction. Chapters 3 and 4 discuss proposed passenger and freight rail projects that include an expansion of rail capacity and/or alleviation of congestion. The Rail Service and Investment Program in Chapter 5 includes projects that expand rail capacity and alleviate congestion.			
(C) Effects on highway, aviation, and maritime capacity, congestion, or safety.		✓		
Observations:	This is highlighted and discussed throughout Chapter 2. Section 2.1.8 discusses safety and security. Section 2.1.9 discusses highway and congestion impacts. Table 2-32 offers a summary comparison of fatalities and injuries per ton-mile, indicating the greater cost savings benefit associated with rail and waterborne transportation relative to trucking. Section 2.3 discusses needs and opportunities related to improvements in modal connectivity, congestion reduction, and safety. Chapters 3 and 4 discuss proposed passenger and freight rail projects that include improvement multimodal connections, opportunities for diversion of freight and passenger traffic onto rail, and initiatives to improve safety. The Rail Service and Investment Program in Chapter 5 includes projects that improve modal connections, reduce impacts to other modes through diversion, and improve safety.			
(D) Regional balance		✓		
Observations:	Tables 2-33 and 2-34 detail the role of Florida within the Southeast region and nationally. Chapter 3 discusses Florida’s involvement and support of initiatives to create high-performance passenger rail corridors across the Southeast.			

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		Yes	No	N/A
Section 49 U.S.C. Section 22705 Requirements				
(E) Environmental impact.		✓		
Observations:	Chapter 2.1.9 Socioeconomic and Livability Impact highlights environmental impacts. Table 2-30 compares the environmental impact of rail with other modes.			
(F) Economic and employment impacts		✓		
Observations:	Section 2.1.9 Socioeconomic and Livability Impact highlights economic and employment impacts. Table 2-28 and Table 2-29 identify passenger and freight rail economic and employment impacts. Appendices E and F discuss these impacts in further detail.			
(G) Projected ridership and other service measures for passenger rail projects.		✓		
Observations:	Table 2-42 contains ridership projections for Amtrak services. Chapter 3 discusses projected ridership of potential future initiatives, where known.			



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