



Mixing Fast Trains on Freight Rail Corridors



presented by:

Minnesota Department of Transportation

May 23, 2012

Your Destination...Our Priority





Presentation Outline

- State Plans for Fast (Passenger) Trains
- Overarching principles
- Why existing freight rail corridors
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Wrap-up





2009 Rail Plan (speeds up to 110 mph)



Twin Cities Overview



Legend

Passenger Rail Projects

- Phase I Projects (2010-2030) — [Thick dark blue line]
- Phase II Projects (Future Expansion) — [Light blue line]
- Other Freight Lines — [Thin grey line]

**Minnesota Rail Plan:
Recommended Minnesota
and Regional Passenger Rail System**





The US railroad industry is planning to spend roughly \$13B USD for infrastructure improvements in 2012 alone

The State Rail Plan identified passenger needs of about \$4B USD (2009 – 2030)





Passenger Rail Development Overarching Principles

- We need to work with the freight railroads
- Freight rail capacity must be preserved & improved
- Paid for with public and/or non-host railroad sources
- The resulting service must meet the public need

Freight Rail Corridors are privately owned (in most cases)





What Makes Existing Freight Rail Corridors Attractive?

- It already looks like a duck
- Existing recognizable and contiguous linear transportation corridors
- Minimal or no changes to land use (facilitated environmental approval)
- Allows for incremental development of new service



It looks easier!





Challenges

- Safety
 - proper separation of passenger and freight trains
 - public's perception of train speeds
 - controlling trespass and access in communities
- Operations
 - braking distances and acceleration rates
 - where to hold, meet and pass trains
 - proper location and configuration of station areas



More trains, different speeds – safely!





Challenges - continued

- Track Design
 - track is designed for slower heavier freight trains
 - curve design is not optimal for light fast trains
- Host Railroad Agreements
 - future freight needs
 - future passenger needs
 - liability and compensation



More trains, different speeds – safely!





Opportunities if Implemented Properly

- Safety
 - Engineering, Education and Enforcement
- Infrastructure
 - Phase-in improvements based on need & resources
 - Leave room for future growth (passenger & freight)
- Host Railroad Agreements
 - Cooperatively build a framework and partnership





Wrap-up

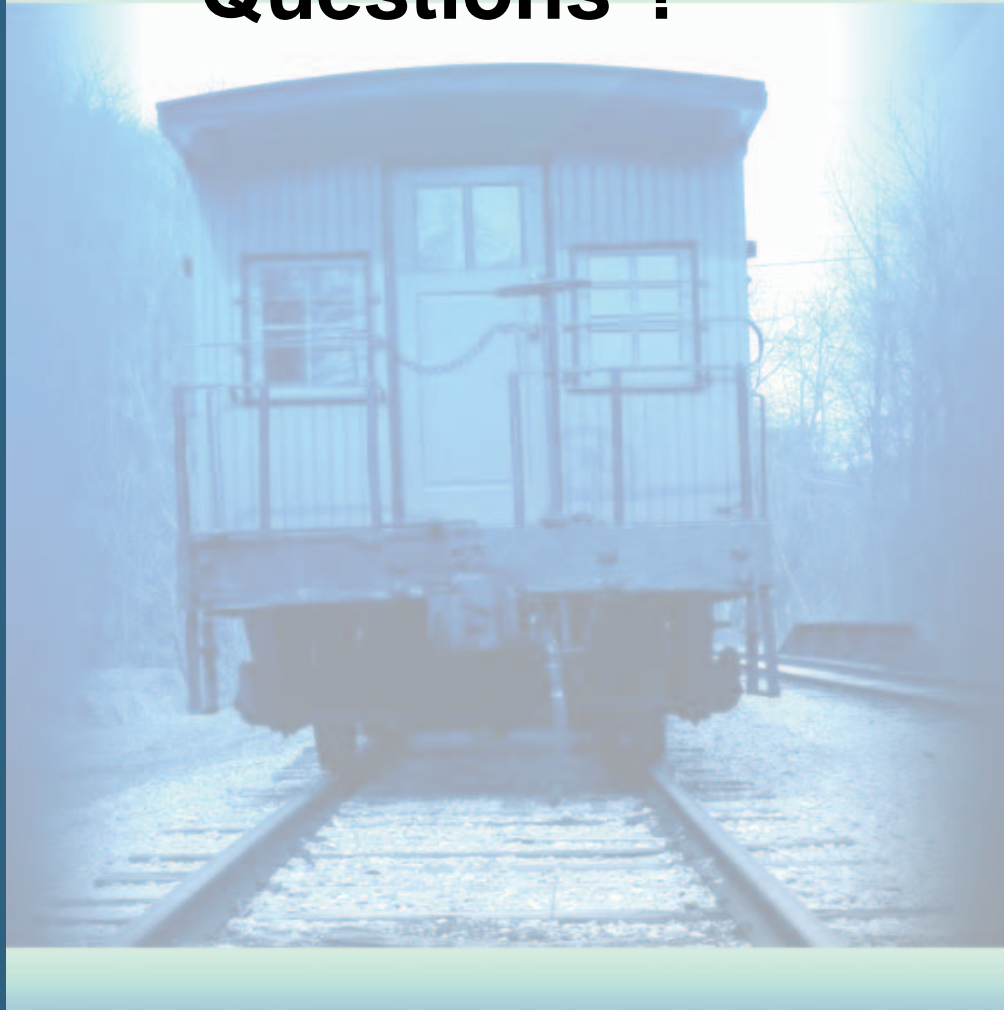
- Existing freight rail corridors provide a great opportunity
- Design needs to be optimized for joint use
- Safety and liability issues need to be addressed
- Corridor capacity and appropriate operating and maintenance costs need to be agreed to.

Cooperatively build a framework and partnership to address workable solutions





Questions ?



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