



Maryland State Rail Plan



Project Update

Presented to:

Baltimore Regional Transportation Board Freight Movement Task Force

Presented by:

Harry Romano, MDOT OFM

Date: March 25, 2021



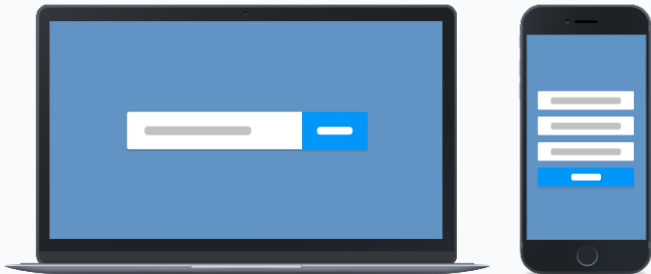
Agenda

- » Introduction
- » Background, Plan Outline, Schedule
- » Vision and Goals
- » Review Project Types
- » Coordination and Outreach
- » Next Steps



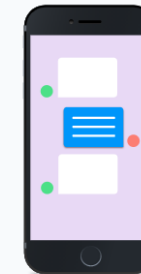
Real-Time Feedback Using Poll Everywhere

Join by Web



- 1 Go to **PollEv.com**
- 2 Enter **MDOT253**
- 3 Respond to activity

Text



- 1 Text **MDOT253** to **22333**
- 2 Text in your message



Poll Everywhere #1: In one word, what do you see as the greatest opportunity for rail in Maryland?

Poll Everywhere #2: In one word, what concept should not be left out of the Maryland State Rail Plan?

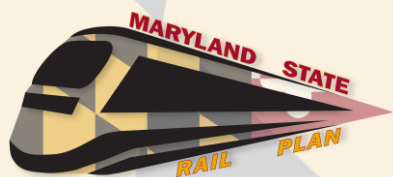


Poll Everywhere #1: In one word, what do you see as the greatest opportunity to improve rail in Maryland outside of the Washington/DC Metropolitan Areas?

Poll Everywhere #2: In one word, what concept should not be left out of the Maryland State Rail Plan?



Background, Plan Outline, and Schedule



Why Is Maryland Updating the State Rail Plan?

- » Federal requirement per the 2008 Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA), affirmed in federal surface transportation bills, 4-year update per the FAST Act
- » Positions the state and rail stakeholders for federal funding
- » Outlines public and private investments and policies needed to ensure the efficient, safe, and sustainable movement of freight and passenger by rail



What Does a State Rail Plan Cover?

Commuter Rail



Freight Rail



Intercity Passenger Rail

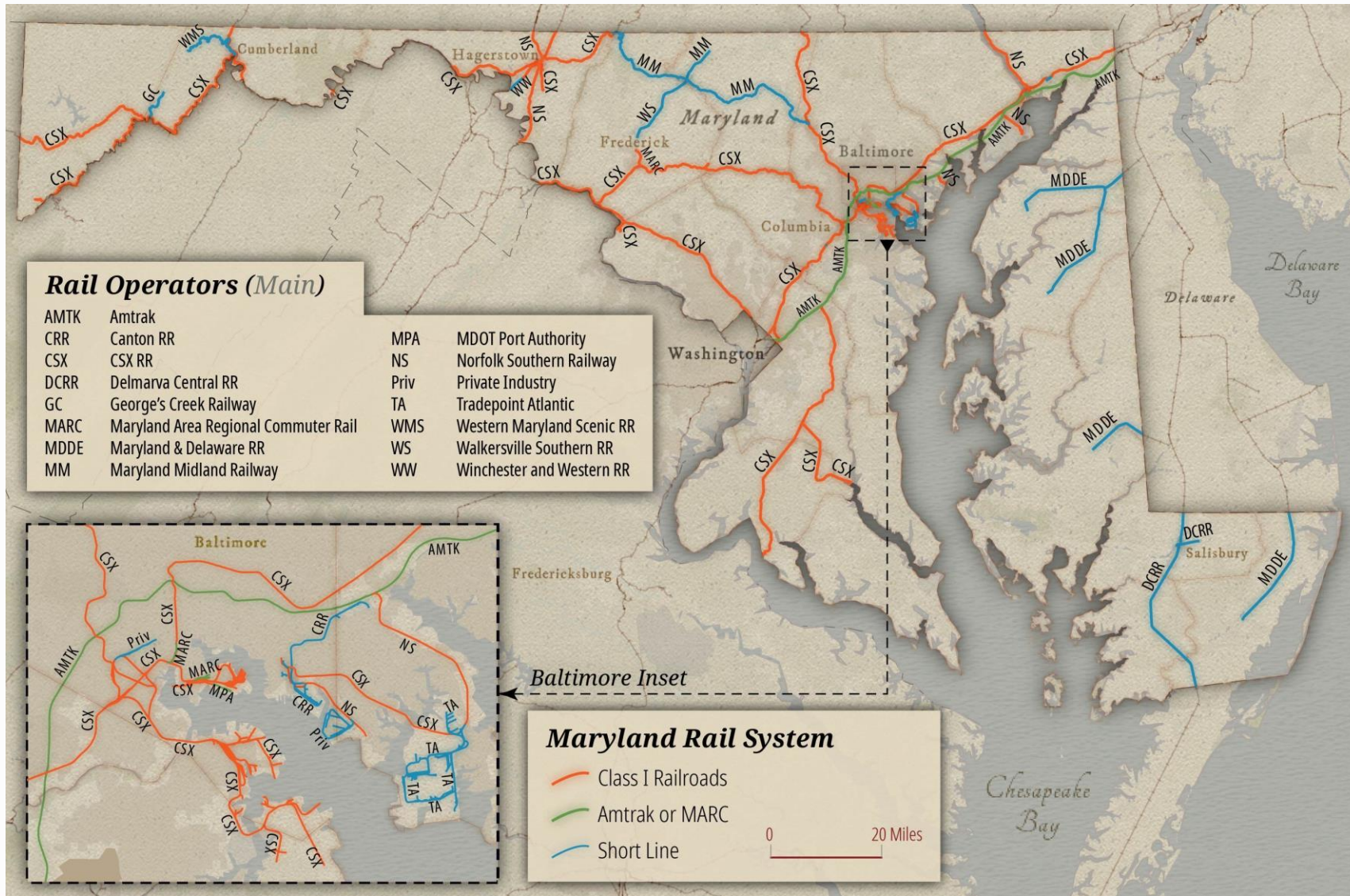


Background – Maryland's Freight Rail Network

Railroad	Miles Leased	Miles Owned, Operated	Miles Owned, Not Operated	Total Miles Operated (Except Trackage Rights)	Trackage Rights
<u>Class I Railroads</u>					
CSX Transportation	5	455	7	460	86
Norfolk Southern Railway		59	42	59	200
Total Class I Railroads	5	514	49	519	286
<u>Class II Railroads</u>					
Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad					25
<u>Class III Railroads</u>					
Canton Railroad		16		16	
Georges Creek Railway		14		14	
Delmarva Central Railroad Company	42			42	
Maryland and Delaware Railroad	73	23		96	
Maryland Midland Railway		65		65	
Tradepoint Rail LLC		12		12	
Winchester & Western Railway		2		2	5
Total Class III Railroads	115	132	0	247	5

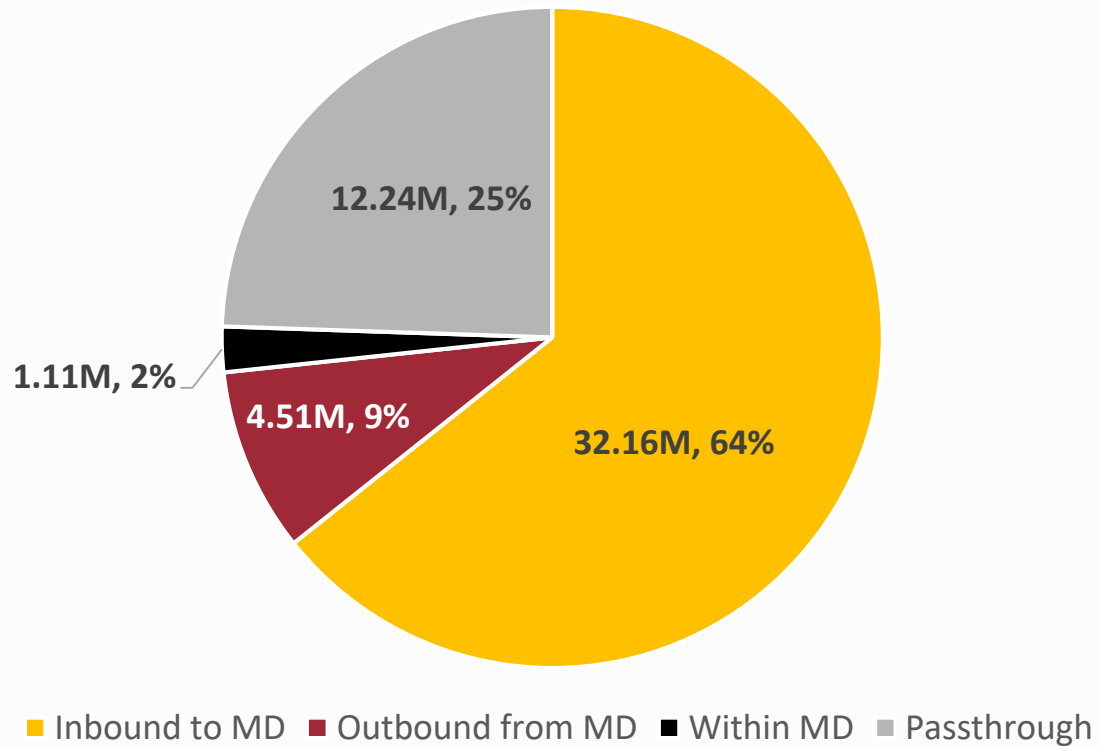


Maryland's Freight Rail Network

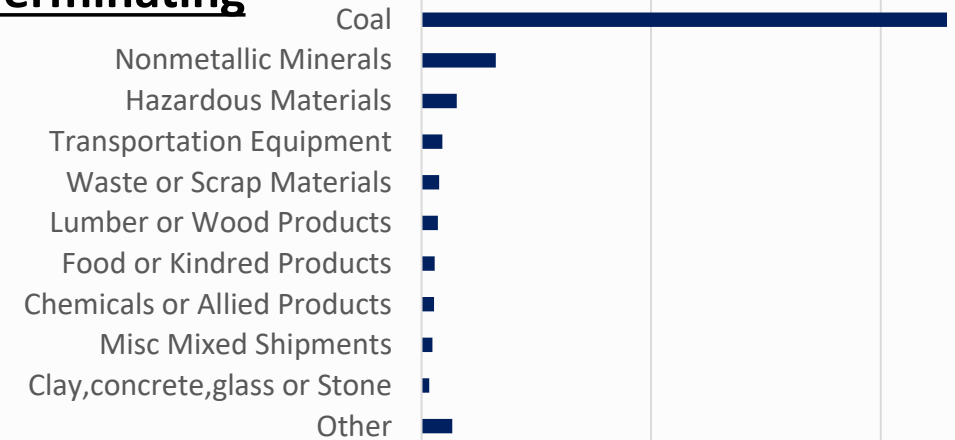


Traffic on Maryland's Freight Rail Network – 2019 Tons

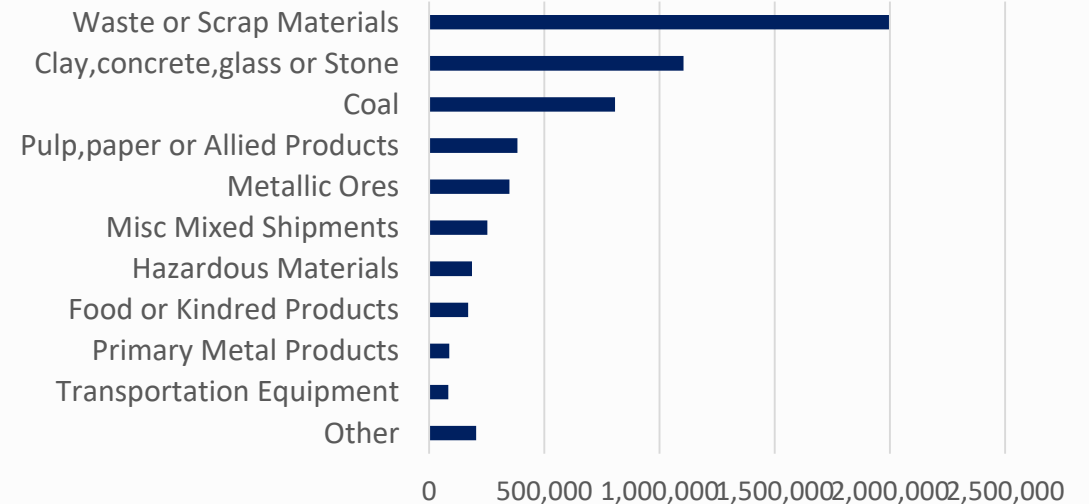
By Direction



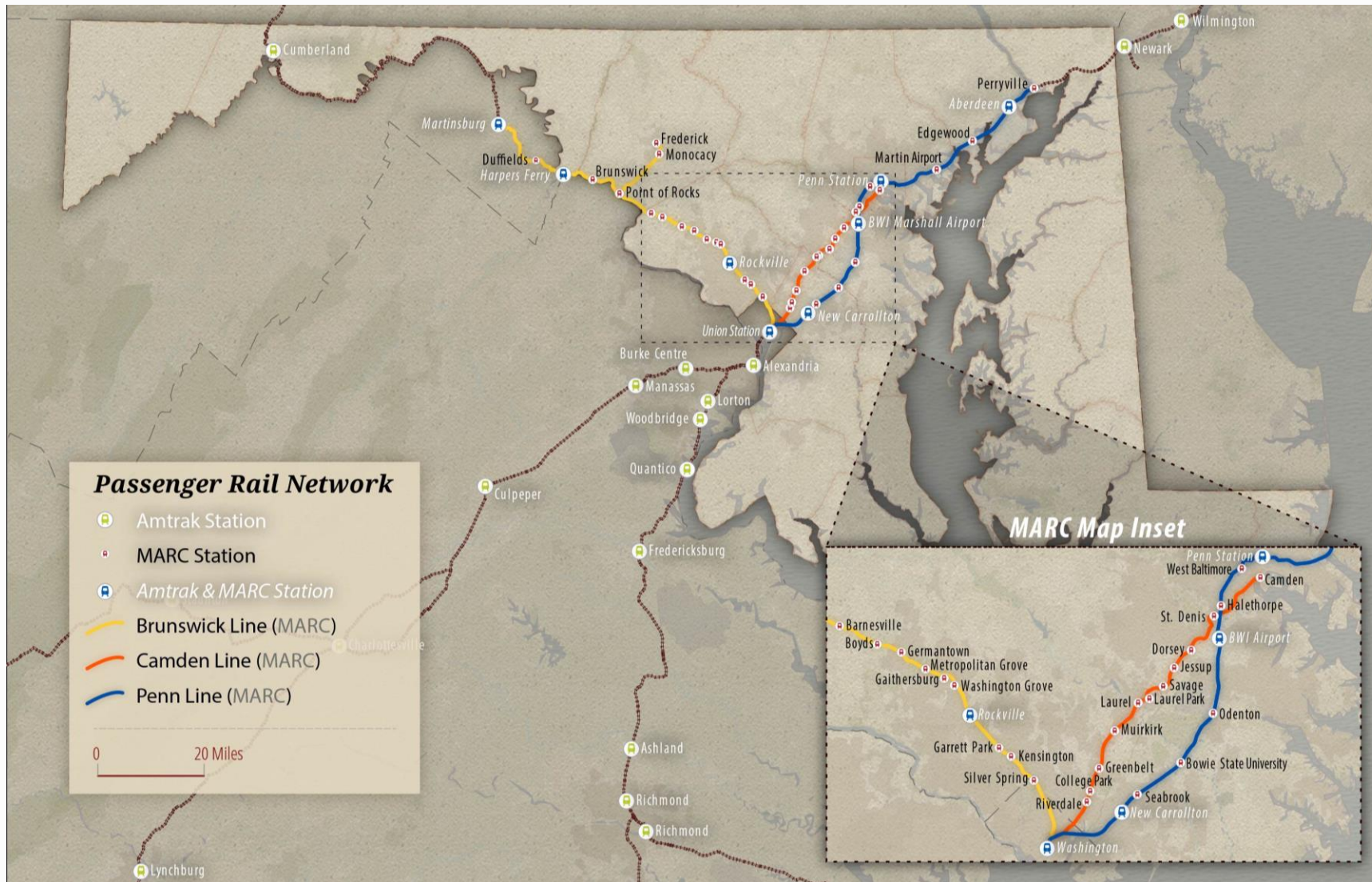
Terminating



Originating

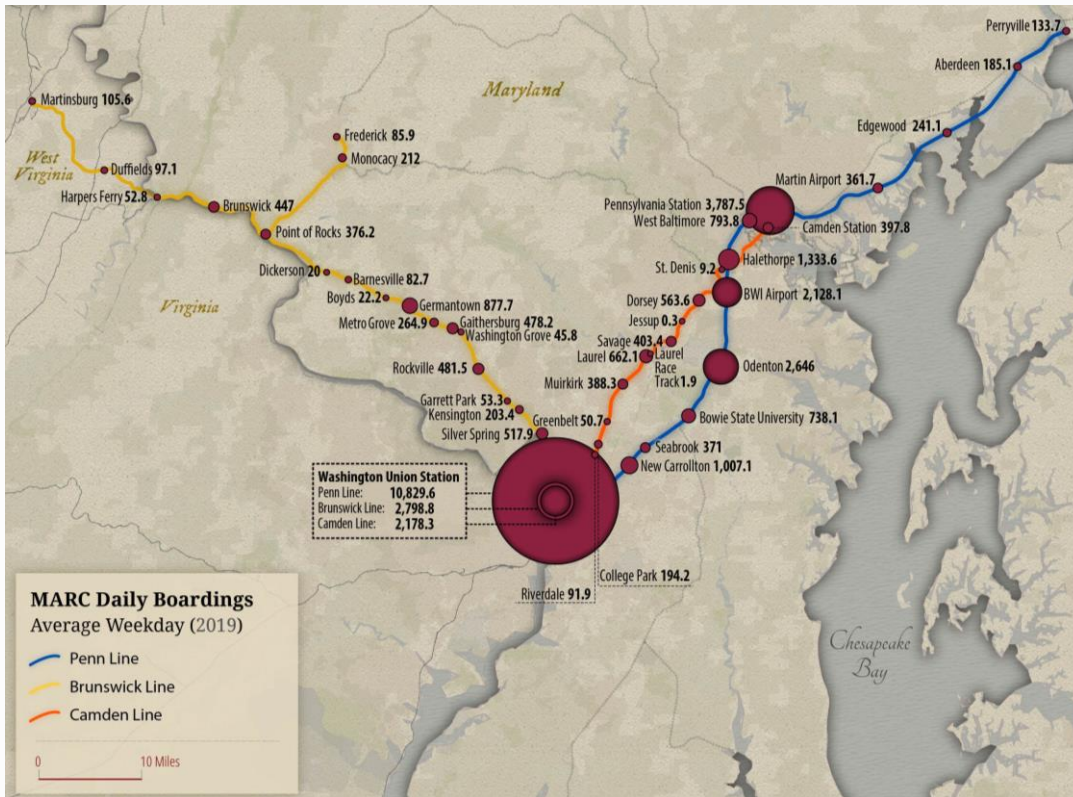


Maryland's Passenger Rail Network

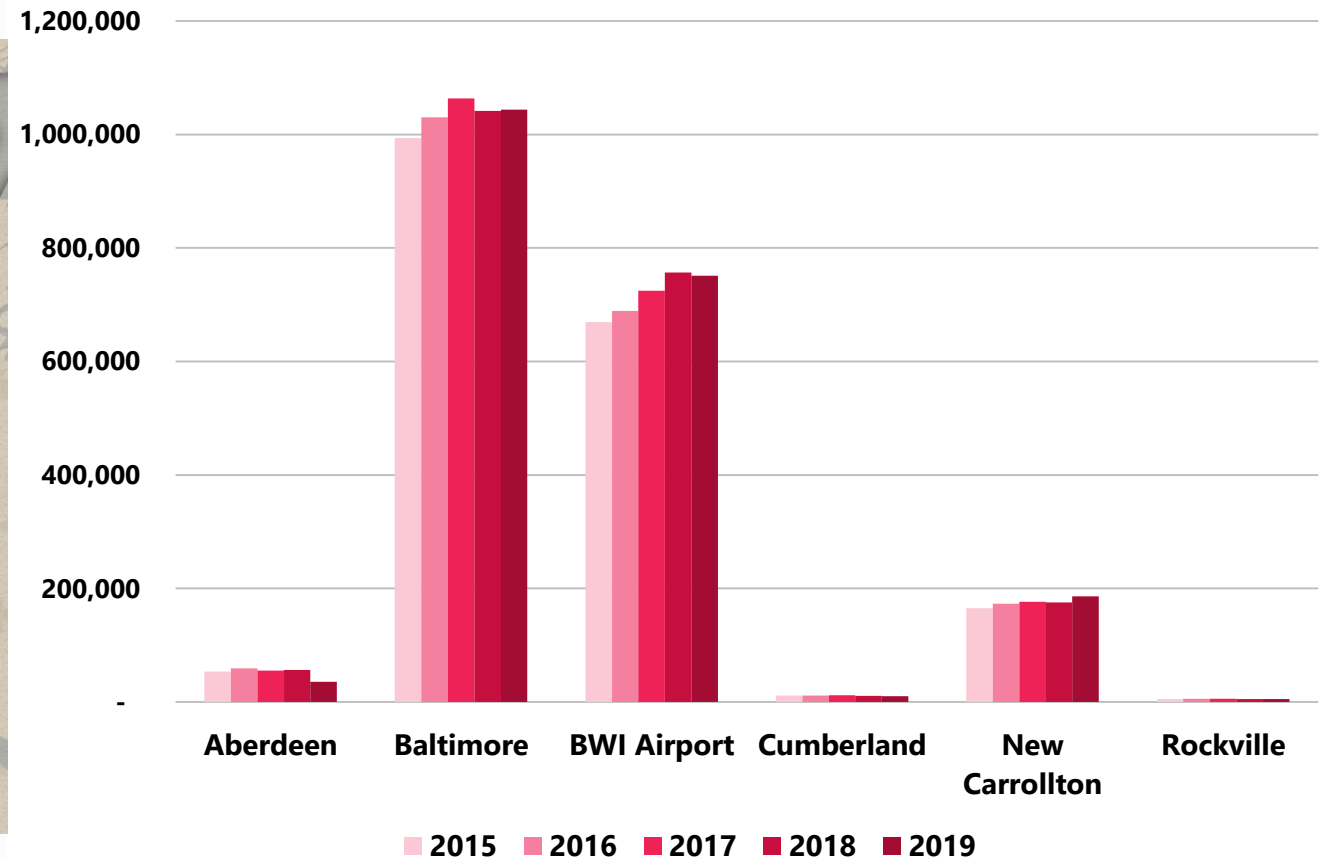


Passenger Rail Ridership in Maryland

MARC Ridership by Station



Amtrak Ridership by Maryland Station



Plan Outline

Chapter 1: Role of Rail

Articulates state transportation goals and how rail fits in, how the state is organized to support rail

Chapter 2: State's Existing Rail System

Summarizes freight and passenger rail infrastructure and services

Assesses the performance of rail lines

Identifies trends that will impact future

Chapters 3 and 4: Issues, Opportunities Initiatives Investments

Identifies top issues and opportunities

Identifies initiatives and strategies to address the issues and opportunities

Chapter 5: Service and Investment Program

Articulates vision, goals, and objectives

Lists projects

Provides prioritization and a funding plan

Chapter 6: Coordination and Review

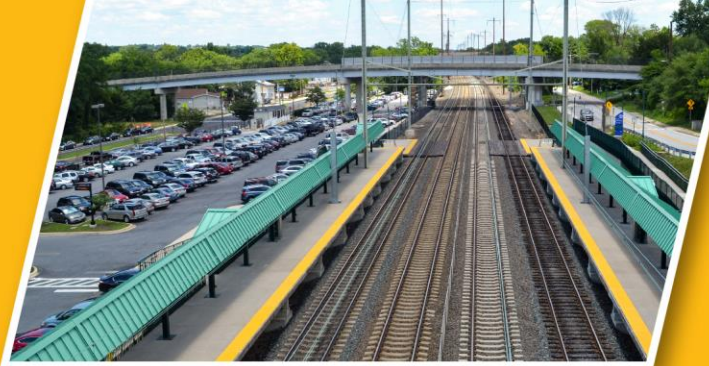
Summarizes stakeholder involvement



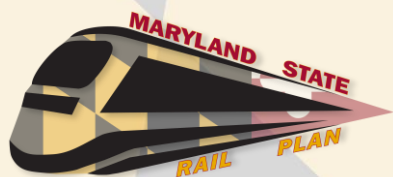
Plan Schedule

	Oct-20	Nov-20	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug 2021	Sept 2021
Outreach												
Information Request to Railroads												
Online Survey												
Advisory Committee Meeting												
Topic Meetings												
Interviews												
Chapter 1 – Role of Rail												
Chapter 2 – Current Rail System – Railroad Data												
Chapter 2 – Current Rail System – Public Data												
Chapter 3 - Proposed Passenger Rail Improvements												
Chapter 4 - Proposed Freight Rail Improvements												
Chapter 5 – Rail Service and Investment Program												
Chapter 6 – Rail Plan Coordination												
Draft State Rail Plan												
Final State Rail Plan												



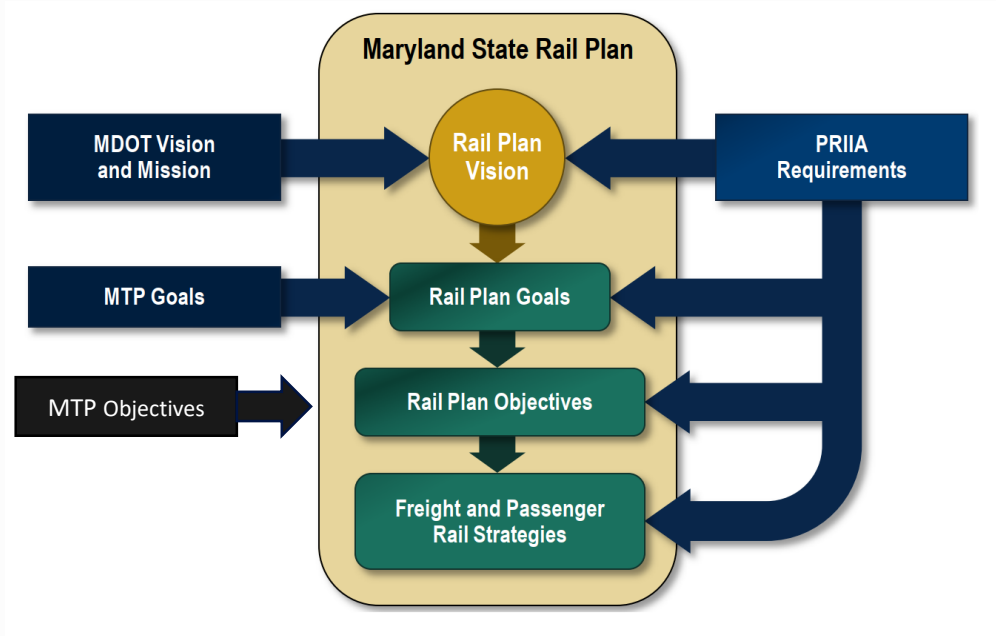


Vision and Goals



Relationship between Vision, Goals, Objectives, Strategies

Relationship between MTP/Rail Plan



2015 Statewide Rail Plan Vision

“The State’s Shared vision for freight and passenger rail is to provide a well-maintained, sustainable and intermodal, linked rail transportation system that facilitates the safe, convenient, affordable, and efficient movement of people, goods, and services within and between population and business centers.”

Poll Everywhere #3: How do you feel about the 2015 Statewide Rail Plan Vision?
Poll Everywhere #4: What would you change?



Poll Everywhere #3: How do you feel about the 2015 Statewide Rail Plan Vision?

Happy with
it!



Unsure



Unhappy
with it

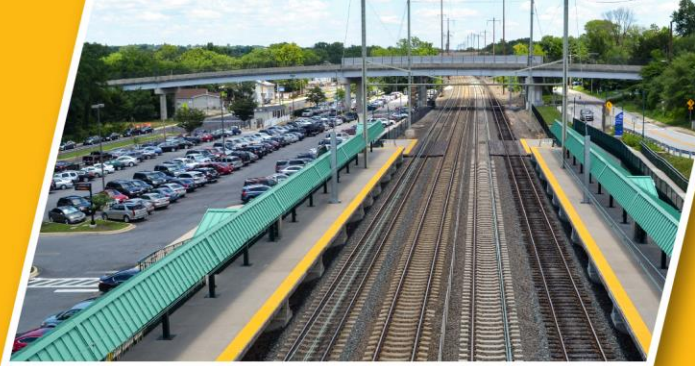


Poll Everywhere #4: What would you change?

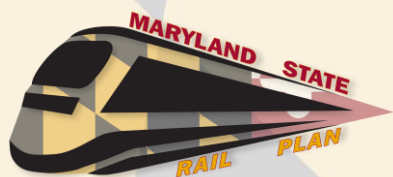
2015 Rail Plan Goals/2019 MTP Plan Goals

2015 Goals	2019/2020 Goals
Safety and Security	Safety, Security, Resilience
System Preservation	Maintain and Modernize
Quality of Service	Quality, Efficiency, Customer Experience
Environmental Stewardship	Environmental Protection, Sensitivity
Community Vitality	Transportation Choices and Connections
Economic Prosperity	System Expansion for Economic Opportunity, Congestion Reduction
	Fiscal Responsibility





Review of Project Types



Types of Projects Included in 2015 Plan

Freight	Intercity Passenger Rail	Commuter
Double Stack Clearance Projects	NEC Bridge and Tunnel Replacement, Upgrades	Additional Tracks on Host Rail Lines
Bridge Replacements	Station Additional Tracks/Platforms	Station Additional Tracks/Platforms
Additional Main Line Trackage	Maglev	Other Station Improvements
Track Upgrades	NEC Additional Tracks	Replace Stations
Yard Improvements	Other Station Improvements	New Stations
New Connections	NEC Interlocking and Turnout Replacements	Ticketing Improvements
Short Line Rehabilitation	Track Upgrades	Storage and Maintenance Facility
Short Line Upgrade to 286K		Service Extension to Virginia

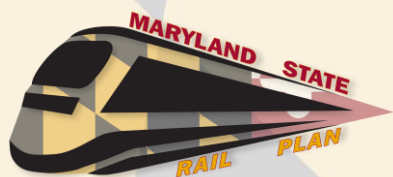
Poll Everywhere #5: What type of project(s) would you add?



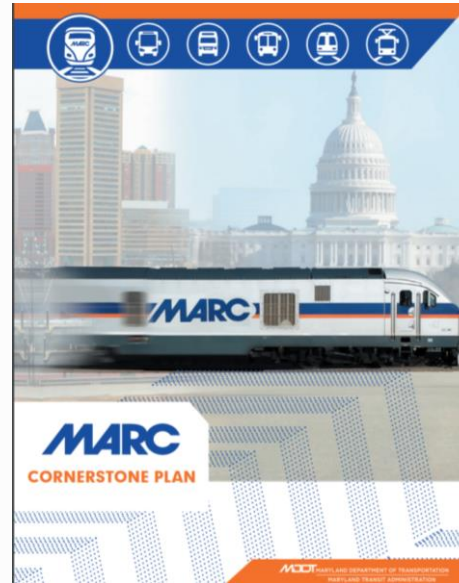
Poll Everywhere #5: What type of projects would you add?



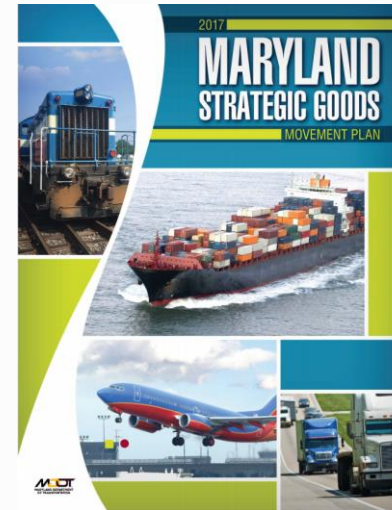
Coordination and Outreach



CONNECT 2035



Background –
Coordination with
other Plans



State Rail Plan Advisory Committee

» Members

- 16 members
- Represent Class I, short line, and passenger railroads, state agencies (MDOT MTA, MDOT SHA, MDOT MPA, MDP, Commerce), and MPO's

» Role

- Provide strategic direction
- Ensure the plan is grounded
- Help identify key stakeholders
- Vet vision and goals
- Identify issues, needs, and opportunities
- Inform the rail investment program
- Recommend draft policies, programs, projects

» Two meetings

- December 16, 2020
 - Present Rail Plan Update and request feedback on Goals, Objectives, and Strategies
- May 19, 2021
 - Present proposed projects and service and investment plan for review and comment



Railroad Surveys

» Class I

- Norfolk Southern
- CSX

» Short Lines

- Georges Creek Railroad
- Western Maryland Scenic Railroad
- Winchester & Western Railroad
- Maryland Midland Railway
- Walkersville Southern Railroad
- Canton Railroad
- Tradepoint Rail
- Maryland & Delaware Railroad
- Delmarva Central Railroad

» 100% Response

» Identify projects, concerns, and opportunities for updated rail plan



Railroad Surveys – Feedback so Far

Feedback So Far – Railroad Surveys

Projects on the NEC (e.g., Susquehanna Bridge Project) can benefit freight, although NEC freight operations are limited

Transload facilities enable increased access to rail

Need for better marketing of rail in state, potential rail-served sites

Better zoning could help rail-served industrial development

Freight rail supports retention of good jobs, helps to keep trucks off the road

Short line rail needs



Topical Meetings

- » Class I / Metropolitan Freight (February 10, 2021)
 - Norfolk Southern
 - CSX
 - Canton Railroad
 - Tradepoint Rail
- » Short Line / Rural Freight (February 24, 2021)
 - Short Lines from outside Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Area
 - Local economic development officials
 - Shippers
- » Intercity and Commuter Passenger (March 9, 2021)
 - Amtrak
 - MARC / MDOT MTA
- » Meetings also include Advisory Committee members, state agencies, MPO's, and other stakeholders



Online Public Survey Feedback

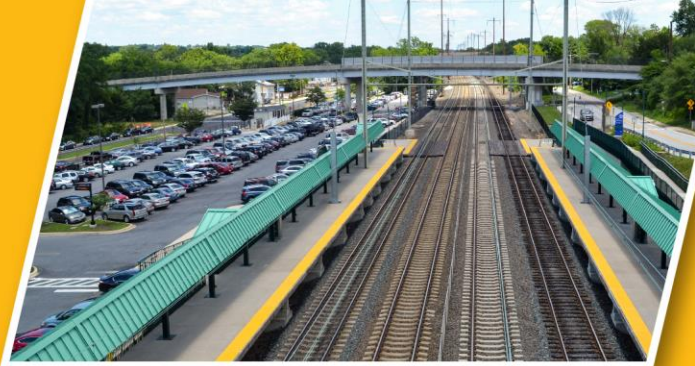
» Passenger

- » When asked to rank priorities for Amtrak, more respondents preferred new service off Northeast Corridor
- » Proposed extensions of MARC service: Eastern Shore, Waldorf area; Newark DE; Westminster
- » Respondents wanted more frequent MARC service, particularly on Brunswick Line
- » An integrated passenger fare system was identified as a popular strategy to improve customer experience

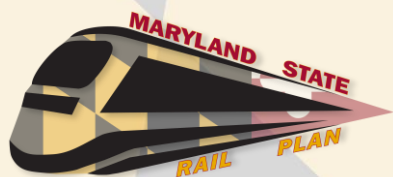
» Freight

- » Concern with blocked highway-rail grade crossings in rural areas and hazmats
- » Rail access including access to the Port, TradePoint Atlantic, and direct access to industrial sites
- » Add capacity to rail lines for freight and passenger rail
- » **The three most valued freight options for the Rail Plan Update were:**
 - » Enhanced rail access to the Port of Baltimore
 - » New intermodal facilities (e.g., truck to rail)
 - » Rail-served industrial and commercial sites





Wrap Up



Questions/Comments?



Next Steps

- » One-on-One Interviews: April 2021
- » Next Advisory Committee Meeting: May 19, 2021

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Rail Plan Web page: https://bit.ly/MD_StateRailPlan_

