

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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North Dakota asking for public's opinion through online survey during outreach phase of statewide rail plan

Statewide stakeholders in the effort to develop a new North Dakota State Rail Plan are asking for the public's input on that plan through an online survey. The survey is designed to gather opinions and gauge the direction of rail systems and services utilized by North Dakota freight shippers and passengers. The overall goal of the plan is to provide an assessment of the rail system offering recommendations for policies, programs, processes and projects that will improve rail-related safety and service.

The online survey can be accessed through the North Dakota Department of Transportation's (NDDOT) website, at railplan.dot.nd.gov

The NDDOT, the North Dakota Public Service Commission, North Dakota Department of Commerce, the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services, the North Dakota Pipeline Authority, and the Upper Great Plain Transportation Institute are collaborating to work on implementation of the stakeholder and public outreach phase of the North Dakota State Rail Plan. This process is moving forward with all stakeholders having recently participated in a visioning meeting to set the stage for the next phases of the project.

The stakeholder and public outreach phase of the State Rail Plan will include expert roundtable meetings, public meetings, and individual interviews. The effort will collaboratively establish a shared vision for North Dakota's rail system. Additional details about time and location for these statewide public meetings will be released over the upcoming weeks.

Additional information on the statewide rail plan can be found at <http://railplan.dot.nd.gov>

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