



September 16, 2025

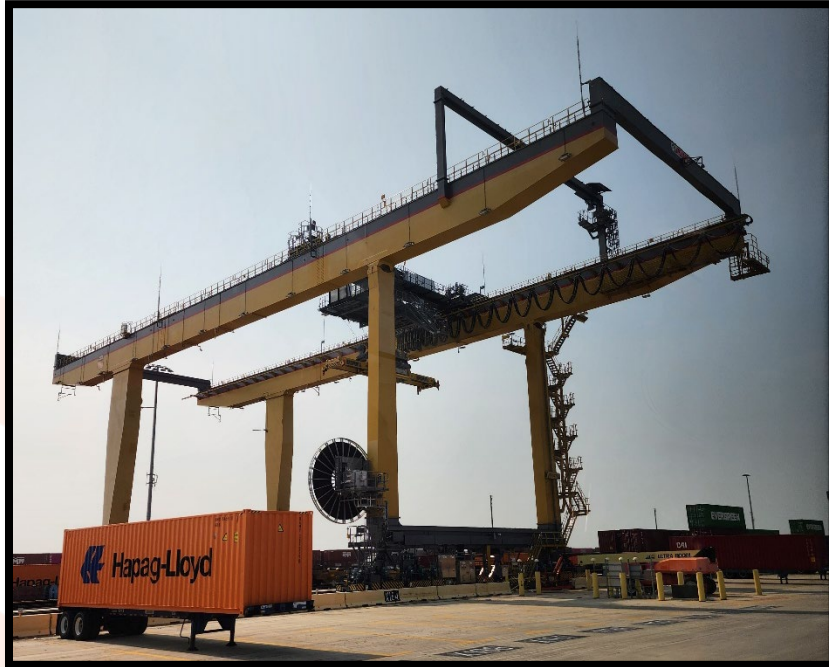
Illinois State Freight ADVISORY COUNCIL

Freight Facility Tour at CenterPoint and Houbolt Road Extension

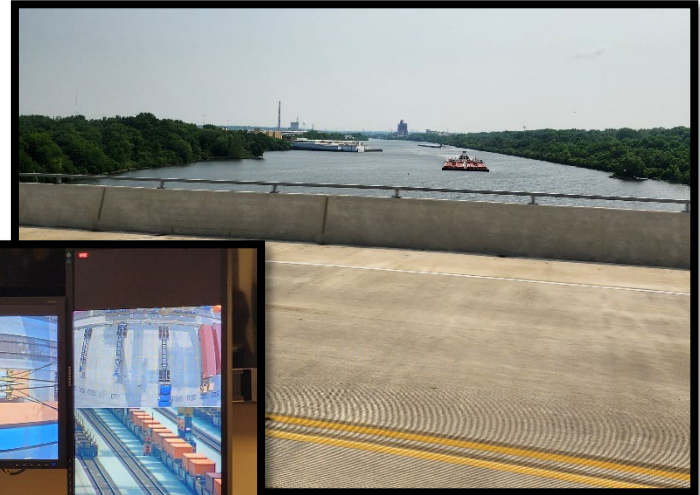
Thank you to our partners at CenterPoint
and Houbolt Road Extension for hosting
our 2025 freight facility tour.



Freight Facility Tour



Freight Facility Tour



AGENDA

- Welcome
- Leadership Update
- Railroad Merger Implications for Illinois
- Economic Development Program and Truck Access Route Program
- Freight and Truck Parking
- 2027 Freight Plan Development
- US DOT Funding Update and Federal Affairs
- Round Table Discussion



Leadership Update

Secretary Gia Biagi,
Illinois Department of Transportation



CREATE PROGRAM

Elizabeth (Libby) Ogard

President

Prime Focus LLC





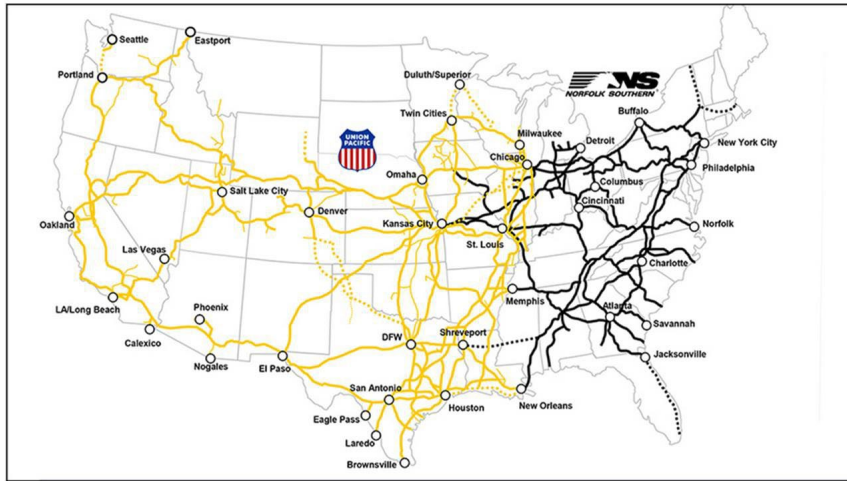
Illinois State Freight ADVISORY COUNCIL

Railroad Mergers Implications for Illinois

September 16, 2025

Libby Ogard

Prime Focus LLC

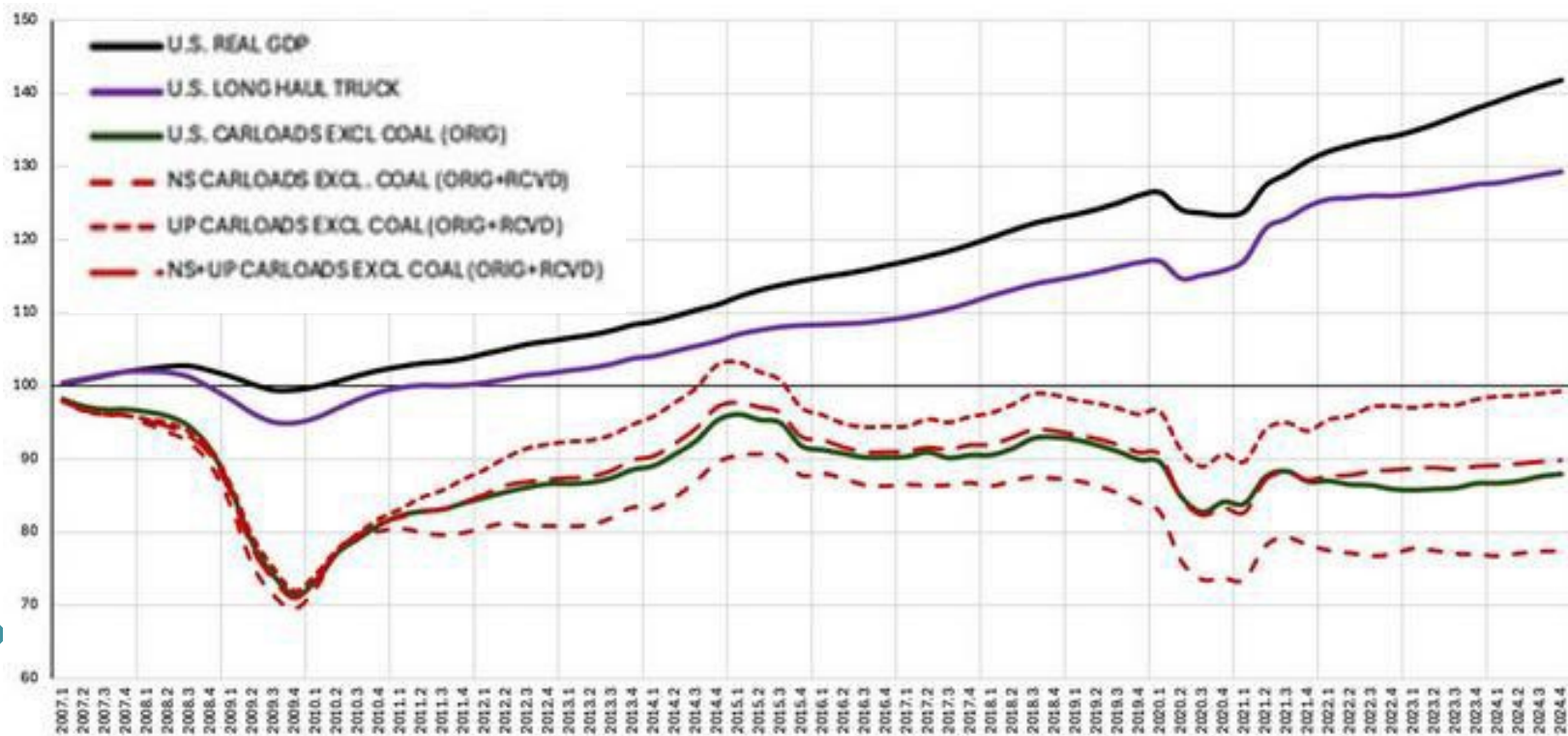


Union Pacific graphic

1. Key Benefit of Merger is GROWTH – conversion of Highway freight to Rail
2. Regulatory relief allowing technological advancement
3. Industrial Development Benefits
4. Will reduced handling (interchange) result in a more competitive rail service?
5. Will the new network be more shipper friendly?

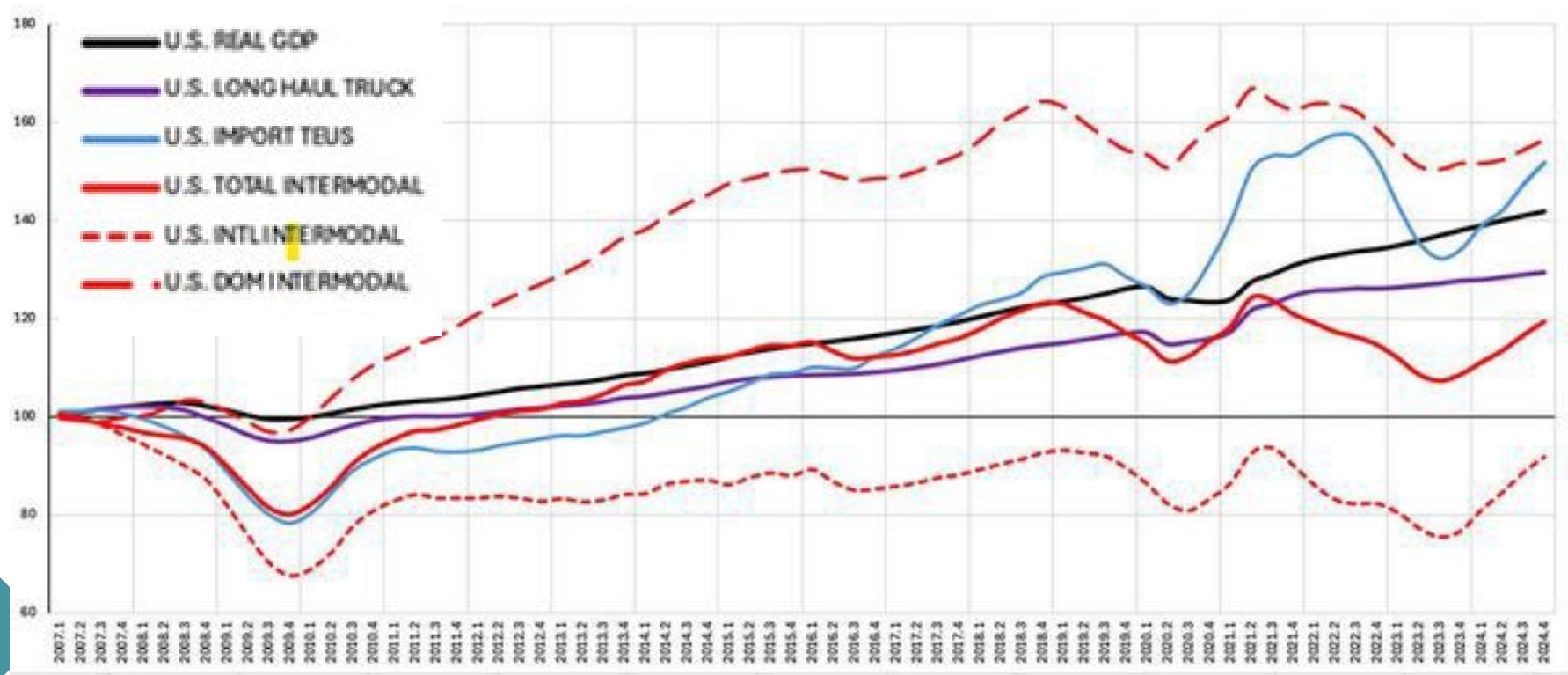


Why Merge?



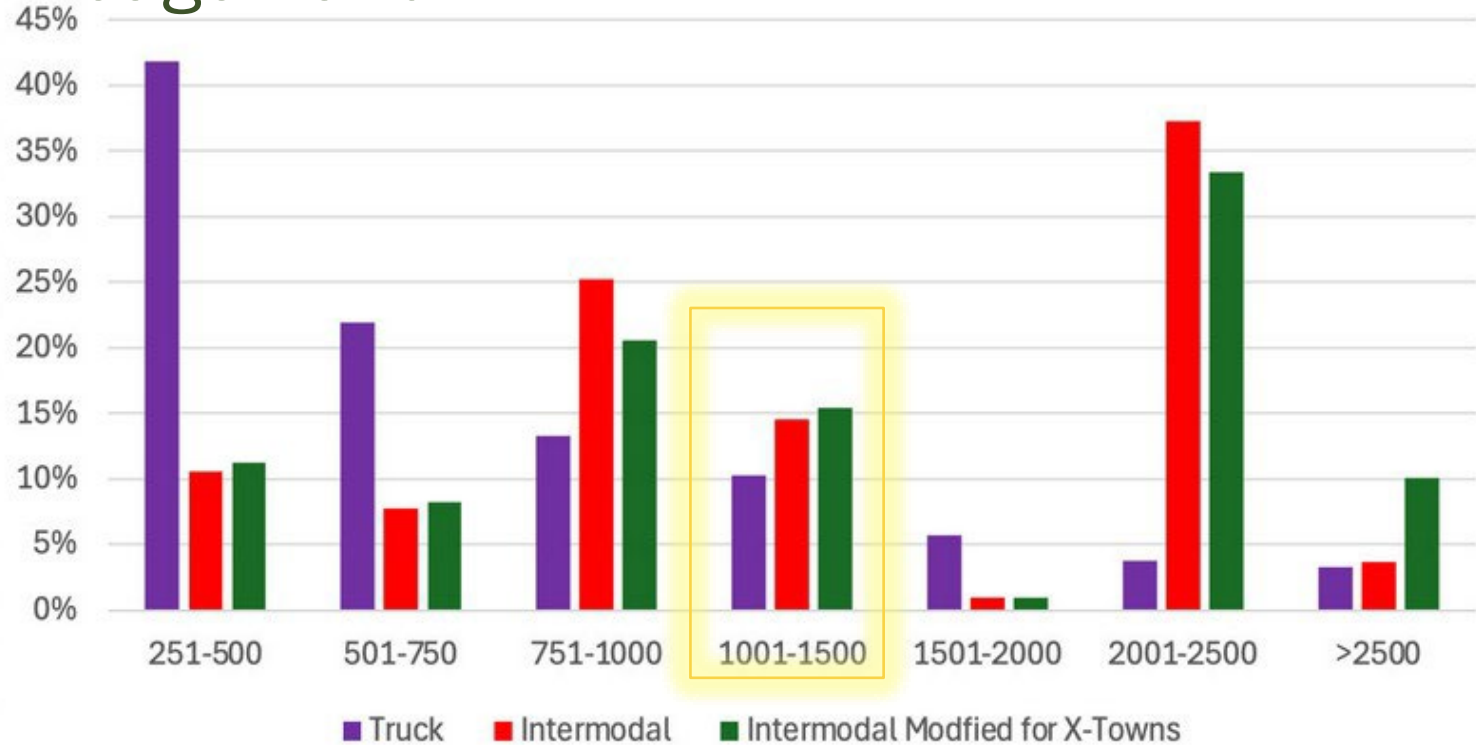
2006 -2024 Carload Growth

without coal

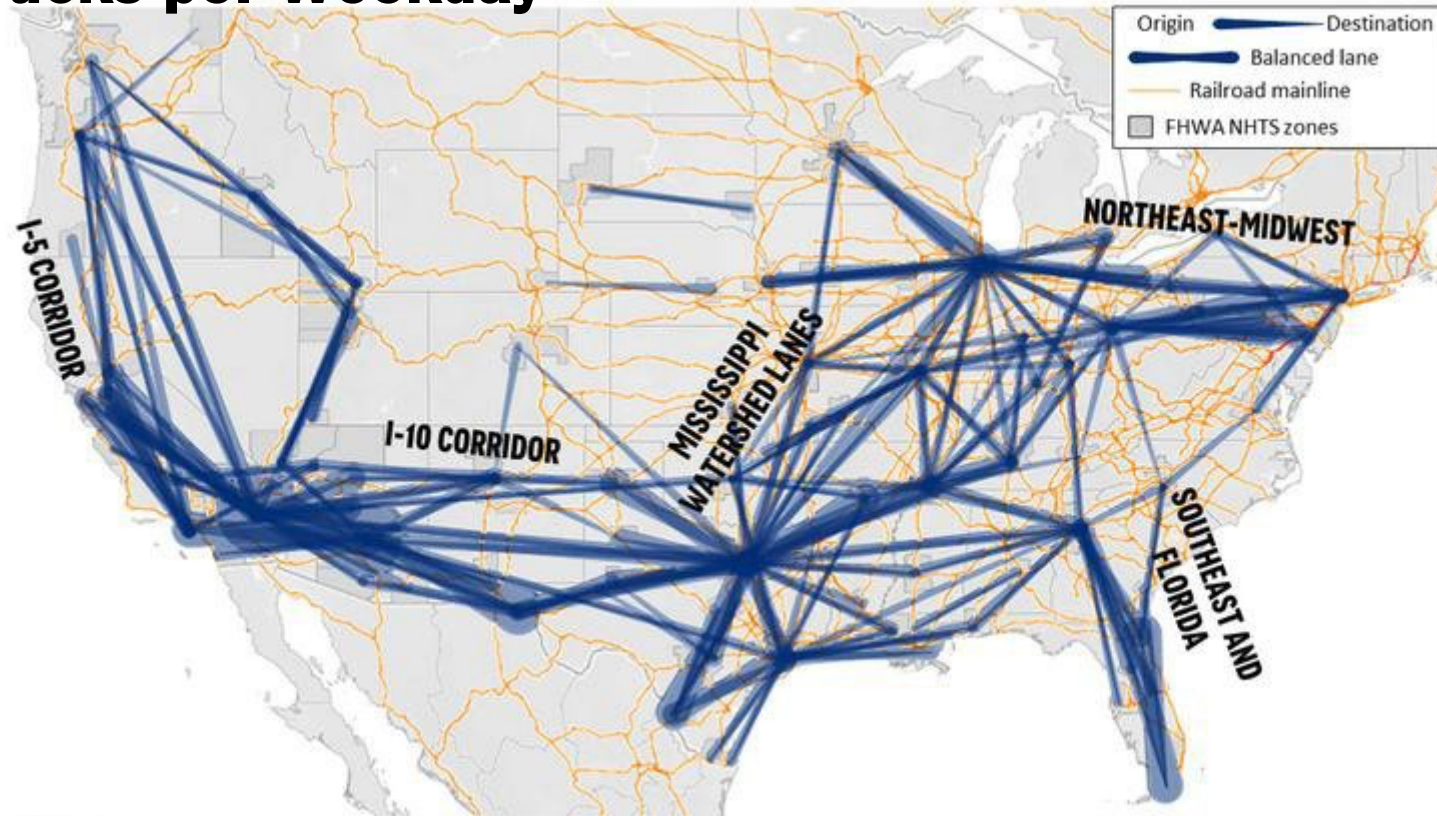


2006-2024 Intermodal Growth

Percent of U.S. Modal Volume By Mileage Band



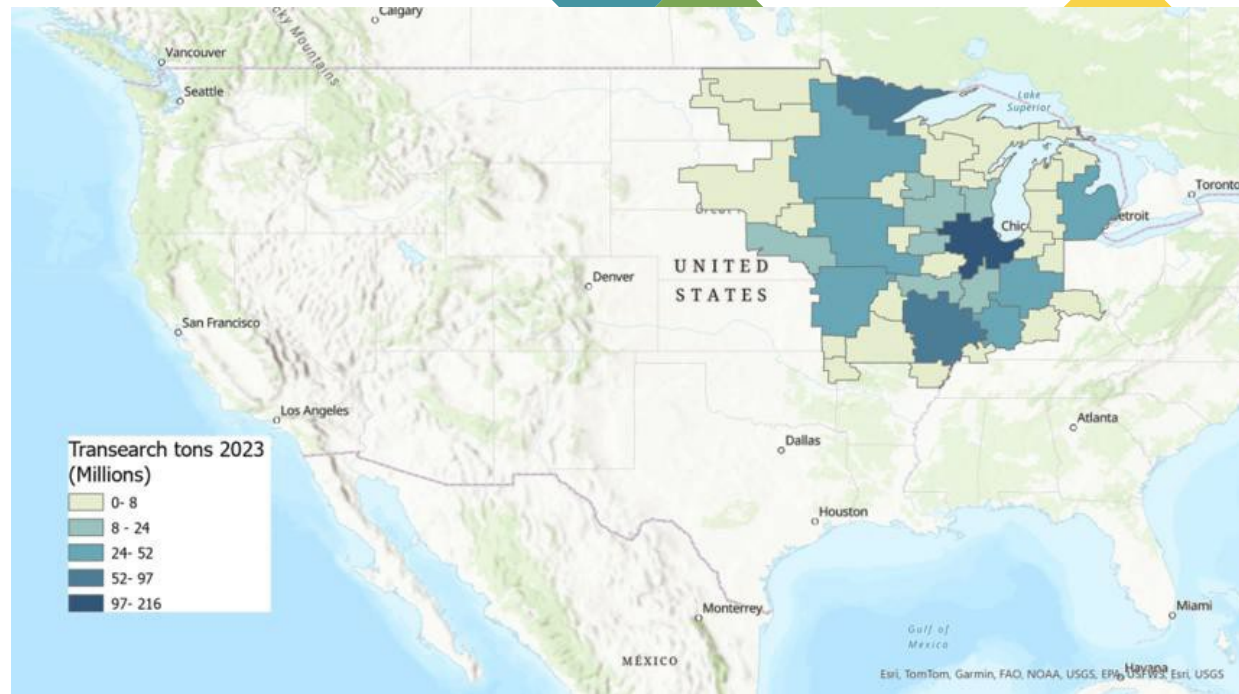
Truck Lanes GT 300 Miles With 100 Trucks per Weekday



The Upper Midwest Donut Hole

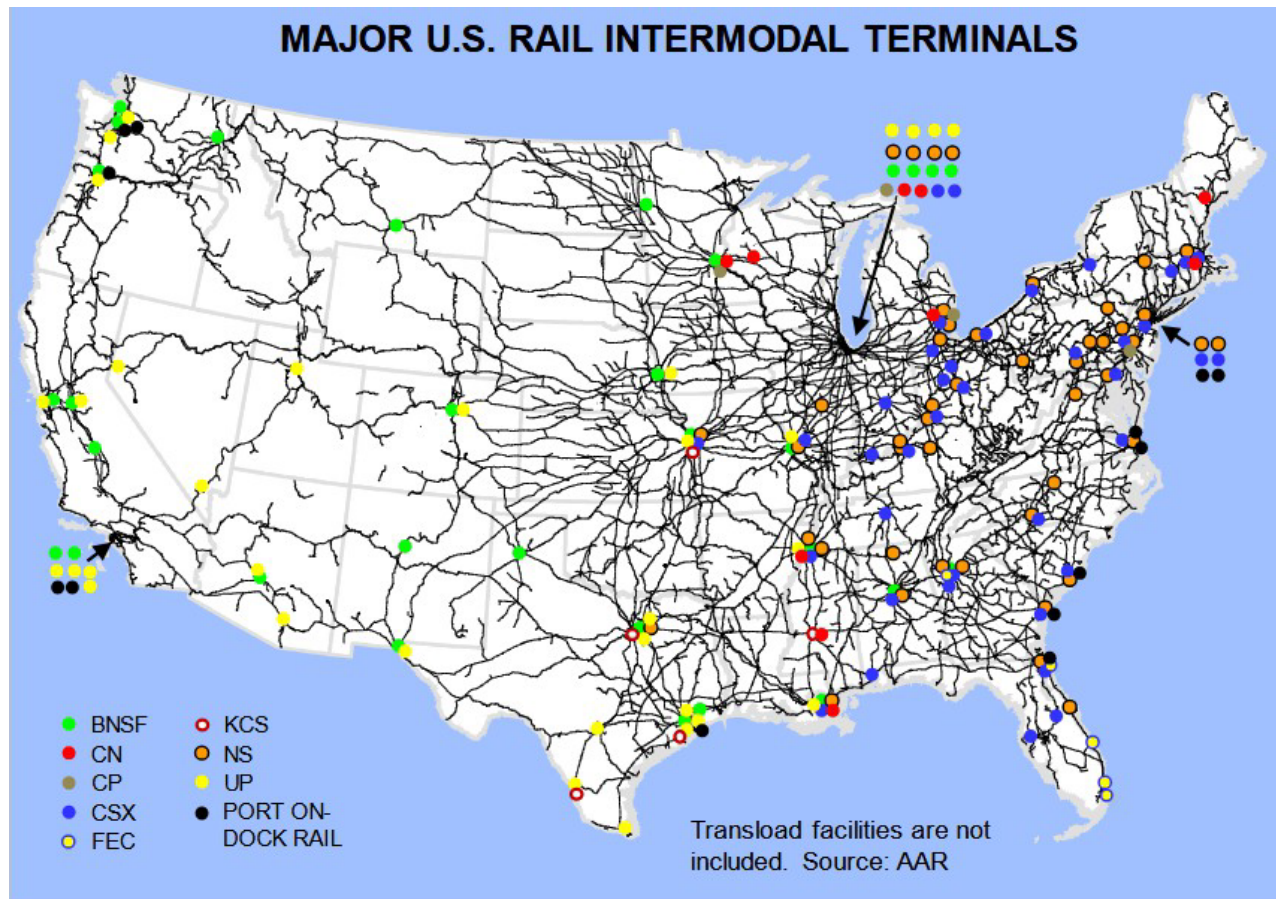
Regional Markets with freight less than 750 miles.

Requiring two railroads, which might benefit from single line hauls or terminals created by a merged network



Growth Will Require Infrastructure

- New Terminals
- New Networks
- Less Concentration



Will a One Merger Create A Response?



AT A GLANCE: UP + NS vs. BNSF + CSX

2024	UP + NS	BNSF + CSX
Route Miles	52,215	52,598
Annual Revenue	\$36.37 billion	\$37.89 billion
Operating Income	\$13.7 billion	\$12.88 billion
Operating Ratio	62.1%	\$66.4%
Market Capitalization	\$196.6 billion	NA
Annual Volume	15.33 million	15.85 million
Intermodal Volume	7.93 million	8.19 million
Carload Volume	6.07 million	5.65 million
Coal Volume	1.32 million	1.93 million
Employees	52,023	60,036
Locomotives	9,301	11,050

Source: Financial reports and STB Form R-1 for 2024

What to Watch For

- Service Metrics
- Shipper Perception
- Regulatory Changes
- Technology Adoption
- Reshoring Drives Industrial Development
- Reciprocal Switching
- Reduction in Congested Interchange points

7 Shipper Associations Raise Concerns Others are Optimistic



- ✓ Freight Rail Customer Alliance

- ✓ National Industrial Transportation League

- ✓ Private Railcar Food and Beverage Assoc.

- ✓ Alliance for Chemical Distribution

- ✓ American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers

- ✓ Soy Transportation Coalition

- ✓ American Chemistry Council

Source Proquest.com

What Do Shipper's Want



- A Home Run (A high performing, cost-effective, safe system)
- Attention!
- Visibility
- More Access
- Optionality (Rail car, intermodal)
- Reliable Service

Lessons Learned Previous Mergers



Conrail Split

- Lost St Louis gateway

CPKC

- Significant grade crossing improvements in Bensenville area
- \$100 million investment in terminal capacity in Bensenville
- El Paso and Border Crossing Improvements
- Broad customer support
- New single line service to Mexico sparked competitive service



Sample Major Railroad Merger Timeline

Need Assistance?

Find [who at the Surface Transportation Board to contact](#) and how to obtain assistance depending on the nature of your inquiry.

Major Merger Resources

[Access major merger resources.](#)

Legal Resources

Access [resources](#) to better understand the statutes, regulations, and past decisions governing the Board's activities.

Litigation Alternatives

Learn more about the Board's [alternative methods of resolving](#) disputes for parties who are interested in avoiding litigation.

Environmental

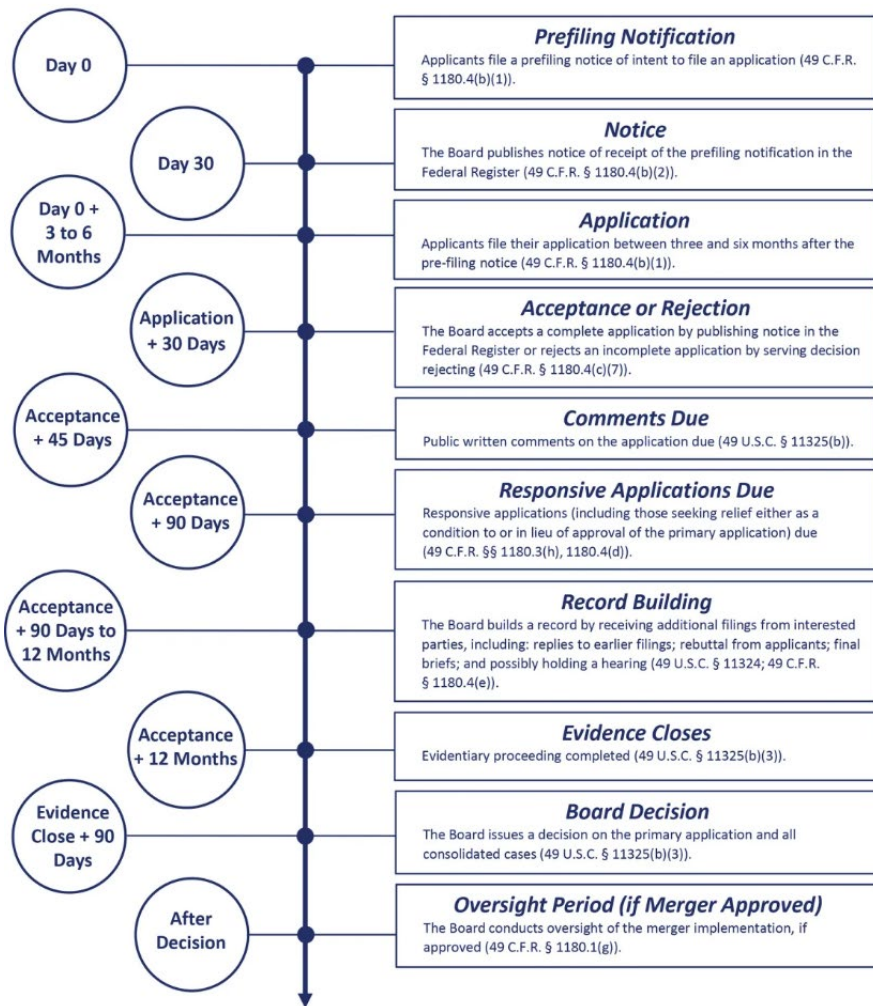
Learn more about the [environmental review process](#) that the Board conducts in certain proceedings.

Railroad Map Depot

Access the Board's [clearinghouse for interactive maps](#) of past and ongoing proceedings before the agency.

Stakeholder Committees

Learn more about the Board's [four committees](#) comprised of stakeholders to provide guidance to the Board Members.



A New Rules

(Assuming no changes in the law)

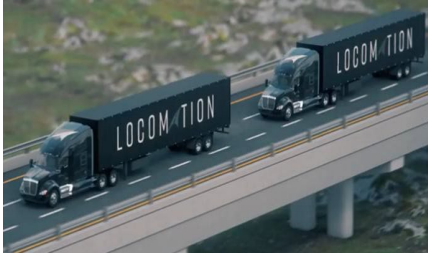
- Old Rules
 - Must Protect Public Interest
 - Do No Harm to Competition
 - Evaluation of Rail-to-Rail Competition
- New Rules – “2001 Merger Guidelines”
 - Must Enhance Freight Competition (vs. preserve rail competition)
 - Evolution to Rail-to-Truck Competition
 - Evaluation of reactionary impacts (May have to evaluate CSX-BNSF Simultaneously)
 - Open Access – Reciprocal Switching
 - Short Line Opportunities
 - STB Appointments



“Enhanced
Competition”



Electric
Trucks



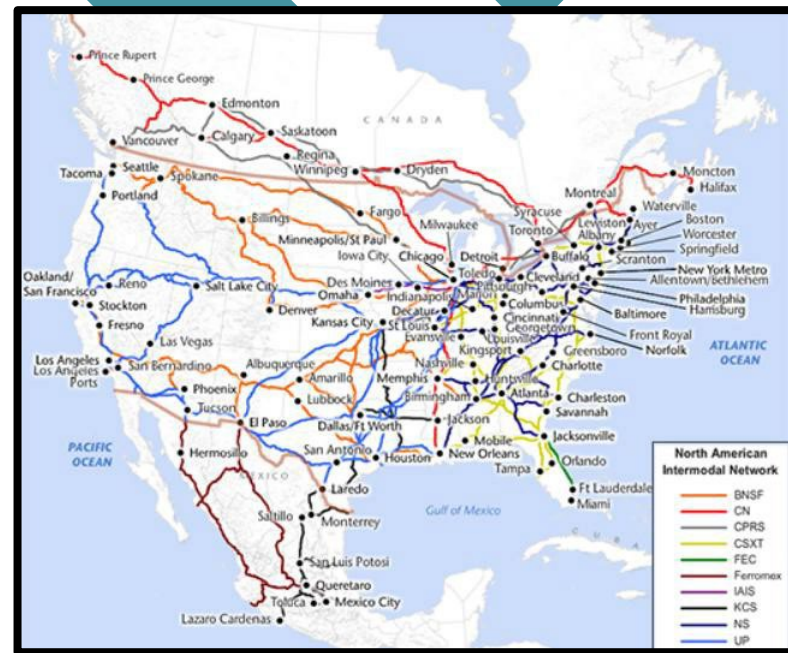
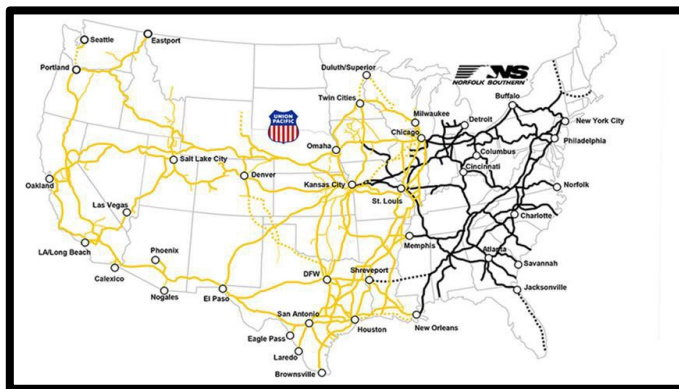
Autonomous
Trucks



Autonomous
Rail EV
propulsion

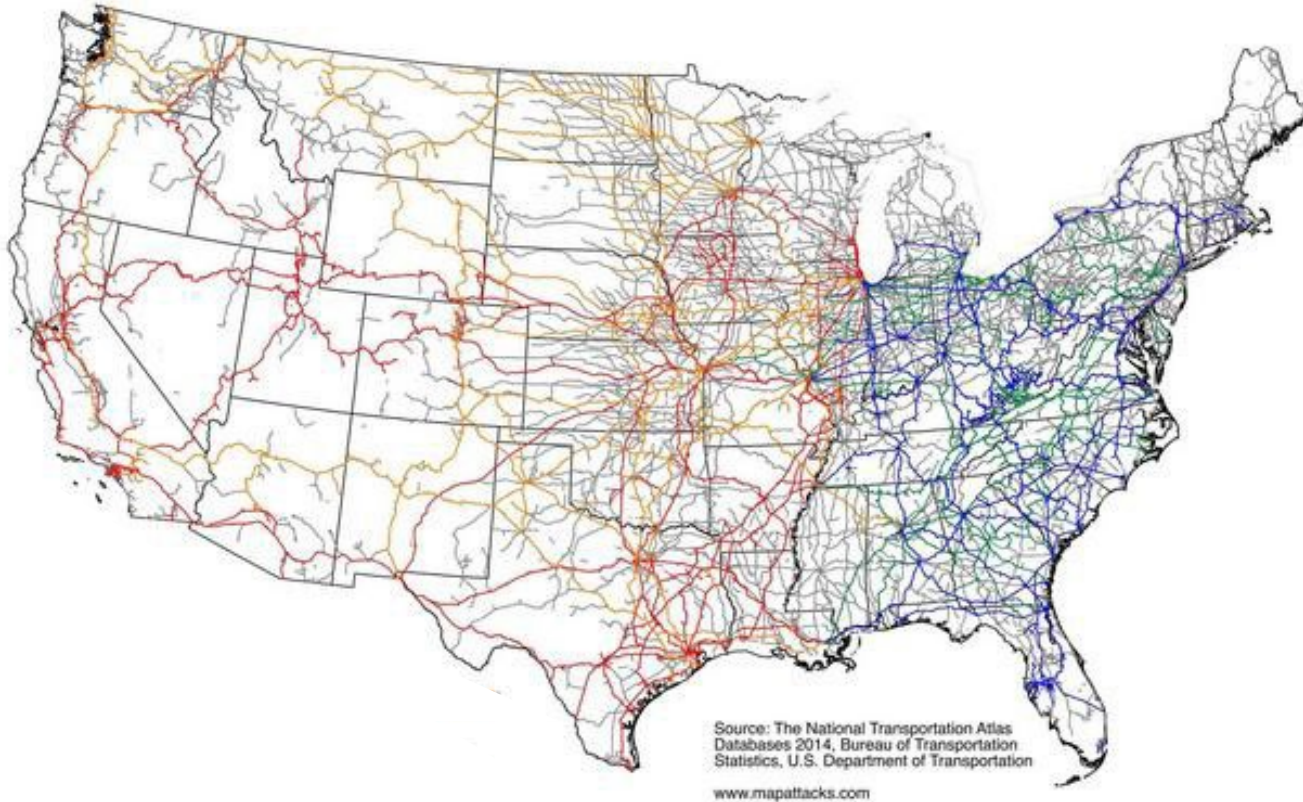
New Technologies Which Change Competition





Network Consolidation

Short Lines and Terminal Railroads



610 Short
Lines

47,500 miles

30% of the
U.S. Freight
Network

What Might States Want?



- Fewer Blocked Crossings
- More Rail Investment in Regional Intermodal Terminals
- Congestion Reduction
- Rail Served Developments
- Passenger/Commuter Rail Accommodations

Potential Illinois Impacts?

- Short Haul Intermodal?
- New terminals in Watershed markets
- Open Access (Canadian Interswitch Concept) Big Opportunity for Short Lines?
- Abandonment of Redundant Lines



RAIL TRAFFIC ORIGINATED		
COMMODITY	TONS (M)	CARLOADS
Intermodal	45.7	3,124,100
Grain	25.6	242,200
Coal	21.7	184,900
Crushed stone & sand	10.2	90,300
Food products	9.6	96,600
Other	19.5	263,600
TOTAL	132.4M	4,001.7K

RAIL TRAFFIC TERMINATED		
COMMODITY	TONS (M)	CARLOADS
Intermodal	42.6	3,176,500
Coal	18.3	153,300
Chemicals	10.1	103,700
Food products	9.6	99,700
Grain	5.0	48,800
Other	16.8	255,800
TOTAL	102.4M	3,837.8K

Public Issues



- Accommodation of Passenger & Commuter Rail
 - 700 Metra Trains per day
 - 4 hours of freight trains must wait for Chicago Passenger Services
- Train Lengths and Terminal Congestion
 - Blocked Rail Crossings
 - Train Length
- Economic Development and Logistics Park Developments
- Expanded Rail Funding Programs

Re-Imagining the U.S. Rail System

Thank you

Libby Ogard

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[This Photo](#)

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Economic Development Program and Truck Access Route Program

John Paris
Special Programs Unit Chief
Illinois Department of Transportation

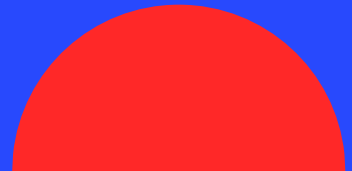
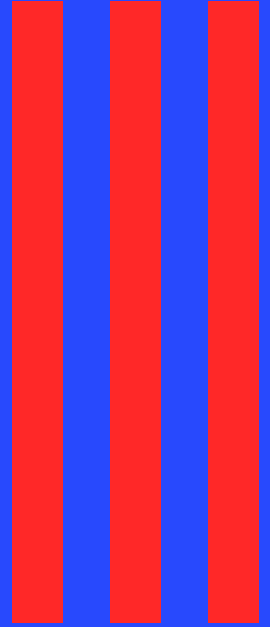




Illinois Department
of Transportation

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Economic Development Program



Purpose

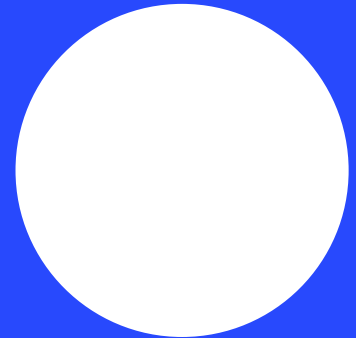
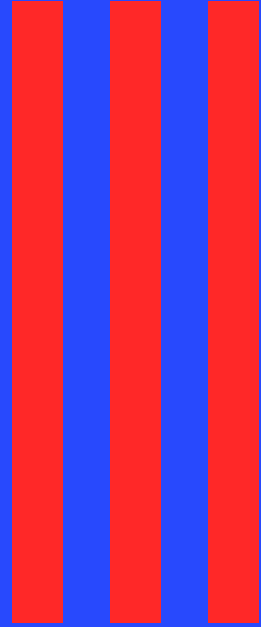
“ ... to provide state assistance to local agencies for needed highway/roadway access to new or expanding business developments ... ”

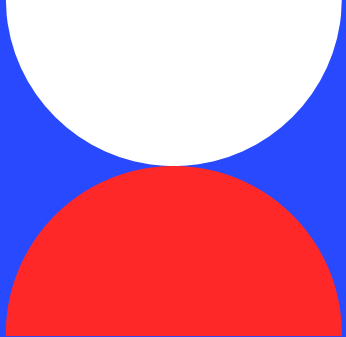


Non-Competitive Program

State Funded

Open Application Period





\$3 Million per project maximum

Up to 50% of eligible project costs for
improvements to local roads

AND/OR

Up to 100% of eligible projects costs for
improvements to state roads

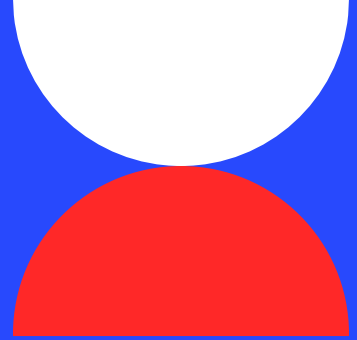
Eligible Facilities

Manufacturing Facilities

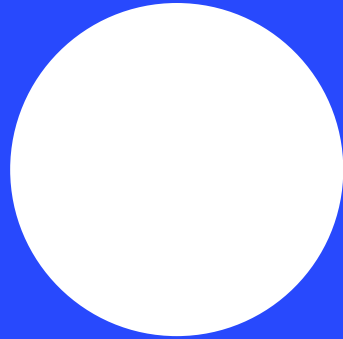
Warehouse & Distribution Centers

Business Centers

Tourism & Entertainment Venues



Application Process



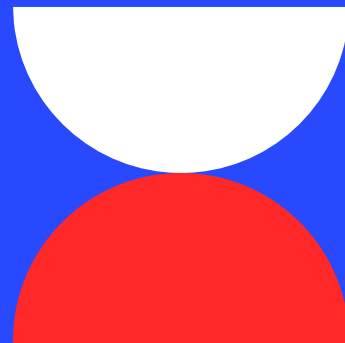
1. Call Us to Schedule a Video Call
2. Submit An Application Packet
3. Schedule a Site Visit
4. Receive Your Funds

Thank you

John Paris

john.paris@illinois.gov

**Search “EDP” on our website
Idot.Illinois.gov**



Freight and Truck Parking

Adam Gabany

Intermodal Planning Unit Chief
Illinois Department of Transportation



Truck Parking Committee



- Review and Discussion of Discretionary Grant Support for Truck Parking.
- Next Freight Plan Priorities
- Statewide Line-Item Funds



MID-AMERICA FREIGHT COALITION Annual Meeting

Freight Advisory Council Best Practices

- Small Size
- Industry Led and supported by State DOT
- In person only
- Rotates around the State



2023 FREIGHT PLAN PROGRESS

- Developed [Annual Report for Competitive Freight Program](#)
- Developing Annual Report for Strategies and Actions

Action	IDOT/Agency Role (Lead Agency in Bold)	Timeframe
Implement a competitive, data driven competitive funding program that addresses identifies freight infrastructure needs as goal areas	IDOT	Ongoing
Survey ISFAC and industry for concerns regarding freight related roadway design elements and provide feedback to IDOT Bureaus	IDOT (Bureau of Design and Environment - BDE, Office of Planning and Programming - OPP)	Medium
Study opportunities for implementing EV charging for heavy vehicles and identify Illinois-specific opportunities and the role of IDOT	IDOT Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)	Medium
Identify and implement Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) infrastructure needs; ensure regulations and policies align with current and future UAS use	IDOT (Aviation)	Medium
Work with research institutions and the private sector to advance IDOT awareness and role in connected and autonomous vehicle testing and deployment	IDOT ICT Private Sector	Ongoing
Implement a competitive, data driven competitive funding program that identifies freight bottlenecks and congestion needs as goal areas	IDOT MPOs, Railroads, Port Authorities	Ongoing
Implement the strategies of the Transportation System Management and Operations Plan	IDOT	Ongoing
Develop a statewide Resilience Improvement Plan to focus investments of PROTECT funds	IDOT	Short



ILLUSTRATIVE PROJECT LIST

Platform for agencies to submit potential projects for IDOT support by being added to the Freight Plan

- [Google Form](#)
- Basic Project Information
- Submitted to IDOT for review



WHAT'S NEXT

2027 Illinois



Freight Plan



2027 Freight Plan Development

Mike Vanderhoof
Bureau Chief of Planning
Illinois Department of Transportation



Illinois State Freight Plan

SFP to be completed every 4 years.

RFP on PTB 218 – publish October 30, 2025

Selection – January 14, 2026.

Due to FHWA April of 2027.



Illinois State Freight Plan

understand the freight system, needs and future of freight in Illinois.

Establishes strategies and actions

Federally Required – Includes fiscally constrained freight investment plan

Aligned with LRTP

Last approved in 2023



Illinois State Freight Plan

Modes Covered

Truck

Rail

Aviation

Waterway

Pipeline

Discusses and Evaluates

Freight System

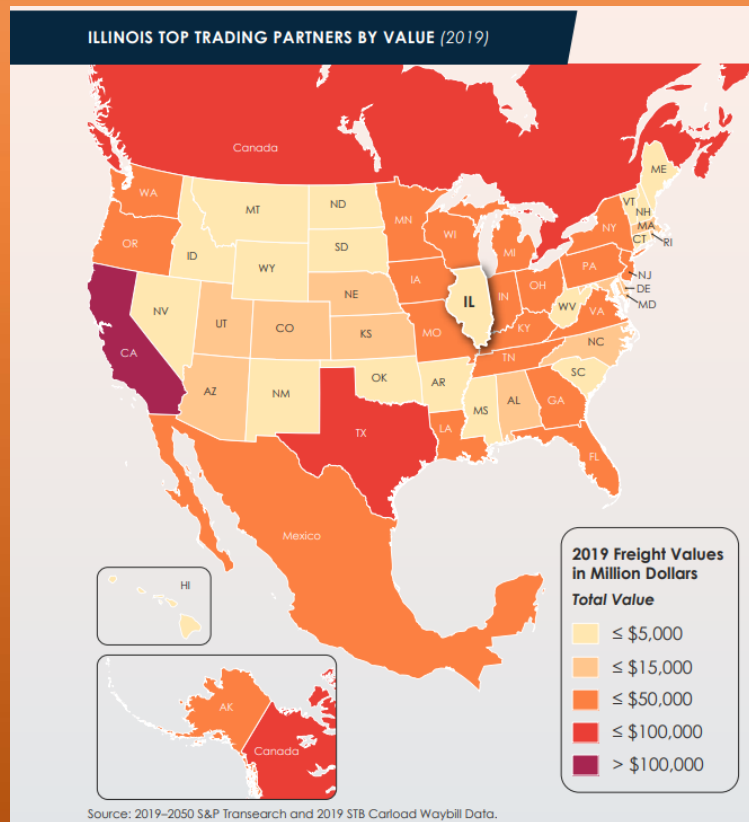
Freight and the Economy

Equity and Environmental Justice

Trends, Opportunities, and Investment



Freight Atlas



147,000 miles of roadway

11,000 truck parking spaces



10,000+ miles of railroad tracks

1 in every 4 freight trains in the U.S. traverse Illinois



1,118 miles of navigable waterways

19 public port districts

341 miles public and private cargo-handling river terminals



20 cargo-handling airports

2 world-class cargo airports



134,000+ miles of pipeline

54 pipeline intermodal connections



2.4 million freight-related jobs

EO 2025-03

RESPOND TO INCREASED COSTS FOR ILLINOIS CONSUMERS AND SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTIONS

IDOT shall consider impacts of US Tariff Policy:

- project impacts - cost and timeline challenges;
- project adjustments and approaches to managing increased material costs; and
- prioritization strategies and long-term implications

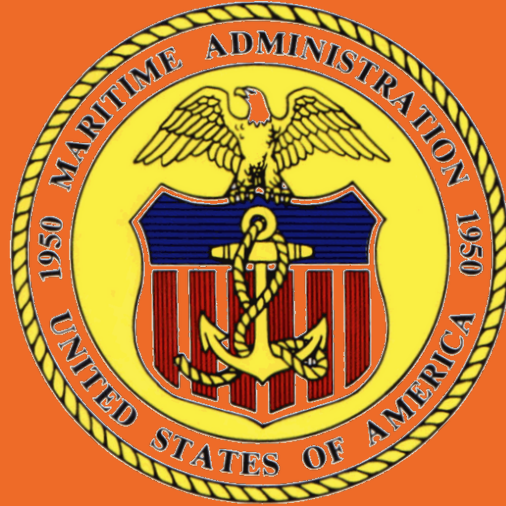
Where appropriate, the State shall

- coordinate with other similarly situated states and localities.
- evaluate and propose coordinated actions with similarly situated states that may mitigate the impact of tariffs on the respective state economies.



Maritime Administration

Chad Dorsey
Director, Inland Waterways
Gateway – Paducah
Maritime Administration



Illinois Department of Transportation

Tim McMahon

Bureau Chief of Federal Affairs
Illinois Department of Transportation
timothy.mcmahon@illinois.gov



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



FALL PLANNING CONFERENCE

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40 YEARS OF TRANSFORMING MOBILITY

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- Only 40 registrations remaining
- Hotel Room block closes 9/24/2025



SCAN ME





THANK YOU!

For questions or to be on the schedule during an upcoming meeting, email:

DOT.ILFreightPlanning@illinois.gov