



Vermont State Rail Plan

New Vermont State Rail Plan is underway

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) is updating its 2006 Vermont State Rail Plan and expects the plan to be completed by the end of 2014.

The State Rail Plan will set forth goals, objectives and strategies for both passenger and freight rail. The plan will be coordinated within the context of state and federal planning requirements, with other state planning efforts and with collaborative input from the public and rail stakeholders.

An inventory of the state's existing rail system has been completed and goals and objectives have been drafted. VTrans will seek public review of both topics at public information meetings planned for late March.

The State Rail Plan identified several goals:

- Support Vermont's economy
- Upgrade the system to stay connected and competitive
- Maintain safe and efficient operations
- Seek adequate and stable funding
- Balance needs of railroad with human and natural environments
- Preserve rail corridors for future transportation use

A consultant team led by Parsons Brinckerhoff, with assistance from the firms Cambridge Systematics and Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc., is working with VTrans to conduct the rail plan update.



Public Meetings on Rail Plan March 24 & 25

March 24: Fox Room
Rutland Free Library
10 Court St.
Rutland, VT
6:30 p.m.

March 25: Community Room
Brattleboro Savings & Loan
221 Main Street
Brattleboro, VT
6:30 p.m.

Our Mission:

VTrans' railroad mission is the preservation, improvement, and promotion of rail transportation and its associated infrastructure to assure safe, reliable, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible movement of people and goods in the overall transportation system, thereby contributing to Vermont's quality of life and economic well-being.

Test Your Rail IQ

Unlike most states where railroads are privately owned, Vermont's owns about half of the state's 578 miles of rail. All of the lines are used for freight service, with two routes used for intercity passenger service as well.

Like other Northeastern states, upgrading rail to accommodate heavier and larger freight cars is a must for Vermont to remain connected to the national rail network. Old roadway overpasses and tunnels typically don't provide needed clearance for double-stacked railcars and it's very costly to upgrade these facilities.

What do you think Vermont's rail system looks like today? It's important to know when planning for the future. Test your knowledge by answering these questions below:

1. True or False: A lot more people are riding Vermont's rails.
2. True or False: The Vermonter, the train that runs between St. Albans and Washington, D.C. travels more miles in Vermont than in any other state on the route.
3. How many intercity passenger rails stations are there in Vermont?
4. Who operates Vermont's intercity passenger rail Service?
5. How many freight lines/operators are there in Vermont?
6. What rail company has the least and the most amount of track in Vermont?
7. True or False: Most of the rail freight movements are goods moving into Vermont.
8. Why does so much rail freight go through Vermont?

Quiz answers...

1. True: While ridership fluctuates from year to year, in the last 10 years there has been an overall trend of rising rail use...from a low of 57,121 passengers in 2005 to a high of 100,829 in 2013.

2. True: The train travels through eight states yet thirty percent (185 miles) of its 611-mile route is in Vermont.

3. Eleven: 2 on the Ethan Allen (Rutland and Castleton) and 9 on the Vermonter (St. Albans, Waterbury, Montpelier, Randolph, White River Junction, Windsor, Bellows Falls and Brattleboro), with 1 stop in Claremont, NH.

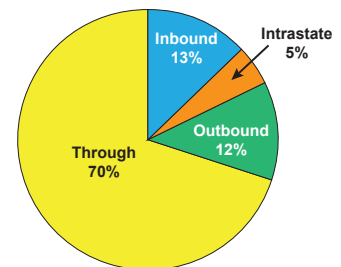
4. Amtrak: There is some seasonal train service from White River Junction and Bellows Falls by the Green Mountain Railroad, a subsidiary of the Vermont Railway.

5. Seven: PanAM, Canadian National, Clarendon & Pittsford, Montreal, Maine and Atlantic, New England Central, St. Lawrence and Atlantic, and Vermont Rail System.

6. Least: Canadian National – 3 miles, **Most:** New England Central – 191 miles. But, the Vermont Rail System, which provides service over state and privately-owned trackage has a combined mileage of 323 miles.

7. False: By far the largest movement, 70%, is just traveling through Vermont.

8. Vermont's geographic position as a gateway to Canada is a key reason. Most of Vermont's through traffic originates or terminates in Canada, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.



For more information, or to provide input to the State Rail Plan, please contact: Costa Pappis, Vermont Agency of Transportation, costa.pappis@state.vt.us, 802-828-5790

Additional information on the Vermont State Rail Plan can be found at: www.vtransplanning.vermont.gov