

Georgia State Rail Plan Introduction

Public Meeting Presentation

April 15-17, 2014

Dalton, Atlanta, and Valdosta



Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. What is a State Rail Plan
3. Rail planning in Georgia
4. Opportunities and challenges
5. Why a State Rail Plan is needed
6. Georgia rail vision and goals
7. Next steps

1. Welcome and Introductions

- GDOT Division of Intermodal
- Consultant team
- Stakeholders
 - Railroads
 - Shippers
 - Public transportation planners
 - The public

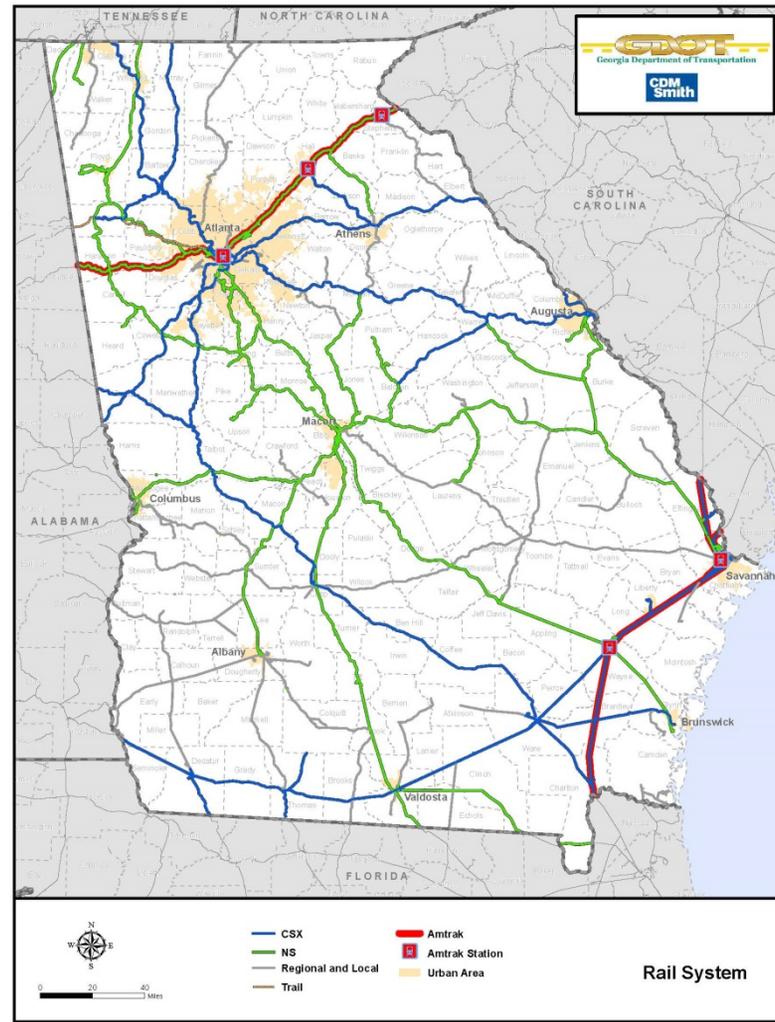
2. What Is a State Rail Plan

- Articulates passenger and freight rail vision for a state
 - Vision needs to be grounded in what state stakeholders need and want from their systems
- Specifies long-term investment strategies, program of improvements
- Identifies benefits of improvements
 - Benefits used to prioritize investments

3. Rail Planning In Georgia

- Georgia Department of Transportation
 - Division of Intermodal
- Freight railroads
 - Class Is
 - Short lines
- Amtrak
- Tourist railroads

Class I Railroads



Amtrak Services in Georgia



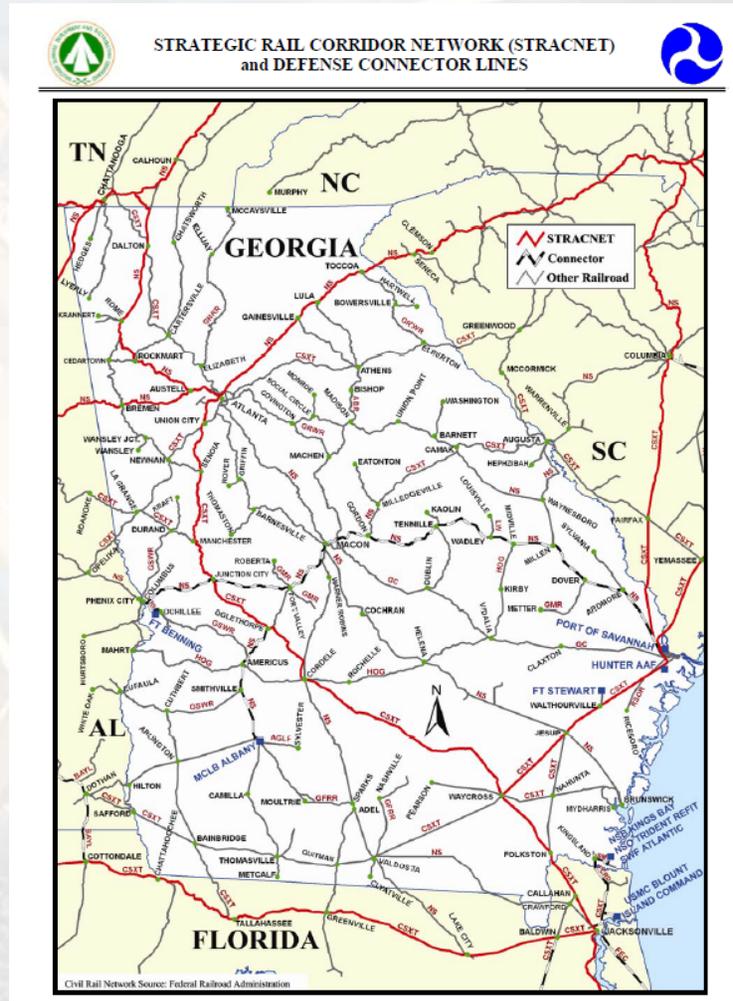
Tourist Railroads

- Five railroads with regular train service in season
- Provide both a recreational and an educational experience
- Provide economic development benefits



Photo Source: Creative Commons

Strategic Defense Network



4. Opportunities and Challenges

- Freight
 - Opportunity: Intermodal expansion
 - Challenge: Line capacity constraints
- Passenger
 - Opportunity: higher speed corridor services
 - Challenge: Funding constraints

Existing Intermodal Facilities

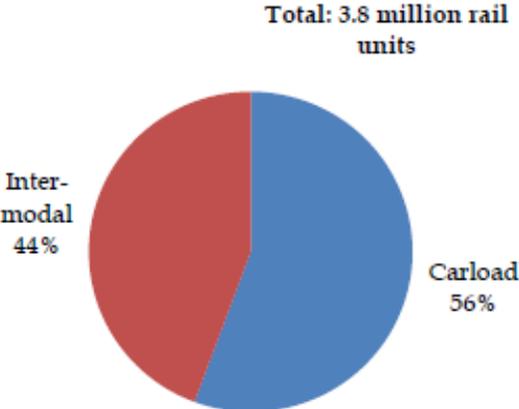
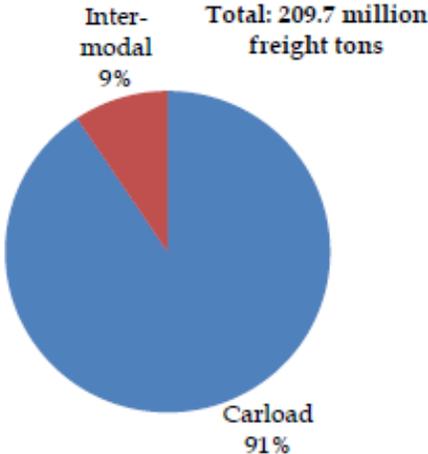
- CSXT: 3
 - Hulsey Yard and Fairburn Yard, Atlanta
 - Savannah Yard, Savannah
- NS: 3
 - Inman Yard and East Point (Triple Crown), Atlanta
 - Dillard Yard, Savannah
 - Whitaker Yard, Austell
- Other: 5
 - Mason ICTF and Chatham ICTF, Savannah
 - Anguilla Yard, Anguilla
 - Myd Harris, Brunswick
 - Cordele Intermodal Center, Cordele



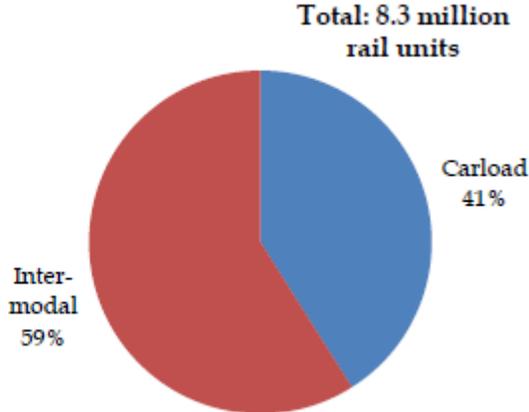
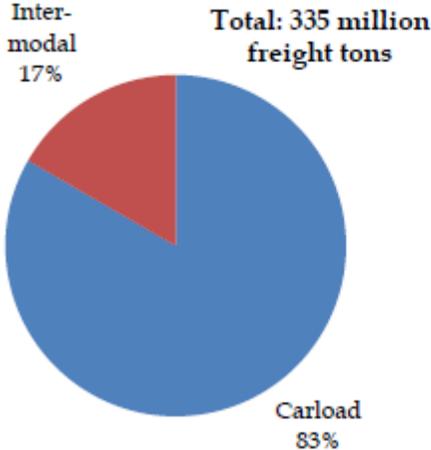
Source: Mi-Jack Products, Inc., product web site

Growth of Intermodal

2007

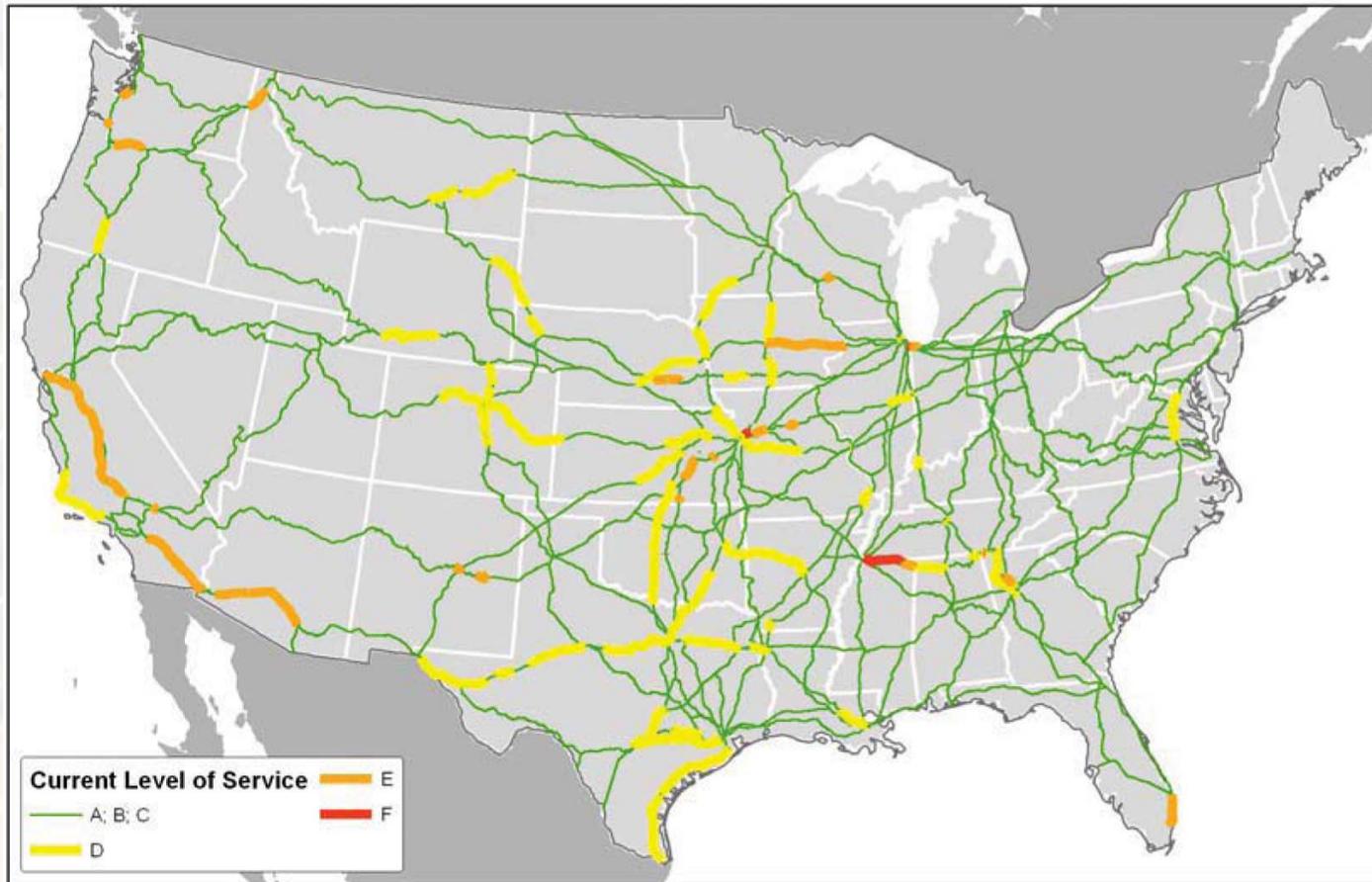


2050



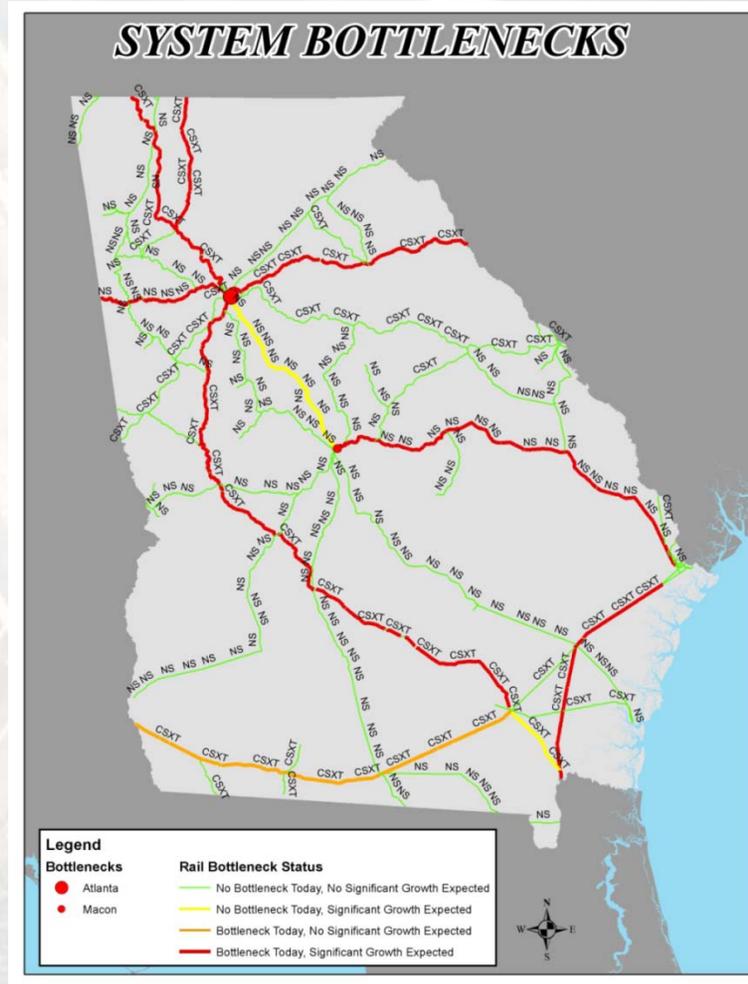
GDOT 2011 Freight and Logistics Study

Congestion on U.S. Rail Network



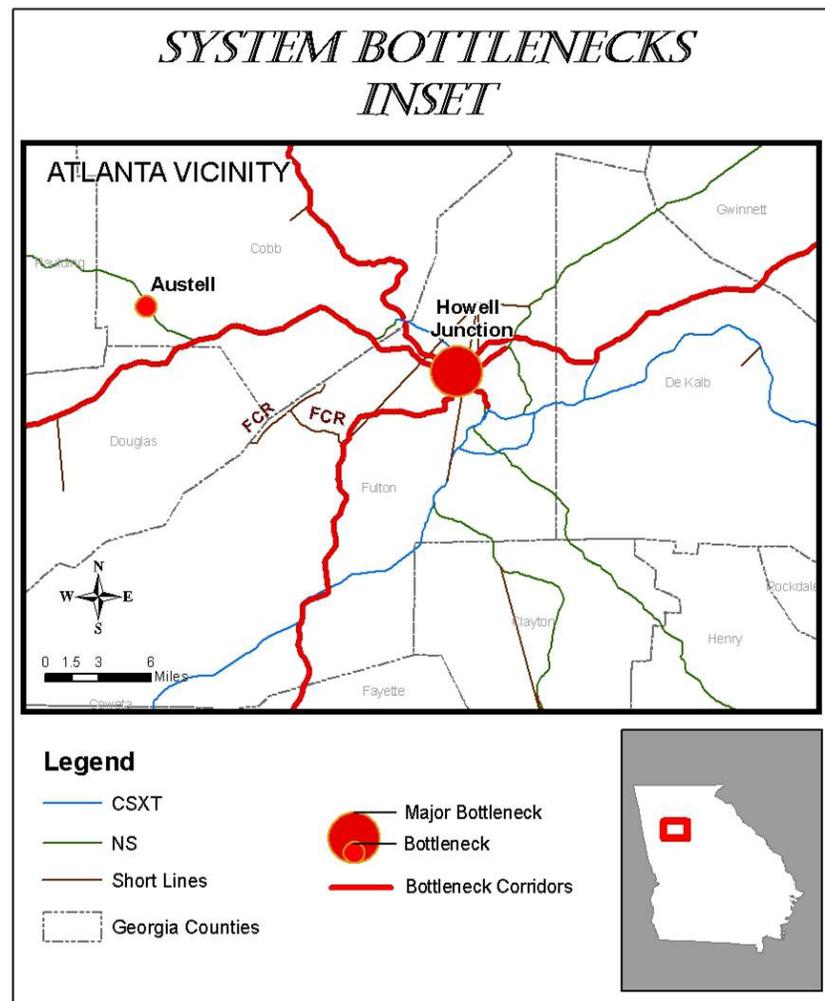
AAR 2007 National Rail Freight Infrastructure Capacity and Investment Study

Main Line Bottlenecks



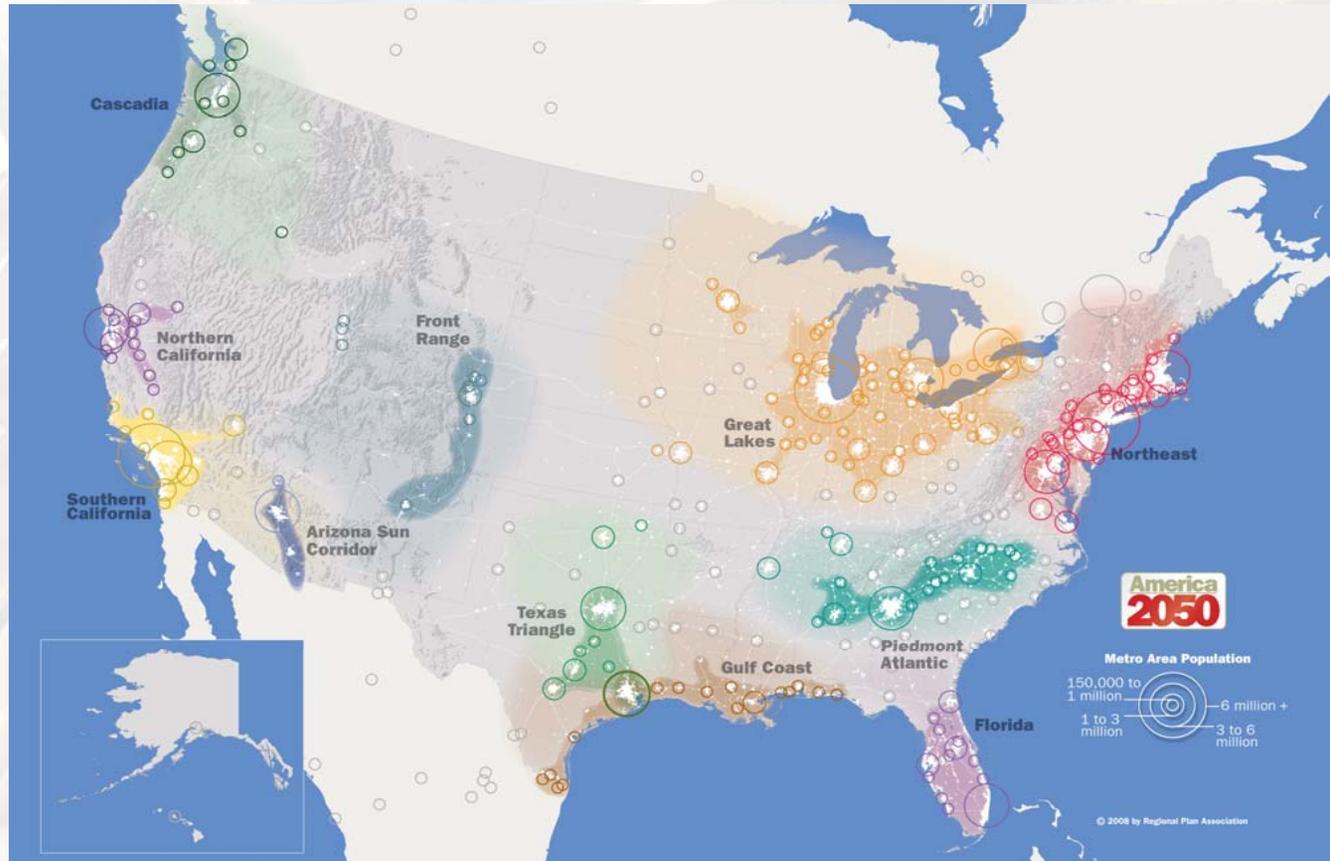
GDOT 2011 Freight and Logistics Study

Congestion Point: Atlanta Area

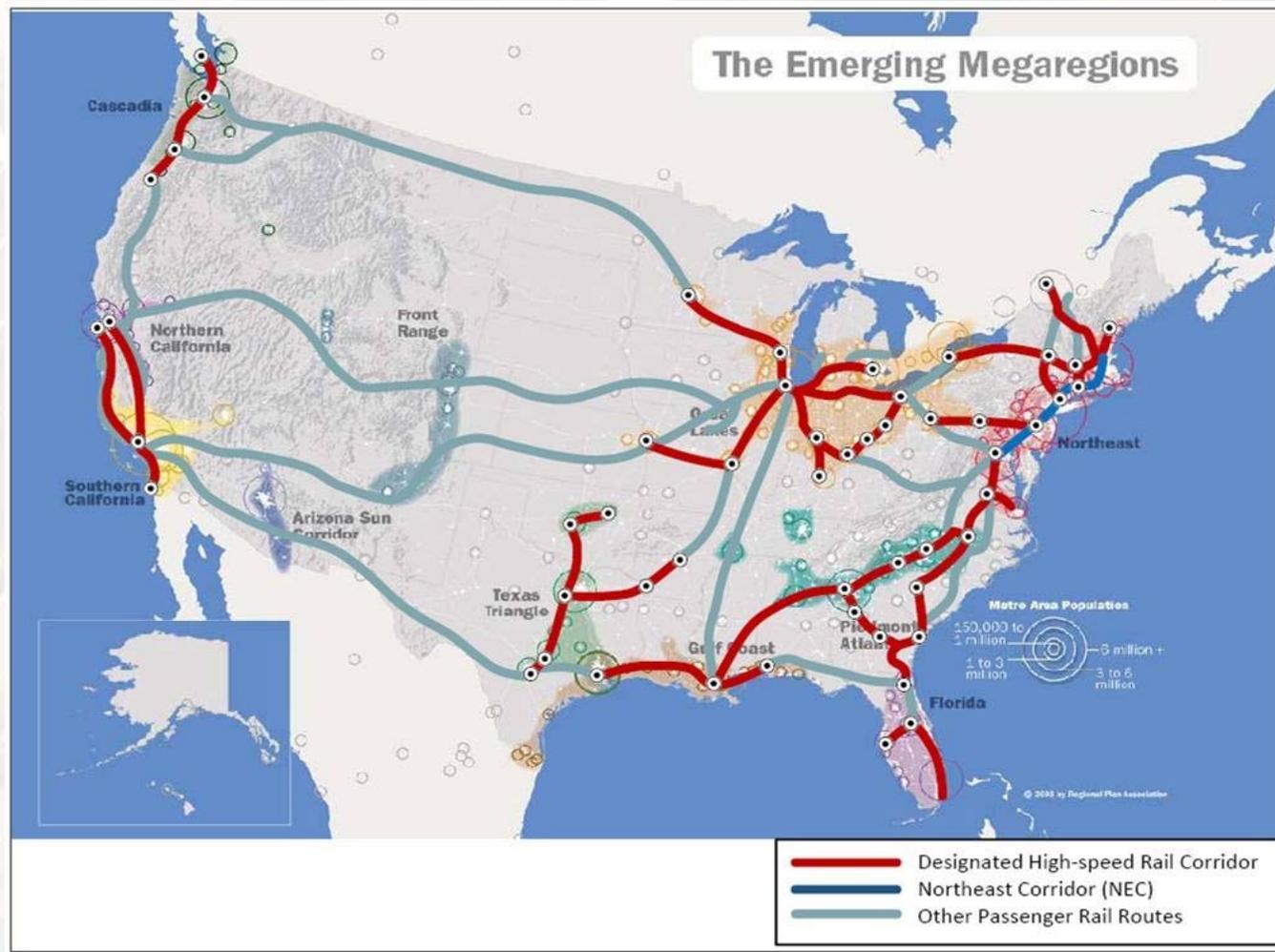


GDOT 2011 Freight and Logistics Study

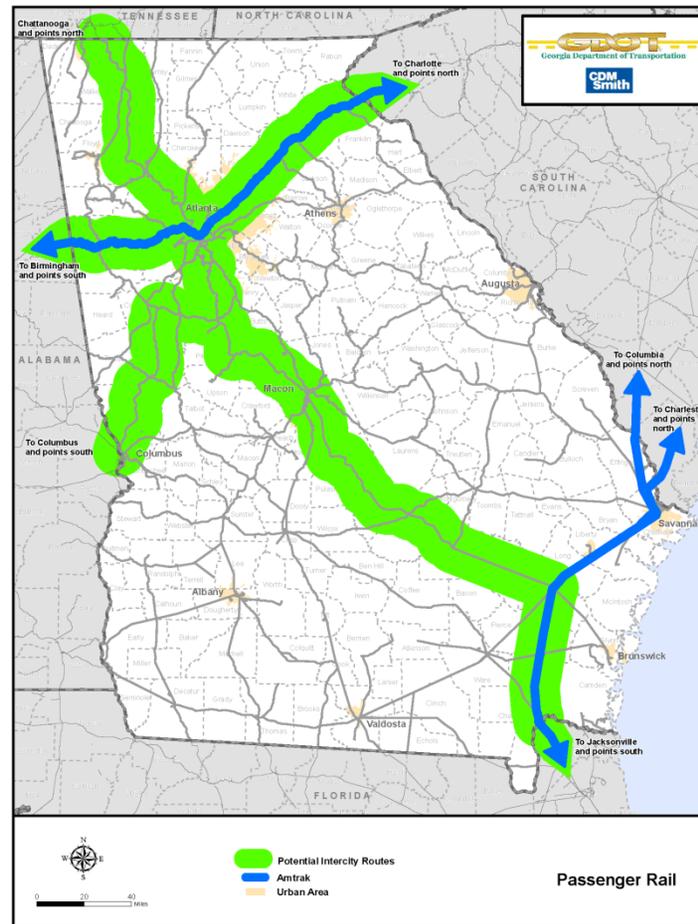
Evolving Megaregions



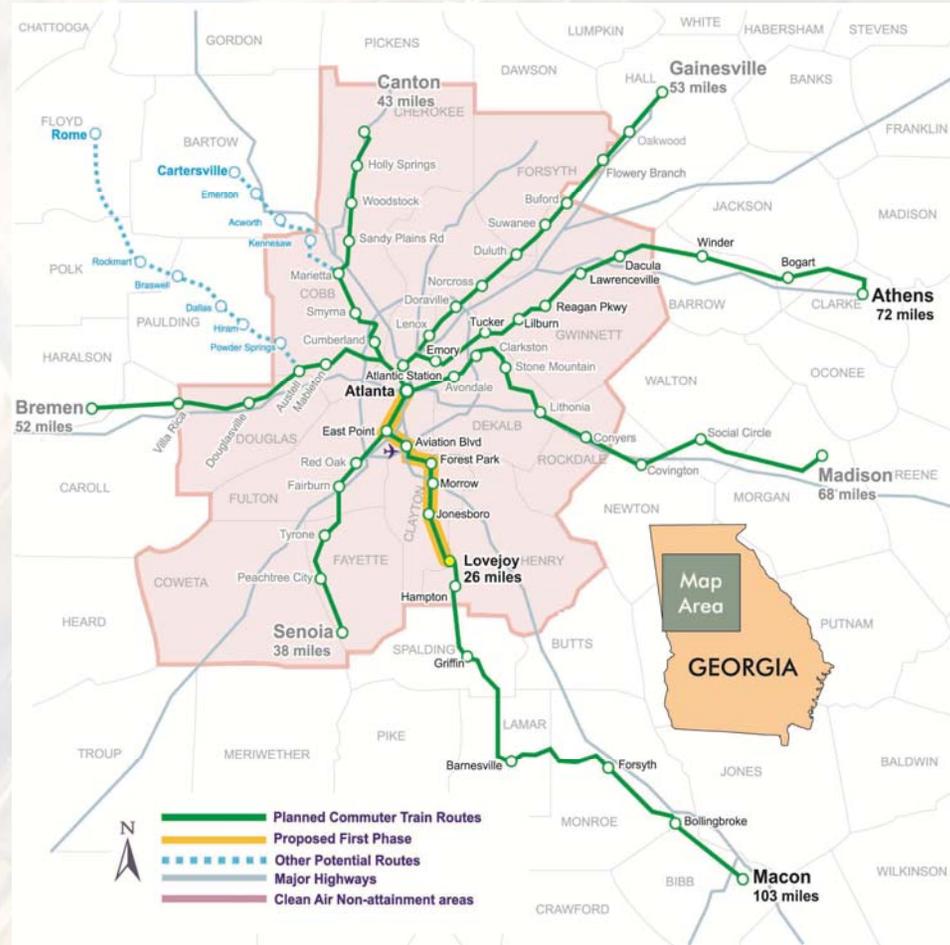
HSR to Link Megaregions



Potential Intercity Passenger Rail Routes



Potential Atlanta Commuter Rail Routes



5. Why a State Rail Plan Is Needed

- Specified by the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA), 2008
- Rail improvements needing federal support must be cited in a State Rail Plan
- Roll-up into National Rail Plan
- *Rail is important to Georgia and needs to be planned for!*

In 2011, Georgia Ranked...

- 7th in rail miles (4,666)
- 17th in tons originated (29.4 million)
- 6th in tons terminated (74.4 million)
- 9th in carloads originated (883,000)
- 4th in carloads terminated (1,458,700)
- 16th in tons carried (189.1 million)
- 17th in carloads carried (3,981,500)
- 6th in rail employment (7,048)
- 7th in rail wages (\$506.5 million)
- 10th in Railroad Retirement beneficiaries (16,255)
- 10th in Railroad Retirement payments (\$308.1 million)

2011 STB Waybill Sample/Association of American Railroads

Amtrak by the Numbers in 2013

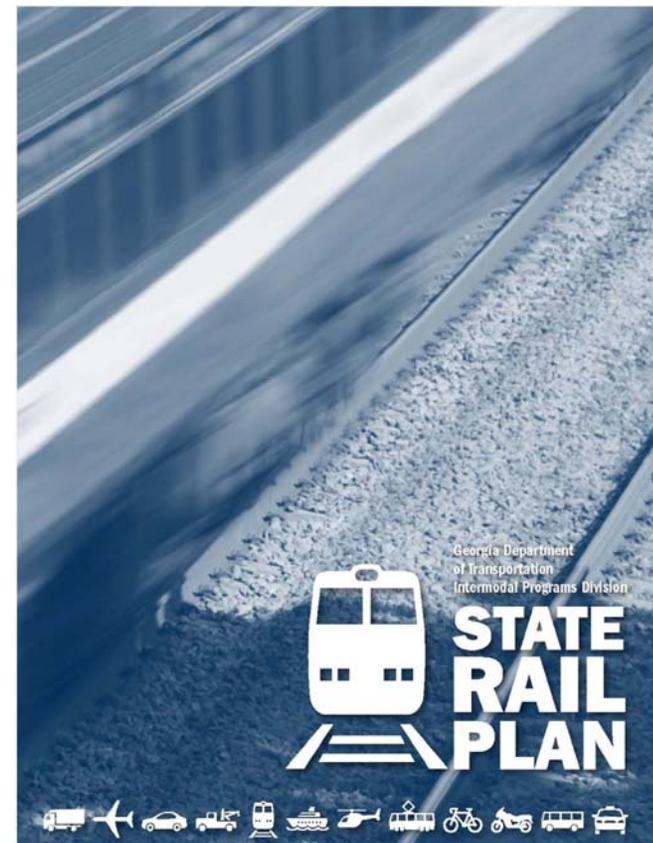
- Georgia impacts
 - Services - 4
 - Employees - 43
 - Wages - \$3.1 million
 - Spent - \$46.8 million
 - Ridership - 192,000



Photo source: Steve Wilson

State Rail Plan Integration

- Integrate with larger transportation vision for the state
- Build on 2011 *Freight and Logistics Study* and the 2009 *State Rail Plan*
- Coordinate with *Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan*, now being updated
- Coordinate with plans of neighboring states



State Rail Plan Document

- Chapter 1: Role of rail in Georgia
- Chapter 2: Existing sys., trends, opportunities
- Chapter 3: Passenger rail needs
- Chapter 4: Freight rail needs
- Chapter 5: Program of improvements
 - Consistent with vision, goals and objectives
 - Prioritized by public benefits
- Chapter 6: Outreach and coordination

Project Schedule

Major Tasks	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Project Kickoff	●											
Role of Rail in Transportation System		■	■									
Rail System Inventory		■	■	■								
Public Meetings Round 1				●								
Rail System Evaluation					■	■	■					
Passenger Rail Improvements					■	■	■					
Freight Rail Improvements					■	■	■					
Public Meetings Round 2								●				
Long Range Investment Plan								■	■			
Draft State Rail Plan										■		
Final State Rail Plan											■	
Presentation of Final Plan												●

Solicitation of Issues

- Opportunities for economic development?
- Anything Georgia should be doing regarding rail that it is not already doing?
- Physical or operational constraints on rail system?
- Opportunities for shared-use of rail infrastructure for freight and passenger?
- Crossing safety, noise?



6. Rail Vision

- Describes role of rail into future (20-30 years)
- Reflects the desires of rail stakeholders and constituents
- Depicts what rail system will be like in future
- Recognizes challenges and opportunities
- Provides high-level strategic guidance to goals and objectives

Visions Generally Focus on:

- Physical characteristics (e.g. expanded service, connectivity)
- Economic competitiveness (e.g. cost effectiveness, facilitate economic growth)
- Mobility choice (e.g. accessibility, capacity, connections)
- Safety (e.g. reduce traffic on other modes)
- Reliability
- Energy and environment

Draft Rail Vision

A safe and energy efficient state rail system that enables the economic wellbeing of Georgia by expanding access and enhancing mobility for people and goods in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Draft Rail Goals

- Enhance safety and security
- Provide reliable passenger rail system
- Develop energy efficient and environmentally sustainable rail system
- Preserve and improve existing infrastructure
- Enhance economic development and competitiveness
- Promote and expand intermodal connectivity

7. Next Steps

- Profile existing rail operations in the state
- Identification of needs and opportunities
- Identify passenger rail improvements
- Identify freight rail improvements
- Develop a program of projects
- Share findings in second round of public meetings in August

Rail Study Contacts

- Harry Boxler, GDOT
 - Tel: 404-631-1225
 - E-mail: hboxler@dot.ga.gov
- Justin Fox, CDM Smith
 - Tel: 415-653-3303
 - E-mail: foxjc@cdmsmith.com

Thank You!

- Questions
- Comments / survey
- Please continue to follow the progress of the Plan and **fill out survey** at:

<http://www.dot.ga.gov/travelingingeorgia/rail/Pages/StateRailPlan.aspx>