



# **Update of Vermont Rail Plan & Vermont Freight Plan Presentation #1**

Addison County Regional Planning Commission TAC –  
October 21, 2020

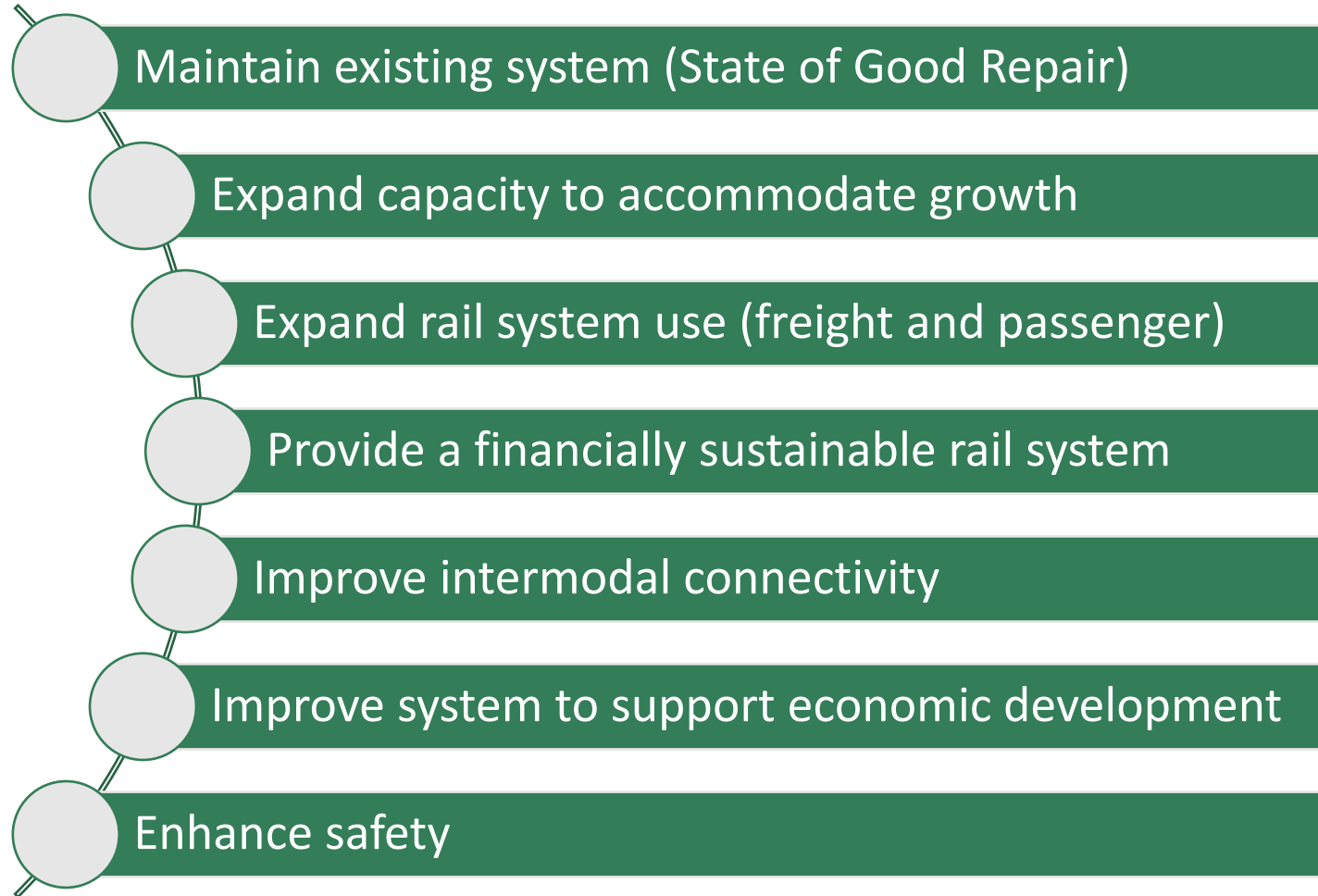




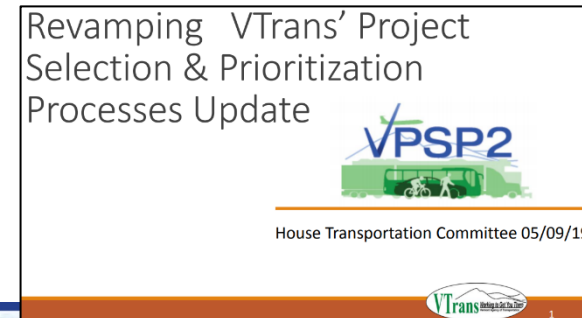
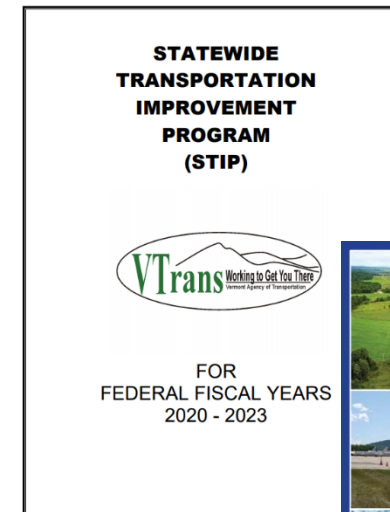
# Background & Goals

- FRA requires a State Rail Plan at minimum every 4 years to remain eligible for certain types of rail grants
- FHWA requires a State Freight Plan every 5 years in order to obligate Freight Formula funds
- Update of 2015 Rail Plan will include Freight/Intercity passenger rail service
- Update of 2012 Freight Plan will cover all modes: rail, highway, air, & water
- **RPC Role:**
  - Provide input on regional/local needs and ideas
  - Help expand public outreach

# 2015 Rail Plan Goals



- Aligned with other efforts
- Open for minor refinement



# Additional Information

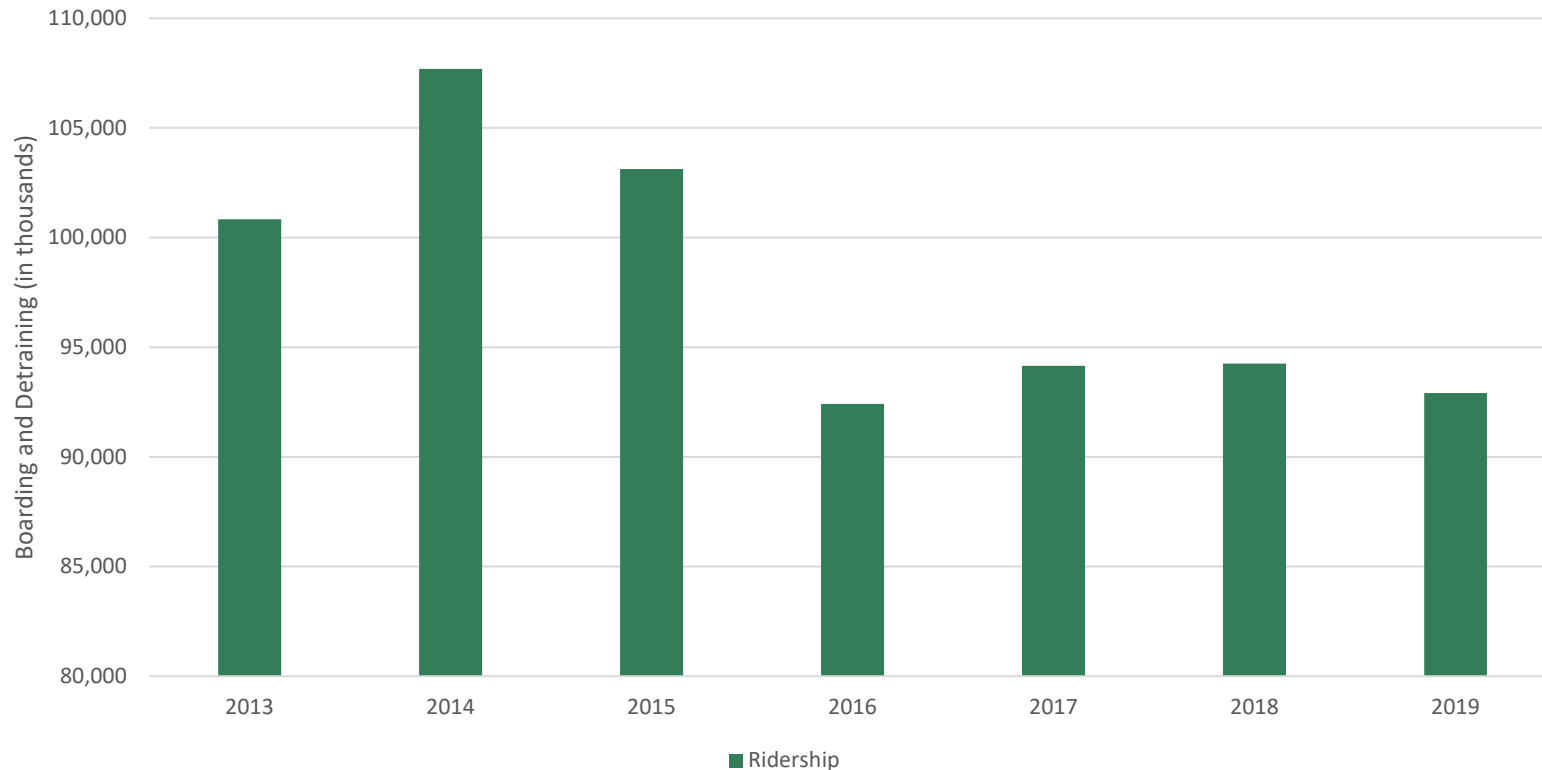
- For more information on the rail and freight plans including
  - Newsletters (#1 and #2 included in TAC packet)
  - Data Trends Summary (included in TAC packet)
  - Existing Conditions Technical Memo (on websites below)
  - Online map and stakeholder feedback tool (on websites below)
  - Recording of full presentation and slides (on websites below)
- Rail Plan: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/rail/reports>
- Freight Plan: <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/freight>



# Passenger Rail Trends



# Passenger Rail Ridership



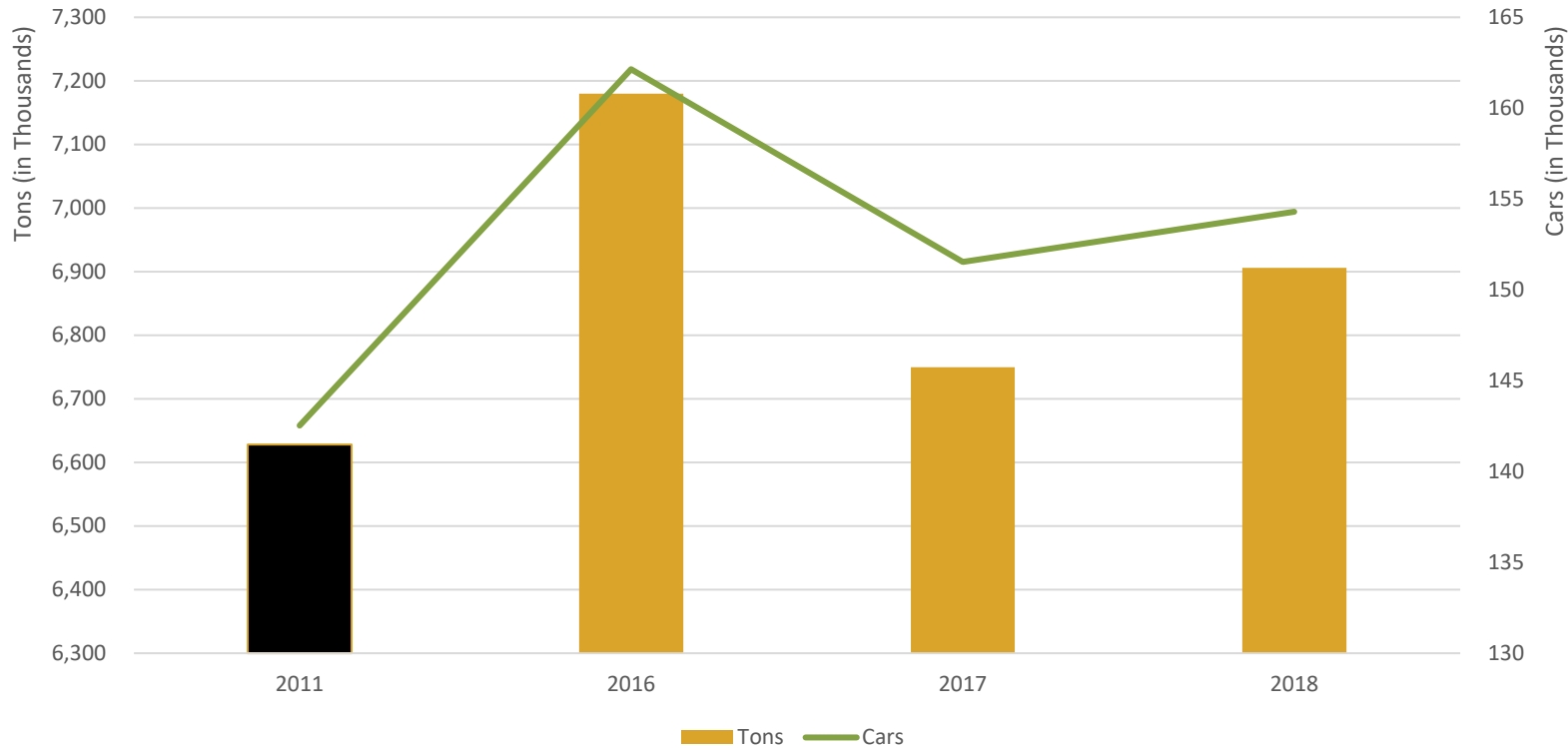
- Overall decline in VT Amtrak ridership since FY2013
  - Ridership has steadily risen in NY and MA over the same time.
  - NH growing ridership since a low in 2015

# Freight Rail Trends





# Freight Rail Overview

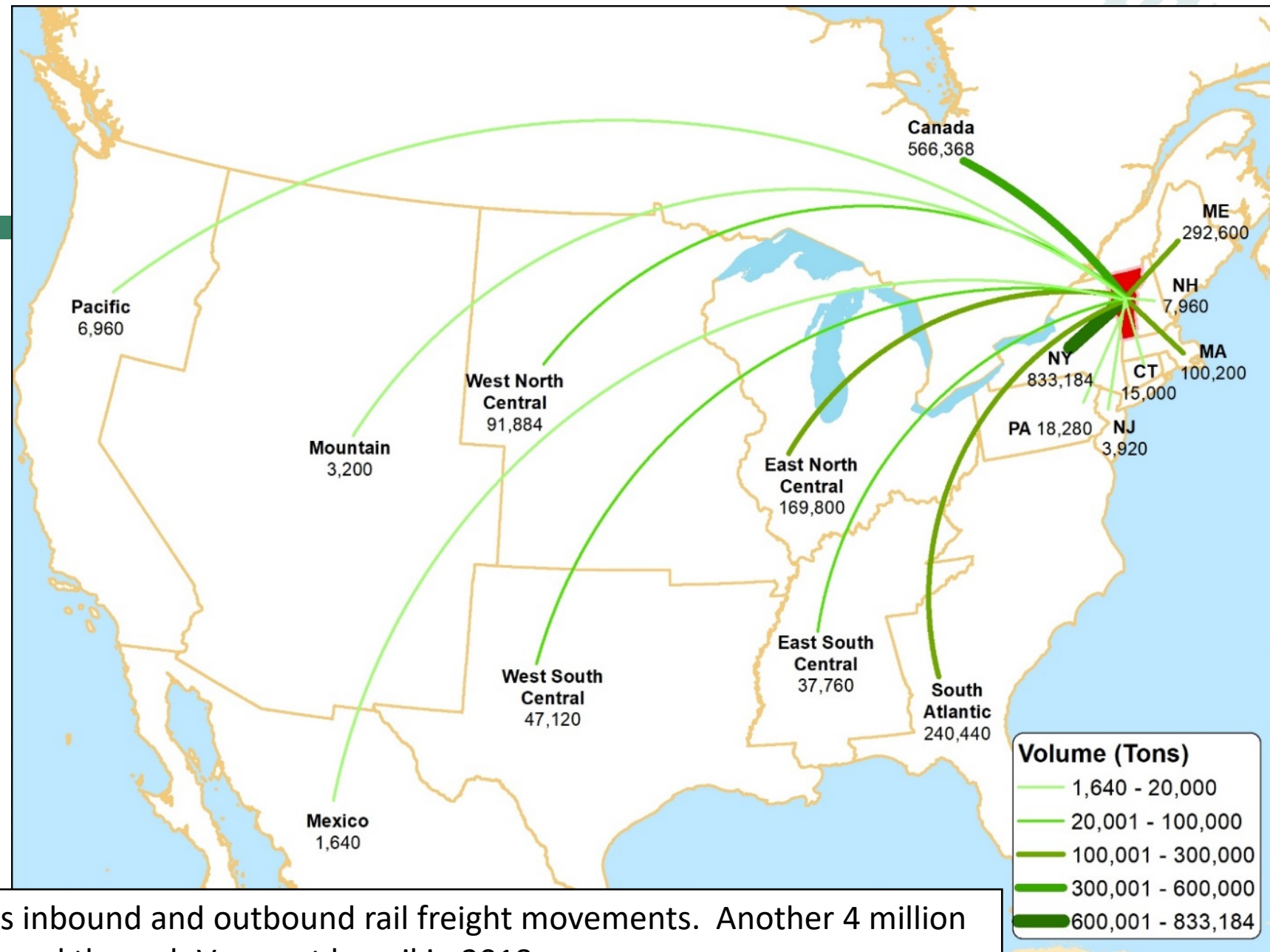


- 4% growth in tons, 8% growth in carloads since 2011
  - Data not available 2012-2015 (STB Waybill Confidential Sample)



# Freight Rail Trading Partners

- Vermont is linked worldwide by short line railroads and then Class I rail networks.
- Tonnage inbound to Vermont increased from 14% in 2011 to 24% in 2018.



Note: Map only shows inbound and outbound rail freight movements. Another 4 million tons (58% of total) moved through Vermont by rail in 2018




# Discussion & Questions



Are these trends consistent with your experience?

Are these trends likely to continue over the next five years? 20-30 years?

What impact will COVID-19 have?



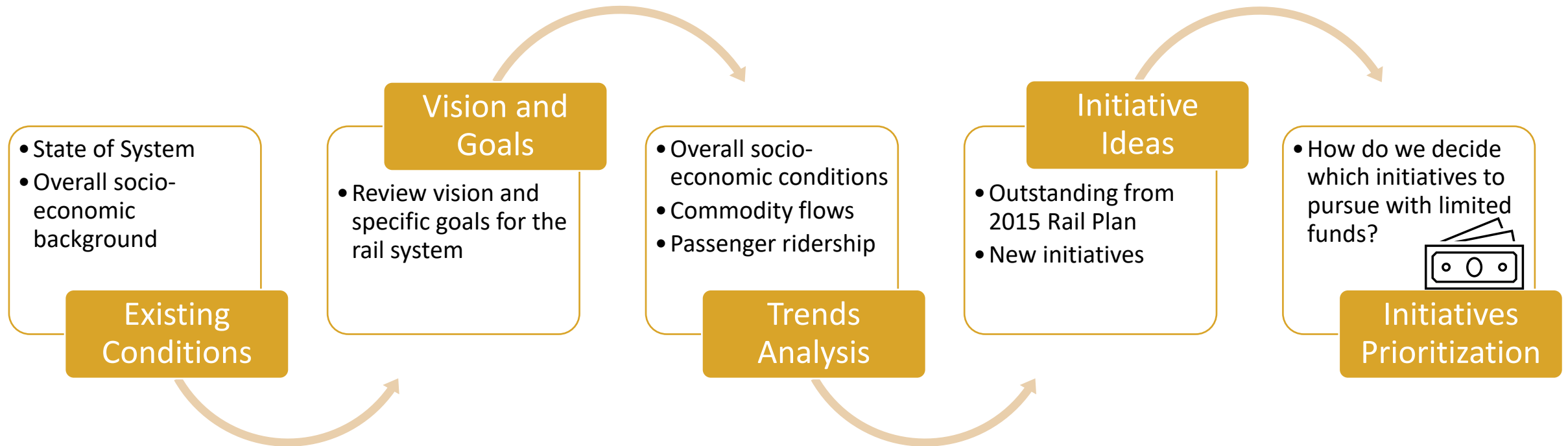
At the regional/local level, what is or could be done to support rail-related businesses (both existing and potential future)?

58% of all freight rail tons are moved through Vermont (and likely to grow). How do we think and speak about this?



What are the top local/regional concerns for the intercity passenger and freight rail networks?

# Rail Plan Elements



**Initiatives** can be projects, but also new computer systems, signal updates, improved coordination, etc. that increase efficiency. These operational and administrative efforts are particularly important given limited funding.



# Online Web Map

- **Link:** <https://bit.ly/VTFreightRailMap>
- **Purpose:**
  - Collect stakeholder input on issues and potential initiatives
  - Provide valuable information
- What would be of most interest to RPCs?
  - VTrans initiatives and status
  - Transload locations
  - Amtrak station locations
  - Rail-highway crossing incidents
  - Truck volumes
  - Other?

## Update of Vermont Rail Plan and Vermont Freight Plan

About

Add New Idea / Issue

### Share your feedback!

Add a note, including the location, and drop a pin on the map below (optional). You may also upload a photo to illustrate your input. If you have a general comment or question about the planning process, scroll down.

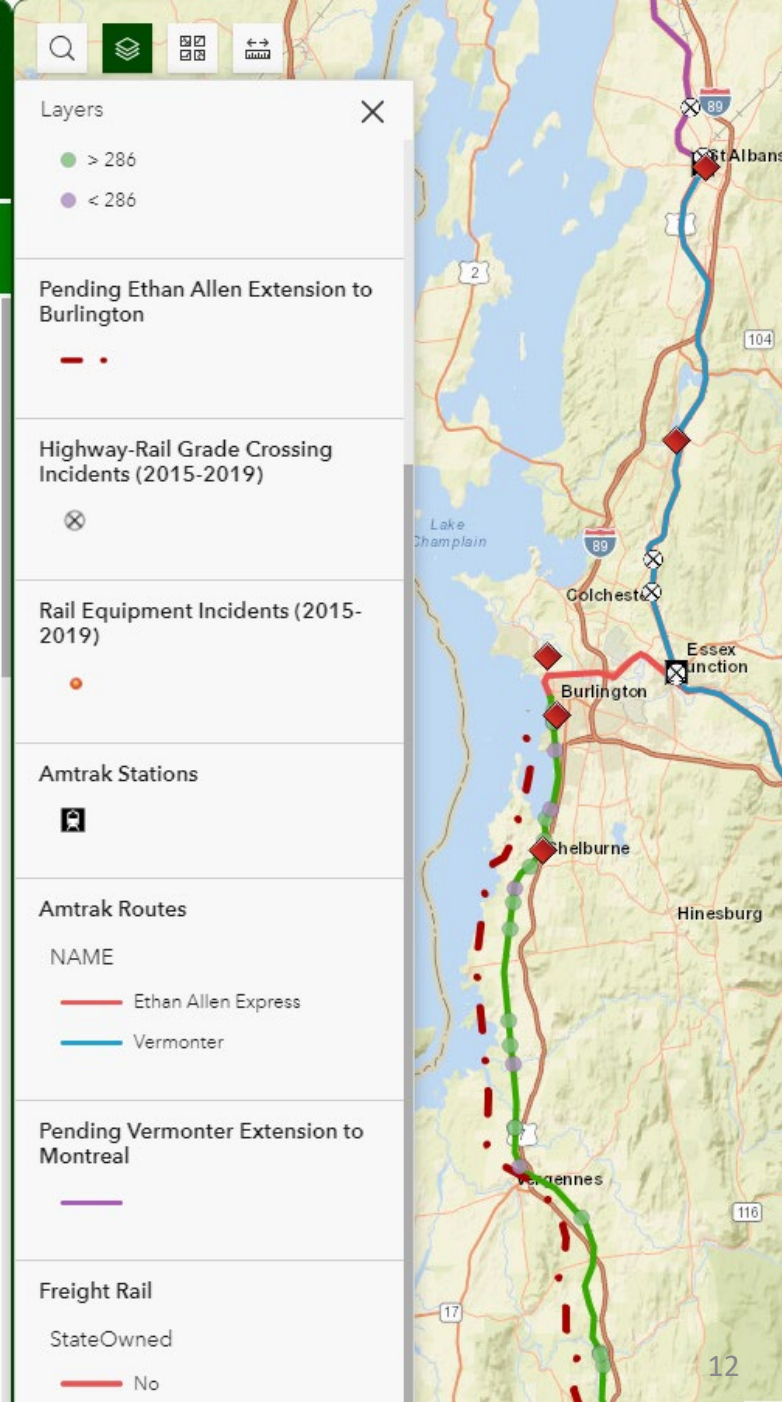
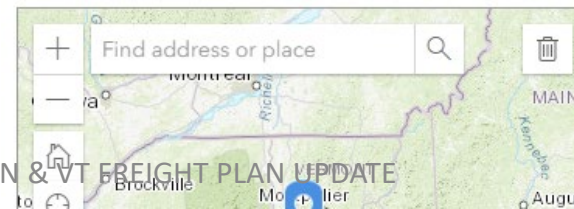
### What is the issue or idea?

(e.g. an issue with a section of rail line, rail crossing, rail passenger issue, or a freight issue for another mode of travel)

### Please describe the route or location

(e.g. a rail facility, road section that crosses a rail line, intermodal site, rail passenger station, or truck movement issue)

### Mark it on the map:



# Action Request

- Help expand our public outreach
  - Send people to the project websites for more information and to access the online mapping tool to submit ideas and identify issues
- There will be a second round of outreach and Town Hall #2 later this year on draft recommendations
  - Does the TAC want a briefing at that point?
  - Will ask for help in publicizing Town Hall #2



# Thank You

For more information on the Vermont Rail Plan Update, visit [vtrans.vermont.gov/rail/reports](https://vtrans.vermont.gov/rail/reports) or contact Zoe Neaderland at [Zoe.Neaderland@vermont.gov](mailto:Zoe.Neaderland@vermont.gov) or (802) 793-2778.

For more information on the Vermont Freight Plan Update, visit [vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/freight](https://vtrans.vermont.gov/planning/freight) or contact Dave Pelletier at [Dave.Pelletier@vermont.gov](mailto:Dave.Pelletier@vermont.gov) or (802) 595-9675.