



TDOT

Department of
Transportation

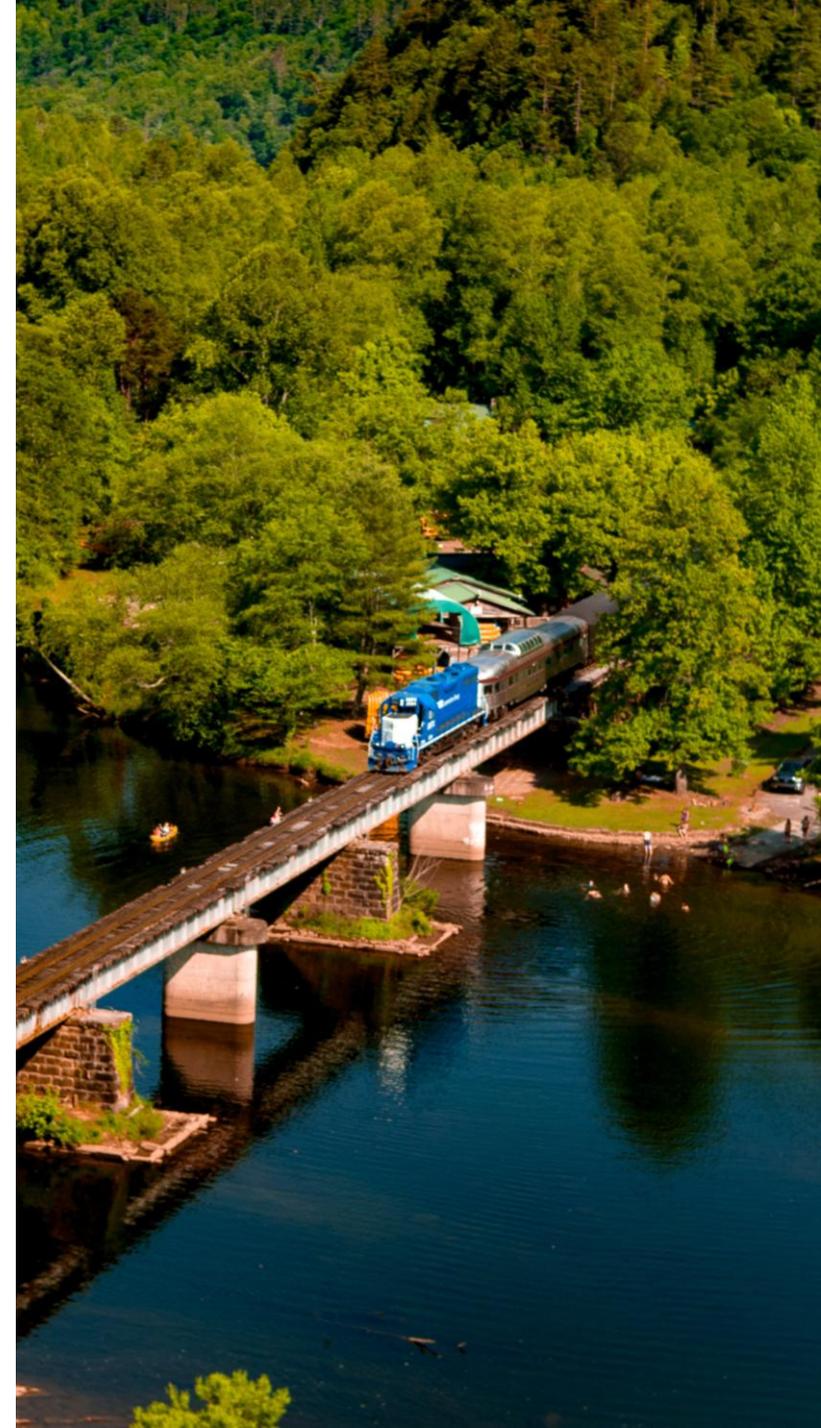
Tennessee State Rail Plan

Freight Advisory Committee Meeting

Dan Pallme, TDOT

Keith Bucklew, HDR

10/30/2025



Review

State Rail Plan

Under **49 U.S. Code Chapter 227**, each state prepares and maintains a state rail plan as a means for:



Establishing state policy involving freight and passenger rail transportation, including commuter rail operations

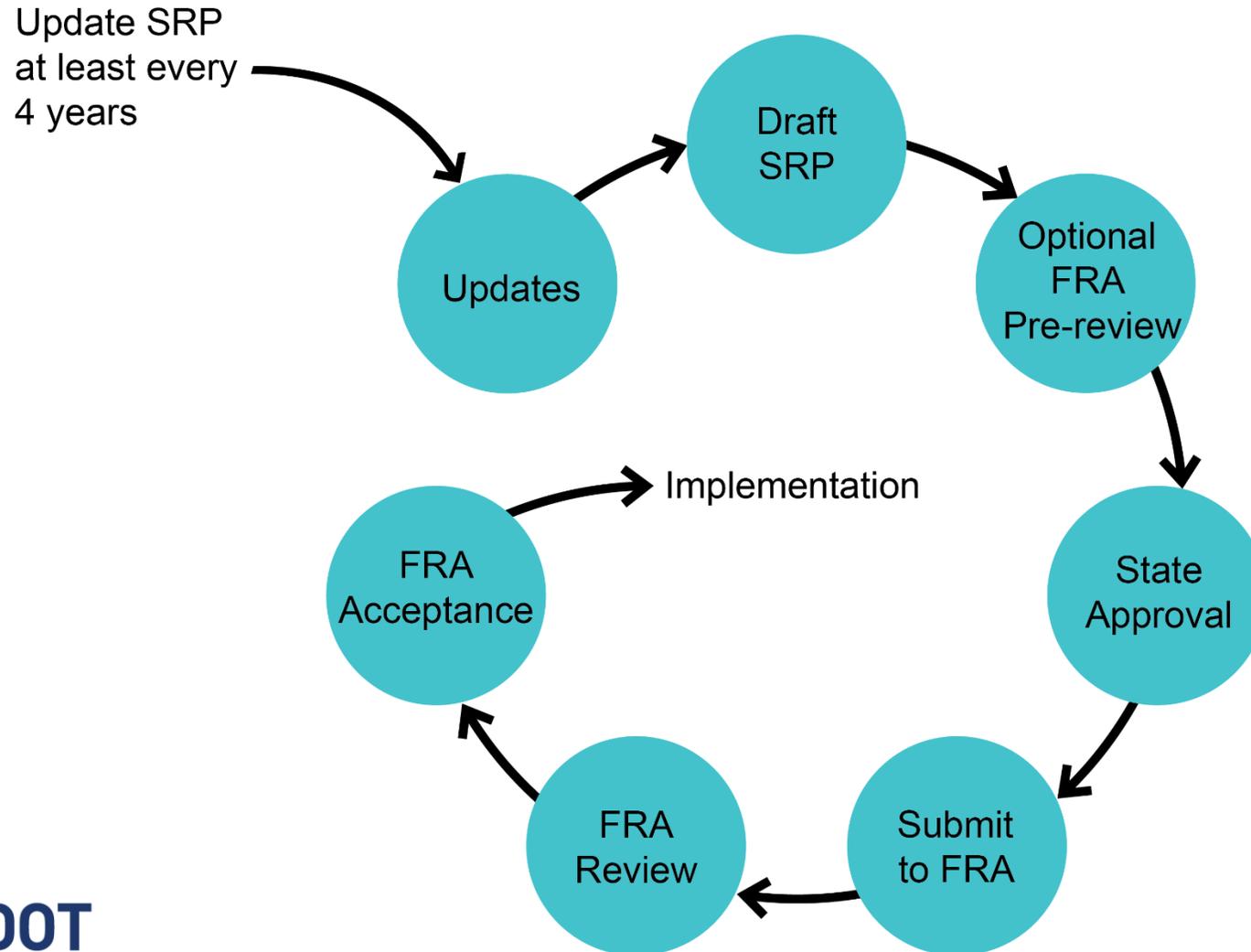
Establishing the period covered by the State rail plan (four years);

Presenting priorities and strategies to enhance rail service in the state that benefits the public

Listing projects to be eligible for federal funding from competitive discretionary grant programs

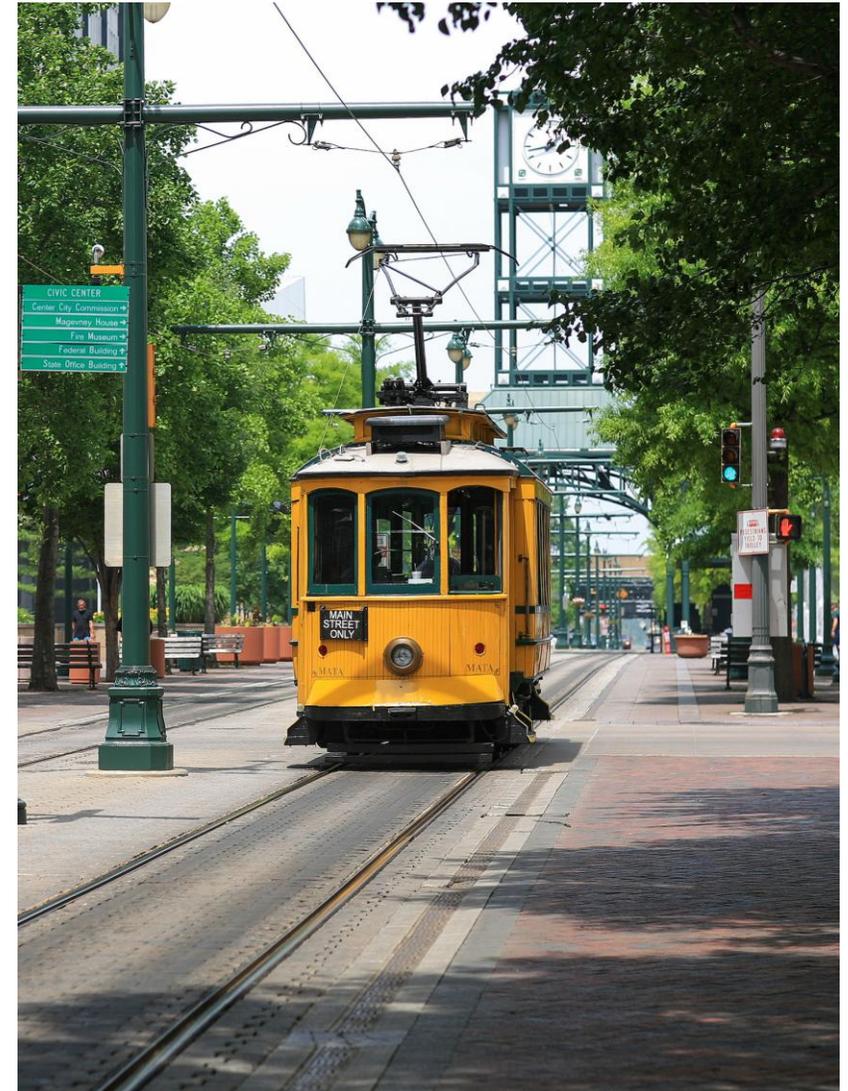
Serving as the basis for federal and state rail investments

Preparation Process



Contents

- Ch. 1** Role of Rail in Tennessee's Transportation System
- Ch. 2** Existing Rail System
- Ch. 3** Impacts of Rail
- Ch. 4** Trends and Forecasts
- Ch. 5** Proposed Passenger Rail Improvements
- Ch. 6** Proposed Freight Rail Improvements
- Ch. 7** Rail Service and Investment Program
- Ch. 8** Coordination and Review



Schedule

Current Status

Task	2025												2026	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
0. Project Management														
1. State's Vision & Role in Rail														
2. Existing Rail System														
3. Impacts of Rail														
4. Trends and Forecasts														
5. Passenger Rail														
6. Freight Rail														
7. Rail Service/Investment														
8. Coordination and Review														
9. Final Report														

Key Takeaways

State Rail Plan Goals

1. Support and Enhance Rail Asset Preservation and Utilization
2. Improve Safety and Security of the State's Rail System
3. Provide for the Efficient and Reliable Movement of Goods and People
4. Support Economic Development and Competitiveness
5. Minimize Environmental and Community Impact

Ch. 1 Role of Rail in Tennessee

State Rail Plan aligns with the 25-Year Long-Range Transportation Policy and TDOT's vision and mission

Tennessee's 25-Year Long-Range Transportation Policy Objectives:

1. Promote Efficiency
2. Increase Effectiveness
3. Emphasize Economic Competitiveness

Mission

Provide a safe & reliable transportation system to support economic growth & quality of life.



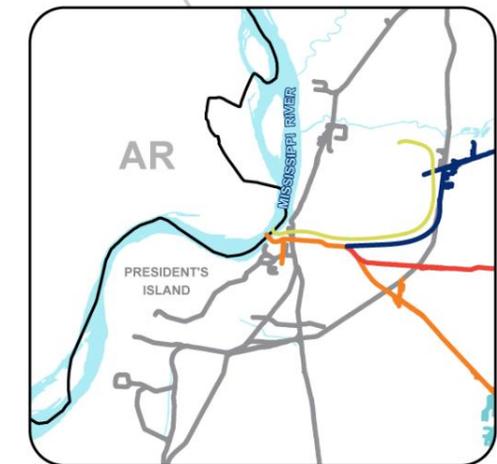
Vision

Pursue Excellence
Modernize & Manage Infrastructure
Empower Workforce
Strengthen Customer Trust



Ch. 2 Existing Rail System

Existing Rail Routes



Class I Railroads

- BNSF Railway
- CPKC
- CSX Transportation
- Canadian National
- Norfolk Southern
- Union Pacific
- Private/Industrial
- - - Abandoned or Inactive
- County Boundary

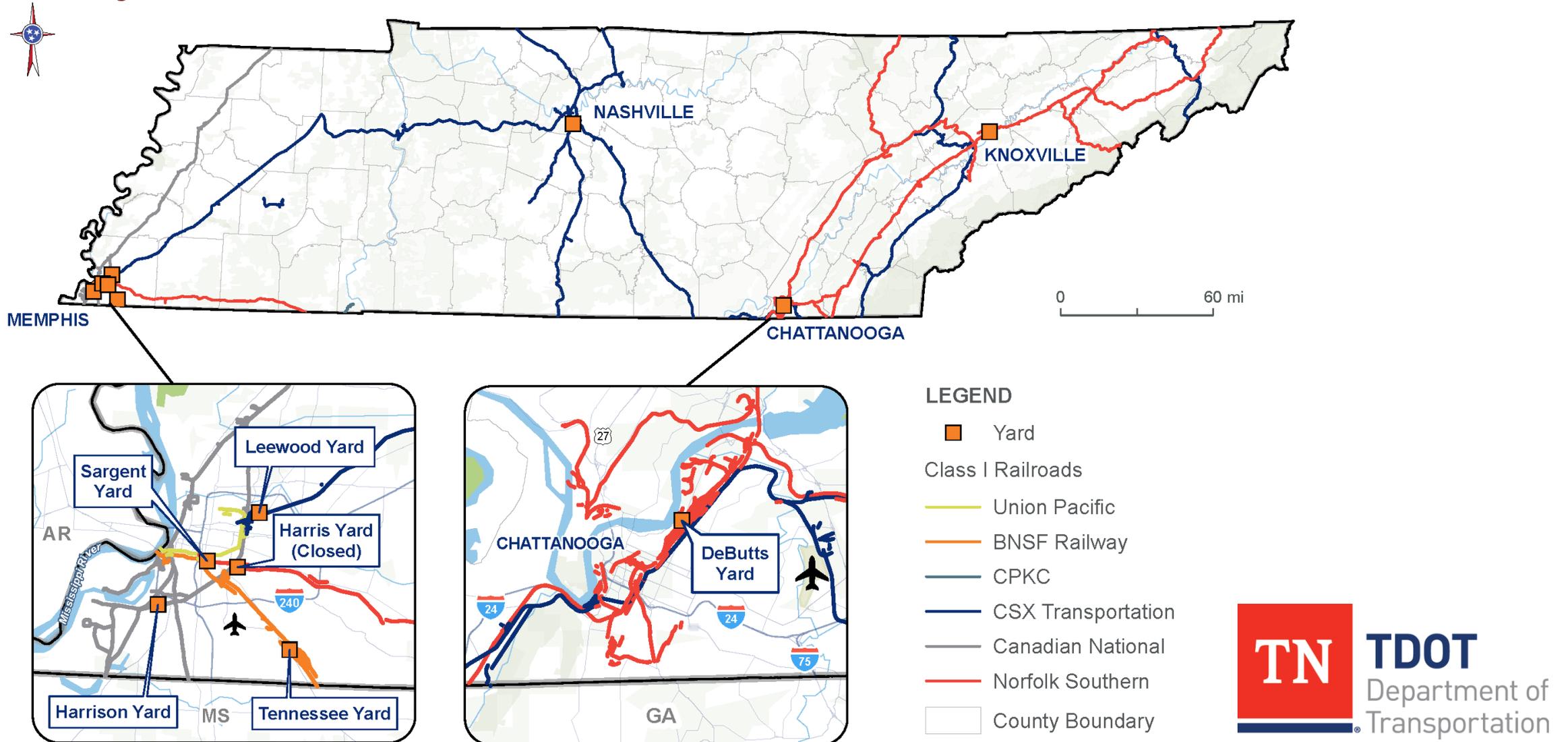
Class III Railroads

- Caney Fork & Western Railroad (CFWR)
- Chattooga & Chickamauga Railway (CCKY)
- Heritage Railroad Corporation (HR)
- Kentucky West Tennessee Railway (KWT)
- Knoxville & Holston River Railroad (KXHR)
- Knoxville and Cumberland Gap Railroad (KXCG)
- Mississippi Central Railroad (MSCI)
- R.J. Corman – Memphis Line (RJCM)
- R.J. Corman – Nashville & Eastern Line (NERR)

- R.J. Corman – Nashville & Western Line (NWR)
- R.J. Corman – Tennessee Terminal (RJCK)
- Sequatchie Valley Switching Company (SQSC)
- South Central Tennessee Railroad (SCTR)
- Tennessee Southern Railroad (TSRR)
- Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum (TVRM)
- Tennken Railroad (TKEN)
- Union City Terminal Railroad (UCT)
- Walking Horse Railroad (WHRR)
- West Tennessee Railroad (WTNN)

Ch. 2 Existing Rail System

Major Railroad Yards & Maintenance Facilities



Ch. 3 Economic Impacts of Rail



**34,600 direct jobs
(79,400 including
indirect/induced)**



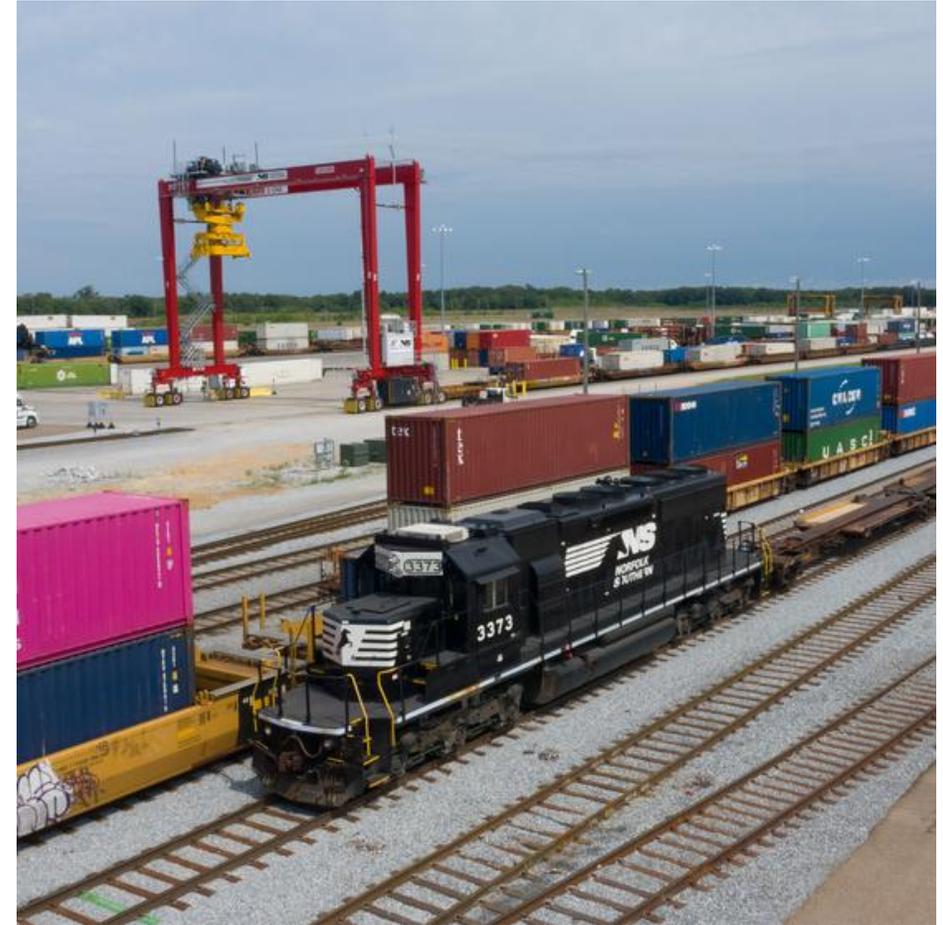
**\$5.4 billion
employee
earnings**



**\$9.9 billion value added
(2% of TN's GDP)**



**\$758.4 million tax
revenue**



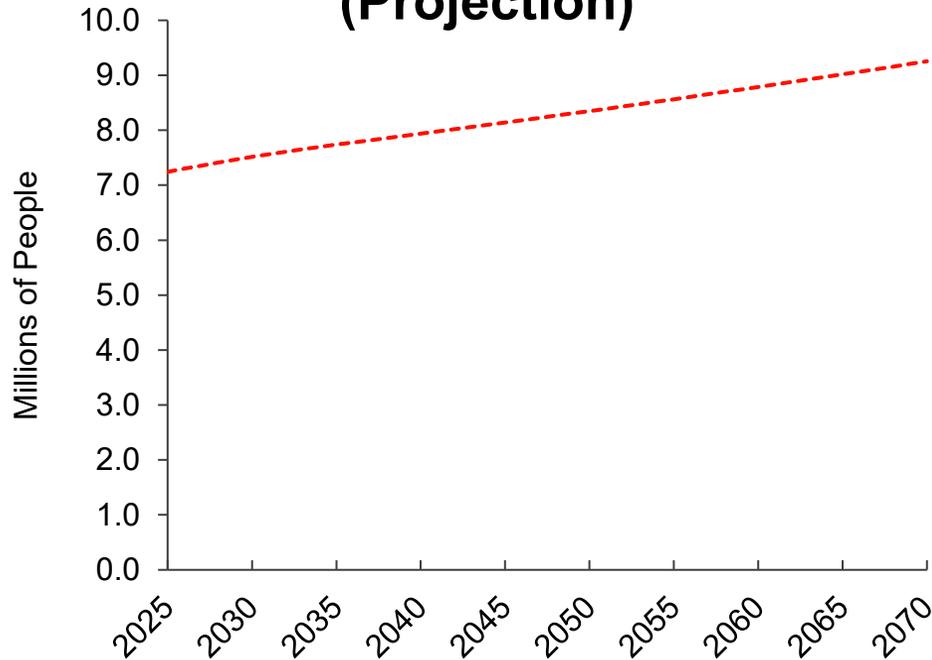
Ch. 3 Economic Impacts of Rail

Key Supply Chains



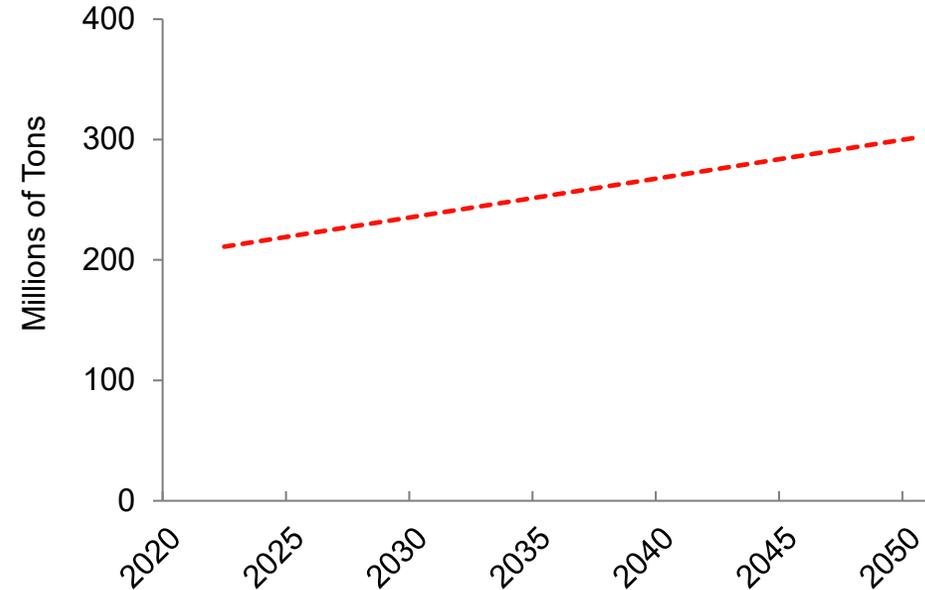
Ch. 4 Trends and Forecasts

Tennessee Population (Projection)



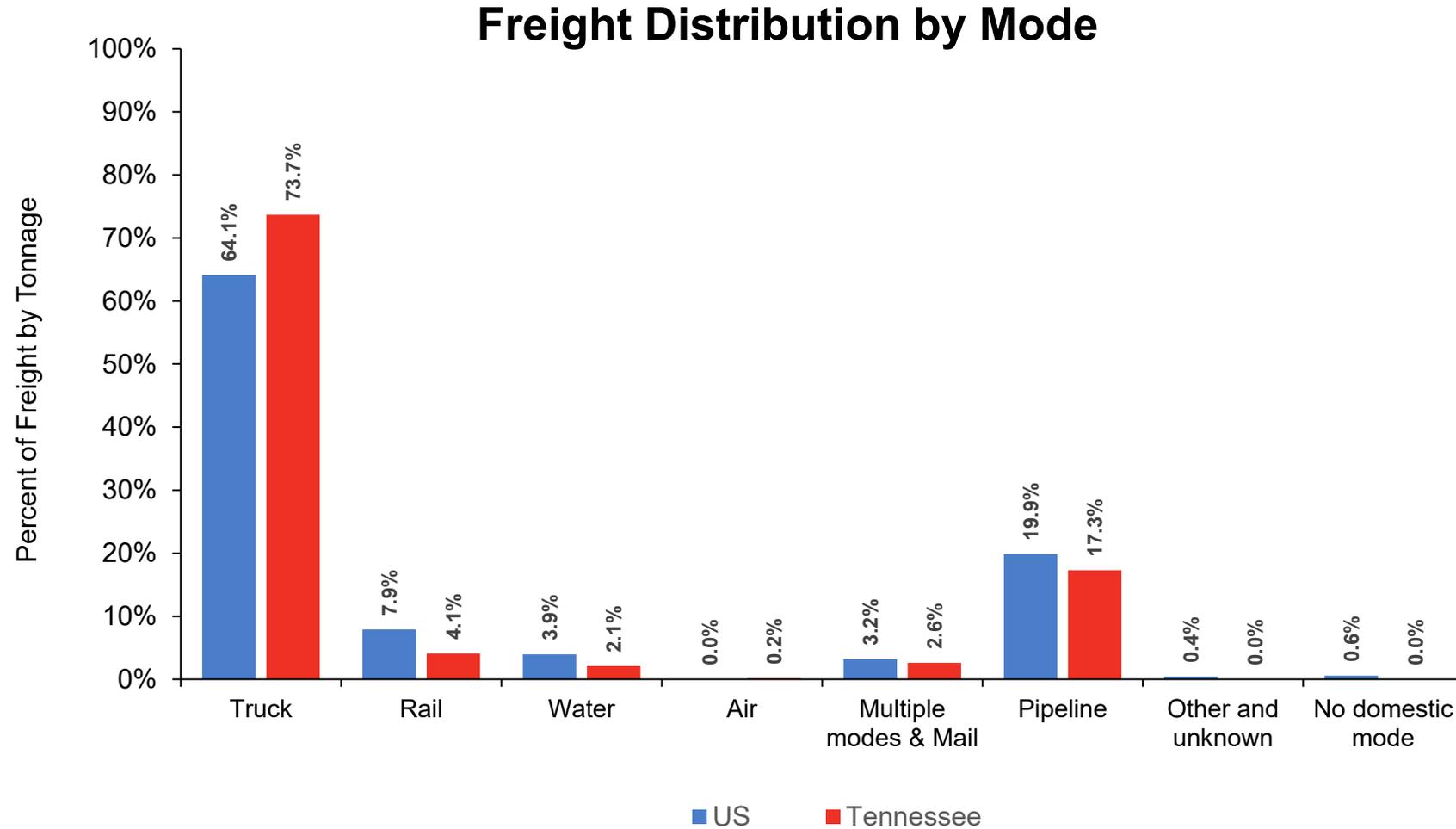
**29% Projected Population
Increase from 2025 to 2070
(vs. 9% U.S.)**

Total Rail Freight in Tennessee (Projection)



**43% Projected Freight Rail
Growth from 2022 to 2050**

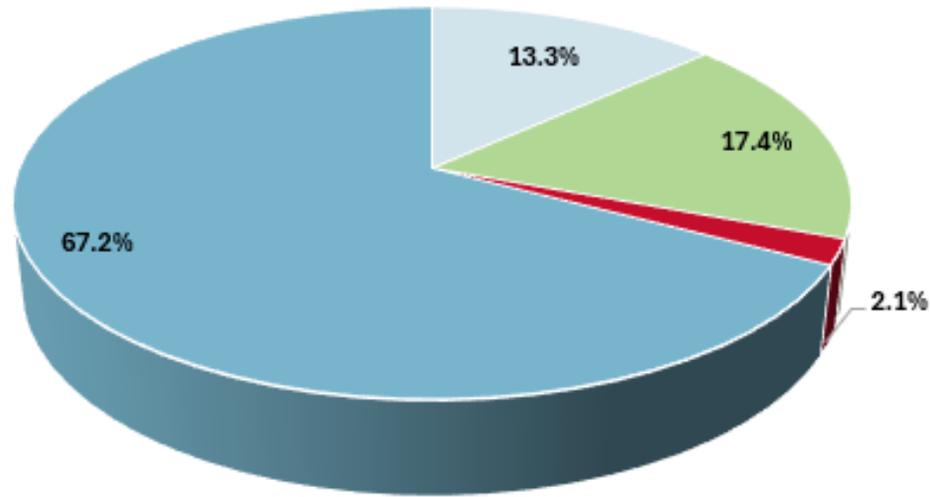
Ch. 4 Trends and Forecasts



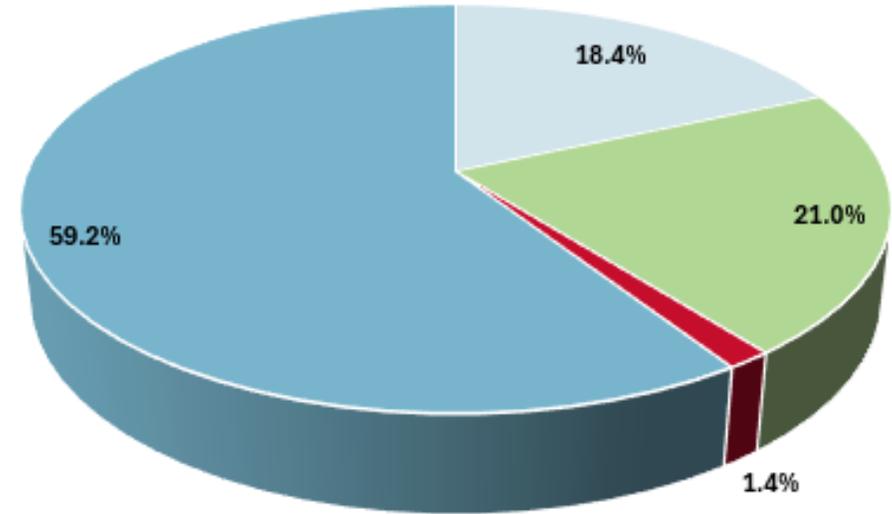
Ch. 4 Trends and Forecasts

Rail Movement Share

Tons

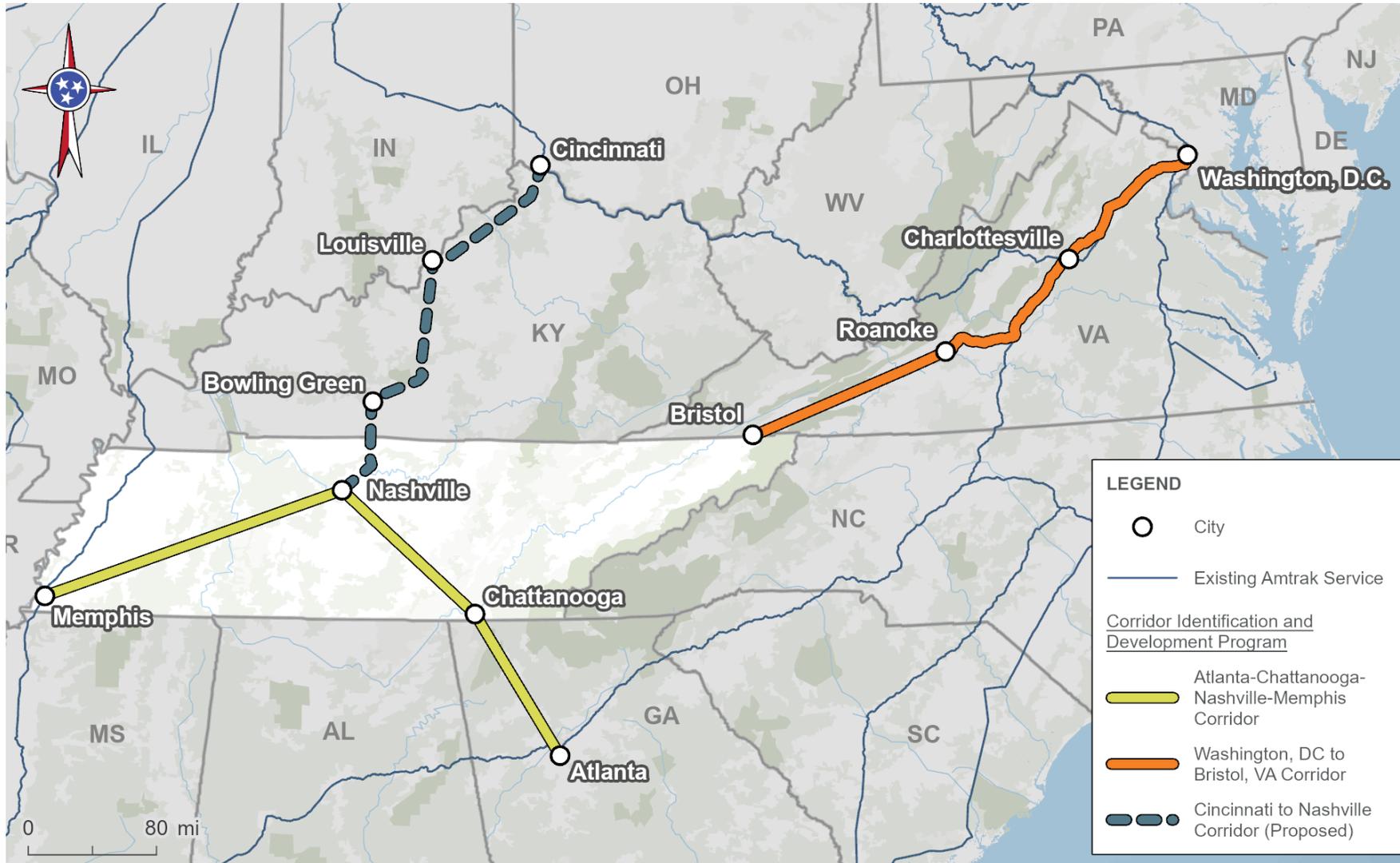


Carload Units



■ Outbound ■ Inbound ■ Intrastate ■ Through

Ch. 5 Proposed Passenger Rail Improvements



**Corridor ID
Studies Underway**

Ch. 6 Proposed Freight Rail Improvements

Needs/Issues

Class I Railroads

- Needs vary year to year due to freight demands, economic trends, and other considerations
- New residential and commercial development has created impacts to operations in high-growth areas
- Bridge project partnerships to address:
 - Bridges with low-clearance roads under tracks
 - Bridges over tracks that need strengthening for larger and heavier trucks

Class III Railroads

- Legacy infrastructure limits train speed and cannot accommodate industry standard 286,000-lb. rail cars
- Need for consistent annual allocation from the state
- Importance of having a State Tax Credit Program for infrastructure improvements
- Challenges rehabilitating existing lines with no current traffic to attract business

Ch. 6 Proposed Freight Rail Improvements

Proposed Improvements

Class I Railroads

- NS planning to add sidings and other improvements on the recently acquired Cincinnati-Chattanooga line
- CN announced rolling stock and network/infrastructure investments in 2025
- Recent investments in previous years
- Class I's are partnering with TDOT and other agencies on grade crossing and bridge improvement projects

Class III Railroads

- Caney Fork and Western investments to accommodate Class 2 track speeds and 286,000-lb. railcars
- R.J. Corman Cumberland River Bridge rehabilitation and automation
- TennKenn rail upgrades to Class 1 and 2 track speeds and 286,000-lb. railcars
- West Tennessee Kenton Branch upgrades to meet Class 2 standards and accommodate 286,000-lb. railcars

Chapters Under Development

Ch. 7 Rail Service and Investment Program

Ch. 8 Coordination and Review



Input Opportunity

General Feedback

Do you have any feedback on the content shared today?

