

Strategic Plan for the Council on Rail Transportation

As approved by the Strategic Management Committee, September 22, 2018

Goal 1: Lead and influence national policy related to rail

1.2. Influence National Policy

AASHTO members have an important stake in national rail policy. AASHTO will monitor national and state policy and legislative activities.

Implementation Actions:

- Regularly monitor policy and legislative activities and inform membership of opportunities and concerns
- Engage membership in presentation of national and regional transportation needs to Congress
- Develop proposed rail policy positions for consideration by the Transportation Policy Forum and the Board of Directors

1.2 Advance rail as part of an integrated transportation system

The Council will continue to advance rail as part of an integrated multimodal transportation system.

Implementation Actions:

- Collaborate with other AASHTO Councils and Committees to ensure a multimodal approach to transportation policy

Goal 2: Strengthen the Council's leadership role within AASHTO and among other national organizations, institutions, and groups with complementary purposes and goals

1.1 Foster Relationships with External Organizations

The Council will continue to create and maintain partnerships with external organizations to effectively leverage the Council's resources and extend the Council's reach. Examples of external organizations include FRA, AAR, ASLRRA, Amtrak, APTA, SAIPRC, SPRC, NextGen, and TRB.

Implementation Actions:

- Convene meetings/summits around key rail issues to collaboratively set priorities

1.2 Support other AASHTO Councils and Committees by serving as a resource for rail related issues

The Council will continue to support other AASHTO Councils and Committees by serving as a resource for rail related issues.

Implementation Actions

- Coordinate regular joint meetings with AASHTO Councils and Committees.

Goal 3: Identify and promote research and develop educational resources to support freight and passenger rail

The Council will identify freight and passenger rail research priorities to help member agencies develop and implement effective rail and multimodal transportation solutions.

Implementation Actions:

- Identify research related to freight and passenger rail
- Work with other AASHTO councils and committees to develop and implement effective multimodal research
- Support and improve the AASHTO Rail Resource Center

Goal 4: Provide high quality technical assistance and support to State DOTs in their delivery of rail programs

The Council will focus on identifying and addressing the needs of the organization's members related to rail.

Implementation Actions:

- Improve communication opportunities with/for membership
- Hold webinar(s) on priority topics
- Hold peer exchange on priority topics

Goal 5: Leverage the expertise of State DOT professionals to work with the Council and to serve in leadership roles

The Council will focus on increasing participation among the member departments in general and among leadership positions.

Implementation Actions:

- Solicit nominations from members and select a steering committee
- Educate members and CEOs about available services and resources related to rail