



# 2040 NORTH DAKOTA STATE RAIL PLAN

## REGIONAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

PREPARED FOR

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PREPARED BY

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MAY 17, 2016-MAY 19, 2016



# Why A State Rail Plan

- Required by 2008 Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act for certain categories of federal funding
- Federal Railroad Administration views as a condition of any federal funding
- Offers an opportunity for stakeholder and the public to influence the future of rail
- Identifies future rail service, infrastructure, and policy needs
- Provides a road map for improving/expanding rail service and rail safety
- Provides an education in rail transportation

# North Dakota Rail Plan Elements

- ❑ The role of rail in statewide transportation
- ❑ North Dakota rail system
  - Infrastructure and Facilities
  - Operations and Performance
  - Traffic and Trends
  - Institutions
  - Safety

# North Dakota Rail Plan Elements

- ❑ Freight rail needs: infrastructure, service, policy, organization
- ❑ Passenger rail needs: stations, routes, service
- ❑ The State's Rail Service and Investment Program

# Analytical Framework of the Plan



- Profiles freight and passenger rail traffic, infrastructure services, institutions, safety
- Assesses the performance of rail lines
- Guides actions, programs, priorities
- Consultation with stakeholders
- Review of data, including performance data
- Improvements
- Prioritization
- Funding plan



# Identification of Rail Needs and Opportunities

# Stakeholder and Public Input

- Stakeholders:
  - Railroads
  - Freight shippers/passenger advocates
  - State agencies
  - Local agencies, MPOs, economic development groups
  - Tribal nations
  - Multi-state organizations
  - Others
- Website/On-line survey
- Phase I “Listening Tour”
- Three regional workshops
- Three industry forums
- Interest group meetings
- Interviews
- Public meetings



# *Needs Analysis Input*

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## Trends and Other Considerations

- Safety concerns
- Market expansions and emerging industries
- Changing trade patterns
- Reconfiguration of logistics networks
- Railroad strategies
- Demographics
- Changing land-use patterns
- Policy changes



# *Needs and Opportunities Identification*

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Effectiveness of  
Institutional Structure,  
Rail Programs, Policies

- Evaluation of institutional structure
  - Recommended improvements
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Rail Transportation,  
Economic, Environment,  
and Safety Assessment:  
Needs and Opportunities

- Assessment of rail benefits/contributions
  - Identification of needs and opportunities: mobility, connectivity/access, state of good repair, economic development, environment, safety/security
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# Rail Service and Investment Program

# *Rail Service and Investment Program*

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## Rail Service Investment Projects and Initiatives

- Identification of projects and initiatives: infrastructure, operations, policies, institutions
  - Determine costs
  - Scoring of Initiatives
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## Rail Service and Investment Program

- Prioritization
  - Funding alternatives
  - Rail Service and Investment Program
  - Implementation plan
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# *Rail Plan Roll-Out*

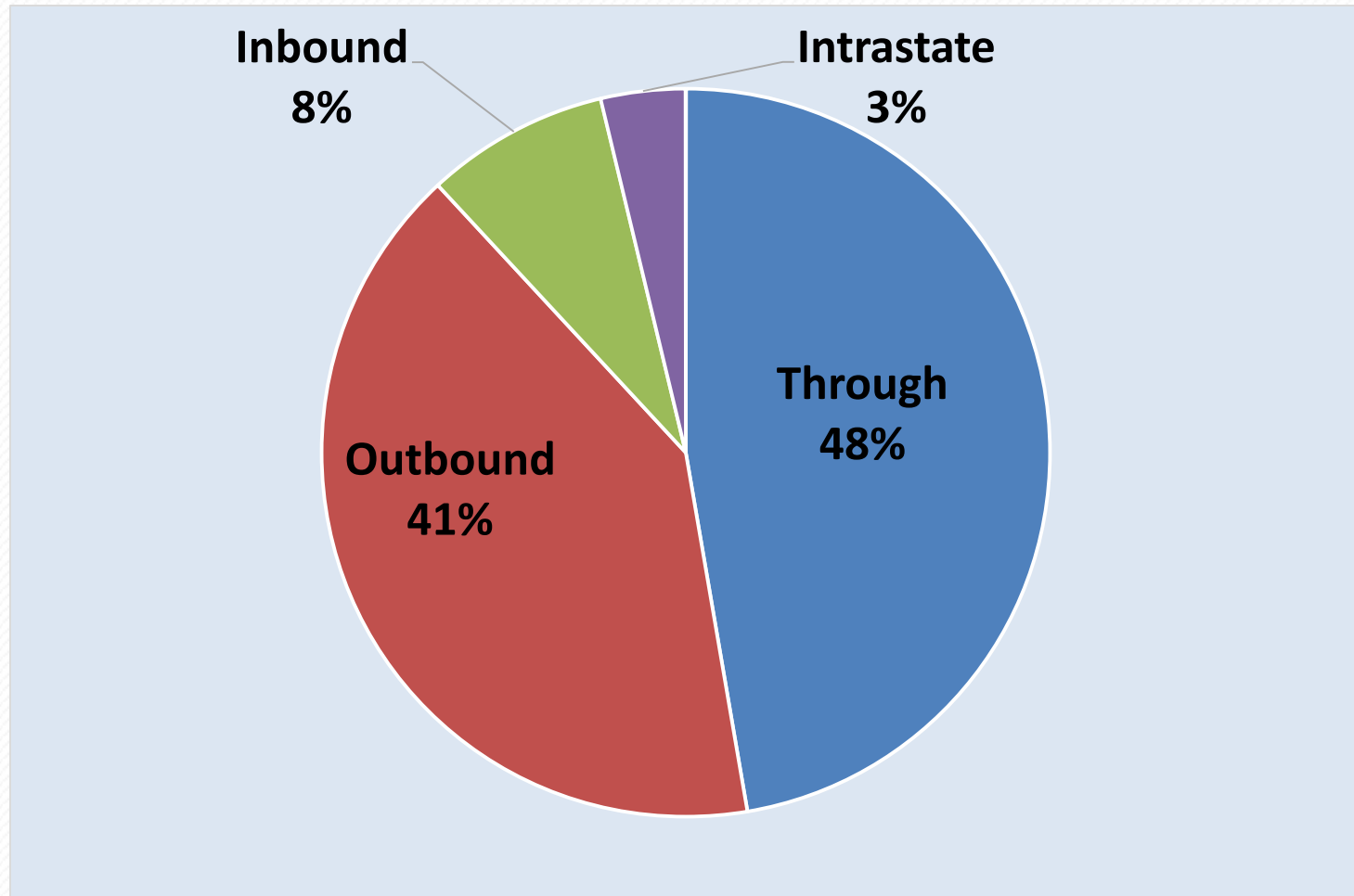
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## Final Plan Preparation

- Draft plan for public comment
  - Final state rail plan
  - Final state rail plan rollout
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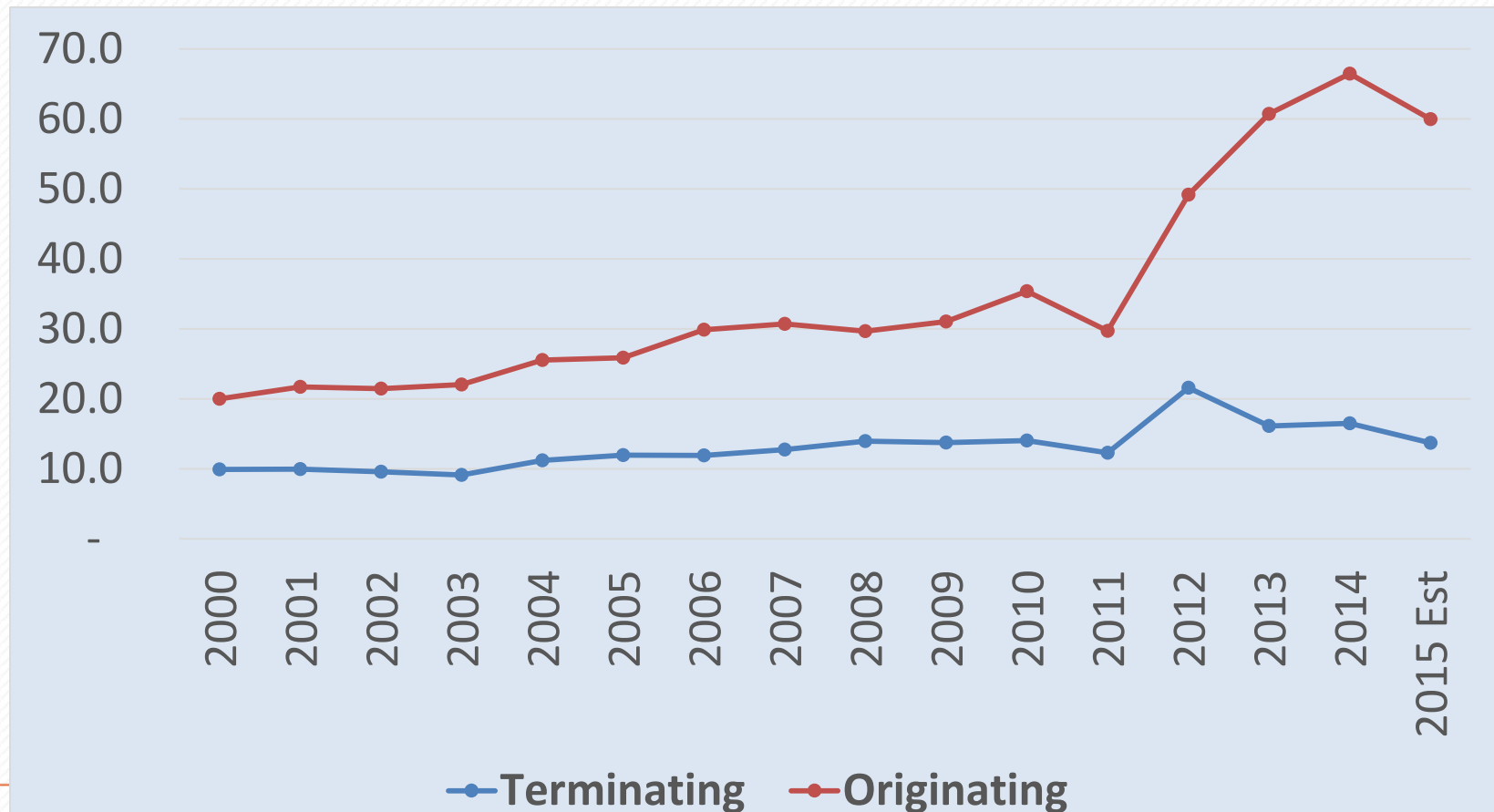
# North Dakota 2014 Rail Tonnage - Direction

## Directional Distribution



# North Dakota Rail Tonnage - Trend

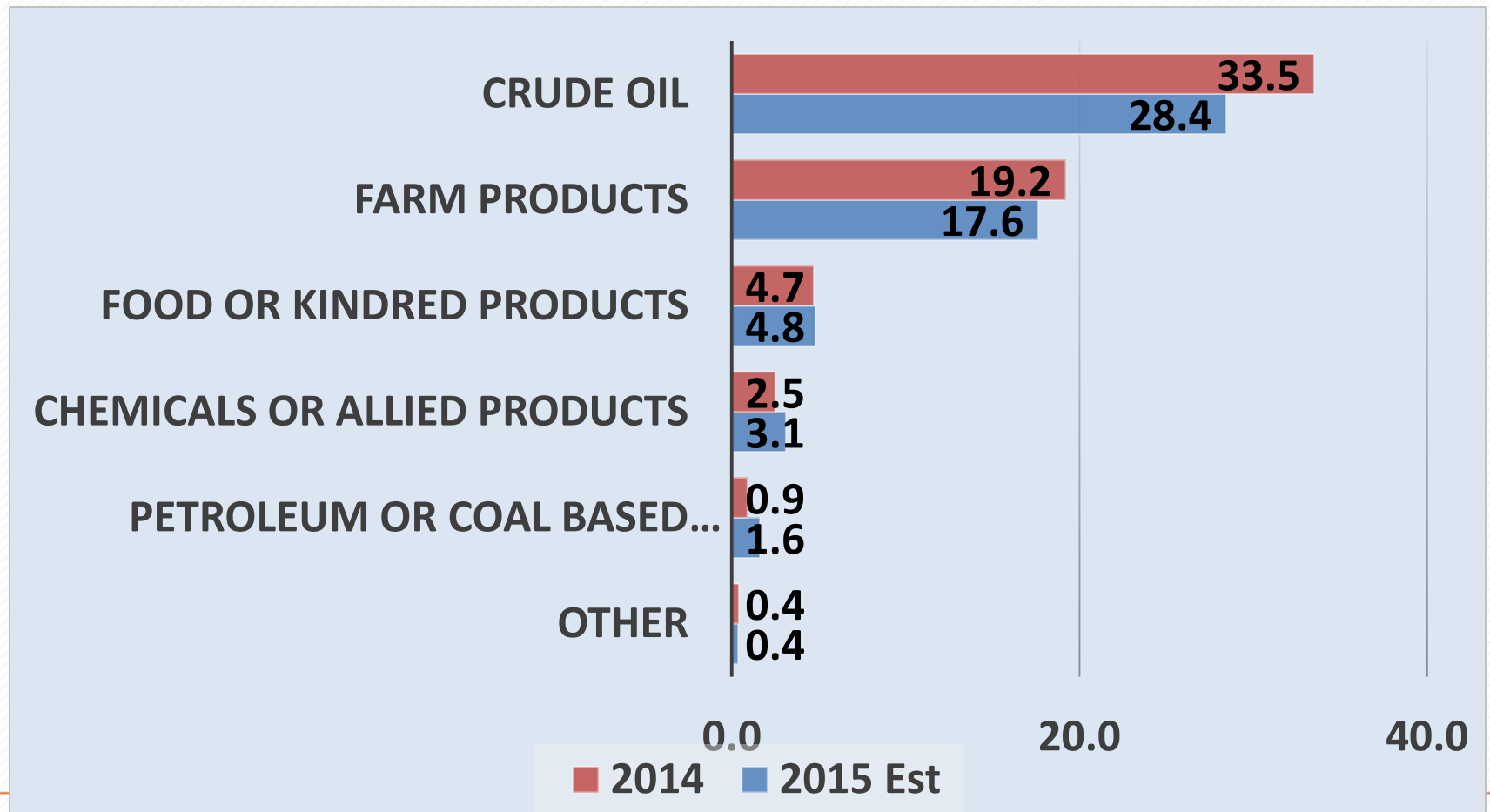
North Dakota Rail Traffic Growth 2000-2015 (Est)





# North Dakota Rail Tonnage – Commodity Mix

## Outbound Rail Shipments by Commodity (Millions of Tons)



# Today's Discussion

- What are the strengths of North Dakota's rail system?
- What are the deficiencies of North Dakota's rail system?
- What should be the state's rail priorities?
- What opportunities does Rail transportation provide?
- What improvements are required? What specific projects?