

IOWA RAIL TOOLKIT

2019





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Railroads in Iowa are essential to the state's economy and the region's economic competitiveness. There are 19 railroads in Iowa that connect shippers, manufacturers, and producers to a robust North American network of trading partners. Iowa shippers benefit from a rail network of 3,825 miles that moves the equivalent of 3.5 million truckloads per year of freight originating or terminating within the state.

Almost every product you can think of can move by rail with proper planning.

The Iowa Department of Transportation, with assistance from the Iowa Economic Development Authority, first assembled this Iowa Rail Toolkit to support the exploration of rail transportation services in the state in 2014. Since then, almost 2,000 toolkits have been distributed and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

Information is included in the handbook to help make shipping by rail in Iowa easier and more understandable. Chapters have been assembled to provide current information on the benefits of rail transportation and basic explanations of how to access the rail network. A directory of Iowa railroad companies is included listing contact information and a basic profile of each network. Economic development resources are also identified to help new users find resources for using and establishing rail access.

The Iowa DOT is committed to providing a safe and robust multimodal transportation network that supports the region's economy. We hope that this Iowa Rail Toolkit will help you and your business find benefits in utilizing Iowa's rail transportation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Lowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "M" and "L" being particularly large and stylized.

Mark Lowe
Iowa Department of Transportation Director

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS (ENS) AT HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSINGS

As with all modes of transportation, Safety is a prime concern. Effective September of 2016, 49 CFR Part 234 E requires every railroad crossing in the United States to have an Emergency Notification Sign (shown below).

The purpose of the ENS sign is to provide the public with critical emergency contact information at every highway-rail grade crossing. The information contained on the ENS sign enables the public to reach the railroad responsible for the crossing and to identify the specific crossing in the event of an emergency. In cases of unsafe crossing conditions or railroad-related emergencies, look for the sign near the crossing. It can usually be found on the crossbuck or crossing signal mast. You should also call 911.

This system also enables railroads to document calls from the public reporting unsafe conditions at highway-rail and pathway grade crossings and to track the remedial actions taken by the railroads as required by the rule.



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RAILROAD INDEX

<i>It is not uncommon for a railroad to be owned by one entity and the operations of the rail line contracted out to another railroad. Also, when a railroad is acquired by another, it is not uncommon for the acquired railroad to continue operating under an individual or legacy name. Those relationships are noted in parentheses.</i>	Abbr.	Type of railroad*	Profile page with more information
BNSF Railway	BNSF	Class I	46
Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad	BSV	Short line/ Tourist	48
Burlington Junction Railway	BJRY	Short line	50
Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd. (owner of Dakota, Minneapolis & Eastern Railroad)	CP	Class I	52
CBEC Railway (operated by Iowa Interstate Railroad)	CBEX	Short line	(see IAIS)
Cedar Rapids & Iowa City Railway Co. (also known as CRANDIC)	CIC	Short line	54
Cedar River Railroad Co. (owned by CN)	CEDR	(see CN)	(see CN)
Chicago, Central & Pacific Railroad (owned by CN)	CC	(see CN)	(see CN)
CN (owner of Cedar River Railroad and Chicago, Central & Pacific Railroad)	CN	Class I	56
D & I Railroad Co. (owned by State of South Dakota)	DAIR	Short line	58
D & W Railroad (operated by Iowa Northern Railway Co.)	DWRR	Short line	(see IANR)
Dakota, Minnesota & Eastern Railroad (owned by Canadian Pacific)	DME	(see CP)	(see CP)
Iowa Interstate Railroad Ltd.	IAIS	Regional	60
Iowa Northern Railway Co.	IANR	Short line	62
Iowa River Railroad	IARR	Short line	64
Iowa Southern Railway	ISRY	Short line	66
Iowa Traction Railway Co. (owned by Progressive Rail Inc.)	IATR	Short line	68
Keokuk Junction Railway Co. (owned by Pioneer Railcorp)	KJRY	Short line	70
Norfolk Southern	NS	Class I	72
North Central Iowa Rail Corridor LLC (operated by Iowa Northern Railway Co.)	NCIRC	Short line	(see IANR)
Union Pacific Railroad	UP	Class I	74

***Class I railroads** include the largest freight-hauling railroads. The rail lines of the seven Class I railroads span the North American continent.

Regional railroads are midsize freight-hauling railroads that normally operate at least 350 miles of track and may span multiple states.

Shortline railroads are smaller railroads that include local railroads as well as railroads that primarily do car switching. Tourist railroads offer passenger rides usually in restored historic rail equipment and often accompanied by an on-site museum.

INDEX TO REFERENCED ORGANIZATIONS

Iowa Department of Transportation	Iowa DOT
Iowa Economic Development Authority	IEDA
Federal Railroad Administration	FRA
Federal Highway Administration	FHWA
Association of American Railroads	AAR
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association	ASLRRA

ARE YOU A RAIL SHIPPER? IS THIS TOOLKIT FOR YOU?

If you answer more than five questions “yes,” it might be worth evaluating your rail options.

YES

- Do you ship more than three truckloads to any destination within a week?
- Do your shipments move more than 300 miles?
- If transporting by rail takes longer but is reliable, could you include rail in your supply chain?
- Is it becoming more difficult to get a truck to move your freight?
- Is a rail transload located within 50 miles of your customers?
- Are your suppliers accessible by rail?
- Are your customers accessible by rail?
- Have your transportation prices increased?
- Do you manage your own logistics?
- Do you pay the transportation bill for your inbound or outbound freight?
- Does your company or do your customers measure their carbon footprint?

If the answers to these questions surprise you, you might be a candidate for using rail transportation in your supply chain network. We hope you find this Iowa Rail Toolkit helpful as a resource and basic guide.