



Short Line Challenges and Paths Forward

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Areas of Challenges: Short Line Freight Railroads

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- Continued need to improve infrastructure

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State Departments of Transportation help meet these challenges in numerous ways.

Challenge:

Continued need to improve infrastructure

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Numerous states take this approach

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Issue: Needed improvements exceed capacity of the short line and state grant program

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Key: State DOT having flexibility in spending state grant funding

Challenge: **Continued need to improve infrastructure**

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Solution: State DOT does not discriminate against privately owned short lines

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Key: Base state grant awards on best generation of public benefits

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Issue: State prohibits grants to privately held companies

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Solution: Implement a state-level short line tax credit

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Most recently adopted by Georgia

Challenge:
Maintain and grow traffic base

Issue: Outreach to short lines for state industrial development efforts

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Solution: Aggressive partnerships with short lines and state ED and DOT groups

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Solution: Aggressive partnerships with short lines and state ED and DOT groups

Key: Flexibility for short line industrial development projects involving state grants

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Issue: Increasing truck size and weight limits diverts traffic from short line railroads

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Solution: Understanding the complete cost to state and local governments of larger trucks

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Key: Leadership by State DOT

**Difficulties mastered
are opportunities won.**

Winston Churchill