



FREIGHT RAIL DATA COLLECTION

MID-AMERICA



FREIGHT COALITION

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For performance, system, and program management most MAFC state DOTs collect some type of data from railroad companies that operate in their state. However, there is variability in the scope of data, frequency of collection, and the nature of the reporting relationship. We found that most states rely on national and industry data sets and data that are at least one year old to understand their state's rail system and measure its performance. With yearly programs and sometimes quarterly performance reporting at state DOTs, the ideal type of freight rail data reporting would provide accurate and up-to-date information on tons moved, commodity types, track speed, track condition, and origins and destinations. The reporting relationship would be mutually beneficial and based on direct reporting between the DOT and the railroad. In the MAFC region, several states do work closely with the railroads, or require data reporting by law, to obtain more meaningful and timely data.

The following is a compilation of freight rail data collection practices and resources addressing the data collected in the MAFC region based on an email survey of the ten states.

ILLINOIS

Brief description of your state's rail freight data relationships:

Illinois DOT reaches out to the Class I railroads when preparing the "Multi Year Plan."

What specific data is collected?

The Schedule 702 or "Miles of Road at Close of Year" is requested from the STB Annual Report along with tonnage maps.

Contact Information

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www.dot.state.il.us/rfp.html

INDIANA

Brief description of your state's rail freight data relationships:

Indiana requires annual reports to be submitted to the DOT prescribed by state statute, enforceable by financial penalty (IC8-3-1-1 www.in.gov/legislative/ic/2010/title8/ar3/ch1.pdf).

The data collected is stored in a database and used to develop different reports (bridges, commodities, etc.).

What specific data is collected?

Data is collected electronically from shortline and regional railroads. Each year the form is adjusted to gather information about various railroad related information and topics.

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IOWA

Brief description of your state's rail freight data relationships:

Iowa requires annual reports to be submitted to the DOT and Department of Revenue and Finance prescribed by state statute (Iowa Administrative Code 761-800.4 www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/aco/rule/761.800.4.pdf and Iowa Code 327C.38 www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ico/code/327C.38.pdf and 434 www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/ico/chapter/2014/434.pdf).

Iowa DOT also hosts a Rail Advisory Committee (RAC) that meets twice a year to discuss trending rail issues and other topics concerning railroad companies. Each railroad typically sends at least one representative to each meeting.

What specific data is collected?

Class I railroads submit "State Statistics" as well as the Annual Report submitted to the STB with data about their entire national network.

Class II and III railroads submit data similar to the Class I Annual Reports filed with the STB.

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KANSAS

Brief description of your state's rail freight data relationships:

Kansas relies on the STB Class I Annual Reports and data from the shortline railroads operating in the state. Databases containing miles owned or leased, total miles operated, and track rights are maintained by the state.

What specific data is collected?

Shortline data collected includes, annual car loadings, car type and locomotive type, operating speeds, FRA classification, and top five commodities hauled.

Contact Information

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KENTUCKY

Brief description of your state's rail freight data relationships:

Kentucky requests annual "state" reports from railroad companies that fit within the requirements of the STB annual reports.

What specific data is collected?

Most of the useful data is collected from the STB Waybill or FAF, however the following Kentucky specific data is asked for in the state report: total miles of track owned or operated on close of year, operating revenue, operating expenses, freight revenue, road property, and equipment investment and leases.

Contact Information

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MICHIGAN

Brief description of your state's rail freight data relationships:

Michigan DOT Office of Rail collects and maintains contact information of the railroads operating in the state.

What specific data is collected?

Engineering, permits, and real estate contacts are collected from each railroad. The only other information that is collected is total number of miles owned/operated.

Contact Information

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MINNESOTA

Brief description of your state's rail freight data relationships:

The Minnesota DOT reaches out to the Minnesota Regional Railroad Association, in addition to data requested from the STB, and FRA.

Minnesota DOT also participates in a number of rail capacity studies around critical bottlenecks which result in cooperative relationships with the state's Class I railroads. Additionally, they are involved with and support several rail TIGER grant applications around the state.

Several state and regional rail related economic development efforts, including the Freight Rail Economic Development study (FRED, see www.dot.state.mn.us/ofrw/fred/fred.html) and the Great Northern Corridor Coalition, provide new data relationships and cooperative efforts between the DOT and railroad companies.

www.dot.state.mn.us/ofrw/railroad/railroad.html

What specific data is collected?

Annual Reports compiled by the Minnesota Regional Railroad Association include data from the Class I and short-line railroads regarding corporate makeup, assets, payrolls, tonnage, and car loadings.

Rail Waybill samples are regularly requested from the STB along with grade crossing data from FRA submissions that include train frequencies and speeds at all crossings.

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MISSOURI

Brief description of your state's rail freight data relationships:

Missouri requires annual Railroad Traffic Statistics to be submitted to the Division of Transportation Department of Economic Development as prescribed by state statute (4 CSR 265-8.092 www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/4csr/4c265-8.pdf).

MoDOT also holds an Annual Railroad Coordination Meeting to discuss trending rail issues and other topics of concern for the DOT and railroads.

What specific data is collected?

Each railroad submits the annual number of passenger and freight trains, total trains per day, and total million gross tons. GIS data is also obtained from the railroads as it becomes available.

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OHIO

Brief description of your state's rail freight data relationships:

The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) has the statutory authority to require railroads to provide data, but has not used it very much. ORDC tends to collect information on a project by project basis.

What specific data is collected?

The majority of data that is collected is used to upgrade the State Grade Crossing Data Base. This data includes train counts and traffic counts.

ORDC also collects some data from branchlines and mainlines. This data is usually limited to "carloads by commodity."

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WISCONSIN

Brief description of your state's rail freight data relationships:

Wisconsin DOT Planning and Economic Development collects data from the STB Waybill sample for the railroads operating in the state. A rail GIS database is also maintained, but only as an inventory of rail right of way and trackage.

What specific data is collected?

The data collected from the STB includes total distance of rail mileage and revenue by rail segment.

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