



# Iowa State Rail Plan Final

February  
2017







U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

February 4, 2017

Amanda Martin, Freight and Passenger Policy Coordinator  
Iowa Department of Transportation  
Office of Rail Transportation  
800 Lincoln Way  
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Ms. Martin,

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has completed its review of the state of Iowa's State Rail Plan (SRP), which was submitted to FRA on October 20, 2016.

FRA's review of the SRP found that it contained the required elements in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 22705 and FRA's 2013 State Rail Plan Guidance. This letter serves as notice that FRA formally accepts the SRP.

While FRA finds that the SRP meets the minimum requirements, FRA recommends addressing the following points in future updates to the SRP:

- Chapter 2 – Section 2.1.3 should contain additional summary information on passenger rail service objectives, including service frequency, capacity, and projected ridership at the route level.
- Chapters 3 and 4 – Provide more information on the listing of projects, including the proposed year of implementation with a summary of capital needs by year. Provide more information on how projects would address service gaps.
- Chapter 5 – Provide more information on the effects of state's rail service and investment program including public and private benefits at the 4-year and 20-years phases, capacity and congestion by corridor, and environmental, economic, and employment conditions.
- Chapter 6 – Provide more information on outreach and coordination of this SRP. Also discuss coordination with the State's Long Range Transportation Plan as required by FHWA and FTA.

Section 11315(a)(1) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (P.L. 114-94, December 4, 2015) revised the requirement for State-approved plans to be resubmitted to FRA no less frequently than once every 4 years (previously every 5 years). As such, FRA looks forward to working with you on the next iteration of Iowa's State Rail Plan, due in 2021.

FRA looks forward to a continued partnership with the state of Iowa to build and maintain a safe, reliable, and efficient U.S. rail network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Dyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

Will Dyer  
Division Chief, National Rail Planning  
Office of Railroad Policy and Development

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 **IOWA DOT**

