

The image features a background of an industrial facility, possibly a refinery or power plant, during a sunset. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of pink, orange, and purple. In the foreground, there is a grassy field with some dry vegetation. A large, dark teal arrow-shaped graphic points from the top left towards the center of the image. Overlaid on this teal area is the text "EXECUTIVE SUMMARY" in white, bold, uppercase letters. The industrial structures in the background include tall towers, pipes, and a train of tanker cars. The overall mood is industrial yet serene due to the sunset lighting.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



# Needs and Opportunities

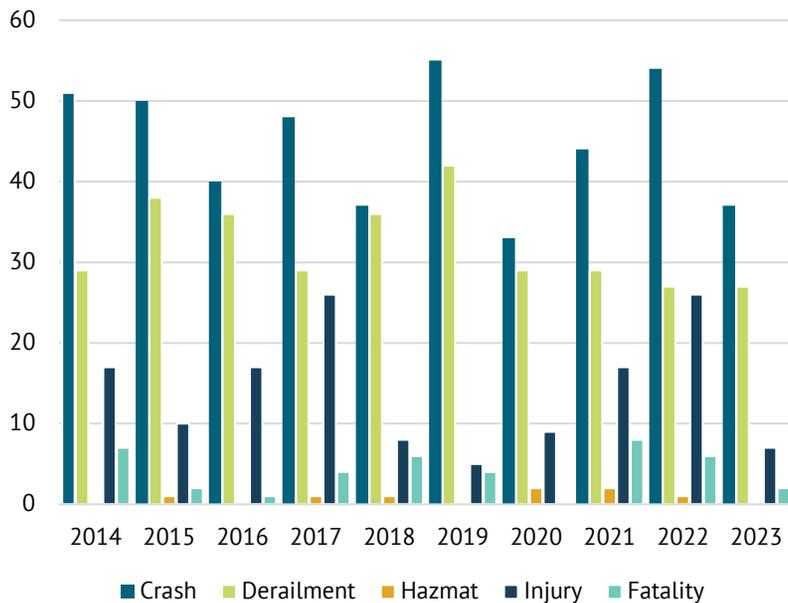
Identified as part of Rail Planning Considerations using passenger and freight transportation inventories, performance, trends, and impacts. Items are summarized into six categories.

## Key Issues

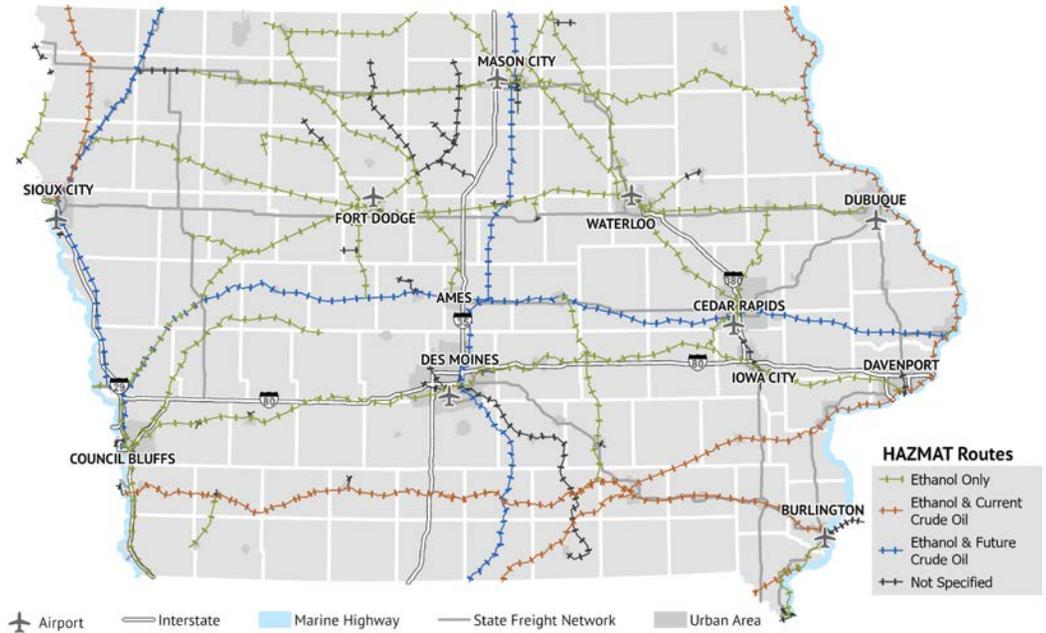


1. Safety
2. Community continuity and safety
3. Hazardous materials
4. Chokepoints
5. Freight opportunities and growth limitations
6. Passenger rail service

## Iowa Railroad Safety Statistics



## Hazardous Materials Routes



## Chokepoints



# Service and Investment Program

Includes listings of current and potential passenger rail and freight rail studies and projects categorized by short-term and long-term, as well as focused implementation strategies categorized by policy, implementation, and research and partnership and collaboration.



Passenger Rail



Freight Rail

	Short-range (1-4 years)	Long-range (5-20 years)
Passenger Rail	3 studies, \$9,900,000 2 projects, \$18,800,000	11 studies, \$10,725,000 10 projects, \$1,081,750,000
Freight Rail	11 studies, \$4,772,550 62 projects, \$545,769,381	3 studies, \$ TBD 60 projects, \$742,219,000

## Grade Crossing Safety

- Maintain focus on reducing grade crossing safety incidents.
- Pursue funding efforts for grade separation studies and construction projects.
- Consider methods to reduce railroad trespassing incidents.
- Seek transportation funding innovations.
- Advocate to minimize grade crossing accidents/incidents through increased enforcement.
- Promote Operation Lifesaver education material and campaigns.
- Increase public awareness of grade crossing safety.



## Train Length

- Increase awareness of emergency response and highway operations related to longer trains
- Provide information and research correlation of rail safety and train length
- Monitor Transportation Research Board's Long Train Study for policy recommendations
- Consider methods to discuss railroad train lengths and operations in Iowa
- Partner with emergency services to understand impacts to emergency response related to increased train lengths
- Increased focused inspections on Hazmat rail lines



## Blocked Crossings

- Support local and railroad coordination to reduce blocked crossing conflicts.
- Expand awareness of Iowa Code 327G.32 to local jurisdictions.
- Increase awareness of FRA's Blocked Crossing Reporting Tool.
- Review and monitor recommendations of 2006 FRA Report- Impact of Blocked Crossings on Emergency and First Responders.
- Consider and research new technology software to identify and communicate when a crossing is blocked to emergency management.
- Discuss priorities for multimodal transportation system.
- Facilitate discussions with local communities and railroad staff.
- Increase public and law enforcement awareness of RR Emergency Notification Signs (ENS) and procedures.



## Railroad Agreement Process

- Enhance agreement process to improve schedule and cost predictability.
- Modify DOT Design manual to better meet railroad grade separation guidelines and provide easy access to design information.
- Maintain the internally developed annual Railroad Safety Awareness Training for employees to encourage cross discipline learning and information sharing.
- Participate in FHWA's Community of Interest (COI) which provides opportunities for members and railroads to network/share knowledge.
- Conduct monthly conference calls and annual in-person meeting to foster communication and coordination with rail partners.
- Consider methods to improve agreement review and process timelines.
- Post letting DOT engineering support.

