

Don't Miss the (Freight) Train!

How Freight Rail Benefits Our Communities

Farmers, manufacturers, and shippers across the nation are turning to freight rail as a reliable, efficient, and cost effective mode of moving goods. As these national logistics trends continue, communities across the nation are finding that local rail lines are often their most marketable assets. While there are many communities that are already adapting their local development plans around freight rail, there are even more that have rail assets but are unsure how to best work with their railroads. Understanding local rail assets, the logistical requirements of local employers, and how communities fit into the nation's evolving logistical system are key components in developing and maximizing local infrastructure assets.

Working with the freight railroads, GoRail has coordinated educational forums for local government associations across the nation. Each session is unique and developed to address individual local and regional opportunities and challenges. Some sessions have featured panel discussions, while others have taken place in more traditional classroom settings. However, each focuses on the primary goal of enhanced economic opportunities through increased communication with and understanding of freight railroads.

These forums will not only educate and empower local community leaders, but will also serve to facilitate a more coordinated approach to maximizing the nation's rail assets. Attendees will leave with a better understanding of the business of freight railroading, how their community fits into the overall development plan, how to leverage their existing assets to foster job growth, and what financing opportunities may be available.

For more information, contact Larry Lloyd, State Director – Illinois & Wisconsin, at 571-480-5479.