

- Cost-effective programs to preserve the existing freight rail network and to meet expected future rail network capacity needs, including addressing potential choke-points in the system.
- Upgrading of rail infrastructure as required to permit universal accommodation of higher capacity rail rolling stock and higher operating densities.
- Increased share of Oklahoma freight traffic through improved highway-rail and water-rail intermodal connections as well as improved rail connectivity to Oklahoma's industries.
- The capability to support changes in the supply chain, such as the containerization of agriculture crops and the expanded use of rail to transport petroleum products.

#### **4. Identify, develop, and secure funding that promotes and enhances rail system investment.**

##### **Objectives**

- Stable and sufficient funding secured for a program of rail investments to support operating, constructing, and maintaining Oklahoma's rail network.
- Statutory authority to enable the use of innovative funding sources, such as public-private partnerships.
- Additional funding for high-priority grade crossing improvements that protect the public and enhance rail service.

#### **5. Promote the understanding of both rail service as a cost-effective, safe, secure, environmentally sound, and energy efficient means of improving freight and passenger mobility, as well as its importance to Oklahoma's economy.**

##### **Objectives**

- Effective safety and security partnerships with passenger and freight railroads.
- An open door to Oklahoma Department of Transportation's planning process and transparency in communicating with and educating the public.
- An appreciation of short and longer-term rail-related benefits by elected officials, the business community, and the public.
- An expedited decision-making process to advance beneficial rail projects.
- An understanding by elected officials, the business community, and the public of where and when passenger rail service is a viable transport alternative.
- An awareness of agriculture-related rail issues in Oklahoma by elected officials, the business community, and the public.
- Continuing education on the benefits of rail transportation and the opportunities to integrate rail and other modes of transportation.