



FREIGHT RAIL IMPROVEMENTS



More Information: tti.tamu.edu/policy/how-to-fix-congestion

Description

Freight rail improvements are strategies that make infrastructure more efficient and encourage freight to move by rail. Projects include:

- Freight rail relocation or infrastructure upgrades.
- Intermodal transportation centers.
- Rail crossing detection and warning.

Investment in freight rail relocation upgrades or the building of new intermodal centers can shift freight movement to rail corridors, removing some long-distance truck traffic from congested roads.

Improved train detection allows railroads and local agencies to coordinate incident management and improve crossing safety.

Target Market

- Freeways with heavy truck freight traffic.
- Regions with many train-truck interaction points.
- Corridors with congestion caused by freight rail traffic crossings.

Freight rail improvements work best by combining intermodal freight connections and in places where shipments travel over 500 miles.

How Will This Help?

- **Reduces truck congestion** on heavily traveled freeways.
- **Improves safety at crossings** (better warning systems) **and on freeways** (removing freight traffic).
- **Increases speeds** on freeways, rail corridors, and near freight distribution centers.

Implementation Issues

Expending public funds on freight rail, which is primarily privately owned, can be controversial. Coordination between local, state, and federal agencies and private railroad companies remains critical to improving freight rail efficiency and freeway congestion.

The cost of significant freight rail upgrades can be prohibitive or delay the design and start-up process for many years. Finding locations with available right-of-way and gaining public approval sometimes proves difficult, especially in densely developed areas.

COST



TIME



IMPACT



WHO



STATE/CITY/PRIVATE

HURDLES



COORDINATION,
FUNDING

SUCCESS STORIES

The Crescent Corridor

- Is a multistate project with an approximate cost of \$2.5 billion.
- The project aims to enhance freight transportation and distribution services in the southeast, Gulf Coast, and mid-Atlantic markets.
- **It will remove around 1 million trucks from highways.**

The Springfield Rail Improvement Project

- Reduce traffic delays caused by at-grade crossings.
- **It will increase freight traffic from five trains a day to 27 a day.**
- **The project includes upgrading 68 at-grade rail crossings and improving 24 miles of unfenced right-of-way in the project area.**
- The project started in 2014 and will finish by 2020.

