

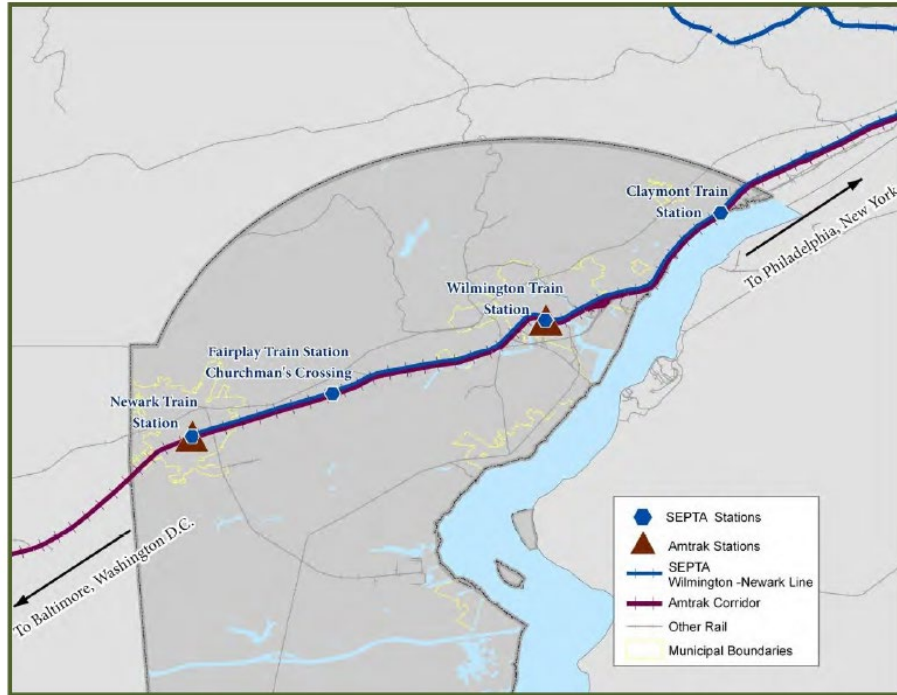
# DELAWARE RAIL PLAN UPDATE

2024 Delaware Winter Freight Meeting  
December 11, 2024

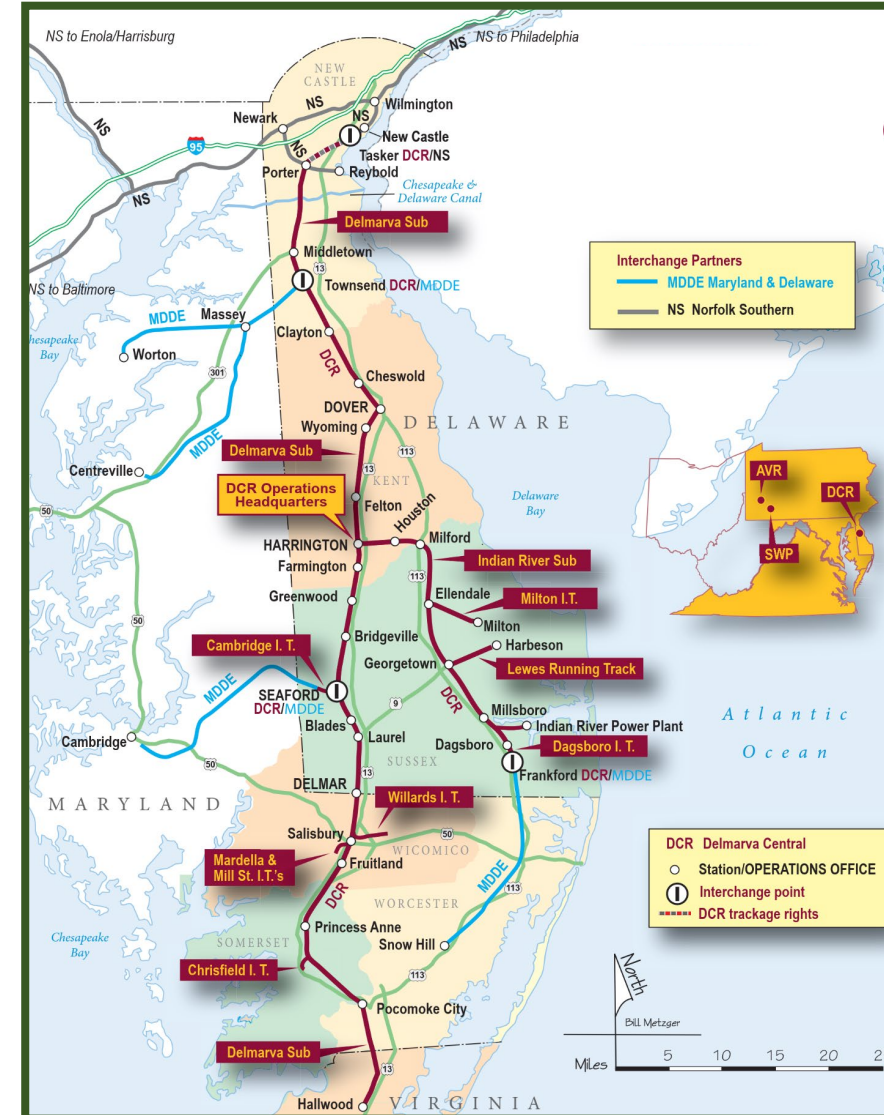


# DELAWARE RAIL NETWORK

## Delaware Passenger Rail



## Delmarva Central Freight Rail Network



Source: Delmarva Central Railroad

## WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE RAIL PLAN UPDATE?

1. The role of rail in Delaware
2. Delaware's existing rail system
3. Proposed passenger rail improvements & investments
4. Proposed freight rail improvements & investments
5. Delaware's rail service & investment program
6. Stakeholder coordination & involvement

## WHAT CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO THE PLAN?

- Refresh the goals and vision for rail in Delaware
- Update the list of planned and envisioned passenger and freight rail projects & funding strategies



# WORK COMPLETED TO DATE

- Facilitated 10 stakeholder interviews
- Delmarva Freight Working Group
  - Freight Summit – Jun 2024
  - Delmarva Central Transload Facility Tour – Oct 2024
- Conducted data collection & analysis



# STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

- Amtrak
- Cities of Berlin, Dover, Harrington, Milford, Newark, Newport, Salisbury, Seaford & Wilmington
- Towns of Camden, Cheswold, Clayton, Farmington, Felton, Georgetown, Houston, Smyrna, Viola, Woodside & Wyoming
- CSX Transportation
- DeIDOT
- Delaware Farm Bureau
- DVRPC
- Delaware Greenways
- Delaware Prosperity Partnership
- Delaware Transit Corporation
- Carload Express/Delmarva Central Railroad
- Delaware Emergency Management Agency
- Dept. Safety & Homeland Security
- Dover Air Force Base
- Dover Kent MPO
- East Penn Railroad
- Enstructure Mid-Atlantic (Port Delaware)
- Federal Railroad Administration
- Kent County
- Kent Economic Partnership, Inc.
- MARC/MTA
- Maryland & Delaware Railroad
- MDOT
- New Castle County
- Norfolk Southern
- Office of State Planning Coordination
- PennDOT
- Port of Wilmington
- Salisbury-Wicomico MPO
- Sussex County
- SEPTA
- WILMAPCO
- Wilmington & Western Railroad
- University of Delaware (Newark)



DeIDOT  
[www.deldot.gov](http://www.deldot.gov)

# STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

- **Transit Providers:** SEPTA, Amtrak, DTC
- **Freight Railroads:** CSX, Carload Express, Norfolk Southern (future)
- **MPOs:** WILMAPCO, Dover-Kent, Salisbury-Wicomico, DVRPC
- **Econ Dev Agencies:** Kent Economic Partnership, Enstructure Mid-Atlantic (future), DE Farm Bureau (future)
- **Future Coordination with DOTs:**
  - PennDOT – Bureau of Rail, Freight, Ports & Waterways
  - MDOT – Office of Railroad Planning & Engineering



# KEY INTERVIEW TAKEAWAYS

*Change since the 2011 Delaware Rail Plan was adopted...*

## Passenger Rail

- Passenger rail stations along the Northeast Corridor have been improved
- DTC, MARC, SEPTA & NEC planning for new capital & service improvements

## Freight Rail

- Land use & zoning studies along freight rail corridors throughout DE
- Carload Express/Delmarva Central Railroad is growing freight rail service in DE
- Investments in infrastructure and intermodal facilities have been made
- Renewed focus on Port DE Container Terminal & freight-related econ. dev.
- Future decommissioning of Indian River Power Plant may change



# DELMARVA FREIGHT WORKING GROUP SITE VISIT

Participants: MPOs, DOTs, University of DE & Consultants



DeIDOT  
www.deldot.gov



**Brainerd LLC Transload Facility**  
*(rail > manufacturing > truck)*



**Nanticoke River Movable  
Railroad Bridge, circa 1800s**



**Perdue Rail-Barge Facility**  
*(barge/truck/rail/storage)*



# FREIGHT RAIL TRENDS IN DELAWARE

- In **2012...**
    - ~2.8 million tons (4.0%) of freight was moved by **rail**, accounting for 23.0% of total ton-miles
    - ~57 million tons (78.4%) was moved by **truck**, accounting for 49.1% of total ton-miles
  - By **2050...**
    - ~13 million tons (11.9%) of freight will move by **rail**, accounting for 40.6% of total ton-miles
    - ~78 million tons (71.7%) will move by **truck**, accounting for 38.3% of total ton-miles
- Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Freight Analysis Framework Version 5.6.1*
- Of the **297 miles of freight rail track in Delaware...**
    - ~48% is operated by Carload Express/Delmarva Central Railroad
    - ~27% is operated by Norfolk Southern Corp.
    - ~14% is operated by CSX Transportation
    - ~11% is operated by other small short-line railroads

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

## Challenges:

- Aging infrastructure/bridge
- Capacity limitations & bottlenecks
- Station improvements needed
- Land use/zoning conflicts
- At-grade highway-railroad crossings & low clearance bridges
- Competing needs along Northeast Corridor
- Funding



**Chesapeake & Delaware Canal Lift Bridge, circa 1960s**

Photo credit: [Cape Gazette](#)

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

## Opportunities:

- Modernize rail infrastructure, add capacity & enhance safety with new funding strategies/partnerships
- Future-proof freight & passenger rail through corridor preservation and/or easements
- Explore & highlight where mode shift from roadways to rails offer the most benefits.



DeIDOT  
www.deldot.gov

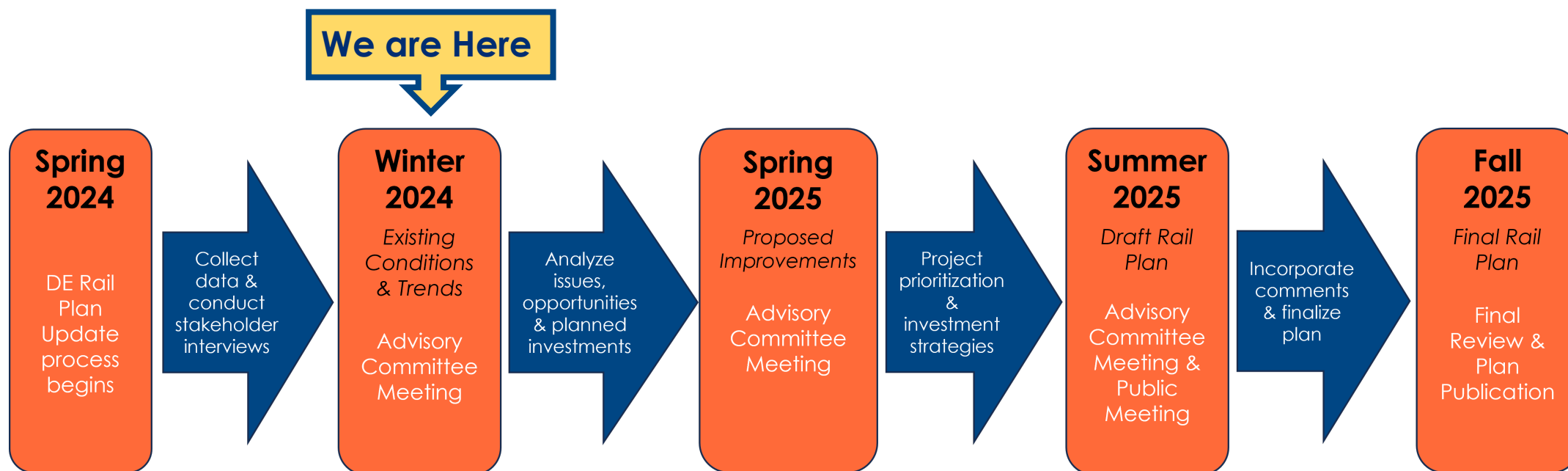


Source: DHL Freight, FreightConnections



## NEXT STEPS

- Conduct remaining stakeholder interviews
- Complete data collection & analysis
- Host Advisory Committee Meeting #1



## DELAWARE RAIL PLAN CONTACTS

### **Cooper Bowers**

*DeIDOT Planning, Project Manager*  
[Cooper.Bowers@delaware.gov](mailto:Cooper.Bowers@delaware.gov)  
(302) 760-2153

### **Jennifer Zankowski**

*Jacobs, Project Manager*  
[Jennifer.Zankowski@jacobs.com](mailto:Jennifer.Zankowski@jacobs.com)  
(415) 748-1495