

PORTFOLIOS & STRATEGIES

DIVERSIFY PORTFOLIO



Focus on increasing investment in multimodal options for passenger and freight trips to improve access to destinations and opportunities.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **Strategies which expand multimodal system connectivity** to provide more equitable access for underserved communities and support enhanced freight movement statewide
- **Strategies which focus on prioritizing investments in multimodal safety strategies** and related infrastructure for all travelers to improve operational efficiency (e.g. bicycles and pedestrian accommodations, ADA Compliance, Highway/Rail Crossings)
- **Strategies which improve existing assets** through management and maintenance, fleet replacements and expansions, and modern infrastructure improvements to meet future travel demand
- **Strategies which invest in emerging technologies** to support economic development opportunities and increase mobility options for all travelers

PORTFOLIO STRATEGIES

Safe Active
Transportation

Aviation
Expansion

Transit Access &
Mobility

Passenger Rail
Service

Freight Rail
Connections

These 5 strategies will help decrease reliance on the personal automobile, increase redundancies in the transportation system, contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gases, and spur more economic development.

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Integrate programs and strategies across complete streets, regional trails, rail trails, on-road bicycle systems, and sidewalk and ADA compliance to address system gaps and create a statewide network serving key destinations.



LRTP ALIGNMENT

Advances three of the five LRTP Goals:

- Livable and Healthy Communities
- Safety and Security for All Users
- Mobility, Reliability, and Accessibility

Low  High



PERFORMANCE

Strategy prioritizes investments in safety measures and ADA compliance. Strategy also depends on multi-system connectivity to increase access to destinations and recreational facilities. Maintaining current assets and improving infrastructure to meet future demands is also necessary for this strategy's success.

Low  High



READINESS

Strategy requires partnerships between MPOs, WVDOT, West Virginia Tourism, and the private sector. This strategy also demands statewide bike/pedestrian/greenway infrastructure investments to promote livable communities, increase public health, and expand tourism.

Low  High



RESILIENCY

Strategy supports alternative modes of transportation and promotes healthy transportation options. This strategy also promotes safety measures and increases transportation access to traditionally underserved communities.

Low  High

CURRENT STATE OF STRATEGY IN WV

- There are 5,000 miles of trails in West Virginia
- The state is ranked 34th in the US for bicycle friendliness by the League of American Bicycles
- US Bike Route 50 was officially designated in 2019
- West Virginia's on-road bike routes and off-road trails are a cornerstone of the state's growing tourism economy

ACTIONS

Expand and connect bicycle networks and provide safe and ADA compliant pedestrian infrastructure

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Modernize and market commercial service airports and improve access to support new service and expand opportunities for general aviation through capacity and safety improvements and testing and expansion of facilities for unmanned aerial systems.



LRTP ALIGNMENT

Advances three of the five LRTP Goals:

- Economic Vitality
- Safety and Security for All Users
- Multimodal, Reliability, and Accessibility

Low  High



PERFORMANCE

Strategy depends on modernization of airport facilities and infrastructure to meet current and future market demand and stimulate new demand. This strategy also prioritizes intermodal connections between modes to support air cargo in and out of the state.

Low  High



READINESS

Strategy depends on current funding and increased funding measures from the FAA Airport Improvement Program, as well as partnerships between railroads, WV Aeronautics Commission, and freight industries. This strategy would require tracking and implementation methods to expand and modernize aviation infrastructure.

Low  High



RESILIENCY

Strategy will help increase freight and passenger volumes to promote economic development. It will also support connectivity and access by providing long-distance transportation options to residents and tourists.

Low  High

CURRENT STATE OF STRATEGY IN WV

- There are 34 public-use airports in West Virginia, including 7 commercial airports that connect the state to regional and national markets
- There were 417,925 passenger boarding's in 2019
- The WV Aviation Economic Impact Study is quantifying the impact of aviation on the state's economy and strategies to expand aviation's role

ACTIONS

Strengthen partnerships, enhance multimodal connections to airports, and promote unmanned aerial systems

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Ensure assets remain in working condition, improve passenger facilities and rider safety, and expand service and implement new service types (including flexible systems, mobility-as-a-service provider coordination, paratransit, and intercity services).



LRTP ALIGNMENT

Advances three of the five LRTP Goals:

- Livable and Healthy Communities
- Safety and Security for All Users
- Mobility, Reliability, and Accessibility

Low  High



PERFORMANCE

Strategy requires assets remain in good working condition and be improved when necessary to ensure transit needs are met and service remains reliable. It will also depend on increased mobility options for older residents or residents with disabilities, especially in rural areas.

Low  High



READINESS

Strategy requires coordination with MPOs and the WV Department of Health and Human Resources to address rural transit issues and funding gaps. This would help the state maintain current services and expand services to key destinations and unserved counties. This strategy would also require a formal planning process to document rural transit needs.

Low  High



RESILIENCY

Strategy supports access to health care, education, and employment opportunities in rural areas, which could especially help disadvantaged populations reach destinations. This strategy would also help reduce congestion and improve air quality by offering greener transportation options. Strategy promotes economic development through multimodal connections.

Low  High

CURRENT STATE OF STRATEGY IN WV

- In 2019, there were 7.2 million transit passenger trips, 800,000 revenue hours of service, and 12.5 million revenue miles of service in West Virginia
- There are 404 transit vehicles operating in the state
- Public transit serves 37 of 55 counties

ACTIONS

Conduct new planning activities to identify critical service needs, and maintain transit fleets and facilities in a state of good repair

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Enhance passenger rail service and reliability, improve access to key destinations, and integrate service with other transportation modes, including local transit service.



LRTP ALIGNMENT

Advances three of the five LRTP Goals:

- Livable and Healthy Communities
- Safety and Security for All Users
- Mobility, Reliability, and Accessibility

Low  High



PERFORMANCE

Strategy improves accessibility to alternative transportation options, particularly to support tourism and for other long-distance travel needs. This strategy also includes opportunities for development around passenger stations. Strategy supports continued growth of tourism and economic development through improved connections to tourism destinations.

Low  High



READINESS

Strategy would require the coordination and support of railroads, Amtrak, MARC, and the WV Tourism Office. Additionally, organizational and regulatory changes, legislative action, increased funding from state and local sources, and changes in the planning process would be necessary to ensure full implementation of this strategy.

Low  High



RESILIENCY

Strategy supports alternative transportation for senior and rural populations that may not have access to long-distance transportation options. Economic development around passenger stations would increase as well. Passenger rail provides an opportunity for new residents who work remotely to commute to adjacent metropolitan regions as needed.

Low  High

CURRENT STATE OF STRATEGY IN WV

- There are 2 intercity rail routes operated by Amtrak and 1 commuter rail route operated by MARC in the state serviced by 11 passenger train stations
- In 2018, over 105,000 customers visited West Virginia's tourist railroads

ACTIONS

Increase first and last-mile connectivity to and from passenger rail stations, and upgrade passenger facilities

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Collaborate with Class I and shortline railroads to improve rail crossings, address capacity bottlenecks, and provide new and improved access points to existing and new industries and to port facilities supporting barge traffic.



L RTP ALIGNMENT

Advances two of the five LRTP Goals:

- Economic Vitality
- Mobility, Reliability, and Accessibility

Low  High



PERFORMANCE

Strategy maintains safety as a priority and maintains or improves the market demand for freight rail service, which could lead to an increase of economic development around freight facilities.

Low  High



READINESS

Strategy is already underway as most of West Virginia railroads meet the highest track standards. Further implementing the strategy would depend on collaborations with private rail operators and potentially the Department of Commerce to increase the attractiveness of industrial sites along railroad corridors.

Low  High



RESILIENCY

Strategy would shift heavy freight to rail, thereby decreasing maintenance requirements on state highways from heavy truck usage. Local businesses would also have more shipping options available, increasing redundancy for shippers in case one mode shuts down.

Low  High

CURRENT STATE OF STRATEGY IN WV

- There are 2,312 miles of rail in West Virginia
- 2 Class I, 10 shortline, and 4 tourist railroads operate in West Virginia
- 164.2 million tons of freight were moved by rail in 2018 (the equivalent of 8.9 million trucks)
- The West Virginia State Rail Authority operates 184 miles of trackage

ACTIONS

Expand marketing and education efforts to improve safe behavior for all road users and streamline traffic records and data analysis