



US Department of Transportation  
Federal Railroad  
Administration



# REGIONAL PLAN ASSOCIATION FORGING A NATIONAL RAIL PLAN FOR AMERICA

***Karen Rae***  
***Deputy Administrator***  
***Federal Railroad Administration***

**May 11, 2010**



# **Strategic Transportation Goals**

---

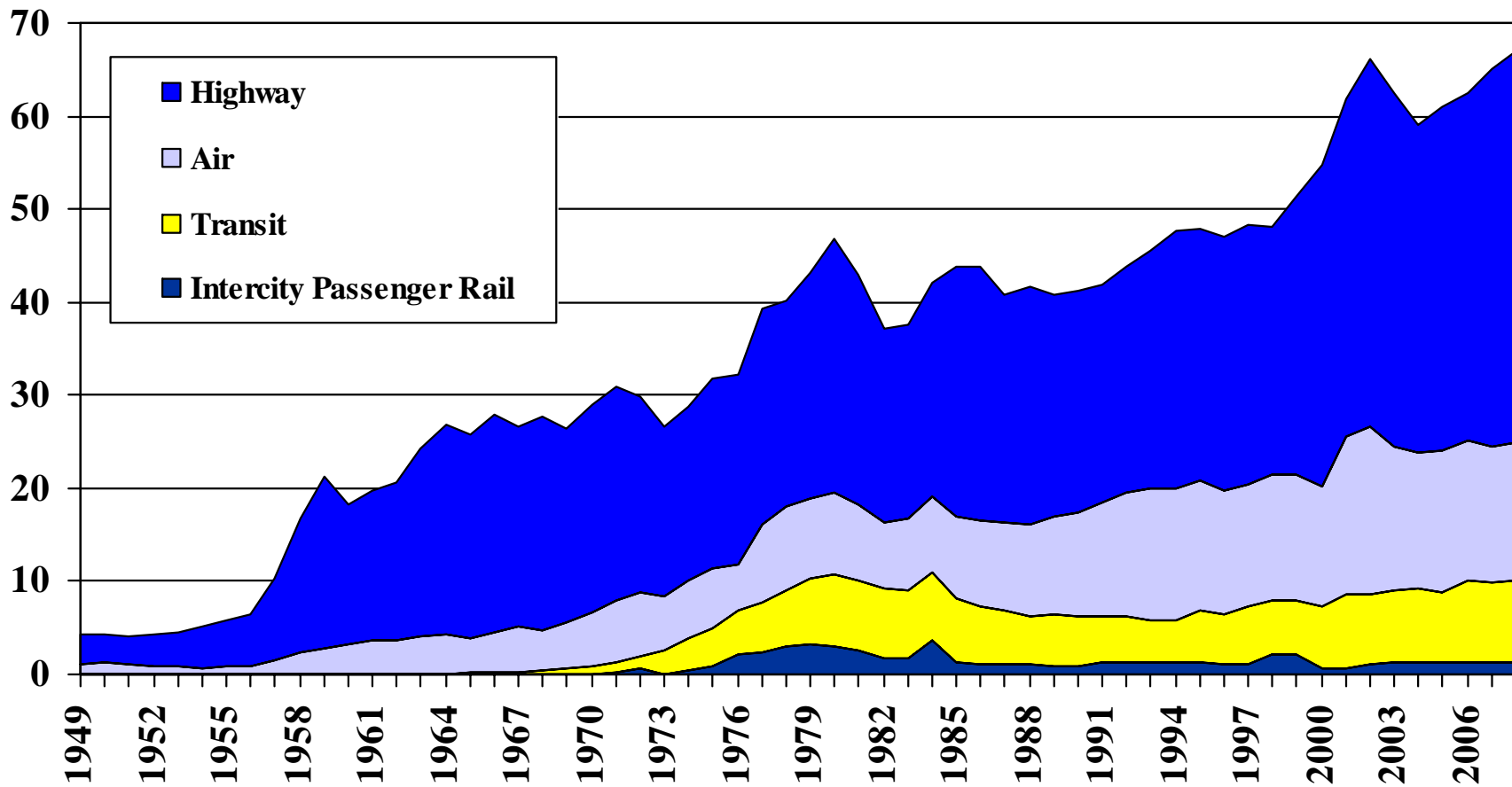
**Building a foundation for economic competitiveness**

**Ensuring safe and efficient transportation choices**

**Promoting energy efficiency and environmental quality**

**Supporting interconnected livable communities**

# Time To Rebalance Transportation Spending



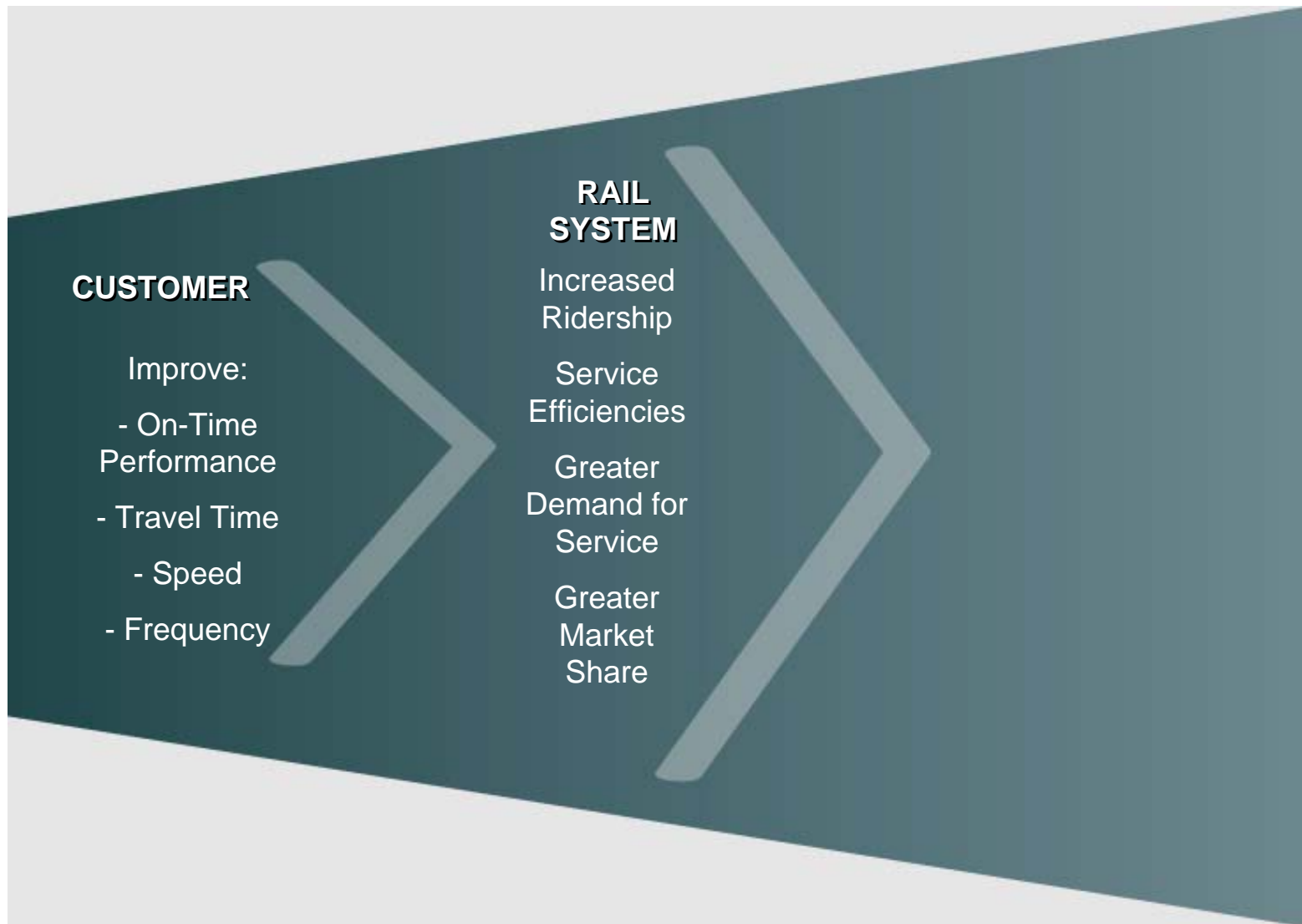
# **National Rail Plan (Passenger and Freight)**

---

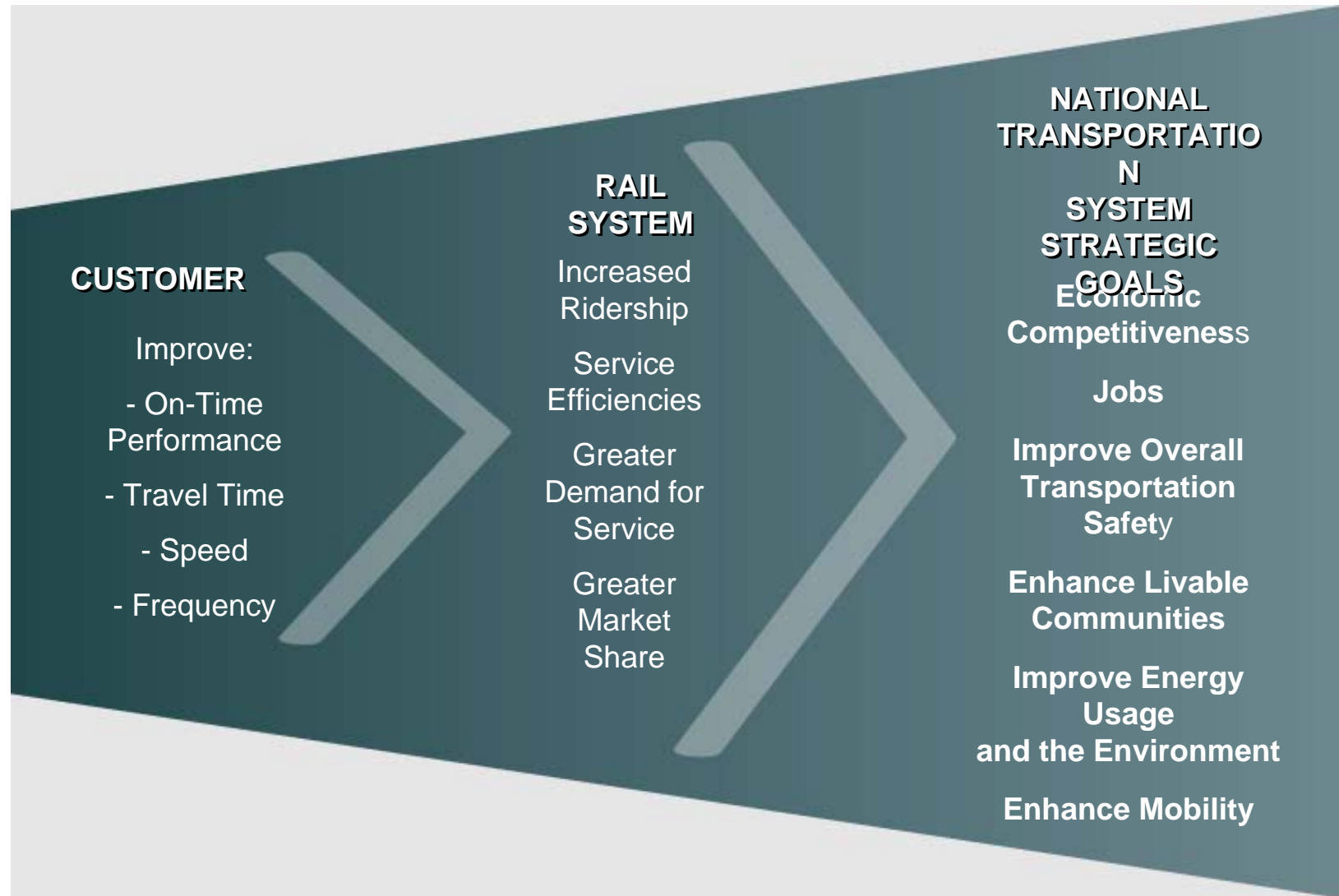
## **Government Investments Matter**

- **These investments were made when the cost of energy was cheap.**
- **These investments were made at a time when phrase “greenhouse gas” was not yet invented.**

# Public Benefits -- Passenger and Freight Rail



# Rail Public Benefits ➔ National Goals



# **National Rail Plan (Passenger and Freight)**

---

## **Mega-Regions**

- **There are high counts of passenger travel in the corridors that connect these mega-regions**
- **The forecast for freight growth is on these same corridors**
- **There is a strong need for multi-modal participation on these corridors, using the inherent strengths of each mode.**

## **National Rail Plan (Passenger and Freight)**

---

**Here is a new concept:**

- **People require freight**
- **Each person requires the shipping of 40 tons of freight per year**
- **As our population increases, so does the demand placed on our freight systems**



# **National Rail Plan (Passenger and Freight)**

---

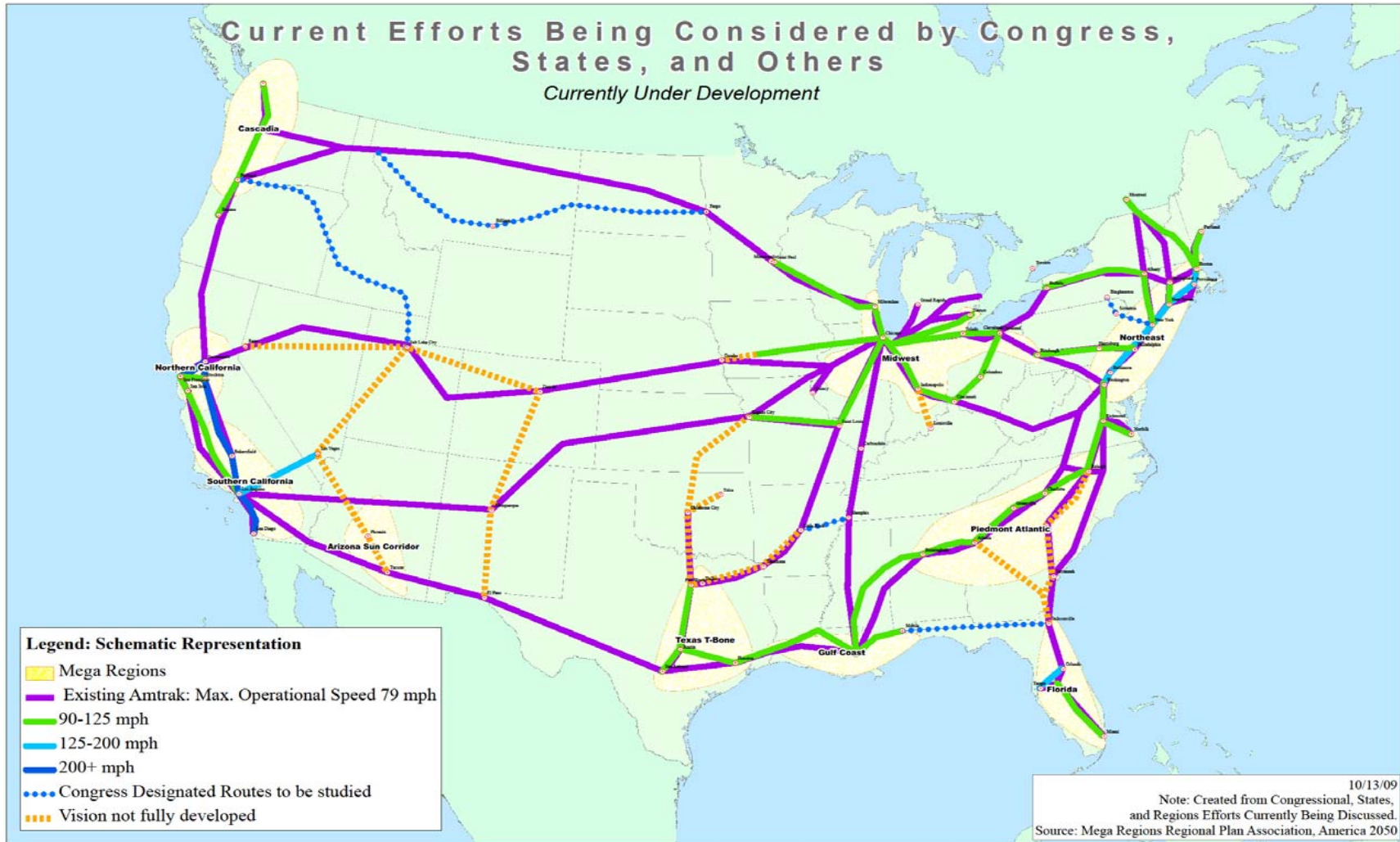
## **Review of Current Rail System**

### **Issues and Policies**

### **Recommendation of Programs Policies and Investments**

## **A Balanced Transportation System**

# National Rail Plan and Passenger Rail



# National Rail Plan -- Policy Issues

---

**Safety**

**Network Design / Development**

**Governance**

**Funding/Financing**

**Capacity Building**

**Public / Private Opportunities & Challenges**

**Security (TSA)**

**Land Use (HUD)**

**Environment (EPA)**

**Expediting Project Delivery**

**Rail Trust Fund**

**Investment Tax Credit**



# National Rail Plan -- TIGER

---

Criteria to examine infrastructure investments for developing an intelligent way to assess the benefits and cost for those investments

**Safety**

**Environment**

**State of Good Repair**

**Economic Competitiveness**

**Livability**

# National Rail Plan Timetable

	Jan/Feb	March/April	May/June/July
<b>Public Policy Issues</b>	Define key issues: governance, finance, strategic goals	Refine and prioritize specific strategies to tie goals to outcomes informed by outreach/white papers	Review final drafts
<b>Outreach</b>	Key DOT/FRA, industry, focus groups	Review implementation work and develop specific strategies to reach goals	Broader outreach; Review draft and incorporate final comments
<b>Implementation Issues</b>	Develop white papers: safety, security, network design, land use, governance options	Finalize white papers	Finalize draft plan





## **Focus Group Top Ten**

---

**Work Together to Advance Freight and Passenger Rail**

**Federal Leadership Needed to Set Priorities**

**Liability Limits**

**HSR to Supplement Air Travel**

**Buy America Dependent on Long-Term Funding**



## Focus Group Top Ten

---

**Capacity Constrained by PTC**

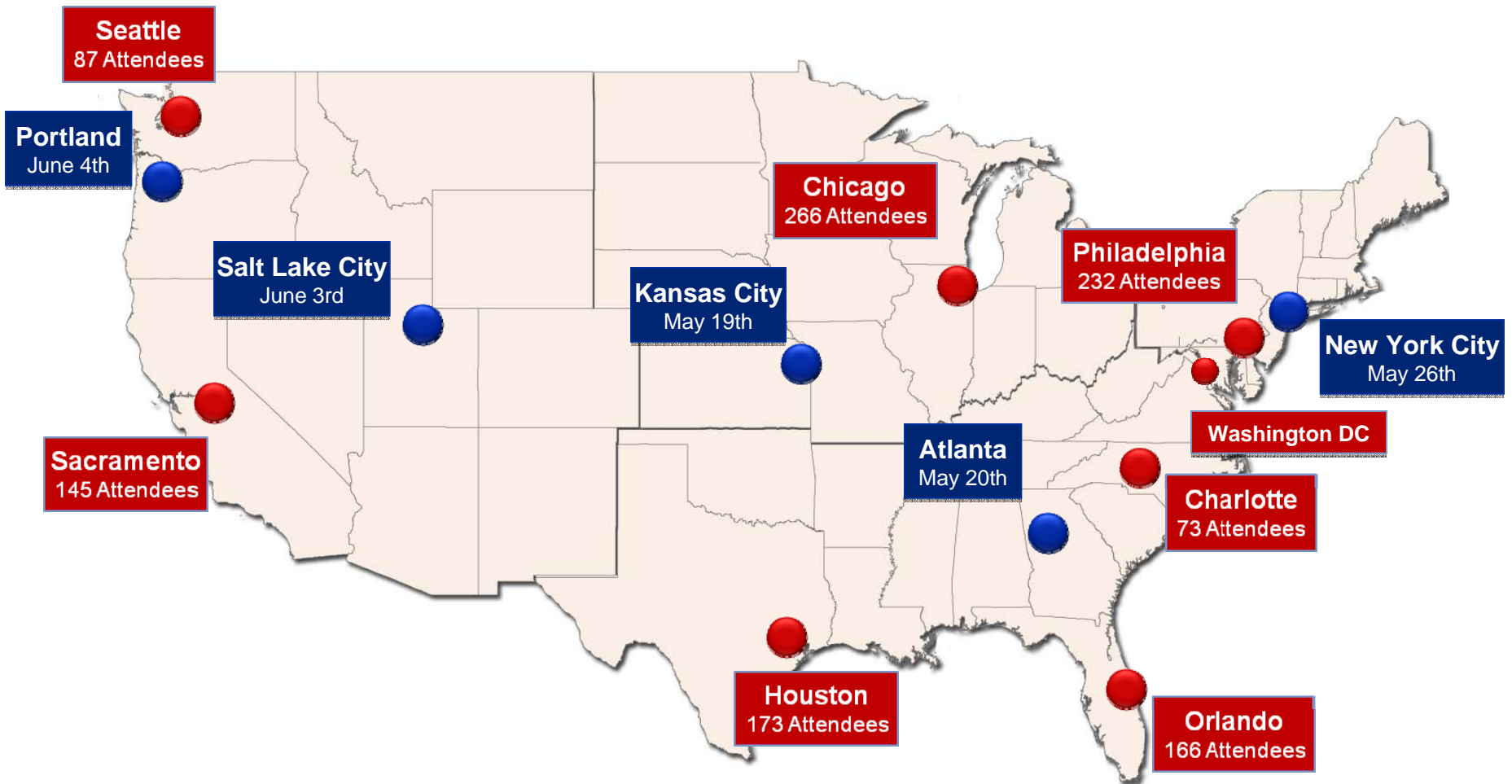
**Re-Regulation Can Hobble Freight Industry**

**Land Use Conflicts**

**Corridor Performance Measures**

**Tax Credit to Increase Freight Capacity**

# HSR & NPR Outreach



# Rail Plan Discussion Questions

---

## THE FUTURE OF RAIL POLICY IN THE US

- 1) What the are key criteria to be used when talking about future federal investment?
  
- 1) How do we fund freight and passenger rail programs going forward?
  
- 2) What form of governance do we use in the corridors between mega-regions?

“...today's awards provide only initial funding for the rail system...It's a down payment on a truly national program that's going to reshape the way we travel. It will change the way which we go from place to place, change the ways we work and live, and will connect communities to each other in a way that in the past was impossible. Just like the Interstate Highway structure did back in the mid-'50s, it will have far-reaching consequences.”

*President Obama  
January 28, 2010*