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## Escanaba-Chicago Rail Connection Pilot and Scale-Up Project

1. Operating between Escanaba (vicinity) and Chicago, likely [Chicago Junction Railway](#), Elk Grove Village O'Hare, as Escanaba-Chicago Rail Connection ("ECRC")?
2. Modeled on [Florida East Coast Railway Intermodal](#) (*Trains*, June 2018, pp. 40-47) with potential intermediate service at Pembine, Green Bay, WI, and/or other intermediate points?
3. Operations may include carload, TOFC, COFC and transload services?
4. Shipper participation and feasibility planning based on aggregated Actionable Shipper Data developed through Michigan Technological University / Lake States Shipper Association [Data Co-op Project 2018-2019](#)?
5. Pilot and scale-up, in cooperation with the Northwoods Rail Transit Commission ("NRTC"), potentially supported, in-part, by public grants for rail and rail-related infrastructure based on direct public benefit return-on-investment ("PBROI"), e.g., [A Wisconsin Forests and Freight Rail Preservation Program](#)?
6. Scale-up may include potential compatibility with. and application of, Precision Scheduled Railroading ("PSR") principles and standards?
7. Pilot and scale-up, rolling stock acquisition potentially based PBROI investment, public-private coordination and/or ownership through NRTC and/or Lake States Shippers Association, [a classic co-op shippers association](#)?
8. Develop and promote the concept or theme of rail as bridge between urban and rural?
9. Engage the [Great Lakes Forests Region](#) development professionals through NRTC and potential [NRTC project initiatives](#) and collaborating organizations?
10. Explore sources and uses of "seed money" public and private funding for feasibility planning and development of an Escanaba-Chicago Rail Connection and funding for Phase Two expansion of the MI Tech / LSSA Data Co-op Project?