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Great Lakes Forests Region Rail Line Transformation Committees Supporting Northwood Rail System Restoration

Rail Line Transformation Committees (“RLTCs”) are intended to function to complement a strategic plan for “Great Lakes Forests Region, Northwoods Rail System Restoration”. RLTCs are to focus principally on coordinated efforts to identify freight to support sustainable density on lighter density branch and other line segments, in turn, building sufficient, profitable freight volumes to sustain a competitive rail system for the Great Lakes Forests Region.

1. RLTC membership is to include shippers who maintain facilities that may be served by the Line and other stakeholders including county and other local officials and county and other development interests.
2. Each RLTC shall serve as the grassroots contact resource to recruit participation by, and functional network of, shippers and/or receivers operating facilities on or within practicable distance of the Line which facilities are capable of generating rail carload freight or truckload freight susceptible to conversion from over-the-road trucking to rail and/or rail transload or intermodal, emphasizing first those consistently generating ten or more truckloads per week.
3. Each RLTC will function in coordination with and be supported by a Phase Two of the Michigan Tech / LSSA Data Co-op Project using and augmenting the Actionable Shipper Data model created in Phase One of the Project to use aggregated shipper data to:
 - a. Garner added freight volumes to fully utilize existing rail infrastructure and operating capacity; and
 - b. Implement initiatives for funding (including public grant funding based on direct return on investment to the public) rail and rail-related infrastructure investments necessary for a competitive, sustainable GLFR Northwoods Rail System.
4. RLTC – Western Upper Peninsula of Michigan (“RLTC-WUPM”) shall encompass the rail lines connecting Baraga, L’Anse, Marquette and Escanaba, plus E&LS lines connecting Rockland, Pembine, and Escanaba.
5. RLTC – North Central Wisconsin (“RLTC-NCW”) shall encompass the rail lines connecting Ashland, Prentice, Rhinelander, Bradley, Stevens Point, Necedah, and New Lisbon, Wisconsin.
6. Anticipate additional RLTCs and possible subcommittees including lines connecting points in Northern Minnesota and Northwestern Wisconsin and connecting Escanaba, Pembine, Green Bay and south to Neenah or beyond.