

Wisconsin Central Group



An ad hoc Rail Freight Stakeholders Coalition

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- An unprecedented opportunity to shift significant volumes of highway freight to rail and intermodal, advancing manufacturing competitiveness in this region.
- Illustrated by “2012 Joint Projects Initiative” (outline attached), a collaboration of the Canadian National Railway and the Wisconsin Central Group shippers.
- Three infrastructure Projects, preliminary implementation 2013-2015.
 - Chicago gateway optimization for Wisconsin Central freight.
 - Wisconsin Central connection to the emerging national intermodal network.
 - Wisconsin Central forest resources market share, specifically infrastructure creating supply chain visibility from forest to mill.
- Many, perhaps most, of the significant benefits of investment in the three infrastructure Projects, by conventional accounting, cannot be traced to the bottom lines of the private sector railroad, manufacturers, log producers, loggers, or log truckers.
- Each of the three infrastructure Projects would satisfy criteria for TIGER funding, but such grants are inaccessible and, of course, under or un-funded.
- **What can Congress do?**
 - Provide accessibility and appropriate priority for public funding and participation in local public-private infrastructure projects which have regional or national benefits through modal shift of freight to rail, water and/or intermodal.
 - Accord priority for such projects that require and demonstrate cooperation and coordination among local and state or multi-state public entities.
 - Remove obstacles and encourage states to invest in such infrastructure, in coordination with other public entities and private sector stakeholders.

Under the auspices of: Wisconsin Paper Council, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, and Michigan Forest Products Council