

Steel Interstate:

“What America’s railroads could be!”

Today a dollar can buy more U.S. freight-carrying capacity when invested in rail than when spent on more highway lanes.

The Interstate Highway System gave us a core national network of roads that made travel faster and safer than on the old system of U.S. Highway routes.

Today’s railroads similarly lack capacity to handle growing freight and passenger demand. But they, too, can be rebuilt as a grade-separated, high-capacity, electrified national system of key rail corridors – a Steel Interstate.

Using only a third of the fuel to move a ton-mile of freight than trucks, railroads are far more energy efficient and less polluting, including greenhouse gas emissions. **We should want as much freight as possible to move by rail. The Steel Interstate would provide the capacity, speed, and reliability to make this happen.**

Railroads can readily be electrified, so Steel Interstates can be powered by many energy sources. U.S transportation is now totally dependent on oil, so we are vulnerable to supply disruptions and price spikes. Electrified rail corridors could be powered by natural gas, oil, nuclear, coal, wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal.

They could also help transmit remote wind or solar power generation to urban areas.

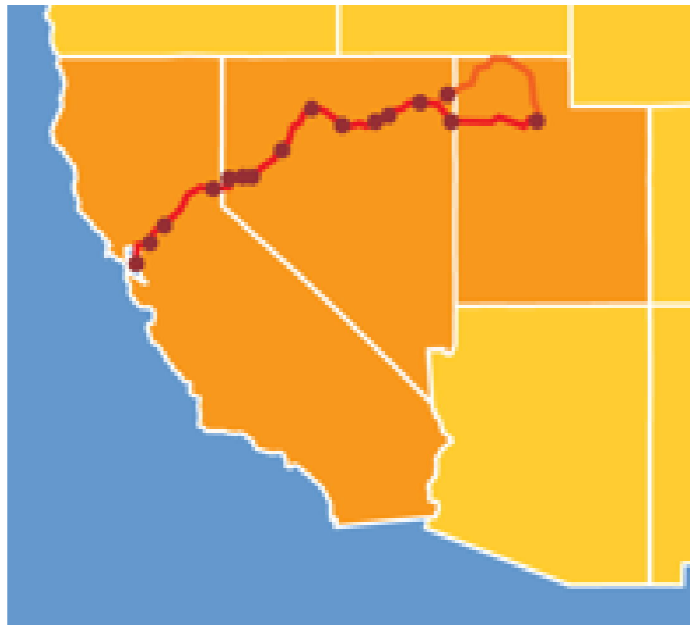
Sustainable infrastructure investments can provide a national Steel Interstate system of high-capacity, electrified rail lines that would be the backbone for fast, efficient, reliable, and safe movement of freight and passengers in 21st Century America.

Millions of trucks on the nation’s highways remain a huge untapped opportunity and challenge. Currently the U.S. railroad system lacks the capacity, reliability, and speed necessary for true highway-competitive handling of trucks.

The Steel Interstate can fix this through adequate capacity for Land Ferry transport of entire trucks, accommodating existing rail freight business, and assuring that passenger trains don’t have to be side-tracked for freight.

The time has come to explore innovative public-private financing options for a Steel Interstate. The Steel Interstate Coalition is pursuing this goal by working to develop a prototype Steel Interstate and Land Ferry operation in the Interstate 80 Corridor between Oakland, CA and Salt Lake City, UT

- Minimum 2 tracks, grade-separated and electrified
- Bi-directional positive train control signaling
- Frequent crossovers
- Reduced curvature
- Assured mid-range mobility for freight and passengers
- Frequent intermodal terminals/stations
- 200+ daily trains, all moving at 79 –110 mph
- Safe, reliable capacity for freight, Land Ferry, and passengers
- Additional tracks for slow, heavy, and local freight



For more about the Steel Interstate **concept** and its compelling **benefits**, see: steelinterstate.org.

For documents and details about the I-80 Corridor project, click on **PROJECTS**.

Here you will find links to original research, an excellent introductory video, plans to learn more in a Phase II feasibility study, letters of support, and an important endorsement resolution from Storey County.

Steel Interstate Coalition

A New Vision for Railroads in the 21st Century



ELEMENTS OF STEEL INTERSTATE DESIGN: A minimum of two grade-separated *through* tracks, engineered, signaled, and dispatched for 79 MPH to 110 MPH, offering frequent, reliable service. The electrified Steel Interstate System would create adequate capacity to divert most non-local truck freight to intermodal trains, and to accommodate passenger trains without impairing freight operations.

TRANSPORTATION IN CRISIS: While many forecasts show freight demand doubling by 2040, Interstate Highway capacity is increasingly congested, especially in urban areas. Maintaining, rebuilding, and expanding road capacity is becoming prohibitively costly and environmentally unacceptable. Some rail lines are also congested, and some truckers face troublesome driver shortages. Railroaders and truckers need better infrastructure for better business results.

SOLUTION! A HIGH-PERFORMANCE RAIL SYSTEM: Shifting to rail-based shipping and passenger transportation powered by electricity from renewable sources could significantly reduce our near-total dependence on oil, greatly reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, promote the best of truck and rail, and pay for itself. The Steel Interstate can provide sustainable infrastructure needed for new freight capacity, assure affordable mobility for people, and improve our economic competitiveness and standard of living for decades.

JOIN THE REBIRTH OF U.S. RAIL - THE STEEL INTERSTATE COALITION: Making the Steel Interstate a reality requires research and promotion. To capture imaginations and enter our national vision, the concept needs to be considered not only in the I-80 Corridor, but in all regions. For more information, please visit steelinterstate.org. Donate to Steel Interstate Coalition and help secure this brighter future for American railroads.



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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