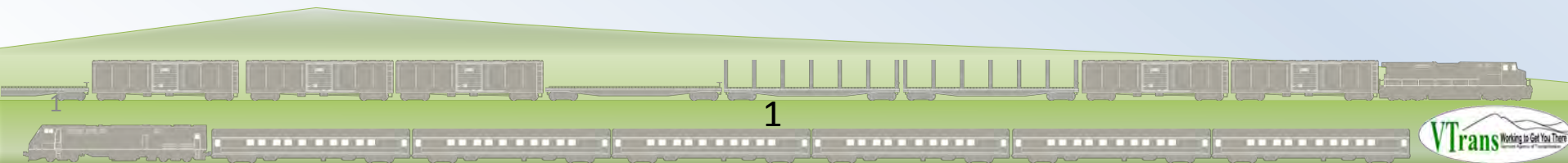




Vermont State Rail and Policy Plan Update

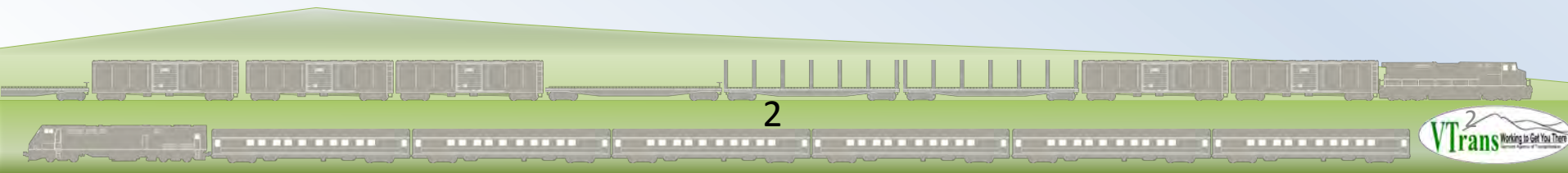
**March 24, 2014 – Rutland Free Library, Fox
Room**

**March 25, 2014 – Brattleboro Savings & Loan
Community Room**



Agenda

- Introductions
- Rail Planning in Vermont
 - 2014 State Rail Plan
- Existing Conditions
 - Demographics
 - Passenger Rail
 - Freight Rail
- State Rail Plan Goals and Objectives
- Needs and Opportunities - Discussion



Project Team



- Project oversight
- Policy guidance



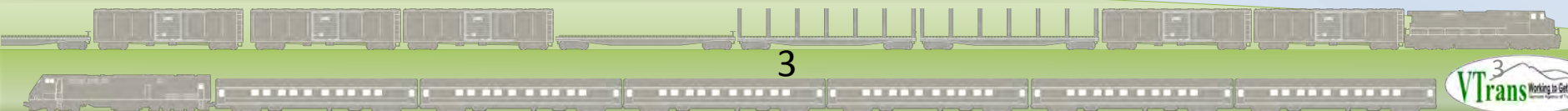
- Project management
- Policy development and analysis
- Funding and governance review



- Ridership modeling
- Detailed technical analysis

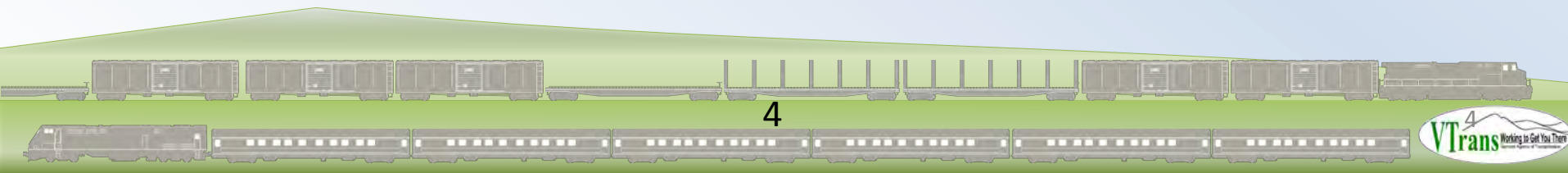


- Stakeholder coordination
- Public outreach and communications

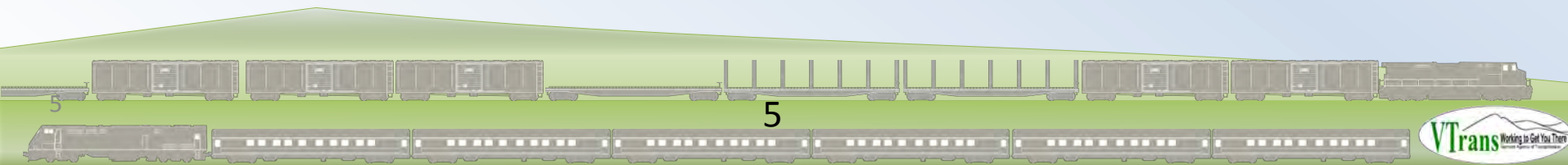


Key Milestones

- Plan initiation: Fall 2013
- Public Information Meetings (round 1): March 2014
- Plan development: through Fall 2014
- Public Information Meetings (round 2): October-November 2014
- Plan completion: End of 2014
- Ongoing: Stakeholder outreach, including Vermont Rail Council.

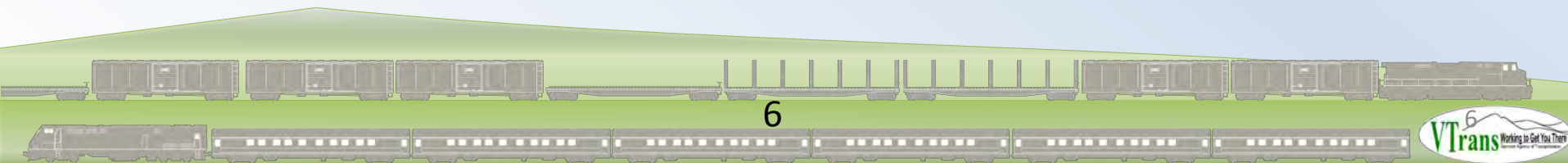


2014 State Rail Plan



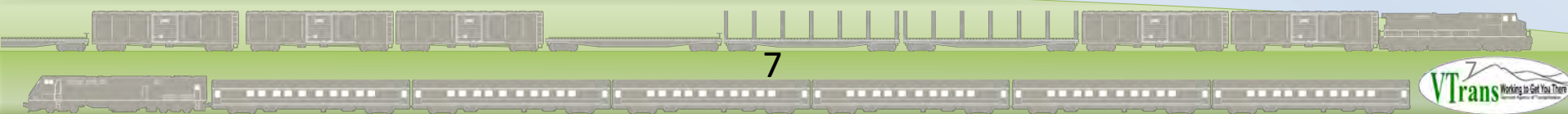
2014 SRP Contents

- Executive Summary
- Chapter 1: The Role of Rail in Statewide Transportation
- Chapter 2: The State's Existing Rail System
- Chapter 3: Trends and Forecasts
- Chapter 4: Rail Service Needs and Opportunities
- Chapter 5: Proposed Freight Rail Improvements & Investments
- Chapter 6: Proposed Passenger Rail Improvements & Investments
- Chapter 7: The State's Long-Range Service & Investment Program



2014 SRP Expected Outcomes

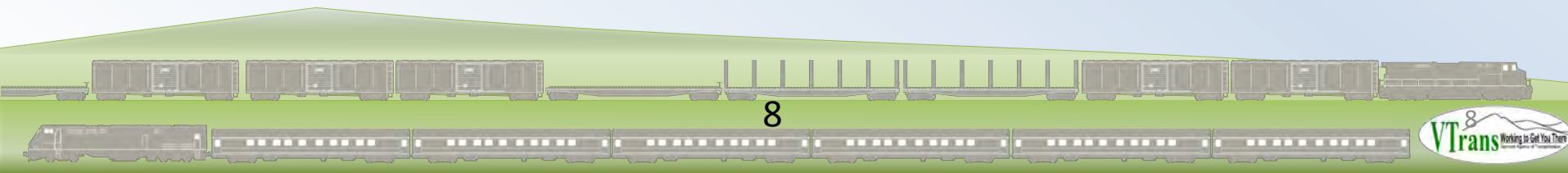
- Develop comprehensive statewide freight and passenger rail plan
 - Further mobility, safety, and economic development
- Meet requirements of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) and guidance from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
- Address Vermont-specific issues
 - Future ownership of the state's rail assets
 - Upgrades to height/weight allowances



2014 SRP PRIAA & FRA Requirements

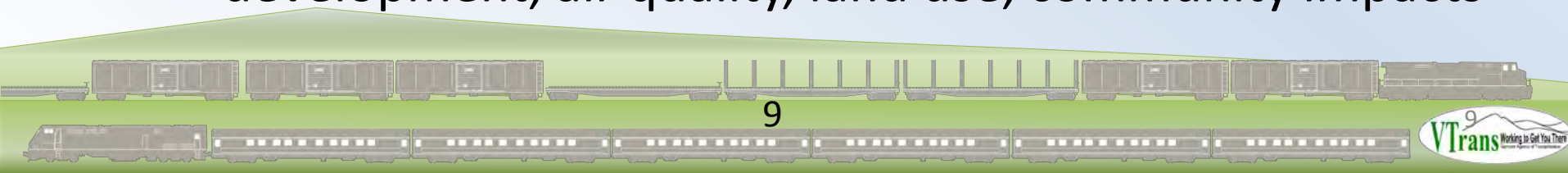


- Description and assessment of current system
- Vision for future of passenger and freight systems
- Description of how to integrate vision into multimodal transportation system for state
- Rail Service and Investment Program
 - provide guidelines and list rail investment needs to achieve long term and short term state vision



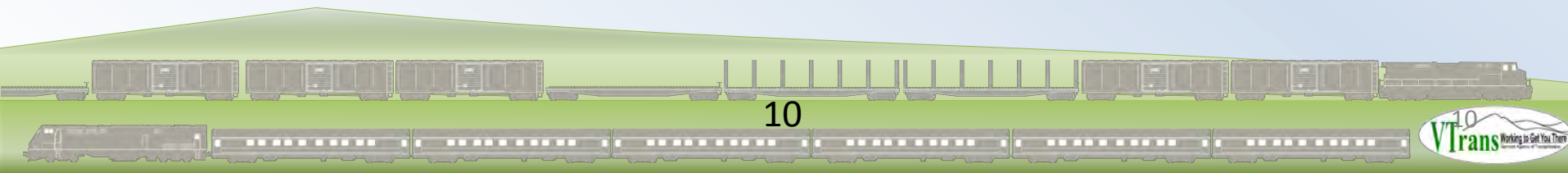
2014 SRP Key Components

- Inventory of existing rail system, services and facilities
- Review of rail lines
 - Freight, intercity passenger, commuter, proposed high speed rail, segments not currently in use
- Statement of passenger service objectives
 - Minimum service levels, routes
- Analysis of transportation, economic and environmental impacts
 - Congestion mitigation, trade and economic development, air quality, land use, community impacts

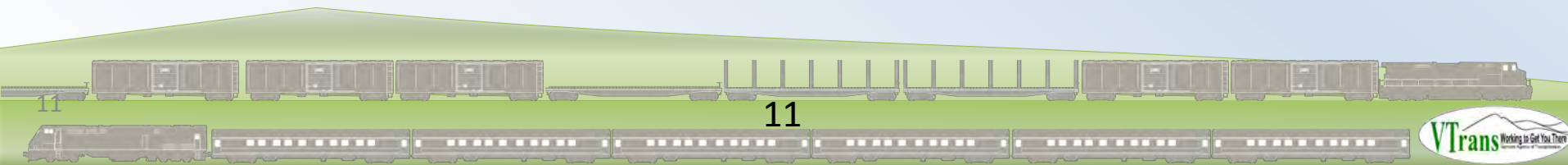


2014 SRP Key Components

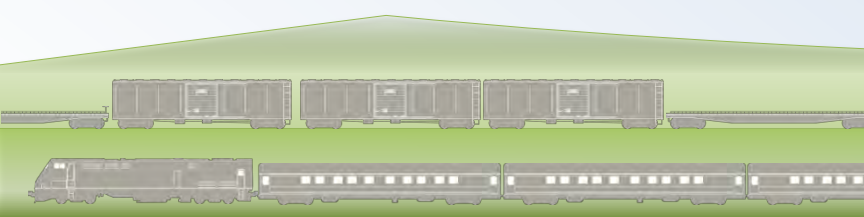
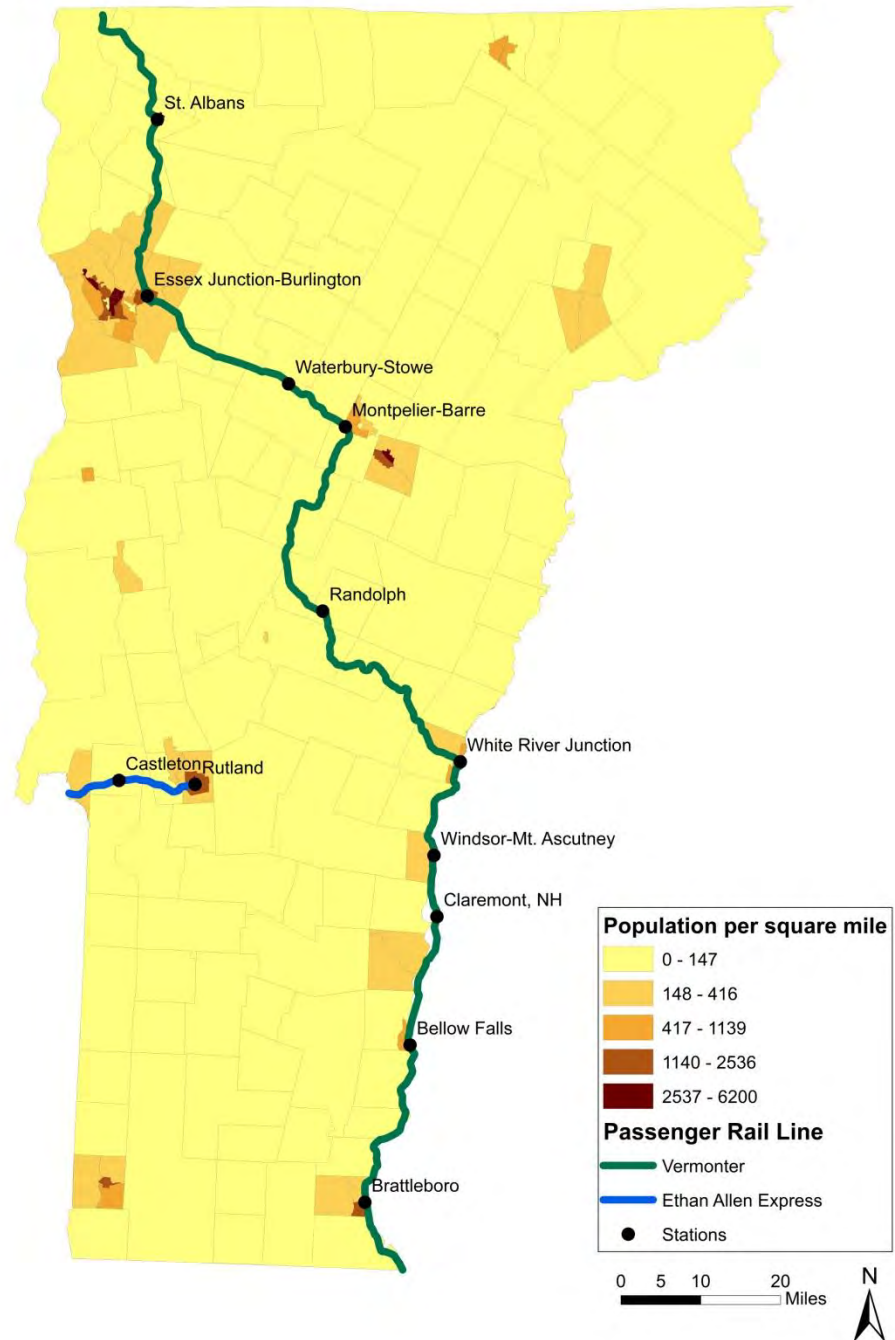
- Develop a freight rail profile
 - Describe and assess movements—current and future—of freight in, out, and through Vermont, associated supply chains including identification of commodities and commodity groups important to the state and major markets
- Develop a passenger rail profile
 - Assess current and future ridership, system issues, and linkages to regional and national rail networks
- Examine the adequacy of Vermont's rail infrastructure
 - Ability to allow businesses to participate successfully in rapidly developing domestic and international economies, and evolving rail industry standards
- Identify current and emerging freight and passenger rail issues, trends, challenges and opportunities and their impact to the rail network
- Review and modify current freight and passenger rail goals, the project prioritization system and associated performance measures to assess progress towards meeting those goals
- Review current implementation plan and make additional recommendations to facilitate and support freight and passenger rail growth, including public investments and investment priorities



Existing Conditions

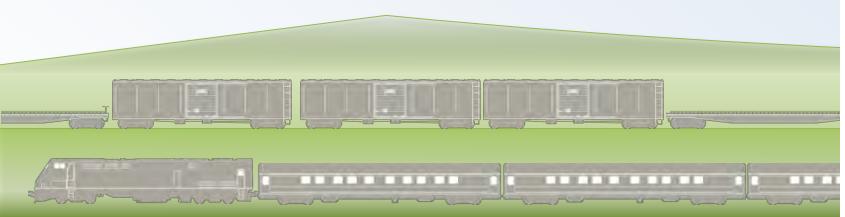
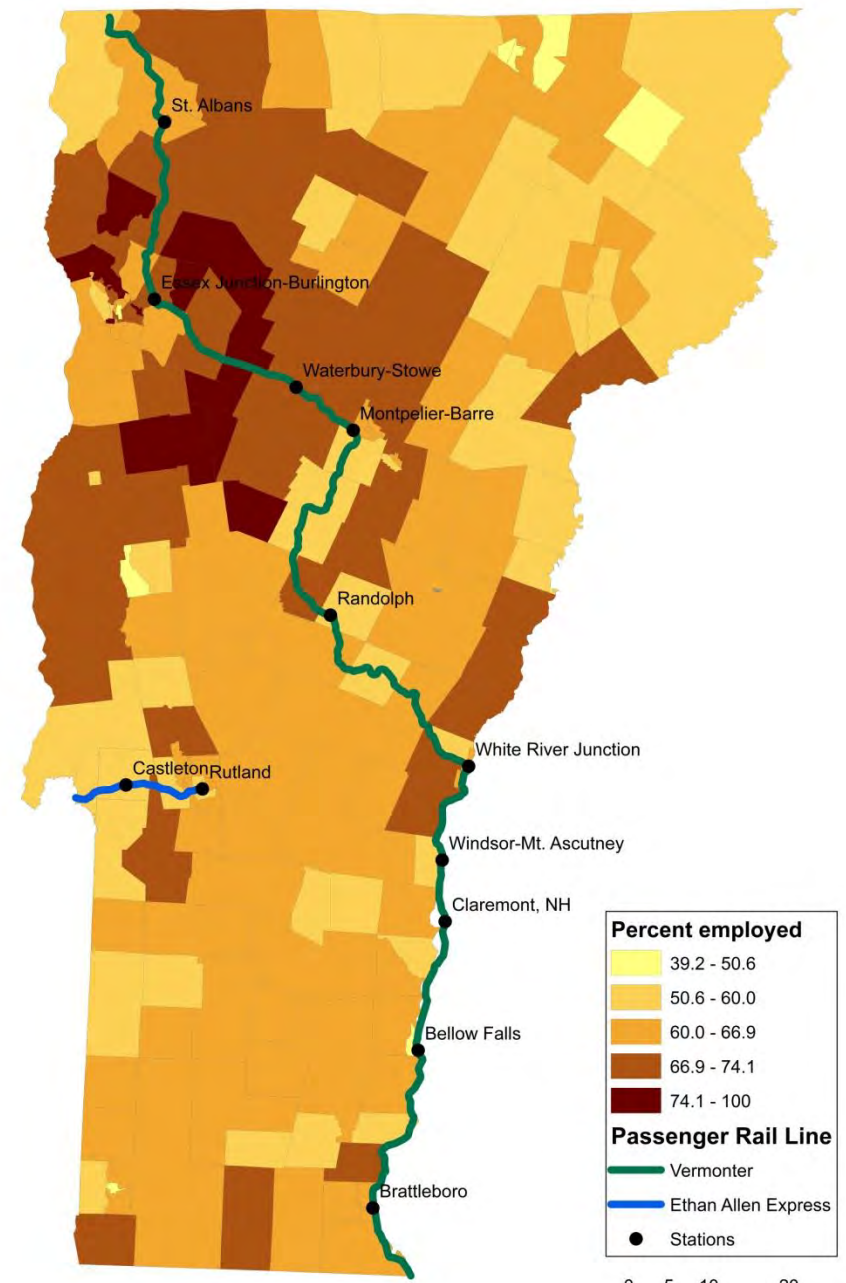


Demographics – Population



Demographics – Employment

Percent of Population Employed in Vermont



Vermont's Rail Network

- Vermont's rail network encompasses approximately 578 miles
 - Ownership split between state and private operators
 - All of the lines are used for freight service, with two routes also being used for intercity passenger service
 - Intercity rail passenger service operates over 200 miles in Vermont serving 12 stations



— Private
— State

Active Rail Lines

Rail Line	Ownership	Track Mileage
Pan Am Railways (PAR)	Private	6.3
Canadian National (CN)	Private	3
Clarendon & Pittsford (CLP)	Private	17.9
Connecticut River Division (WACR)	Public – State	102.2
Green Mountain Railroad Corp (GMRC)	Public – State	50
Montreal, Maine & Atlantic (MMA)	Private	24.4
New England Central Railroad (NECR)	Private	190.9
St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad (SLR)	Private	30.7
Vermont Railway (VTR)	Public – State	139.8
Washington County Railroad (WACR)	Public – State	13.1
TOTAL ACTIVE MILEAGE		578.3
TOTAL ACTIVE MILEAGE PUBLIC-STATE OWNED		305.1

Intercity Passenger Rail

- Operated by Amtrak
- State of Vermont contributes to funding and service planning
- Rail corridors are oriented in a north-south alignment
- Connections to larger regional railroads and to national rail system are available at several locations
- Issues of track and infrastructure capacity pose challenges to use connections to their full potential



Passenger Service – Ethan Allan Express

- Provides daily service between New York City, Albany Schenectady, Saratoga Springs and Rutland, VT
- Covers a total route distance of 241 miles
- Operates on 15 miles of its 241 route miles in Vermont
- Serves 2 passenger stations in the state



Image from www.amtrak.com

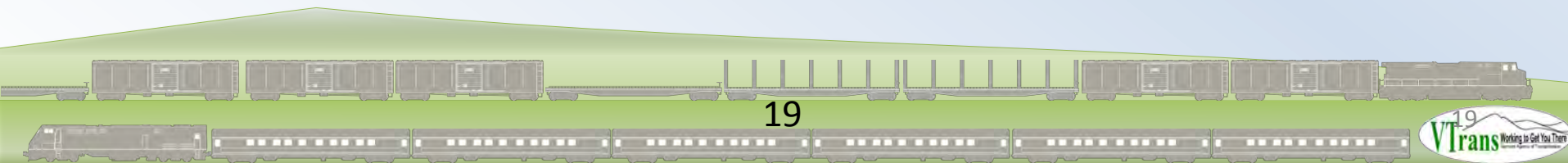
Passenger Service –The Vermonter

- Operates daily service between Washington D.C., New York New Haven, Springfield and St. Albans, covering a route distance of 467 miles
- Traverses 185 miles of its 611 mile route in Vermont
- Serves 10 passenger stations in the state

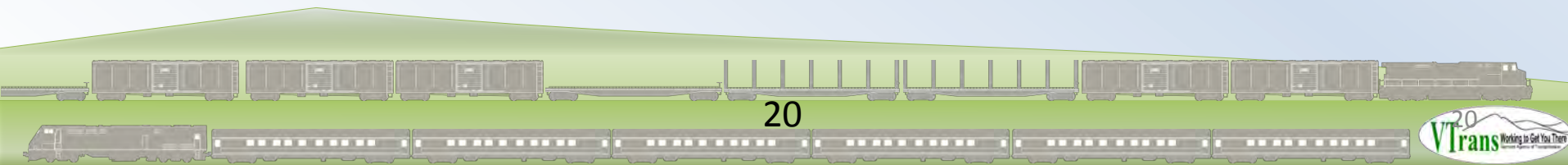
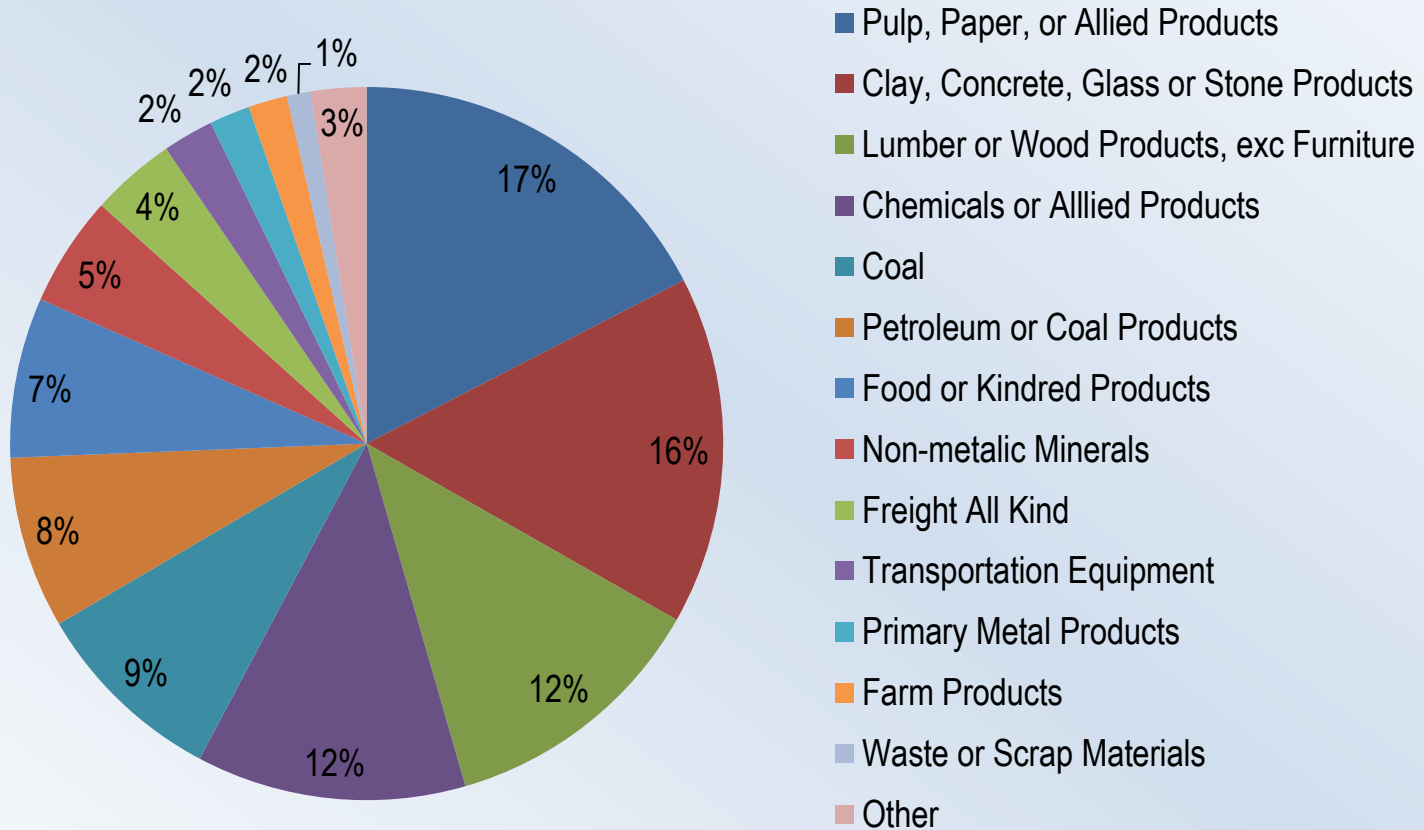


Freight Service

- Pan Am Railways
- Canadian
- Vermont Rail System
 - Clarendon & Pittsford Railroad
 - Connecticut River Subdivision
 - Green Mountain Railroad
 - Vermont Railway
 - Washington County Railroad
- Montreal, Maine & Atlantic
- New England Central Railroad Company
- St. Lawrence & Atlantic

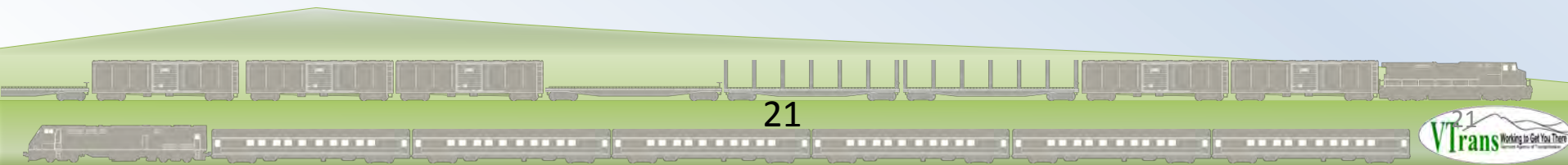
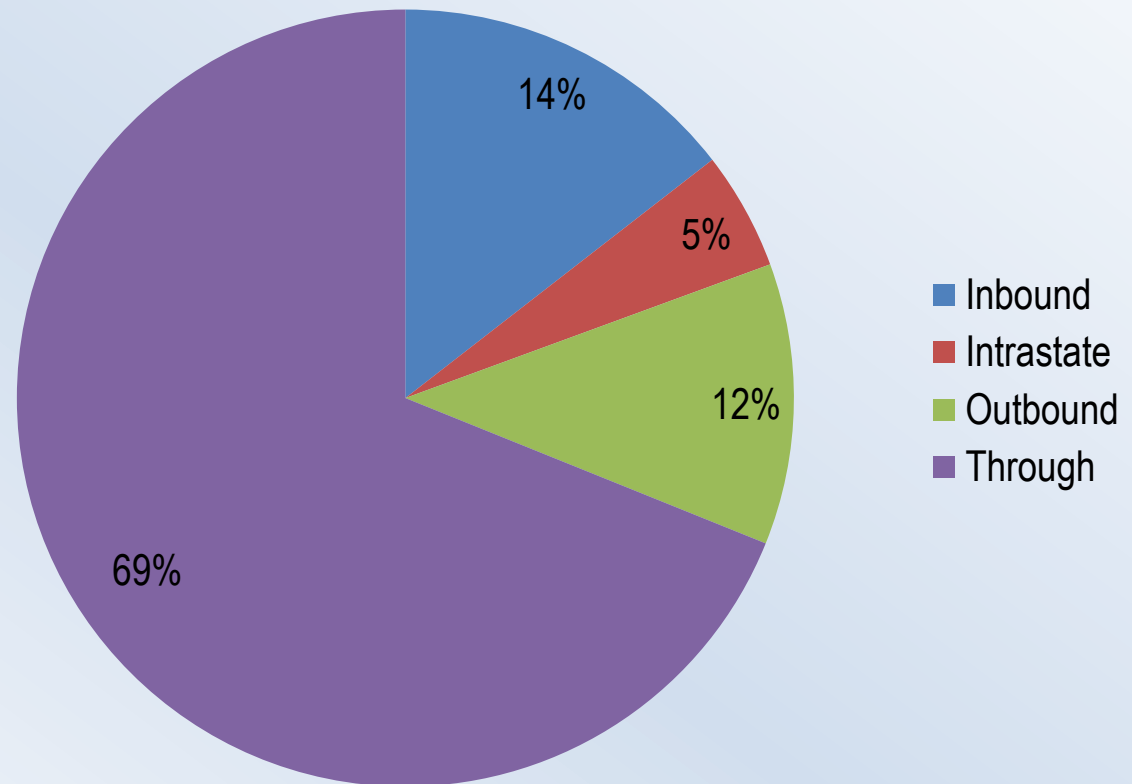


Top Freight Rail Commodities

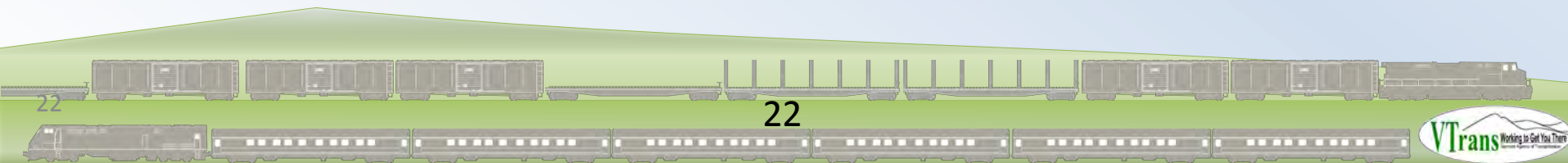


Freight Rail Volume by Direction (2011)

- 69% (4.6 million tons) traveled through state
- 14% (961 thousand tons) terminated in state
- 12% (775 thousand tons) originated in state
- Intrastate rail freight accounted for 5% (326 thousand tons) of total rail movement

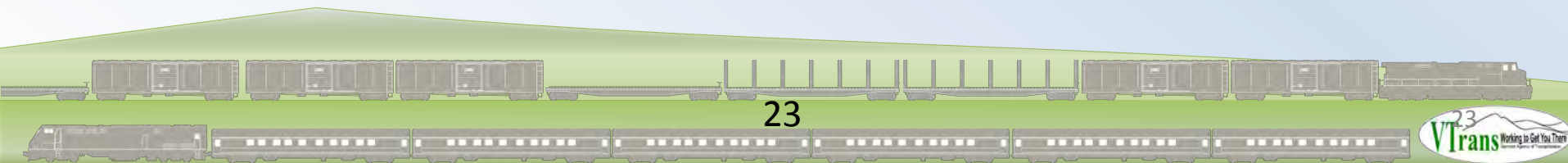


State Rail Plan Goals and Objectives



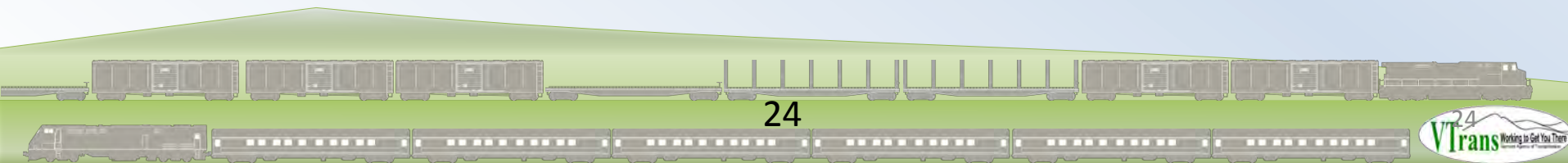
2014 SRP Goals (Draft)

- Support economy by providing rail access to all areas of State so rail can be a strong component of State's economy
- Remove existing weight and clearance restrictions to be connected and competitive in today's environment of 286,000 pounds gross weight and excess height railcars
- Develop programs to assist major rehabilitation or replacement of obsolete bridges, structures, track-work and other infrastructure components required for maintaining safe and efficient operations
- Seek adequate and stable funding, including federal assistance, for rail projects and assure appropriate staffing to support the Agency's mission



2014 SRP Goals (Draft)

- Cooperate with cities and towns, regions and state agencies in open communication and public outreach to seek balance between needs of railroad and human and natural environment
- Continue to promote efficient rail freight and passenger movement to assure continued environmental, economic and other benefits in use of the rail transportation mode
- Maintain the safest possible network of railroad infrastructure and operations to assure the safety of communities, natural resources, traveling public and railroad employees
- Preserve rail corridors for future transportation use



Needs and Opportunities: Discussion

