

Four Corners Freight Rail Feasibility Study



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Opening the doors
of economic opportunity.



Mission

San Juan County, the Navajo Nation, and the Federal Railroad Administration are studying the economic feasibility of freight rail service to the Four Corners region and potential railroad alignments from the I-40 corridor to the Farmington/Shiprock area.

The U.S. freight rail network, which includes over 140,000 rail route miles throughout the United States, does not currently connect to San Juan County, significant portions of the Navajo Nation or the greater Four Corners region. The Four Corners Rail Study will develop activities and alternatives for constructing a rail spur and related facilities within the project area that extends the I-40 rail corridor to the Shiprock/Farmington area. Connecting the Four Corners region to the I-40 rail corridor, and the country's rail network, will expand economic growth for local communities and families through job creation.

Keep in touch! Visit www.4cornersfreightrail.com for more information

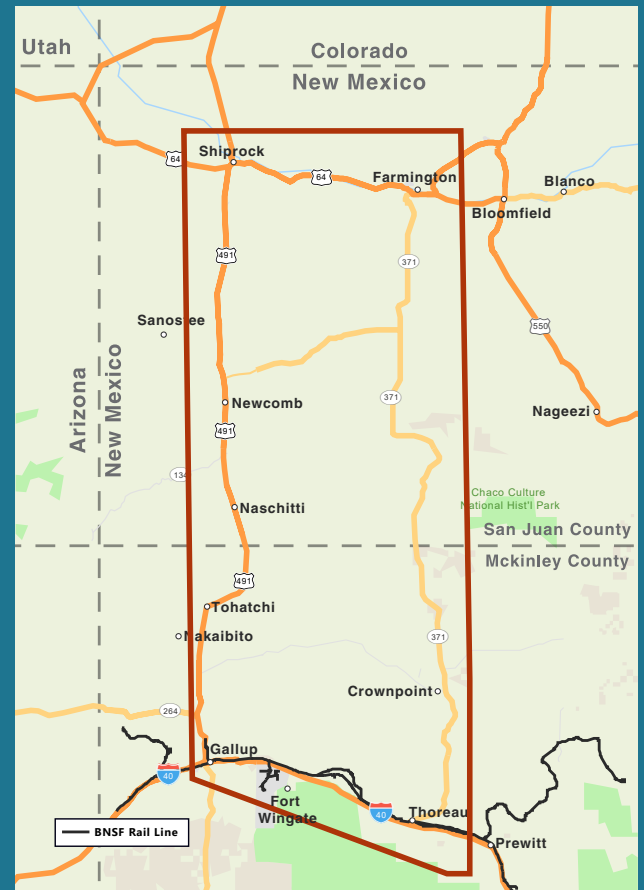
PROJECT BENEFITS:

The new connection to the BNSF freight rail network will improve the efficiency of the overall freight transportation system in the Four Corners region. It will also expand economic opportunities for the region, including the Navajo Nation. By adding this connection to the existing BNSF freight network, the area will become an attractive resource for businesses considering locating to or expanding in the Four Corners Region. It would help make the region more competitive by decreasing shipping costs.

Additional economic development in the region provides additional learning opportunities and career pathways for local children, allowing them to stay in the region and raise their families close to home. Creating more businesses within the region will also bring in additional tax revenues, which will directly benefit the local school systems.

Research by the New Mexico Economic Development Department and the City of Farmington found nearly \$20 billion worth of products in projected demand for transport by the railroad industry. A Four Corners rail line could capture a high percentage of the demand when connected to the present BNSF railroad that runs east and west in the southern portion of the Navajo Nation.

Adding freight rail service will help to reduce the amount of commercial truck traffic on surrounding roadways, which will increase roadway safety and decrease the potential for crashes. The reduction in heavy truck traffic will also improve the state of good repair on roadways, reducing the need for maintenance.



POTENTIAL ROUTES/MAPS

The basic route for a Four Corners freight rail line could run from the I-40 corridor to the vicinity of Farmington/Shiprock in San Juan County. The feasibility study will analyze the potential benefits of specific routes. Keep in touch! Visit <http://4cornersfreightrail.com> for more information.



FUNDING

San Juan County was awarded \$2 million through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development or BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant program, which is administered by the US Department of Transportation. The BUILD grant program provides funding for roads, bridges, transit, rail, ports and intermodal transportation.

WHAT IS A FEASIBILITY STUDY?

During the feasibility study, the project team will identify and evaluate potential route alignments, transloading facilities and rights-of-way. Environmental impacts will be studied, as well the integration of railroad project development. In addition, public involvement will play a crucial role in the project development, as will coordination with local agencies.

The study will also produce an Economic Feasibility Analysis that will examine the freight traffic demand and other factors.