

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Q1



### What is the project?

The Uinta Basin Railway provides new transportation infrastructure that will solve the long-standing freight transportation challenges in the region by connecting to the national railway network.

This common-carrier railway will move goods in a safe and cost-effective way to enable economic stability, sustainable communities and enriched quality of life.

Q2



### Who is responsible for this project?

The Uinta Basin Railway is a preliminary public-private partnership. The Seven County Infrastructure Coalition is the public partner responsible for planning and studies, which includes environmental clearance process, preliminary design and financial modeling, and the project proponent through the environmental clearance process led by the federal lead agency.

Drexel Hamilton Infrastructure Partners is a private partner responsible for financing and commercialization of the railway. Rio Grande Pacific Corporation is a private partner responsible for design, operations and maintenance of the railway.

Q3



### What is a public-private partnership?

A public-private partnership is a unique opportunity for collaboration to fund, build and operate important infrastructure projects. This creative preliminary partnership allows an important project like the Uinta Basin Railway to move forward faster.

Q4



### Why is this project needed?

Freight transportation is currently limited to large trucks traveling on two-lane highways with intermittent passing lanes. This can lead to increased congestion, maintenance costs, safety risks and disruption of the flow of traffic by snowstorms and accidents. By connecting to the national railway network, businesses and industries in the region can move goods in a safe and cost-effective way.

Q5



### What are the benefits of this project?

The safe and cost-effective railway project is anticipated to increase economic opportunity and competitiveness for the main industries in the region including agriculture, livestock producers, miners and oil and gas producers. The railway will also enable economic stability through well-paying jobs and steady employment, creating sustainable communities where families can thrive together within the region.



Q6

 What is happening on the project now?

The Uinta Basin Railway has started the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to evaluate the feasibility of route alternatives as well as identify potential environmental impacts and mitigation options through the development of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This includes analyzing land, water and air quality, as well as community and resident impacts along the routes. The U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) is the lead federal agency that will oversee the NEPA process and prepare the EIS.

Q8

 How is this project being funded?

The project is being funded through a preliminary public-private partnership. Public funding of \$27.9 million was granted to the Coalition from the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board to pay for the planning and study of the railway. These funds come from mineral lease fees which are generated by oil and gas producers.

Private partners will finance the anticipated \$1.2-1.5 billion for construction, operation and maintenance of the railway through contracts and service fees.

Q7

 Will this project require land acquisition?

The railway is anticipated to cross public, private and potential Ute Tribal lands. The Coalition is committed to working with the STB to identify route refinements and modifications to minimize impacts where possible. The project is committed to working with any impacted landowners in a fair and equitable way.

Q9

 How can I participate in the project?

Throughout the NEPA process, there are a multiple opportunities for the public to participate and provide input. Key public participation milestones include initial scoping, the circulation of the Draft EIS and Published Final EIS. The STB oversees formal public comments for this process. Public comments or input can be submitted by visiting **[uintabasinrailwayeis.com](http://uintabasinrailwayeis.com)**.

Stay engaged and learn updated project information, by visiting the Coalition's project website or find us on social media.