



# Short Line Railroads Life Blood of Rural Georgia

Joe Arbona  
AVP, Government Affairs

October 24, 2017





# Georgia Short Line Railroads



-  Private Short Lines
-  State Short Lines

# Georgia Short Line Railroads: An Engine for Rural Job Growth



## Typical short line\*:

- Haul is only 32 miles, providing “First / Last Mile” of rail freight service
- Serves 15 customers, connecting them to the national rail network

## Great examples of restoring industrial jobs to rural Georgia:

- New Audia Group plastics manufacturing plant with 500 employees expected in Walker County. Served by Chattooga & Chickamauga Railway (CCKY) short line.
- SNF chemicals plant expansion in Riceboro. Served by Riceboro Southern Railway short line.

*\*\* American short Line and Regional Railroad Association 2017 Facts and Figures*

# Rural Short Line Shortcomings

- **Aging Bridges = Weight Restrictions**
  - Rural businesses at competitive disadvantage
- **Old Rail and Ties = Slow Speeds (10 MPH)**
  - Shipments switch from rail to trucks on congested roads and highways
  - Can also create weight restriction
- **Rail Line Abandonment = More Trucks, More Cost**
  - Without rail option, truck rates increase





# Recommendations

- **American Society of Civil Engineers\*\*:**
  - Work closely with private and GDOT-owned railroads to ensure a continual state of good repair
  - Consider funding of improvements
  - Avoid creation of abandoned rail corridors

*\*\*ASCE-GA 2014 Georgia Infrastructure Report Card - Rail*