



National Grain Car Council
Class II and Class III Railroad Panel

AUGUST 19, 2025

Industry Make-Up at a Glance

Network Size of Small Railroads

	Class II	Class III	Total
Total Route Miles	13,600	33,900	47,500
% of Route Miles	29%	71%	100%
Total RRs	24	579	603
Average Route Miles	567	59	80

Class II and III railroads provide first and last mile service and touch one in every five cars shipped in the U.S.

Source: ASLRRRA

Industry Snapshot

Class II and III railroads are economic engines for localities, particularly in small-town and rural America.



Source: ASLRRA

Class II and Class III Railroads Operate 29% of U.S. Rail Miles



Class II and Class III Railroads



- Same/similar operations as a Class I, but not as long nor always contiguous
- Most are first-mile/last-mile feeder lines
- Private and a few public companies, some quasi-governmental agencies
- Some have very long histories, 100+ years old
- Entrepreneurial spirit – continuous business development to survive
- Catalyst was Staggers Act of 1980 – light-density routes shed from Class I's
- Many small railroads started out as and some remain light density lines in need of significant infrastructure improvements



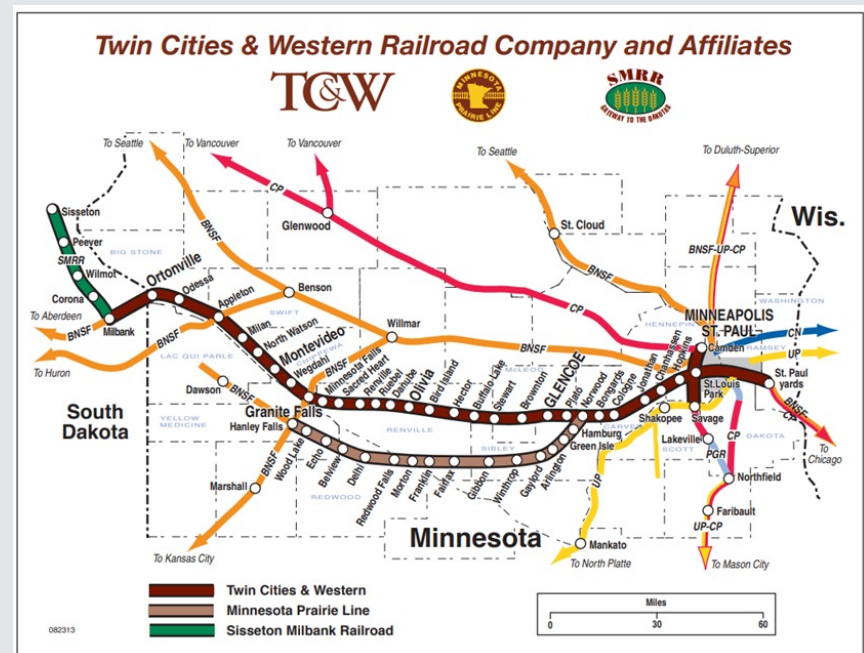
Progress

SOMETIMES IT CAN TAKE
YEARS TO GET TO THIS

Class II and III Railroads Connect Businesses and Communities to the North American Freight Rail Network

Example:

In recent years customers of TC&W, MPL and SMRR shipped products to or from over 40 U.S. States, 7 Canadian provinces, 7 states in Mexico and overseas export markets.



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