Steps Toward Full Implementation of Mandated Positive Train Control (PTC) Systems

Railroads must implement PTC on the nearly 58,000 route miles subject to the statutory mandate. As of December 31, 2018, four railroads self-reported that they fully implemented PTC systems on their required main lines, and all other railroads subject to the statutory mandate met, or surpassed, the six statutory criteria necessary to qualify for an alternative schedule by law, permitting up to two additional years to complete full implementation. With all necessary PTC system hardware installed, spectrum acquired, and testing initiated, the key remaining steps for full implementation include conducting revenue service demonstration (advanced testing on the general rail system), submitting a PTC Safety Plan and obtaining PTC System Certification from FRA, achieving interoperability between host railroads and tenant railroads, and activating the PTC system so it governs all operations on the required main lines.

![PTC Safety Plans (Only Host Railroads)](chart1)

![Route Miles Where Host Railroads’ Operations are Governed by PTC] (chart2)

![Interoperable PTC Relationships] (chart3)

$2.5 Billion

Provided by US DOT in Grants and Loans for PTC System Implementation

December 31, 2020

Statutory Deadline for Full PTC Implementation (Unless a Railroad Specified an Earlier Deadline in its PTC Implementation Plan)

¹Based on Railroads’ Self-reported Progress as of December 31, 2018