

Regional Working Group Meeting 4





WELCOME & SAFETY BRIEFING





INTRODUCTIONS





FRA OPENING REMARKS





AMTRAK OPENING REMARKS





Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Study Overview and What We've Heard
- Network Development
- Methods and Tools for Network Assessment
- Preferred Route Analysis
- Prioritization
- On-going Long-Distance Collaboration and Planning
- Closing and Next Steps





Meeting Objectives

- Review and discuss the analyses associated with each of the preferred routes:
 - Conceptual service schedules
 - High-level capital and operating and maintenance cost estimate ranges for certain types of projects
 - Public benefits analysis
- Create a shared understanding of next steps for the project



Long-Distance Service Study Regions: Stakeholder Group Meetings



Long-Distance Service Study Engagement Schedule



STUDY OVERVIEW





About the FRA Long-Distance Service Study

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 requires the FRA to conduct a study to evaluate the restoration of daily intercity rail passenger service along —

- any Amtrak Long-Distance routes that were discontinued; and
- any Amtrak Long-Distance routes that occur on a nondaily basis.
- FRA may also evaluate potential new Amtrak Long-Distance routes, including with specific attention provided to routes in service as of April 1971 but not continued by Amtrak.



Legislative Considerations for Long-Distance Service Expansion





FRA Long-Distance Service Study – Report to Congress

Preferred options for restoring or enhancing Long-Distance service

Prioritized inventory of capital projects to restore or enhance service

Federal and non-Federal funding sources

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Estimated costs and public benefits of restoring or enhancing intercity rail passenger transportation in the region impacted for each relevant Amtrak route Recommendations for methods by which Amtrak could work with local communities and organizations to develop activities and programs to continuously improve public use of intercity passenger rail service along each route.



FRA LONG-DISTANCE SERVICE STUDY

Amtrak Passenger Rail Service

- Amtrak provides passenger rail service across the nation, serving more than 500 destinations in 46 states.
- The current Amtrak network provides passenger rail service across three service lines:
 - Northeast Corridor (NEC) provides service between Boston, Massachusetts, and Washington, DC on the Northeast Regional and Acela routes; Amtrak owns most of the NEC main line, and provides high-speed service on Acela.
 - State-Supported provides service on 30 routes of not more than 750 miles through cost-sharing agreements with state partners.
 - **Long-Distance** provides service on 15 Amtrak routes over 750 miles. The federal government provides significant financial support to Amtrak for these routes.
- Both state-supported and long-distance routes primarily operate on host railroad tracks, which are not owned by Amtrak.





U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration Data provided by Amtrak, 2024

What are Amtrak Long-Distance (LD) Routes?

Frequency and	Rural	Geography	Funding	Passengers
Service	Connections			
Amtrak operates 15 LD routes. By statute, LD routes are over 750 miles; they typically operate once per day in each direction (except Cardinal and Sunset Limited), with end- to-end travel times of 12+ hours, and have coach and sleeper accommodations.	Less than 10 percent of LD riders travel end-to-end; many different origin- destination pairs in each route,* connecting urban and rural markets. Approximately 20 percent of LD riders connect to another Amtrak service.	LD routes are the only passenger rail service in 22 of the 46 states in the passenger rail network; on average, an LD route serves 29 stations and 8 states.* LD routes help form a "backbone" of the national passenger rail network.	Congress, through an annual grant to Amtrak, provides funds to offset the adjusted operating loss for LD routes – projected to be approximately \$495M in FY25.** Amtrak is prohibited from discontinuing LD routes in any year it receives adequate federal funding.	LD routes carried over 4 million passengers in 2023, who traveled 2 billion passenger miles – more than a third of total passenger miles traveled in the Amtrak system.

*Station data excludes the Auto Train; state data includes Washington, DC **Amtrak General and Legislative Annual Report & Fiscal Year 2025 Grant Request U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration

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SERVICE STUDY

Federal Funding Program Overview: Amtrak Annual Grant

- The Amtrak Annual Grant is a directed grant program that is unique in scope and purpose—Amtrak is the only eligible recipient, and funds are broadly eligible for use to support Amtrak's activities. FRA administers the grant, and available funding changes year-to-year based on Congressional appropriations.
- Amtrak's funds are administered via two grants: one for Amtrak's Northeast Corridor Account and one for Amtrak's National Network Account.
- Annual Grant funds are often used for:
 - Capital improvement projects and annual maintenance activities
 - Debt service payments
 - Operating expenses on the National Network
 - ✓ Long-Distance Routes: Funds are typically used to offset operating losses on existing routes
 - State-Supported Routes: Amtrak has cost-sharing agreements with state partners, but federal funds are used for certain expenses on these routes





Federal Funding Program Overview: BIL Advance Appropriations



From FY22-FY26







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FRA Discretionary Grant Programs: BIL Advance Appropriations

Programs	Purpose	Advanced Appropriations
Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)	To fund projects that improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail.	\$5 billion (\$1 billion annually)
Railroad Crossing Elimination (New)	To promote highway-rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods.	\$3 billion (\$600 million annually)
Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail (Significantly Changed)	To fund capital projects that reduce the state of good repair backlog, improve performance, or expand or establish new intercity passenger rail service, including privately operated intercity passenger rail service if an eligible applicant is involved.	\$36 billion (\$7.2 billion annually)
Restoration & Enhancement	To provide operating assistance to initiate, restore, or enhance intercity passenger rail service.	\$250 million (\$50 million annually from Amtrak National Network fund)
Interstate Rail Compacts (New)	This program will provide funding for interstate rail compacts' administrative costs and railroad systems planning, promotion of intercity passenger rail operations, and the preparation of grant applications.	\$15 million (\$3 million annually from Amtrak National Network fund)



Overview of Long-Distance Service Study Scope

- Plan and execute agency, stakeholder and public engagement
- Review previous Long-Distance services
- Assess current Long-Distance services and travel market
- Develop study methods and tools
- Develop restoration and expansion concepts
- Identify preferred options and prioritization
- Develop costs, benefits, and financing information
- Identify final recommendations and implementation strategies
- Issue final report





Long-Distance Service Study Approach

Amtrak Non-Daily (Cardinal & Sunset Limited) Routes

Evaluate existing conditions & requirements to restore to daily service

Consider & recommend daily service restoration plan





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SERVICE STUDY

<u>What this Study IS</u>	<u>What this Study IS NOT</u>	
Focused on Long-Distance Network	A "National Rail Plan"	
Assessment of routes over 750 miles	Assessment of State-Supported routes	
Focused on Amtrak as service provider	Identifying other service providers	
Service frequencies to meet Long-Distance markets	High frequency service	
Utilization of existing rail corridors	Identifying new "greenfield" alignments	
Conventional rail/technology	High-speed or other emerging technologies	





Long-Distance Service Study Technical Outputs

- Develop market demand and operations and maintenance (O&M) costs that emphasize the benefits and costs of both the existing and an expanded longdistance network
 - Includes developing demand, revenue, and O&M cost estimates for specific routes under consideration

Identify certain types of passenger service-required projects

- Passenger service-required projects identified for this study include track upgrades to track class 4 and supporting signalization and PTC, passenger stations, maintenance facilities, and rolling stock
- Projects will be included as part of "prioritized inventory" required by the legislation
- Decision to focus on identifying these types of projects was based on feedback from host railroads during initial outreach
- Estimated cost ranges of passenger service-required projects will be identified
- Total capital costs for preferred routes will **not** be identified





Capital Cost Estimating for Selected Passenger Service-Required Projects





Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities

- Establishes options for potential future long-distance service, in response to legislative requirements, examining broad needs, challenges, and opportunities.
- Identifies regions where potential new service could provide economic and social benefits.
- Demonstrates support for restoring long-distance intercity passenger rail services and exploring the creation of new long-distance routes.
- Satisfies an early step in the FRA project lifecycle to identify actions needed to enhance long-distance service.

- Documents high-level analysis. Substantial additional analysis and resources are required prior to implementation.
- Identifies only certain passenger service-required capital projects. Future identification and analysis of additional capital projects, including those related to capacity, requires additional time and resources, including coordination with host railroads and other stakeholders.
- Requires significant unidentified funding for planning, infrastructure improvements, fleet needs, and ongoing operating support.

Challenges

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SERVICE STUDY

Long-Distance Service Study in the FRA Project Lifecycle Stages



FRA Long-Distance Service Study





Long-Distance Service Study in the FRA Project Lifecycle Stages

Key Systems and Project Planning Tasks <u>Undertaken by the Study</u>

- Create a foundation for further planning of potential future long-distance services
- Examine broad needs, challenges, and opportunities
- Consider links with other transportation modes
- ✓ Identify selected passenger service required projects, including their respective costs and benefits

Key Project Planning Tasks Subject to Additional Analysis AFTER the Study

- Route, service, and passenger servicerequired project recommendations are subject to further development and refinement under subsequent detailed project planning and project development efforts
- Identify potential capacity related improvements and operational issues associated with the proposed routes
- Develop conceptual engineering concepts



Corridor Identification and Development Program Overview



SERVICE STUDY

Nexus between the Long-Distance Service Study and Corridor ID Program

- Corridor ID eligibility includes both short-distance (less than 750 miles) services, along with increasing the frequency of long-distance service, and restoring service over any route formerly operated by Amtrak.
- Long-distance service corridors selected into Corridor ID include:
 - Daily Cardinal Service (Amtrak) Increase service frequency of a long-distance route
 - Daily Sunset Limited Service (Amtrak) Increase service frequency of a long-distance route
 - North Coast Hiawatha (Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority) Restoration of service over all or portions of an intercity passenger rail route formerly operated by Amtrak

FY 22 Corridor ID Selections



WHAT WE HEARD





Ideas for Ongoing Long-Distance Planning & Collaboration

Ongoing Long-Distance Planning

- FRA is considering ideas for a recurring, high-level long-distance planning process, potentially updated approximately every five years.
- This process, led by FRA, could be similar to State Rail Plans or other comparable transportation investment plans, focusing on the status and needs of current Amtrak long-distance service, as well as needs for potential future service.

Ongoing Long-Distance Collaboration

- FRA is considering ideas for a new Long-Distance Public Committee, which may need to be established by Congress.
- This committee could focus on **ongoing feedback for current Amtrak long-distance service**, including engagement / marketing, customer service, and other policy discussions.
- FRA heard significant support for these ideas during regional working group meetings earlier this year and will continue to consider these ideas.



Over 47,000 Comments Received - AI Methodology

- Public and stakeholder comments were collected from February 6 March 11
 - Submitted via emails, letters, and a webform
 - Over 47,000 comments received
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) was used to analyze the comments received and identify preferred routes and geographies (cities, states) mentioned
- Steps in the AI analysis process included:
 - Validating Data: a random sample of comments was reviewed to confirm the AI analysis matched the human analysis
 - Tuning Responses: AI prompts were tested until performance was acceptable
 - Reviewing: AI processed all comments and summarized results







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Over 47,000 Comments Received



- Restoration of Discontinued Long-Distance Routes
- Potential New Long-Distance Service
- Current Long-Distance Service
- Prioritization and Implementation
- Costs and Funding
- Public and Stakeholder Involvement

Comments by Topic





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Stakeholder and Public Comment Takeaways

- 99% of comments were supportive of long-distance passenger rail in the United States.
- 23% of the comments simply offered support for passenger rail.
- Some cities that are not included on a preferred route generated many comments and support for consideration. These cities will be discussed later in the presentation.




NETWORK DEVELOPMENT









Data provided by Amtrak, 2024



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Existing Route and Station Data provided by Amtrak 2024; Baseline Projects Data provided by FRA 2024



U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration Existing Route and Station Data provided by Amtrak 2024; Baseline Projects Data provided by FRA 2024



Existing Route and Station Data provided by Amtrak 2024; Baseline Projects Data provided by FRA 2024

METHODS AND TOOLS FOR NETWORK ASSESSMENT





Methods and Tools for Network Assessment



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SERVICE STUDY

CONCEPTUAL SERVICE SCHEDULES & NETWORK ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY





Methods and Tools



Substantial additional planning after completion of this study would be needed to determine actual service plans.

Conceptual Service Schedules & Network Analysis

- Purpose: Analyze and develop conceptual service schedules with approximate departure and arrival times for each preferred route to support investment analysis.
 - ✓ Develop conceptual service schedules
 - ✓ Analyze the network connections and travel time savings
- Conceptual service schedules are not proposals for service, and do not consider existing or future traffic conditions along the routes, or site-specific conditions such as steep grades.

Identified potential station locations for each preferred route

Used **existing longdistance station** locations

Quantify the number of **new stations** where preferred routes expand the long-distance network

- Station spacing of approximately every 50 miles*
- City population greater than 5,000 people
- Used station locations of statesupported routes and discontinued long-distance routes and that met this criteria

Added **new stations** where a preferred route intersected an existing long-distance route where there wasn't an existing station

*Based on the average station spacing of Amtrak longdistance service for fiscal year 2022: average of 42 miles east of the Mississippi River, average of 70 miles west of the Mississippi River.

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SERVICE STUDY

Estimated conceptual run times for each preferred route

Segments with Current Passenger Rail Service			Conceptual Run
Use the current schedule	New Segments		Times for a Preferred Route
	Estimate travel time based on:		
	 Distance between stations Average speed of 48 miles per hour between stations* Average 4 minutes of dwell time at stations* Average 20 minutes dwell time at stations with crew base and enroute servicing activities* 		Conceptual run times do not consider existing or future traffic conditions along the routes, or site- specific conditions such as steep grades.
	*Based on the average for fiscal year 2022		

Amtrak long-distance service schedules.

Developed conceptual service schedules for each preferred route

Analyzed all departure times in a 24-hour period

Selected departure times from the terminals:

Provided daytime departures from terminal stations Selected conceptual departure times to maximize daytime service for the highest population market pairs on the preferred route* Minimized nighttime service for existing longdistance stations with only nighttime service that are served by a preferred route

Daytime 5:00 a.m. – 10:59 p.m.

- 5:00 a.m. 7:59 a.m. early morning
- 8:00 a.m. 10:59 a.m. late morning
- 11:00 a.m. 12:59 p.m. midday
- 1:00 p.m. 3:59 p.m. early afternoon
- 4:00 p.m. 5:59 p.m. late afternoon
- 6:00 p.m. 8:59 p.m. early evening
- 9:00 p.m. 10:59 p.m. late evening

Nighttime 11:00 p.m. – 4:59 a.m.

One train a day in each direction

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*Based on an analysis of the metropolitan statistical area or micropolitan statistical area census population and the travel time between each origin-destination station pair on the preferred route.



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- Conceptual service schedules for preferred routes are:
 - Conceptual and for analysis purposes only. They are not an FRA proposal for service.
 - Consistent with the schedules of the existing long-distance routes
 - Consistent with existing long-distance route frequencies: one train a day in each direction
 - Based on schedules for existing long-distance routes and do not consider existing or future traffic conditions or site-specific conditions such as steep grades along the preferred routes
- Conceptual service schedules support analysis of the people and places served by the preferred routes:
 - Catchment area around stations identified for the preferred route
 - \checkmark 30-mile radius where the station is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)
 - \checkmark 50-mile radius where the station is in a non-MSA area





Methodology for Network Analysis

 The baseline network was compared to the conceptual schedules developed for the preferred network, to highlight potential service improvements of the preferred network

Analyze the baseline network (stations, routes, schedules) Analyze the Calculate the preferred network (stations, routes, schedules) Calculate the number of station pairs accessible in both networks

Calculate the travel time for all station pairs accessible in both networks Results

Number of new station pairs accessible by preferred route

Travel time improvements by preferred route

50

Includes up to 2 transfers, with transfer times between 1 and 12 hours





Methodology for Network Analysis

 Potential average travel time improvements for existing station pairs when using the preferred network compared to the baseline network, based on conceptual service schedules

Total number of station pairs with improved travel time



Average improved travel time to station pairs with improved travel times



Average improved travel time by preferred route





COST ESTIMATING METHODOLOGY





Methods and Tools



Selected Passenger Service-Required Projects:

- Passenger Rail Route Infrastructure
- Stations and Maintenance Facilities
- Vehicles (Rolling Stock)

Cost Estimating

 Purpose: Estimate selected passenger service-required capital project costs and operating and maintenance (O&M) costs of each preferred route as an input for public benefits analysis.

Public Benefits Analysis

- Purpose: Estimate the public benefits of constructing selected passenger servicerequired capital projects and operating the preferred routes.
 - ✓ Safety
 - Rail accessibility
 - ✓ Equity
 - ✓ Jobs and earnings





Selected Passenger Service-Required Capital Projects

Provides high-level cost estimating to support early planning activities

Includes 35% allocated contingency to address project risks

Estimates selected passenger-service required project costs

- Track upgrades
- Signalization and Positive Train Control (PTC)

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- Stations
- Maintenance facilitiesVehicles



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Capital Cost Estimating for Selected Passenger Service-Required Projects

Passenger Rail Route Infrastructure

Track Upgrades

- Upgrade to FRA track class 4
- New track connections to connect the end-to-end route

Signalization and PTC

- Add signaling and PTC to support FRA track class 4 passenger rail operations
- New connections for the endto-end route

Stations and Maintenance Facilities

Stations

- New stations and terminals
- Improvements at existing stations to accommodate preferred routes

Maintenance facilities

- New maintenance facilities
- Additional yard tracks at existing facilities
- Enroute servicing

Vehicles

Rolling Stock

- Single level equipment for preferred routes that would operate on the NEC
- Bi-level equipment for other preferred routes

Professional Services

Programmatic costs based on the costs of passenger rail route infrastructure and stations and maintenance facilities





One Night Route	Two Night Route	
2 locomotives	2 locomotives	
1 baggage	1 baggage	
3 sleepers	3 sleepers	
1 diner	1 diner	
1 lounge (café/sightseer)	1 lounge (café/sightseer)	
3 coaches	4 coaches	
	1 transition/sleeper	

Source: Amtrak FY2019 consist data

- Consists for the preferred routes based on conceptual service schedules
- Represent the maximum typical length for vehicle acquisition costs
- Number of trainsets for each preferred route calculated from:
 - Runtime + layover time divided by headway of 24 hours
 - Layover time is assumed to be 8 hours

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• Includes spare vehicles (25%)





Consist Estimates Used

Preferred Route	Number of Nights	Number of Trainsets	
Chicago - Miami	2-night	5	
Dallas/Fort Worth - Miami	1-night	5	
Denver - Houston	1-night	4	
Los Angeles - Denver	1-night	5	
Phoenix - Minneapolis/St. Paul	2-night	7	
Dallas/Fort Worth - New York	2-night	7 (single-level equipment)	
Houston - New York	2-night	7 (single-level equipment)	
Seattle - Denver	2-night	5	
San Antonio - Minneapolis/St. Paul	1-night	5	
San Francisco - Dallas/Fort Worth	2-night	7	
Denver - Minneapolis/St. Paul	1-night	4	
Seattle - Chicago	2-night	7	
Detroit - New Orleans	1-night	4	
Dallas/Fort Worth - Atlanta	1-night	4	
El Paso - Billings	1-night	5	
Daily Cardinal	1-night	4 (2 additional trainsets)	
Daily Sunset Limited	2-night	7 (4 additional trainsets)	

 Bi-level equipment consistent with existing longdistance routes

- Preferred routes on the Northeast Corridor would use compatible single-level equipment
- Cardinal and Sunset Limited require additional trainsets for daily operations





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Capital Cost Estimating for Selected Passenger Service-Required Projects

- Does not include capacity improvements to accommodate existing or future traffic, structural improvements, grade crossing improvements, and freight railroad onboard PTC improvements
- Cost estimates reported in 2025-year dollars
- The high-cost estimate includes an additional 30% unallocated contingency over and above the low-cost estimate to account for unforeseen circumstances that impact project delivery
- The values will represent high-level cost estimates to support early planning
- Substantial additional planning and analysis would be required for further refinement and accuracy



Capital Cost Estimating for Selected Passenger Service-Required Projects





Operating & Maintenance Cost Methodology

- Based on Amtrak Performance Tracking statistics for fiscal year 2019
- Estimate O&M costs for marginal costs of the preferred routes based on conceptual service schedules:
 - Run times
 - Frequency
 - Number of vehicles
- Fixed costs would remain unchanged

MARGINAL COSTS

Costs vary by the level of service provided

- Boardings
- Locomotive Miles
- Locomotive Trips
- Coach, Food Service, Sleeper Car Hours
- Passenger Car Trips

- Non-Shared Staffed Stations
- Train Hours
- Train Miles
- Locomotive Days
- Passenger Car Days



Operating & Maintenance Cost Methodology

- Cost estimates reported in 2025-year dollars
- The low- and high-range of cost estimates reflect the variation in marginal unit costs by operating statistic of existing long-distance routes
- The values will represent high-level cost estimates to support early planning
- Substantial additional planning and analysis would be required for further refinement and accuracy



PUBLIC BENEFITS ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY





Public Benefits Analysis

- The Report to Congress must include the estimated public benefits of restoring or enhancing intercity passenger rail transportation in the region impacted along relevant routes
- What is a public benefits analysis?

Not formally defined by U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Public benefits analysis is described in FRA guidance for State Rail Plans Not a benefit-cost analysis

Identify the beneficial outcomes from the construction, operation, availability, and use of the preferred routes in an expanded preferred network in terms of:

Safety benefits

Equity

Rail accessibility

Jobs and earnings

Estimate the potential benefits of constructing selected passenger servicerequired projects and operating the preferred routes





Public Benefits Analysis Methodology



Jobs and earnings from the construction of preferred routes does not include other potential capital projects not identified by this study, including track capacity and operational improvement projects.



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Equity

Identify the potential change in access to long-distance passenger rail service

Analyze the additional population within the catchment areas of a preferred route

30-mile radius where the station is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), 50-mile radius where the station is in a non-MSA area. Results: Additional people that could have access by preferred route

- Population served
- Rural population
- •Rural population in areas of persistent poverty
- Rural population in transportation disadvantaged communities
- Rural population in health disadvantaged communities
- Population on tribal lands

Transportation Disadvantaged: U.S. DOT Justice40 Initiative: ACS Data (2015-2019 5-year estimates, 2010 Census Tract Shapefiles). Health Disadvantaged: U.S. DOT Justice40 Initiative: ACS Data (2015-2019 5-year estimates, 2010 Census Tract Shapefiles). Areas of Persistent Poverty: Census tracts with a poverty rate of at least 20 percent as measured by the 2014–2018 5-year data series available from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census. Tribal Lands: American Indian and Alaska Native Land, American Indian Tribal Subdivisions, Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Boundaries, Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas.



Rail Accessibility

 Identify the potential change in access to institutions from the long-distance passenger rail service

Analyze the additional institutions or services within the catchment areas of a preferred route

30-mile radius where the station is in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), 50-mile radius where the station is in a non-MSA area. Results: Potential number of additional institutions accessible by preferred route

- Medical centers
- Higher education institutions
- Historically black colleges and universities
- Military installations
- •National Park Service (NPS) lands

Medical centers include Level I/Level II Trauma, Cancer centers, Veteran centers. Higher education institutions public and private not-for-profit higher education institutions. Military installations include all Department of Defense sites, including installations, ranges, training areas, bases, forts, camps, armories. NPS lands include national parks, recreation areas, and preserves.



Jobs and Earnings

 Identify the potential number of jobs and amount of earnings from constructing and operating each preferred route.

Analyze the selected passenger servicerequired capital project costs and O&M costs of each preferred route Results: Potential number of additional jobs and earnings by preferred route

- Potential jobs supported by long-distance passenger rail construction
- Potential earnings supported by long-distance passenger rail construction
- Potential annual jobs supported by operations
- Potential annual earnings supported by operations

RIMS II multipliers from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis to estimate jobs and earnings (2023) Includes direct, indirect, and induced impacts.





Safety

 Identify the potential number of crashes avoided by shifting passengers from auto and bus to rail.

Analyze the NextGen travel demand data for each preferred route

2022 Next-Generation (NextGen) National Household Travel Survey (NHTS) National Passenger Origin-Destination Data. Results: Potential change in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and crashes avoided

- Potential change in auto and bus travel to rail (annual VMT)
- Potential change in the number of fatal, non-fatal, and property damage crashes avoided annually

Bureau of Transportation Statistics data on the crash rate per 100,000,000 miles for highway and the crash rate for passenger rail (2023)





PREFERRED ROUTE ANALYSIS





Inclusion of Cardinal and Sunset Limited

- This study is required to evaluate the restoration of daily passenger rail service along any long-distance routes that occur on a nondaily basis.
- The restoration of daily Cardinal and Sunset Limited passenger rail service is assumed when identifying the proposed network of preferred routes.
- Daily Cardinal and Daily Sunset Limited passenger rail service were selected into the Corridor ID Program in 2023 for advancing project planning activities, not implementation.





Sunset Limited: Los Angeles-New Orleans












- Chicago Miami
- Dallas/Fort Worth Miami
- Denver Houston
- Los Angeles Denver
- Phoenix Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Dallas/Fort Worth New York
- Houston New York
- Seattle Denver
- San Antonio Minneapolis/St. Paul
- San Francisco Dallas/Fort Worth
- Detroit New Orleans
- Denver Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Seattle Chicago
- Dallas/Fort Worth Atlanta
- El Paso Billings



Northeast Region

• Dallas/Fort Worth - New York

- o Oklahoma City
- o St. Louis
- o Columbus
- o Pittsburgh
- o Harrisburg
- o Lancaster

• Houston - New York

- o New Orleans
- Montgomery
- o Atlanta
- o Chattanooga
- o Roanoke
- Washington DC



- Chicago Miami
- Dallas/Fort Worth Miami
- Denver Houston
- Los Angeles Denver
- Phoenix Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Dallas/Fort Worth New York
- Houston New York
- Seattle Denver
- San Antonio Minneapolis/St. Paul
- San Francisco Dallas/Fort Worth
- Detroit New Orleans
- Denver Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Seattle Chicago
- Dallas/Fort Worth Atlanta
- El Paso Billings



Midwest Region

- Chicago Miami
- Phoenix Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Dallas/Fort Worth New York
- San Antonio Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Detroit New Orleans
- Denver Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Seattle Chicago



- Chicago Miami
- Dallas/Fort Worth Miami
- Denver Houston
- Los Angeles Denver
- Phoenix Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Dallas/Fort Worth New York
- Houston New York
- Seattle Denver
- San Antonio Minneapolis/St. Paul
- San Francisco Dallas/Fort Worth
- Detroit New Orleans
- Denver Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Seattle Chicago
- Dallas/Fort Worth Atlanta
- El Paso Billings



Northwest Region

- Denver Houston
- Los Angeles Denver
- Seattle Denver
- Denver Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Seattle Chicago
- El Paso Billings



- Chicago Miami
- Dallas/Fort Worth Miami
- Denver Houston
- Los Angeles Denver
- Phoenix Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Dallas/Fort Worth New York
- Houston New York
- Seattle Denver
- San Antonio Minneapolis/St. Paul
- San Francisco Dallas/Fort Worth
- Detroit New Orleans
- Denver Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Seattle Chicago
- Dallas/Fort Worth Atlanta
- El Paso Billings



Southwest Region

- Denver Houston
- Los Angeles Denver
- Phoenix Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Seattle Denver
- San Francisco Dallas/Fort Worth
- Denver Minneapolis/St. Paul
- El Paso Billings



- Chicago Miami
- Dallas/Fort Worth Miami
- Denver Houston
- Los Angeles Denver
- Phoenix Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Dallas/Fort Worth New York
- Houston New York
- Seattle Denver
- San Antonio Minneapolis/St. Paul
- San Francisco Dallas/Fort Worth
- Detroit New Orleans
- Denver Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Seattle Chicago
- Dallas/Fort Worth Atlanta
- El Paso Billings



Central Region

- Dallas/Fort Worth Miami
- Denver Houston
- Phoenix Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Dallas/Fort Worth New York
- Houston New York
- San Antonio Minneapolis/St. Paul
- San Francisco Dallas/Fort Worth
- Detroit New Orleans
- Dallas/Fort Worth Atlanta
- El Paso Billings



- Chicago Miami
- Dallas/Fort Worth Miami
- Denver Houston
- Los Angeles Denver
- Phoenix Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Dallas/Fort Worth New York
- Houston New York
- Seattle Denver
- San Antonio Minneapolis/St. Paul
- San Francisco Dallas/Fort Worth
- Detroit New Orleans
- Denver Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Seattle Chicago
- Dallas/Fort Worth Atlanta
- El Paso Billings



Southeast Region

- Chicago Miami
- Dallas/Fort Worth Miami
- Houston New York
- Detroit New Orleans
- Dallas/Fort Worth Atlanta



CHICAGO - MIAMI





Chicago - Miami

Conceptual Service Overview

Not an FRA proposal for service

Route Service Metrics		
Scheduled run time	avg. of both directions	approx. 36 hours
Route length	avg. of both directions	1,531 miles
Chicago, IL departure time	local time	late morning
Miami, FL arrival time	local time	late evening ⁺¹
Miami, FL departure time	local time	early afternoon
Chicago, IL arrival time	local time	nighttime ⁺²
Average travel time improvements	hours	11
Route Stations		
Total number of stations	count of stations	37
Stations in small communities	count of stations	5
Existing stations adding new service	count of stations	21

Average travel time improvements are for existing OD pairs when using a new route compared to an existing route

Daytime = 5:00 a.m.-10:59 p.m. (5 a.m.-7:59 a.m. early morning; 8 a.m.-10:59 a.m. late morning; 11 a.m.-12:59 p.m. midday; 1 p.m.-3:59 p.m. early afternoon; 4 p.m.-5:59 p.m. late afternoon; 6 p.m.-8:59 p.m. early evening; 9 p.m.-10:59 p.m. late evening). Nighttime = 11 p.m.-4:59 a.m.

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration



Legend Some Arrivals at Night All Arrivals at Night Station Terminal Connecting Existing Amtrak Rail Service Connecting Preferred Route

Some arrivals at night depends on direction. All existing stations and new stations in cities with over 50K people are labeled.

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Further analysis and identification of funding after completion of this study would be necessary to advance the preferred routes through project planning and project development activities, including detailed schedule development.











DALLAS/FORT WORTH - MIAMI





Dallas/Fort Worth - Miami

Conceptual Service Overview

Not an FRA proposal for service

Route Service Metrics		
Scheduled run time	avg. of both directions	approx. 36 hours
Route length	avg. of both directions	1,507 miles
Fort Worth, TX departure time	local time	early morning
Miami, FL arrival time	local time	late afternoon ⁺¹
Miami, FL departure time	local time	midday
Fort Worth, TX arrival time	local time	late evening ⁺¹
Average travel time improvements	hours	13
Route Stations		
Total number of stations	count of stations	35
Stations in small communities	count of stations	5
Existing stations adding new service	count of stations	17

Average travel time improvements are for existing OD pairs when using a new route compared to an existing route

Daytime = 5:00 a.m.-10:59 p.m. (5 a.m.-7:59 a.m. early morning; 8 a.m.-10:59 a.m. late morning; 11 a.m.-12:59 p.m. midday; 1 p.m.-3:59 p.m. early afternoon; 4 p.m.-5:59 p.m. late afternoon; 6 p.m.-8:59 p.m. early evening; 9 p.m. -10:59 p.m. late evening). Nighttime = 11 p.m. -4:59 a.m.

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration



Some Arrivals at Night All Arrivals at Night Station Terminal Connecting Existing Amtrak Rail Service Connecting Preferred Route

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DENVER - HOUSTON





Denver - Houston

Conceptual Service Overview

Not an FRA proposal for service

Route Service Metrics		
Scheduled run time	avg. of both directions	approx. 25 hours
Route length	avg. of both directions	1,088 miles
Denver, CO departure time	local time	early evening
Houston, TX arrival time	local time	early evening ⁺¹
Houston, TX departure time	local time	early morning
Denver, CO arrival time	local time	early morning ⁺¹
Average travel time improvements	hours	15
Route Stations		
Total number of stations	count of stations	21
Stations in small communities	count of stations	9
Existing stations adding new service	count of stations	5

Average travel time improvements are for existing OD pairs when using a new route compared to an existing route

Daytime = 5:00 a.m.-10:59 p.m. (5 a.m.-7:59 a.m. early morning; 8 a.m.-10:59 a.m. late morning; 11 a.m.-12:59 p.m. midday; 1 p.m.-3:59 p.m. early afternoon; 4 p.m.-5:59 p.m. late afternoon; 6 p.m.-8:59 p.m. early evening; 9 p.m.-10:59 p.m. late evening). Nighttime = 11 p.m.-4:59 a.m.

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration



Legend Image: Some Arrivals at Night Image: All Arrivals at Night Image: Station Image: Terminal Image: Connecting Existing Amtrak Rail Service Image: Connecting Preferred Route

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LOS ANGELES - DENVER





Los Angeles - Denver

Conceptual Service Overview

Not an FRA proposal for service

Route Service Metrics		
Scheduled run time	avg. of both directions	approx. 33 hours
Route length	avg. of both directions	1,423 miles
Los Angeles, CA departure time	local time	midday
Denver, CO arrival time	local time	late evening ⁺¹
Denver, CO departure time	local time	early morning
Los Angeles, CA arrival time	local time	early afternoon ⁺¹
Average travel time improvements	hours	24.5
Route Stations		
Total number of stations	count of stations	24
Stations in small communities	count of stations	7
Existing stations adding new service	count of stations	9

Average travel time improvements are for existing OD pairs when using a new route compared to an existing route

Daytime = 5:00 a.m.-10:59 p.m. (5 a.m.-7:59 a.m. early morning; 8 a.m.-10:59 a.m. late morning; 11 a.m.-12:59 p.m. midday; 1 p.m.-3:59 p.m. early afternoon; 4 p.m.-5:59 p.m. late afternoon; 6 p.m.-8:59 p.m. early evening; 9 p.m.-10:59 p.m. late evening). Nighttime = 11 p.m.-4:59 a.m.















PHOENIX - MINNEAPOLIS/ ST. PAUL





Phoenix - Minneapolis/St. Paul

Conceptual Service Overview

Not an FRA proposal for service

Route Service Metrics		
Scheduled run time	avg. of both directions	approx. 47 hours
Route length	avg. of both directions	2,135 miles
Phoenix, AZ departure time	local time	early afternoon
St. Paul, MN arrival time	local time	early afternoon ⁺²
St. Paul, MN departure time	local time	early morning
Phoenix, AZ arrival time	local time	nighttime ⁺²
Average travel time improvements	hours	19.5
Route Stations		
Total number of stations	count of stations	32
Stations in small communities	count of stations	14
Existing stations adding new service	count of stations	9

Average travel time improvements are for existing OD pairs when using a new route compared to an existing route

 $\begin{array}{l} \text{Daytime} = 5:00 \text{ a.m.-}10:59 \text{ p.m.} (5 \text{ a.m.-}7:59 \text{ a.m.} \text{ early morning; 8 a.m.-}10:59 \text{ a.m.} \text{ late morning; 11} \\ \text{a.m.-}12:59 \text{ p.m.} \text{ midday; 1 p.m.-}3:59 \text{ p.m.} \text{ early afternoon; 4 p.m.-}5:59 \text{ p.m.} \text{ late afternoon; 6 p.m.-} \\ \text{8:59 p.m.} \text{ early evening; 9 p.m.-}10:59 \text{ p.m.} \text{ late evening)}. \text{ Nighttime} = 11 \text{ p.m.-}4:59 \text{ a.m.} \end{array}$

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U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration



Legend Image: Some Arrivals at Night Image: All Arrivals at Night Image: Station Image: Terminal Image: Connecting Existing Amtrak Rail Service Image: Connecting Preferred Route

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Further analysis and identification of funding after completion of this study would be necessary to advance the preferred routes through project planning and project development activities, including detailed schedule development.

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FRA LONG-DISTANCE SERVICE STUDY











DALLAS/FORT WORTH -NEW YORK





Dallas/Fort Worth - New York

Conceptual Service Overview

Not an FRA proposal for service

Route Service Metrics		
Scheduled run time	avg. of both directions	approx. 44 hours
Route length	avg. of both directions	1,907 miles
Dallas, TX departure time	local time	midday
New York, NY arrival time	local time	late morning ⁺²
New York, NY departure time	local time	late afternoon
Dallas, TX arrival time	local time	midday ⁺²
Average travel time improvements	hours	7
Route Stations		
Total number of stations	count of stations	33
Stations in small communities	count of stations	3
Existing stations adding new service	count of stations	17

Average travel time improvements are for existing OD pairs when using a new route compared to an existing route

Daytime = 5:00 a.m.-10:59 p.m. (5 a.m.-7:59 a.m. early morning; 8 a.m.-10:59 a.m. late morning; 11 a.m.-12:59 p.m. midday; 1 p.m.-3:59 p.m. early afternoon; 4 p.m.-5:59 p.m. late afternoon; 6 p.m.-8:59 p.m. early evening; 9 p.m. -10:59 p.m. late evening). Nighttime = 11 p.m. -4:59 a.m.

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration





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HOUSTON - NEW YORK





Houston - New York

Conceptual Service Overview

Not an FRA proposal for service

Route Service Metrics		
Scheduled run time	avg. of both directions	approx. 43 hours
Route length	avg. of both directions	1,841 miles
Houston, TX departure time	local time	early evening
New York, NY arrival time	local time	late afternoon ⁺²
New York, NY departure time	local time	early afternoon
Houston, TX arrival time	local time	early morning ⁺²
Average travel time improvements	hours	13
Route Stations		
Total number of stations	count of stations	42
Stations in small communities	count of stations	5
Existing stations adding new service	count of stations	26

Average travel time improvements are for existing OD pairs when using a new route compared to an existing route

 $\begin{array}{l} \text{Daytime} = 5:00 \text{ a.m.}-10:59 \text{ p.m.} (5 \text{ a.m.}-7:59 \text{ a.m.} \text{ early morning; 8 a.m.}-10:59 \text{ a.m.} \text{ late morning; 11} \\ \text{a.m.}-12:59 \text{ p.m.} \text{ midday; 1 p.m.}-3:59 \text{ p.m.} \text{ early afternoon; 4 p.m.}-5:59 \text{ p.m.} \text{ late afternoon; 6 p.m.}-8:59 \text{ p.m.} \text{ early evening; 9 p.m.}-10:59 \text{ p.m.} \text{ late evening)}. \\ \text{Nighttime} = 11 \text{ p.m.}-4:59 \text{ a.m.}. \end{array}$

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration





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South Dakota Houston - New York



Wisconsin

Michigan

U.S. Department of Transportation **Federal Railroad Administration** Albany

New York

Boston





 Preferred Route: Houston – New York
 Stations in Cities with Populations over 50K: Houston – New York

proposal for

service

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration Florida

SEATTLE - DENVER





Seattle - Denver

Conceptual Service Overview

Not an FRA proposal for service

Route Service Metrics		
Scheduled run time	avg. of both directions	approx. 40 hours
Route length	avg. of both directions	1,647 miles
Seattle, WA departure time	local time	early morning
Denver, CO arrival time	local time	late evening ⁺¹
Denver, CO departure time	local time	late evening
Seattle, WA arrival time	local time	midday ⁺²
Average travel time improvements	hours	18
Route Stations		
Total number of stations	count of stations	29
Stations in small communities	count of stations	8
Existing stations adding new service	count of stations	16

Average travel time improvements are for existing OD pairs when using a new route compared to an existing route

Daytime = 5:00 a.m.-10:59 p.m. (5 a.m.-7:59 a.m. early morning; 8 a.m.-10:59 a.m. late morning; 11 a.m.-12:59 p.m. midday; 1 p.m.-3:59 p.m. early afternoon; 4 p.m.-5:59 p.m. late afternoon; 6 p.m.-8:59 p.m. early evening; 9 p.m.-10:59 p.m. late evening). Nighttime = 11 p.m.-4:59 a.m.

Seattle Tacoma 星 Olympia-Lacey 🔒 Existing Centralia 🔒 Stations Kelso-Longview 星 WASHINGTON Vancouver 💂 OREGON Portland 层 2 2 2 OREGON IDAHO Boise 2 D ідано 🌙 Pocatello UTAH Ogden 🤗 Salt Lake City 🔒 🤗 Provo 🔒 Helper 星 Green River UTAH COLORADO Grand Junction D Glenwood Springs D Granby 🚽 Fraser 星

📀 Denver 呈



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U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration

LONG-DISTANCE SERVICE STUDY







SAN ANTONIO -MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL





San Antonio - Minneapolis/St. Paul

Conceptual Service Overview

Not an FRA proposal for service

Route Service Metrics		
Scheduled run time	avg. of both directions	approx. 32 hours
Route length	avg. of both directions	1,292 miles
San Antonio, TX departure time	local time	late morning
St. Paul, MN arrival time	local time	late afternoon ⁺¹
St. Paul, MN departure time	local time	midday
San Antonio, TX arrival time	local time	early evening ⁺¹
Average travel time improvements	hours	5
Route Stations		
Total number of stations	count of stations	28
Stations in small communities	count of stations	11
Existing stations adding new service	count of stations	10

Average travel time improvements are for existing OD pairs when using a new route compared to an existing route

Daytime = 5:00 a.m.-10:59 p.m. (5 a.m.-7:59 a.m. early morning; 8 a.m.-10:59 a.m. late morning; 11 a.m.-12:59 p.m. midday; 1 p.m.-3:59 p.m. early afternoon; 4 p.m.-5:59 p.m. late afternoon; 6 p.m.-8:59 p.m. early evening; 9 p.m.-10:59 p.m. late evening). Nighttime = 11 p.m.-4:59 a.m.





San Antonio - Minneapolis/St. Paulesota

Equity and Accessibility Minneapolis/ St. Paul **Additional Populations Served** South Dakota Wisconsin Michigan in thousands Population served 2,660 Pierre of people in thousands 810 **Rural population** Sioux Falls Milwaukee of people Rural population in Chicago in thousands lowa 290 areas of persistent poverty of people Nebraska O Des Moines Omaha Indiana Rural population that is in thousands Cheyenne 316 Lafayette Indianapolis transportation disadvantaged of people Kansas Rural population that is nvei in thousands Illinois City 365 health disadvantaged of people Columbus St Louis Kansas in thousands Population on tribal lands 1,444 Newton of people Additional Institutions Served Missouri count of 5 Medical centers Oklahoma Nashville centers Higher education count of Oklahoma 50 institutions institutions Memphis City Little Rock Amarillo Historically black colleges count of 0 Birmingham and universities institutions Arkansas count of Dallas/ Military installations 6 Fort Worth Marshall Meridian installations Jackson

Macon Savannah Georgia Montgomery count of NPS NPS Lands 0 Mobile Alabama units measured Jacksonville Temple -O Texas of discontinued Legend Tallahassee long-distance Pensacola Louisiana **Baseline Network** Austin routes restored Long-Distance, Northeast New Orleans Orlando -Corridor, State-Supported, Houston **Baseline Projects** San Antonio Not an FRA Tampa • **Preferred Routes** proposal for Preferred Routes service Preferred Route: San Antonio – Minneapolis/St. Paul Florida • Stations in Cities with Populations over 50K: San Antonio - Minneapolis/St. Paul Miami

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration Maine

Massachu

Boston

-Rhode

-New Haver

-Connecticut

-New York City

-Philadelphia

—New Jersev

-Delaware

-Maryland

-Washington DC

0 miles

Lorton

Petersburg

Vermont New Hampshire

Albany

New York

Buffalo

Pittsburgh

Pennsylvania

Further analysis and identification of

funding after completion of this study

would be necessary to advance the

preferred routes through project

planning and project development

activities, including detailed

schedule development.

Detroit

Ohio

-Cincinnati

Louisville

Tennessee

Kentucky

Chatta

Ashland

Columbus

Cleveland

Virginia

Lynchburg





SAN FRANCISCO -DALLAS/FORT WORTH



San Francisco - Dallas/Fort Worth

Conceptual Service Overview

Not an FRA proposal for service

Route Service Metrics		
Scheduled run time	avg. of both directions	approx. 42 hours
Route length	avg. of both directions	1,906 miles
Emeryville, CA departure time	local time	Midday
Dallas, TX arrival time	local time	early morning ⁺²
Dallas, TX departure time	local time	early morning
Emeryville, CA arrival time	local time	late evning ⁺¹
Average travel time improvements	hours	14
Route Stations		
Total number of stations	count of stations	29
Stations in small communities	count of stations	5
Existing stations adding new service	count of stations	16

Average travel time improvements are for existing OD pairs when using a new route compared to an existing route

Daytime = 5:00 a.m.-10:59 p.m. (5 a.m.-7:59 a.m. early morning; 8 a.m.-10:59 a.m. late morning; 11 a.m.-12:59 p.m. midday; 1 p.m.-3:59 p.m. early afternoon; 4 p.m.-5:59 p.m. late afternoon; 6 p.m.-8:59 p.m. early evening; 9 p.m.-10:59 p.m. late evening). Nighttime = 11 p.m.-4:59 a.m.

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U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration





Some arrivals at night depends on direction. All existing stations and new stations in cities with over 50K people are labeled.

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San Francisco - Dallas/Fort Worth Wyoming









DETROIT - NEW ORLEANS





Detroit - New Orleans

Conceptual Service Overview

Not an FRA proposal for service

Route Service Metrics		
Scheduled run time	avg. of both directions	approx. 29 hours
Route length	avg. of both directions	1,244 miles
Detroit, MI departure time	local time	early morning
New Orleans, LA arrival time	local time	late morning ⁺¹
New Orleans, LA departure time	local time	early morning
Detroit, MI arrival time	local time	midday ⁺¹
Average travel time improvements	hours	15.5
Route Stations		
Total number of stations	count of stations	30
Stations in small communities	count of stations	7
Existing stations adding new service	count of stations	10

Average travel time improvements are for existing OD pairs when using a new route compared to an existing route

Daytime = 5:00 a.m.-10:59 p.m. (5 a.m.-7:59 a.m. early morning; 8 a.m.-10:59 a.m. late morning; 11 a.m.-12:59 p.m. midday; 1 p.m.-3:59 p.m. early afternoon; 4 p.m.-5:59 p.m. late afternoon; 6 p.m.-8:59 p.m. early evening; 9 p.m.-10:59 p.m. late evening). Nighttime = 11 p.m.-4:59 a.m.



U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration





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DENVER - MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL





Denver - Minneapolis/St. Paul

Conceptual Service Overview

Not an FRA proposal for service

Route Service Metrics		
Scheduled run time	avg. of both directions	approx. 26 hours
Route length	avg. of both directions	1,143 miles
Denver, CO departure time	local time	midday
St. Paul, MN arrival time	local time	early afternoon ⁺¹
St. Paul, MN departure time	local time	early evening
Denver, CO arrival time	local time	early evening ⁺¹
Average travel time improvements	hours	4.5
Route Stations		
Total number of stations	count of stations	20
Stations in small communities	count of stations	11
Existing stations adding new service	count of stations	2

Average travel time improvements are for existing OD pairs when using a new route compared to an existing route

Daytime = 5:00 a.m.-10:59 p.m. (5 a.m.-7:59 a.m. early morning; 8 a.m.-10:59 a.m. late morning; 11 a.m.-12:59 p.m. midday; 1 p.m.-3:59 p.m. early afternoon; 4 p.m.-5:59 p.m. late afternoon; 6 p.m.-8:59 p.m. early evening; 9 p.m.-10:59 p.m. late evening). Nighttime = 11 p.m.-4:59 a.m.



U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration





Existing

Station

Existing

Station

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FRA LONG-DISTANCE SERVICE STUDY







SEATTLE - CHICAGO





Seattle - Chicago

Conceptual Service Overview

Not an FRA proposal for service

Route Service Metrics		
Scheduled run time	avg. of both directions	approx. 50 hours
Route length	avg. of both directions	2,314 miles
Seattle, WA departure time	local time	early afternoon
Chicago, IL arrival time	local time	late afternoon ⁺²
Chicago, IL departure time	local time	early morning
Seattle, WA arrival time	local time	nighttime ⁺²
Average travel time improvements	hours	11
Route Stations		
Total number of stations	count of stations	34
Stations in small communities	count of stations	11
Existing stations adding new service	count of stations	19

Average travel time improvements are for existing OD pairs when using a new route compared to an existing route

Daytime = 5:00 a.m.-10:59 p.m. (5 a.m.-7:59 a.m. early morning; 8 a.m.-10:59 a.m. late morning; 11 a.m.-12:59 p.m. midday; 1 p.m.-3:59 p.m. early afternoon; 4 p.m.-5:59 p.m. late afternoon; 6 p.m.-8:59 p.m. early evening; 9 p.m.-10:59 p.m. late evening). Nighttime = 11 p.m.-4:59 a.m.



Legend Some Arrivals at Night All Arrivals at Night Station Terminal Connecting Existing Amtrak Rail Service Connecting Preferred Route

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DALLAS/FORT WORTH - ATLANTA





Dallas/Fort Worth - Atlanta

Conceptual Service Overview

Not an FRA proposal for service

Route Service Metrics		
Scheduled run time	avg. of both directions	approx. 22 hours
Route length	avg. of both directions	855 miles
Fort Worth, TX departure time	local time	early morning
Atlanta, GA arrival time	local time	early morning ⁺¹
Atlanta, GA departure time	local time	early evening
Fort Worth, TX arrival time	local time	early afternoon ⁺¹
Average travel time improvements	hours	18
Route Stations		
Total number of stations	count of stations	15
Stations in small communities	count of stations	2
Existing stations adding new service	count of stations	11

Average travel time improvements are for existing OD pairs when using a new route compared to an existing route

Daytime = 5:00 a.m.-10:59 p.m. (5 a.m.-7:59 a.m. early morning; 8 a.m.-10:59 a.m. late morning; 11 a.m.-12:59 p.m. midday; 1 p.m.-3:59 p.m. early afternoon; 4 p.m.-5:59 p.m. late afternoon; 6 p.m.-8:59 p.m. early evening; 9 p.m.-10:59 p.m. late evening). Nighttime = 11 p.m.-4:59 a.m.

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration



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EL PASO - BILLINGS





El Paso - Billings

Conceptual Service Overview

Not an FRA proposal for service

Route Service Metrics		
Scheduled run time	avg. of both directions	approx. 31 hours
Route length	avg. of both directions	1,390 miles
El Paso, TX departure time	local time	late afternoon
Billings, MT arrival time	local time	late evening ⁺¹
Billings, MT departure time	local time	early morning
El Paso, TX arrival time	local time	midday ⁺¹
Average travel time improvements	hours	23.5
Route Stations		
Total number of stations	count of stations	23
Stations in small communities	count of stations	6
Existing stations adding new service	count of stations	7

Average travel time improvements are for existing OD pairs when using a new route compared to an existing route

Daytime = 5:00 a.m.-10:59 p.m. (5 a.m.-7:59 a.m. early morning; 8 a.m.-10:59 a.m. late morning; 11 a.m.-12:59 p.m. midday; 1 p.m.-3:59 p.m. early afternoon; 4 p.m.-5:59 p.m. late afternoon; 6 p.m.-8:59 p.m. early evening; 9 p.m.-10:59 p.m. late evening). Nighttime = 11 p.m.-4:59 a.m.

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U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration





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El Paso - Billings ennewick

Helena Montana









NEW AND EXISTING HUBS





New and Existing Hubs

- The preferred network could improve the connectivity and geographic coverage of existing markets and could creates new passenger rail hubs.
- Existing Hubs
 - Existing stations that provide over 100 unique direct connections
- New Hubs
 - Existing stations that are served by at most one daily long-distance route
 - Would be served by at least three additional preferred routes
 - Provide over 100 unique direct connections

Direct Connections:

- One-seat ride
- No transfers required to connect the station pairs

Indirect Connections

- Two- or three-seat ride, connecting to another Amtrak passenger rail service
- Transfer times between 1 and 12 hours
- Supports an analysis of both connections between long-distance and state-supported service

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Conceptual service schedules for the preferred routes do not consider existing or future traffic conditions or site-specific conditions such as steep grades.







Existing route and station data provided by Amtrak 2024; Baseline Projects Data provided by FRA 2024. Assessment of existing routes served is based on existing long-distance, state-supported, and NEC services. Assessment of preferred routes includes existing long-distance, state-supported, NEC services, and preferred routes identified in this study.



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WHAT WE HEARD – ADDING MARKETS TO THE PREFERRED ROUTES





Opportunities and Challenges Adding Markets to the Preferred Routes

- Some cities or markets that are not included on a preferred route generated many comments and support for consideration.
- Top markets by volume of comments received in each region reviewed and described here.

Reviewed stakeholder and public comments on adding markets to the proposed network of preferred routes

Selected the top markets by volume of comments received in each region Identified the opportunities and challenges for including the markets in a preferred route





Opportunities & Challenges Adding Markets to Preferred Routes



Northeast Region **Opportunities & Challenges Adding Markets to Preferred Routes**

Buffalo, NY



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Maine

Massachusetts

Rhode Island

Boston

New Haven

Connecticut





Northwest Region















PRIORITIZATION





Prioritization Methodology – Evaluation Categories



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IONG-DISTANCE

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Prioritization Methodology



• Identify the percent of route miles requiring upgrades to track class 4, including signalization, communications, and PTC





Prioritization Methodology



- Network Effect: Number of shared stations and segments
- **Connectivity:** Estimated demand for intra-route trips



FRA LONG-DISTANCE SERVICE STUDY

Prioritization Methodology







Approach to Rating



Rated the Metrics 1-5 (Worst to Best)

- Level of Complexity: most to least complex
- Level of Benefits: least to most benefits
- Level of Costs: most to least costs
- Combined the metrics to form a composite score for each category
- Weighting categories based on stakeholder input



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Initial Rating by Preferred Route

Preferred Route	Rating (Weighted)
Houston - New York	14
Chicago - Miami	11
Dallas/Fort Worth - New York	10
Detroit - New Orleans	10
Phoenix - Minneapolis/St. Paul	10
Dallas/Fort Worth - Miami	9
Denver - Houston	9
San Francisco - Dallas/Fort Worth	9
Dallas/Fort Worth - Atlanta	8
Denver - Minneapolis/St. Paul	8
Los Angeles - Denver	8
San Antonio - Minneapolis/St. Paul	8
Seattle - Denver	7
El Paso - Billings	6
Seattle - Chicago (North Coast Hiawatha)*	not applicable
Daily Cardinal*	not applicable
Daily Sunset Limited*	not applicable

*Included in the Corridor ID Program



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- Assessment of the complexity, benefits, and cost metrics evaluated for this study
- Weighted results may provide guidance on future priorities regarding the next phase of project planning; these ratings do not reflect prioritization for implementation funding
- Weighted results provide for a rating between 3 and 15
- Rating informs the prioritization
 - 3 = lowest priority for implementation
 - \circ 15 = highest priority for implementation
- Corridor ID Program provides funding for project development activities and next steps towards project implementation:
 - Seattle Chicago (North Coast Hiawatha)
 - Daily Cardinal
 - Daily Sunset Limited

Revision Note: Ratings for the following preferred routes were revised on 7/2/2024 based on a review of the level of benefits prioritization category for the Improved Long-Distance Access metric: Dallas/Fort Worth - New York changed from 11 to 10; Phoenix - Minneapolis/St. Paul changed from 9 to 10; Detroit - New Orleans changed from 9 to 10; Dallas/Fort Worth - Miami changed from 7 to 9; Los Angeles - Denver changed from 9 to 8; Dallas/Fort Worth - Atlanta changed from 9 to 8; El Paso - Billings changed from 5 to 6.



Inclusion of Cardinal and Sunset Limited

- Selected into the Corridor ID Program in 2023 for advancing project planning activities, not implementation
- Daily Cardinal
 - Evaluate passenger rail route infrastructure improvements to increase train speeds and reduce travel times between Indianapolis and Dyer, Indiana
 - Improve service in Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia
 - Better connectivity to the passenger rail network in Chicago and along the Northeast Corridor
- Daily Sunset Limited
 - Evaluate restoring passenger rail service to Phoenix, Arizona
 - o Improve service Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana
 - Better connectivity to the passenger rail network in Los Angeles, San Antonio, New Orleans







Preferred Routes

Corridor ID Program Initial Program Selections to Support Project Development Activities

- Seattle Chicago (North Coast Hiawatha)
- Daily Cardinal
- Daily Sunset Limited

- Additional Preferred Routes Next steps: Initiate Project Planning
- Houston New York
- Chicago Miami
- Dallas/Fort Worth New York
- Detroit New Orleans
- Phoenix Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Dallas/Fort Worth Miami
- Denver Houston

- San Francisco Dallas/Fort Worth
- Dallas/Fort Worth Atlanta
- Denver Minneapolis/St. Paul
- Los Angeles Denver
- San Antonio Minneapolis/St. Paul

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- Seattle Denver
- El Paso Billings

There is currently no sustained funding or program to advance the development of preferred routes identified by this study




FRA Project Lifecycle and Program Framework







Implementation Considerations

Key Considerations For Implementation

- Funding and preparation of a service development plan
- Industry capacity to plan and implement a new long-distance route
- Coordinating and agreement with the host railroads and passenger rail service operators
- Funding and acquisition of fleet
- Funding for construction
- Sustained funding for operations



Key Project Planning Tasks AFTER the Study

- Prepare a Service Development Plan
 - Coordinate with host railroads and other key stakeholders
 - Refine route, service, and passenger service-required projects identified under this study
 - Identify other capital projects including potential track capacity and operational improvement projects associated with the preferred routes
 - Develop conceptual engineering and investment concepts



ONGOING LONG-DISTANCE COLLABORATION AND PLANNING





Ongoing Long-Distance Collaboration

- Currently, no permanent forum for stakeholders to discuss or engage with long-distance service.
- Based on what we heard during the regional working group meetings and receiving over 47K comments after the last round of meetings, there's a strong desire for more opportunities for feedback and discussion.
- Common themes include support for:
 - Regionally-based opportunities for engagement
 - Strong federal role in coordination
 - Independent, transparent process
 - A forum for interested parties including state DOTs, local and regional government representatives, Tribes, non-profits, interstate compacts, and other entities to provide feedback / guidance on proposed plans and policies.



Ideas for Ongoing Long-Distance Planning & Collaboration

Ongoing Long-Distance Collaboration

- FRA is considering ideas for a new Long-Distance Public Committee, which may need to be established by Congress.
- This committee could focus on **ongoing feedback for current Amtrak long-distance service**, including engagement / marketing, customer service, and other policy discussions.

Ongoing Long-Distance Planning

- FRA is considering ideas for a recurring, high-level long-distance planning process, potentially updated approximately every five years.
- This process, led by FRA, could be similar to State Rail Plans or other comparable transportation investment plans, focusing on the status and needs of current Amtrak long-distance service, as well as needs for potential future service.
- FRA heard significant support for these ideas during regional working group meetings earlier this year and will continue to consider these ideas.





Long-Distance Public Committee: Potential Models for Consideration

Transit Agency Rider Advisory Committees

Passenger Rail Advocacy Groups

Regional and Federal Committees Providing Guidance on Transit and/or Passenger Rail Committees Providing Guidance to States with State-Sponsored Amtrak Service





Preliminary Findings

Authorization & Purpose

- Models often required state authorizing legislation to create a regional entity
- Federal group could be created by Congress like SAIPRC, or the Northeast Corridor Commission – or via formal process for developing an Advisory Committee, with coordination across several federal entities
- Some groups are charged with specific tasks in authorizing legislation (developing policies, commenting on budgets, etc.), although scope can grow (formally and informally) over time

Membership & Structure

- Need clear guidelines on appointment process, including appointing entities, and requirements for member representation and terms; could be detailed in a charter or authorizing legislation
- Could be one group, or regional groups that coordinate on specific tasks, such as policy recommendations

Funding

• Funding options are varied – group could be funded as part of an agency budget, pass-through grant, via shared funding agreements across multiple funding partners, or other means

Ongoing Long-Distance Planning

- FRA is considering ideas for a recurring, high-level long-distance planning process, potentially updated approximately every five years, documenting:
 - Existing long-distance network needs to maintain reliable service; estimated costs; and status of ongoing projects and planning efforts.
 - ✓ Recommended long-distance passenger rail programs and investments for future service development plans, which could be used to populate a longdistance project pipeline.
- This process, led by FRA, could be similar to State Rail Plans or other comparable transportation investment plans, focusing on the status and needs of current service, as well as potential network enhancement opportunities.
- Any new planning process would involve significant stakeholder engagement.



Ongoing Long-Distance Planning: State Rail Plan Example



Image source: N.C. Department of Transportation Comprehensive State Rail Plan (2015)



U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration

ProgramCost (2014 color.r.)Punding Source(s)TimeframeSoutheast Corridor - Service ImprovementsWi-Fi on Piedmont - Add Wi-Fi to 20 cars\$630KState Rail Program2015-20162015-2016Positive Train Control (PTC) - installed on 8 locomotives, S cab control units (CCUS), and 4 spares, plus infrastructure to support PTCState Rail Program2016-futureOngoing maintenance for PTC\$84.4MSTL/State Rail2018Positive, Communications control unit. lounge cars, and coach cars) to add a 5th frequency and expand (apital Yard Mechanical Facility, including extending north and south lead tracks\$35.4MFederal, CMAQ, State Rail Program2017-2018New equipment to replace existing Carolinian trainsets that are nearing the end of their service life\$76.6MFederal (Amrak), State (through payments for state supported services]2020-2035New Stations at Lexington and Harrisburg and associated track improvements\$237.4MFederal, STI/ Local Funds2020-2035Ongoing maintenance and operations\$237.4MFederal, State State Rail Program2020-2035Ongoing maintenance and operations\$237.4MFederal, State2020-2035Ongoing maintenance and operations\$210MState Rail Program2020-2035Ongoing maintenance and operations\$238Federal, State2020-2035Ongoing maintenance and operations\$3.8BFederal, State2020-2035Ongoing maintenance and operations\$3.8BFederal, State2020-2035Ongoing maintenance and operations	Table 7: Passenger Rail Projects				
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FRA

Other new IPR Engagement: STB Passenger Rail Advisory Committee

- The Surface Transportation Board (STB) recently established a Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC) to provide advice and guidance to STB on passenger rail issues. This is a new committee. It has not yet had a meeting.
- STB is an independent federal agency charged with the economic regulation of various modes of surface transportation, primarily freight rail; it also has jurisdiction over certain passenger rail matters.
- STB is separate from, and independent of, FRA, as well as Amtrak.
- PRAC which has members from across the rail industry, including passenger and freight rail, as well as rail funding entities and advocacy organizations – has a wide scope that includes providing recommendations to STB on issues like improving efficiency on passenger rail routes; reducing disputes between passenger rail carriers and freight rail hosts; and improving regulatory processes related to intercity passenger rail.





CLOSING AND NEXT STEPS





Final Report Elements

- Elements of the final report:
 - o IIJA Study Requirements
 - Opportunities, Challenges, and Study Limitations
 - Study Approach
 - Summary of Public and Stakeholder Engagement
 - Preferred Route Options for Restoring or Enhancing Long-Distance Service
 - o Inventory of Selected Capital Projects
 - Estimated Costs and Public Benefits; potential federal and non-federal funding sources
 - Recommendations for methods by which Amtrak could work with communities and organizations to improve public use of intercity passenger rail service along each route
- Final report to Congress later in 2024





Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities

- Establishes options for potential future long-distance service, in response to legislative requirements, examining broad needs, challenges, and opportunities.
- Identifies regions where potential new service could provide economic and social benefits.
- Demonstrates support for restoring long-distance intercity passenger rail services and exploring the creation of new long-distance routes.
- Satisfies an early step in the FRA project lifecycle to identify actions needed to enhance long-distance service

- Documents high-level analysis. Substantial additional analysis and resources are required prior to implementation.
- Identifies only certain passenger service-required capital projects. Future identification and analysis of additional capital projects, including those related to capacity, requires additional time and resources, including coordination with host railroads and other stakeholders.
- Requires significant unidentified funding for planning, infrastructure improvements, fleet needs, and ongoing operating support.

Challenges

FRA

LONG-DISTANCE

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Moving Forward

Report to Congress

•Complete later in 2024

-

- Establish options for restoring and expanding longdistance service
- •Include ideas for ongoing collaboration and planning
- •Acknowledge the need for additional analysis, coordination, funding

Corridor ID

 Provides sustained support for new or improved passenger corridors through planning and project development stages

- Includes some longdistance routes
 - Daily Cardinal
 - Daily Sunset Limited
 - North Coast Hiawatha

Comments Received

• Maintain a database of comments for reference in future planning processes

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LONG-DISTANCE

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Thank You!

- After the final report is submitted to Congress, it will be published on the study and FRA websites.
- www.fralongdistancerailstudy.org





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THANK YOU



