



Regional Transportation Planning Agency - Local Transportation Commission
Monterey County Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways
Monterey County Regional Development Impact Fee Joint Powers Agency
Email: info@tamcmonterey.org

Rail Policy Committee

Monday, April 1, 2024

****3:00 PM****

MEETING LOCATION

Voting members must attend a physical meeting location to count towards quorum

*55B Plaza Circle, Salinas, California 93901
Transportation Agency Conference Room*

Alternate Locations with Zoom Connection Open to the Public

*2616 1st Avenue, Marina, California 93933
Supervisor Askew's Office*

*11140 Speegle St., Castroville CA, 95012
Supervisor Church's Office*

*168 West Alisal Street, 2nd Floor, Salinas, CA 93901
Supervisor Alejo's Office*

Members of the public & non-voting members may join meeting online at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/654778900?pwd=L2daellZTW5NSDZMQ2RSY1hJVlpGZz09>

OR

By teleconference at: +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 654 778 900

Password: 506977

Please note: If all committee members are present in person, public participation by Zoom is for convenience only and is not required by law. If the Zoom feed is lost for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted, but the meeting may continue at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Please see all the special meeting instructions at the end of this agenda

Complete agenda packets are on display at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County office and at these public libraries: Carmel, Monterey, Salinas Steinbeck Branch, Seaside, Prunedale, and King City. Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call the Agency Secretary to make an inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda. Please recycle this agenda.

1. Quorum Check, Call to Order and Introductions

A quorum is 7 of the following members: Adams, Askew, Alejo, Cabrera, Carbone, Church, Delgado, LeBarre, Oglesby, Potter, Sandoval and Smith.

If you are unable to attend, please make sure that one of your alternates attends the meeting. Your courtesy to the other members to assure a quorum is appreciated.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any member of the public may address the Board on any item not on the agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Board. All public comments are limited to three (3) minutes, unless specified otherwise by the committee chair. Comments in items on this agenda may be given when that agenda item is discussed. Persons who wish to address the Board for public comment or on an item on the agenda are encouraged to submit comments in writing to Maria at maria@tamcmonterey.org by 5:00 pm the Thursday before the meeting, and such comments will be distributed to the Board before the meeting.

Alternative Agenda Format and Auxiliary Aids: If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Individuals requesting a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may contact Transportation Agency staff at 831-775-0903. Auxiliary aids or services include wheelchair accessible facilities, sign language interpreters, Spanish language interpreters, and printed materials in large print, Braille or on disk. These requests may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting and should be made at least 72 hours before the meeting. All reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the request.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the staff recommendations for items listed below by majority vote with one motion. Any member may pull an item off the Consent Agenda to be moved to the end of the **CONSENT AGENDA** for discussion and action.

3.1. APPROVE the draft Rail Policy Committee Minutes for March 4, 2024.

- Maria Montiel

The draft minutes of the March 4, 2024 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

3.2. RECEIVE update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

- Christina Watson

Activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update include operations scenario discussions and design coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections).

3.3. **RECEIVE** media clippings attached online.

- Christina Watson

4. **RECEIVE** update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

- Christina Watson

Progress since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee includes a meeting of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council working group and a kick-off meeting on the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Corridor Identification and Development program.

5. **RECEIVE** update on Pajaro Multimodal Station Project.

- Alissa Guther

Activities on the Pajaro Multimodal Station project include the release of a Request for Proposals and coordination with Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission on their rail projects as they pertain to the station and Monterey County.

6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS and/or COMMENTS**

7. **ADJOURN**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Committee meeting

Monday, May 6, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

**Transportation Agency for Monterey County
Conference Room
55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas CA 93901**

A quorum of voting members is required to be present to hold this meeting.

There will be a zoom link for hybrid participation.

If you have any items for the next agenda, please submit them to:
Christina Watson, Rail Program Coordinator
Christina@tamcmonterey.org

Important Meeting Information

Agenda Packet and Documents: Any person who has a question concerning an item on this agenda may call or email the Agency office to make inquiry concerning the nature of the item described on the agenda. Complete agenda packets are on display online at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County website. Documents relating to an item on the open session that are distributed to the Committee less than 72 hours prior to the meeting shall be available for public review at the Agency website. Agency contact information is as follows:

Transportation Agency for Monterey County

www.tamcmonterey.org

55B Plaza Circle, Salinas, CA 93901

TEL: 831-775-0903

EMAIL: info@tamcmonterey.org

Agenda Items: The agenda will be prepared by Agency staff and will close at noon nine (9) working days before the regular meeting. Any member of the Board may request in writing an item to appear on the agenda. The request shall be made by the agenda deadline and any support papers must be furnished by that time or be readily available.

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Maria Montiel, Administrative Assistant
Meeting Date: April 1, 2024
Subject: **Draft Rail Policy Committee Minutes**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

APPROVE the draft Rail Policy Committee Minutes for March 4, 2024.

SUMMARY:

The draft minutes of the March 4, 2024 Rail Policy Committee meeting are attached for review.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:**DISCUSSION:****ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Draft_RPC_Minutes_March_2024_Meeting

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

TRANSPORTATION AGENCY FOR MONTEREY COUNTY (TAMC)

RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

Draft Minutes of March 4, 2024

55-B Plaza Circle, Salinas, California 93901 - Transportation Agency Conference Room

Alternate locations: 2616 1st Avenue, Marina, California 93933 - Supervisor Askew's Office

11140 Speegle Street, Castroville CA, 95012 Supervisor Church's Office

168 West Alisal Street, 2nd Floor, Salinas, CA 93901, Supervisor Alejo's Office

	MAR 23	APR 23	MAY 23	JUN 23	JUL 23	AUG 23	SEP 23	OCT 23	NOV 23	JAN 24	FEB 24	MAR 24
L. Alejo, Dist. 1 (L. Gonzalez , J. Gomez)	C	P	P	C	N	P	P	P(A) (VC)	P	P	C	P(A) (VC)
G. Church, Dist. 2 (M. Vierra , L. Gray)	A	P(A)	P(A)	A	O	P(A)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	A	P(A) (VC)
W. Askew, Dist. 4 (Y. Anderson, E. Mora)	N	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)	N		P(A)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	N	P(A) (VC)
M. Adams, Dist. 5, (C. Courtney)	C	P(A) (VC)	E	C	M	E	A	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	C	P(A) (VC)
M. LeBarre, King City, Chair (C. DeLeon)	E	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	E	P
B. Delgado Marina (vacant)	L	A	A	L	E	A	A	A	P (VC)	A	L	P (VC)
E. Smith, Monterey (K. Barber, M. Garcia, A. Renny)	L	P	A	L	T	P	A	P	P	E	L	P
A. Sandoval, Salinas, (A. Rocha)	E	E	P	E	I	A	P	P	P	P(A)	E	P
M. Carbone, Sand City (J. Blackwelder)	D	A	A	D	N	A	A	A	P	A	D	P
I. Oglesby, Seaside (D. Pacheco)		P	P		G	P	P	P	A	P		A
F. Cabrera, Soledad (A. Velazquez)		P	P			P	P	A	A	P		P
D. Potter, At Large Member, Vice Chair (J. Barron)		E	P			E	A	E	P	P		P
M. Twomey, AMBAG (H. Adamson , P. Hierling)		P(A)	P(A) (VC)			P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	E	P (VC)	P(A) (VC)		P(A) (VC)
A. Lopez, Caltrans District 5		A	P (VC)			A	A	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)		P (VC)
C. Sedoryk, MST (L. Rheinheimer/ M. Overmeyer)		P(A)	P (VC)			P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P(A) (VC)	P (VC)	P(A)		P(A) (VC)

STAFF												
T. Muck, Executive Director		E	P			E	P	P	P	P		P
C. Watson, Director of Planning		P	P			P	P	P	P	P		P
M. Zeller, Director of Programming & Project Delivery		P	P (VC)			P (VC)	E	E	P (VC)	E		P (VC)
M. Montiel Admin Assistant		P	P			P	P	P	P	P		P
L. Williamson, Senior Engineer		P	P (VC)			P (VC)	P (VC)	A	P	P		E
D. Bilse, Principal Engineer		P	P (VC)			P (VC)	A	P (VC)	P (VC)	A		P (VC)
A. Guther, Assis. Transp. Planner		P	E			P	P	P	P	P		P
A. Sambrano Transp. Planner							P (VC)	P (VC)	P (VC)	P		P (VC)

P = Present A = Absent P(A) = Alternate Present E = Excused (VC) = Video Conference

1. QUORUM CHECK AND CALL TO ORDER

Chair LeBarre called the meeting to order at 3: 00p.m. A quorum was established.

OTHERS PRESENT

Tarah Gatten	Caltrans	Brianna Goodman	SCCRTC
Riley Gerbrandt	SCCRTC	Mark McLaren	Public
Cheryl Childs	Mark Thomas	Etty Mercurio	Mark Thomas
Monique Fountain	Elkhorn Slough	Amanda Dugar	LSA Consultant

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

3. CONSENT AGENDA

M/S/C Anderson/ Courtney

Abstentions: Smith, Sandoval, Carbone

3.1 Approved minutes of the January 8, 2024, Rail Policy Committee meeting.

3.2 Received update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

3.3 Received media clippings attached online.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

4. SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ZERO EMISSION RAIL AND TRAIL PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Santa Cruz County Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project.

Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner, introduced Riley Gerbrandt, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) staff. He noted that the Santa Cruz Branch Line is a continuous transportation corridor that spans approximately 32 miles of Santa Cruz County from the community of Pajaro in northern Monterey County up to Davenport. He noted that the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project Purpose and Need statement was developed using information derived from the 2021 Alternatives Analysis/Network Integration Study. Mr. Gerbrandt noted that the project's fundamental purpose is to support and improve equitable multimodal transportation options in Santa Cruz County.

Committee members provided the following feedback on the project update:

- Consider park and ride lots to provide access to drivers.
- Consider contactless payments.
- Calculate health benefits, new job creation.

5. ELKHORN SLOUGH RESILIENCY PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the Elkhorn Slough Highway 1 transportation corridor climate resiliency project.

Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner, reported that the Transportation Agency received \$1,000,000 to initiate planning work on the Elkhorn Slough Highway 1 transportation corridor climate resiliency project. She noted that staff met with representatives from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve at the Elkhorn Slough Reserve to observe the overtopping of the Union Pacific Railroad rail tracks in January 2024. Ms. Guther noted that at king tide, there is a significant difference in water surface elevation between the west and east sides of the tracks. Ms. Guther noted that the rail line will be included in the future planning work that TAMC is pursuing for the Elkhorn Slough Highway 1 transportation corridor, which will evaluate and prioritize alternatives for the rail line.

Committee members provided the following feedback on the project update:

- Consider inviting Union Pacific to participate early in the project discussions.
- Consider gathering more data on potential delays to freight and passenger train trips caused by king tides, sea level rise, and storm surge.

6. PAJARO MULTIMODAL STATION PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on Pajaro Multimodal Station Project.

Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner, reported that the proposed Pajaro/Watsonville station will be the connection point for Santa Cruz to new passenger rail service on the Coast mainline tracks between Salinas and the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as a hub on future round-the-bay service. She noted that in December 2023, TAMC released a Request for Proposals that received no submissions. Staff re-released the Request for Proposals after more outreach to potential consultants. Ms. Guther noted that proposals are due to TAMC April 4, 2024, and staff anticipates bringing a contract to the TAMC Board for approval on May 22, 2024, for project activities to begin in June 2024.

Chair LeBarre noted that the Committee had an informal meeting with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission in October and talked about having another meeting in approximately six months. Alissa Guther noted that TAMC staff would coordinate with SCCRTC staff to set up another meeting after the Board approves the consultant contract and after consultant activities have begun.

7. COAST CORRIDOR RAIL PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received an update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Executive Director Todd Muck and Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner, reported that the Coast Rail Coordinating Council met on February 16 in Oakland and discussed Senate Bill 125 funding being secure, Transit and Intercity Rail Capital program application, Federal Rail Administration Corridor Identification Program, Intercity Rail Passenger Rail coordination efforts, and a potential Rail Summit in San Diego in fall 2024.

Committee Member Potter noted that it was good to have state representatives at the meeting.

Committee Member LeBarre noted that the Committee received a briefing on the federal Corridor ID programs from Chad Edison and Shannon Simonds. He mentioned that California is so far ahead of other states and that they are anticipating completing the Service Development Plans within months.

8. RAIL POLICY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Committee held elections for Chair and Vice Chair for 2024-25.

Christina Watson, Director of Planning, noted that bylaws call for the Rail Policy Committee to elect a Chair and Vice Chair in February of every even year.

M/S/C Sandoval /Cabrera / superseded

Committee Member Sandoval made a motion, seconded by Committee Member Cabrera, to nominate Mike LeBarre, Chair and nominate Ed Smith, Vice Chair for the Rail Policy Committee. Committee member Smith thanked him and declined his nomination and made a substitute motion.

M/S/C Smith / Delgado / unanimous

Committee Member Smith made a substitute motion, seconded by Committee Member Delgado, to nominate Mike LeBarre, Chair and nominate Dave Potter, Vice Chair for the Rail Policy Committee.

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND/OR COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

None this month.

7. **ADJOURN**

Chair LeBarre adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: April 1, 2024
Subject: Salinas Rail Kick Start Project Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project.

SUMMARY:

Activities on the Salinas Rail Kick Start project since the last update include operations scenario discussions and design coordination efforts with key stakeholders on Packages 2 (Salinas layover facility) and 3 (Gilroy track connections).

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The capital cost of the Monterey County Rail Extension project, Phase 1, Salinas Kick Start project (the Salinas station and improvements in Santa Clara County), is estimated at \$81 million. The Kick Start project is proceeding with secured state funding under the adopted state environmental clearance.

DISCUSSION:

The Monterey County Rail Extension Project will extend passenger rail service from Santa Clara County south to Salinas. TAMC is pursuing a phased implementation of the Project. Phase 1, known as the Kick Start Project, includes Salinas train station circulation improvements, a train layover facility in Salinas, and track improvements at the Gilroy station and between Salinas and Gilroy. The Kick Start Project has wrapped up construction of Package 1, improvements at the Salinas train station. The layover facility (Package 2) and Gilroy track improvements (Package 3) are now in final design.

Property Acquisition

Four parcels remain that are potentially required for the layover facility and Gilroy track improvements, which are owned by Union Pacific. Property rights negotiations are on hold pending Union Pacific's review of the design plans.

Final Design

HDR Engineering prepared the 100% plans, specifications and estimates for stakeholder review on September 1, 2022, and has gathered stakeholder input on those plans. Since the last report to this Committee, the design team has coordinated on design review with Union Pacific and Amtrak.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: April 1, 2024
Subject: **Media Clippings**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE media clippings attached online.

SUMMARY:**FINANCIAL IMPACT:****DISCUSSION:****ATTACHMENTS:**

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [February 28, 2024 article in the Monterey Herald, "Commuter rail to the Bay Area: Monterey County's plan for more trains"](#)
- [March 4, 2024 podcast on KSQD, "Integrated Rail for Monterey County"](#)

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Christina Watson, Director of Planning
Meeting Date: April 1, 2024
Subject: **Coast Corridor Rail Project Update**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on the planned increase in passenger rail service along the coast corridor between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

SUMMARY:

Progress since the last update on the coast rail project to this Committee includes a meeting of the Coast Rail Coordinating Council working group and a kick-off meeting on the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Corridor Identification and Development program.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The Coast Rail project capital and operation costs are under evaluation.

DISCUSSION:

The Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) is a multi-agency advisory and planning organization focused on improving the rail corridor between Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area along the California Central Coast. Members of the Council include all Regional Transportation Planning Agencies along the Central Coast – all of which have a strong interest in improving rail service and the rail infrastructure along the Central Coast's portion of the California Coast Passenger Rail Corridor.

On March 18, 2024, Caltrans held a kick-off meeting on the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) program with the Executive Directors and key rail team members for Central Coast Regional Transportation Planning Agencies. **Attachment 1** is a PowerPoint summarizing the program and next steps. Staff will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

The revised 2024 meeting schedule is online as a **web attachment**. The next Policy Committee meeting is planned for May 17 in Ventura.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Corridor ID Overview Presentation_CRCC

WEB ATTACHMENTS:

- [Coast Rail Coordinating Council meeting schedule](#)

Corridor Identification and Development Program (CID Program)



CID Program Overview

Corridor ID (CID) Program is intended to:

- Develop a sustained, comprehensive intercity passenger rail planning and development program
- Set forth a capital project pipeline ready for Federal funding

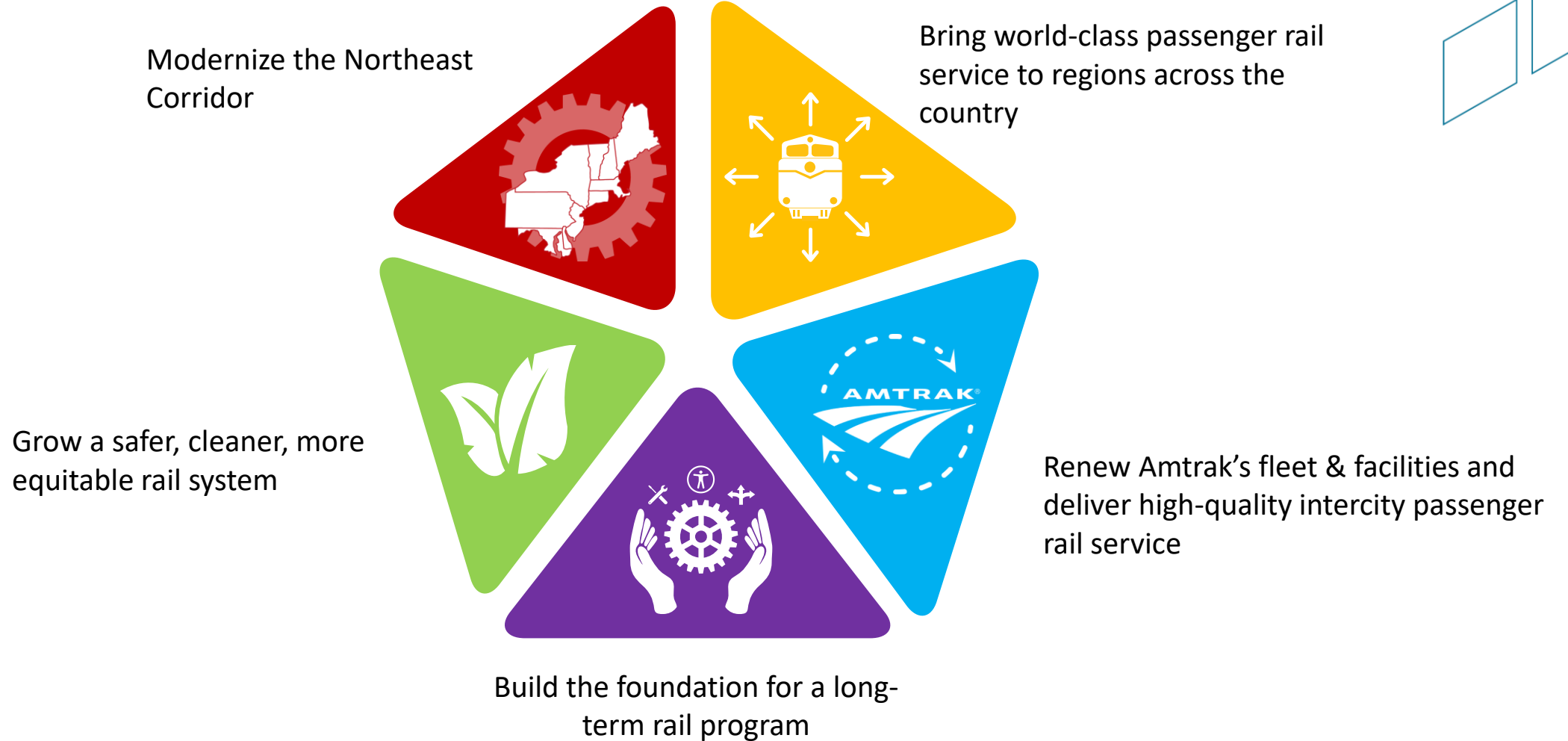
The CID Program is intended to become the primary means for directing Federal financial support and technical assistance toward the development of proposals for new or improved intercity passenger rail services throughout the United States.

Benefits of CID Program for CA

State-Led CID Program efforts allows for:

- Improved efficiencies
- Standardized methodologies and data used on each corridor
 - Provide a transparent, documented, shared basis for planning with consistent assumptions across stakeholders and planning horizons
- Alleviated admin burdens from partner agencies
- Overarching policy guidance
- Streamlined host railroad coordination
- Ability to leverage state funding with Fed-State Partnership

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Rail Development Goals



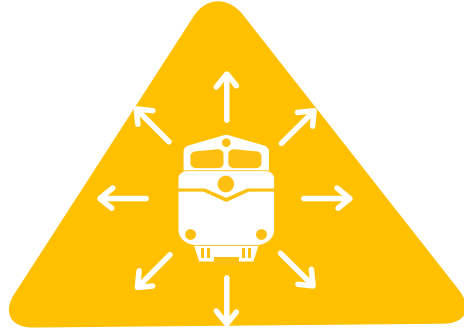
CID Program Overview

Build the foundation for a long-term rail program



Corridor ID creates a foundational framework for identifying and developing new or improved intercity passenger rail (IPR) services. Under the program, FRA will:

Bring world-class passenger rail service to regions across the country



Solicit proposal for implementing new or improving existing IPR services

Select corridors for development

Partner with corridor sponsor to prepare (or update) a Service Development Plan (SDP)

Grow a safer, cleaner, more equitable rail system



SDP includes a "corridor project inventory"

Corridor project inventories populate a prioritized "pipeline" of projects

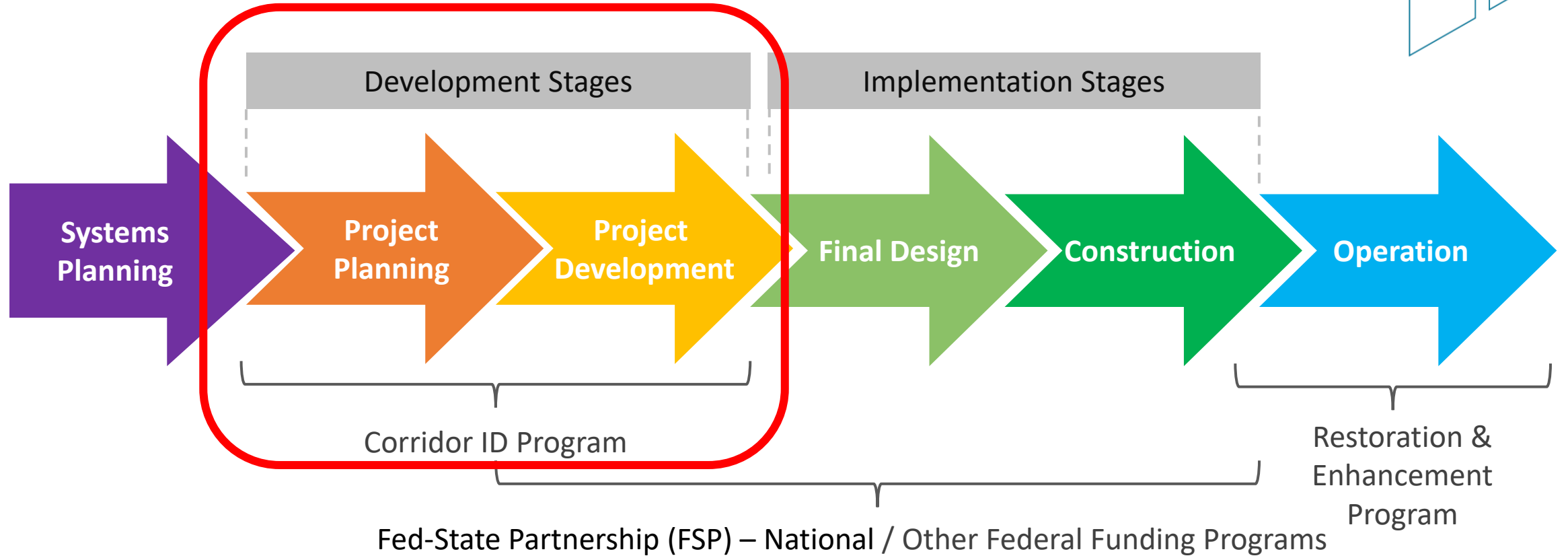
Projects in the Corridor ID Pipeline are eligible for funding under FRA's financial assistance programs

CA CID Program Corridors

- Central Coast Corridor 
- Coachella Valley Rail Corridor 
- Capitol Corridor 
- LOSSAN 
- San Joaquin Valley Corridor 
- California High-Speed Rail Phase 1 Corridor 
- Brightline West High-Speed Rail Corridor 
- High Desert Intercity High-Speed Rail Corridor 
- Daily Sunset Limited Service 



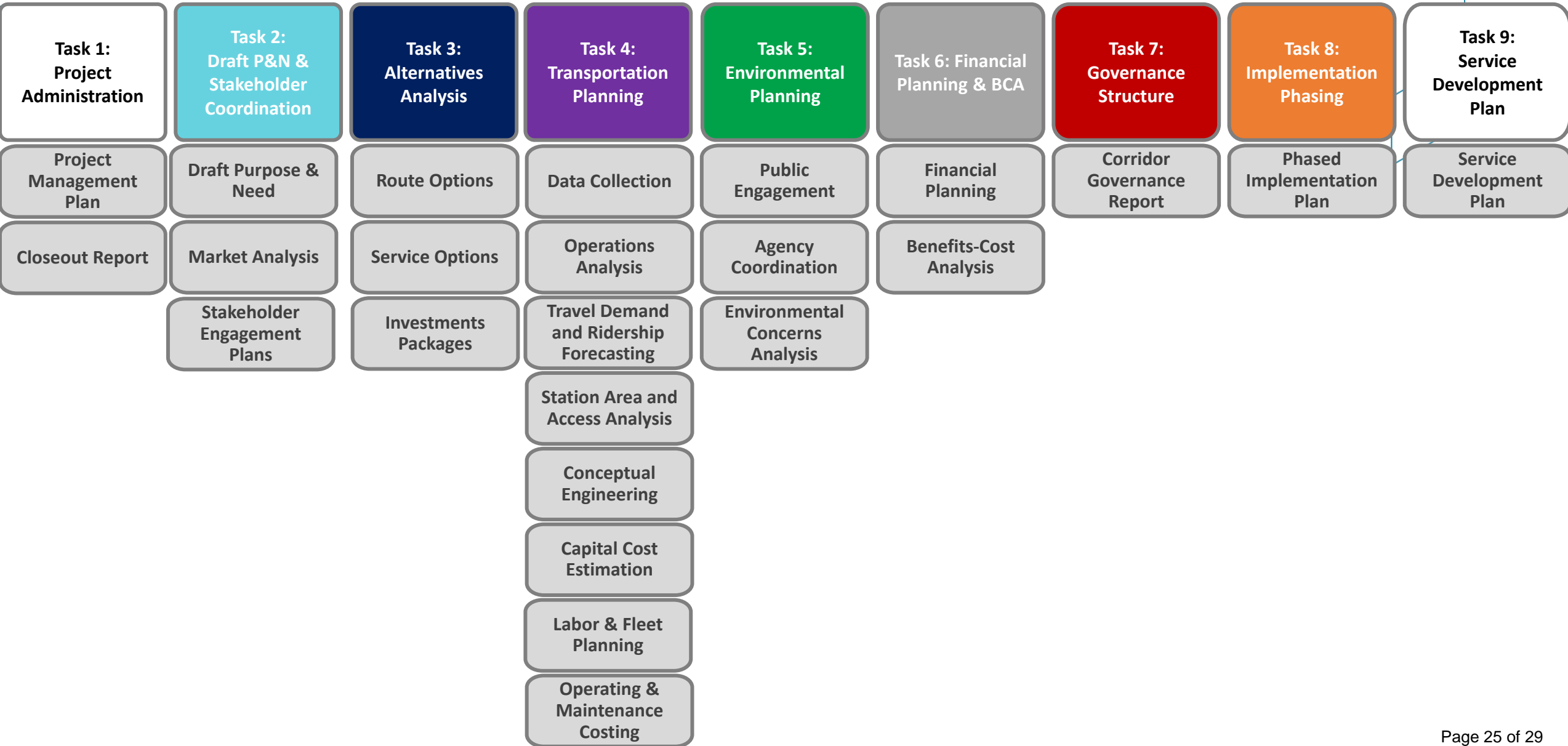
FRA Project Lifecycles – Corresponding FRA Funding



Steps 1, 2, and 3

Grant	Step 1: Scoping the Service Development Plan	Step 2: Preparing or Updating Service Development Plan	Step 3: NEPA / Preliminary Engineering
Funding	Up to \$500k / 0% match	\$X / 10% match <i>(\$X determined during Step 1)</i>	\$X / 20% match <i>(\$X determined during Step 2)</i>
Scope	Using Service Development Plan SOW framework, sponsor develops scope, schedule, and budget for Corridor SDP , accounting for work on-going and/or undertaken to date	Sponsor develops a service development plan in accordance with Step 2 SOW	In coordination with FRA, sponsor completes preliminary engineering for capital projects Sponsor completes environmental review in coordination with FRA for capital projects
Notes	After Step 1 grant obligation, FRA will review work undertaken to date Step 1 grant deliverable is corridor-specific scope, schedule, and budget for service development plan	Final service development plan includes a Capital Project Inventory as part of the Phased Implementation Plan Capital projects identified in SDP <u>may</u> advance into Step 3 Project Development, at FRA's discretion based on a project's readiness (i.e., funding, governance, risk assessment, etc.).	Capital projects that complete Step 3 will move to Project Pipeline and may be prioritized for funding under Fed-State Partnership Program

Step 2: Service Development Plan Draft SOW Framework



DRAFT Roles and Responsibilities

Federal Railroad Administration	Caltrans	Partner Agencies	Consultants	CalSTA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manages National CID Program • Obligates grants to project sponsors for each CIDP "Step" • Approves deliverables, such as Scope, SDP completeness • Technical Support & Oversight • Submits annual "Project Pipeline" update to Congress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Sponsor for 5 CA Corridors (Coast) • FRA Grant Management • Leads Partner Coordination • Aligns CIDP with State Rail Plan • Manages Consultant Contract • Key Staff include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ass't. Deputy Director Rail (Grading) • Chief, Office of Rail Planning and Implementation (Simonds) • Regional Rail Coordinators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JPAs and RRs are Co-Lead Partners • CRCC is conduit for local input • Support public engagement • Directors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Kyle/Shannon • Rail Planning Staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead applicable tasks • Partner and provide support for CIDP corridor efforts with Caltrans Regional Coordinators • Provide historic planning info 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be contracted to Caltrans or Stakeholders (TBD) • Outreach & Engagement • Technical Support • Service Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ridership Modeling • Cost Optimization • "Desktop" Environmental Eview • Conceptual Design of Capital Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Guidance • Coordinates with Caltrans on communication with FRA Leadership and stakeholders • Facilitates alignment with other state and federal political priorities (FRA, Congressional committees, CA Senate Subcommittee on LOSSAN Resiliency, etc.)

Next Steps

- Grant Obligation
- Step 1: Scoping
 - Review existing material with FRA
 - Develop SDP SOW Framework: accounting for work on-going/undertaken to date
 - Scope
 - Schedule
 - Budget
- Future Steps
 - Begin Step 2 Service Development Planning work with Partner Agencies
- Questions?

Memorandum

To: Rail Policy Committee
From: Alissa Guther, Transportation Planner
Meeting Date: April 1, 2024
Subject: Pajaro Multimodal Station Project Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECEIVE update on Pajaro Multimodal Station Project.

SUMMARY:

Activities on the Pajaro Multimodal Station project include the release of a Request for Proposals and coordination with Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission on their rail projects as they pertain to the station and Monterey County.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Pre-construction work will begin in 2024 with state-secured funding for environmental review. In December 2023, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) approved a \$2.3 million grant to cover the cost of California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act documentation. This documentation will allow TAMC to pursue further state and federal funding for the design update and right of way work. The total estimated cost of pre-construction work for the Pajaro Multimodal Station Project, which includes environmental review, design, and right of way, is \$19.5 million.

DISCUSSION:

The Monterey County Rail Extension Project will extend passenger rail service from Santa Clara County south to Salinas. TAMC is pursuing a phased implementation of the Project. Phase 2 is the Pajaro/Watsonville Multimodal Transit Hub. The proposed Pajaro/Watsonville station will be the connection point for Santa Cruz County to new passenger rail service on the Coast mainline tracks between Salinas and the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as a hub on future round-the-bay service.

After a successful application to the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), TAMC received \$2.3 million to fund environmental review documentation. In December 2023, TAMC released a Request for Proposals that received no submissions. Staff has re-released the Request for Proposals after more outreach to potential consultants. The schedule for a request for proposals and a contract to begin this work is as follows:

- April 4, 2024 - Proposals due to TAMC
- May 22, 2024 - Contract to TAMC board for approval
- June 2024 - Project activities begin

Meetings attended that pertain to the project:

- March 14, 2024: Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project Monthly Project Development Team Meeting
- March 22, 2024: Watsonville- Area Transportation Meeting with Regional Agencies

Staff will provide a verbal update on all activities at the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

None

WEB ATTACHMENTS: