Corridor Identification and Development Program—Solicitation Preview

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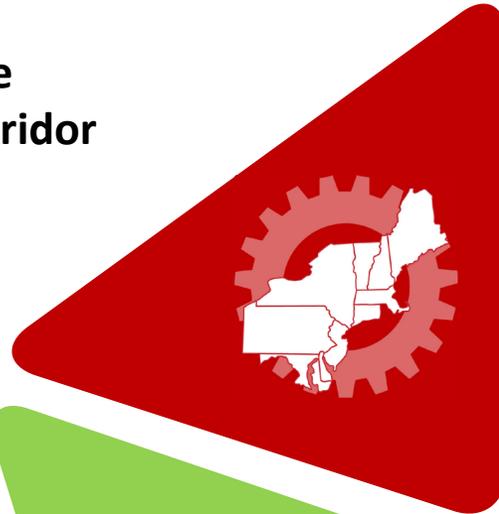September 27, 2022

Presentation Overview

- **Corridor ID Introduction**

- **Significant Program Policies**

- **Program Eligibility and Reach**

- **Why Pursue Corridor ID?**

- **Corridor ID Funding and Structure**

- **Application Requirements**

- **Eligibility & Selection**

- **Questions**

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Corridor ID Timeline

May 13, 2022
FRA established the Corridor ID Program within 180 days of enactment

December 2022
FRA to publish a Notice of Corridor Solicitation and Funding Opportunity for the Corridor Identification and Development Program

01

02

03

04

November 15, 2021
Enactment of the BIL

September 2022
AASHTO CORT Conference Opportunity to communicate and solicit feedback from program stakeholders; **Webinar for broader audience week of 9/26**

May 13, 2023
First Congressional report on the Project Pipeline due one year following Program establishment

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Modernize the Northeast Corridor

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

Grow a safer, cleaner, more equitable rail system

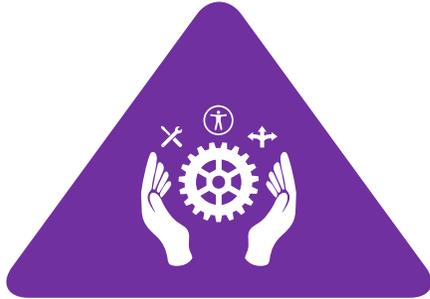**Renew Amtrak's fleet & facilities and deliver high-quality intercity passenger rail service**

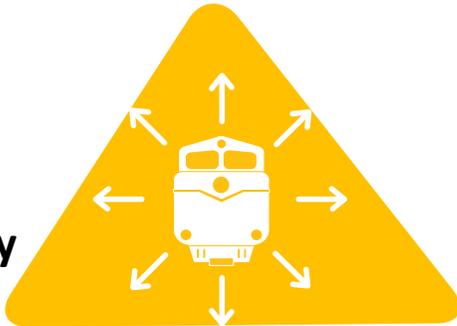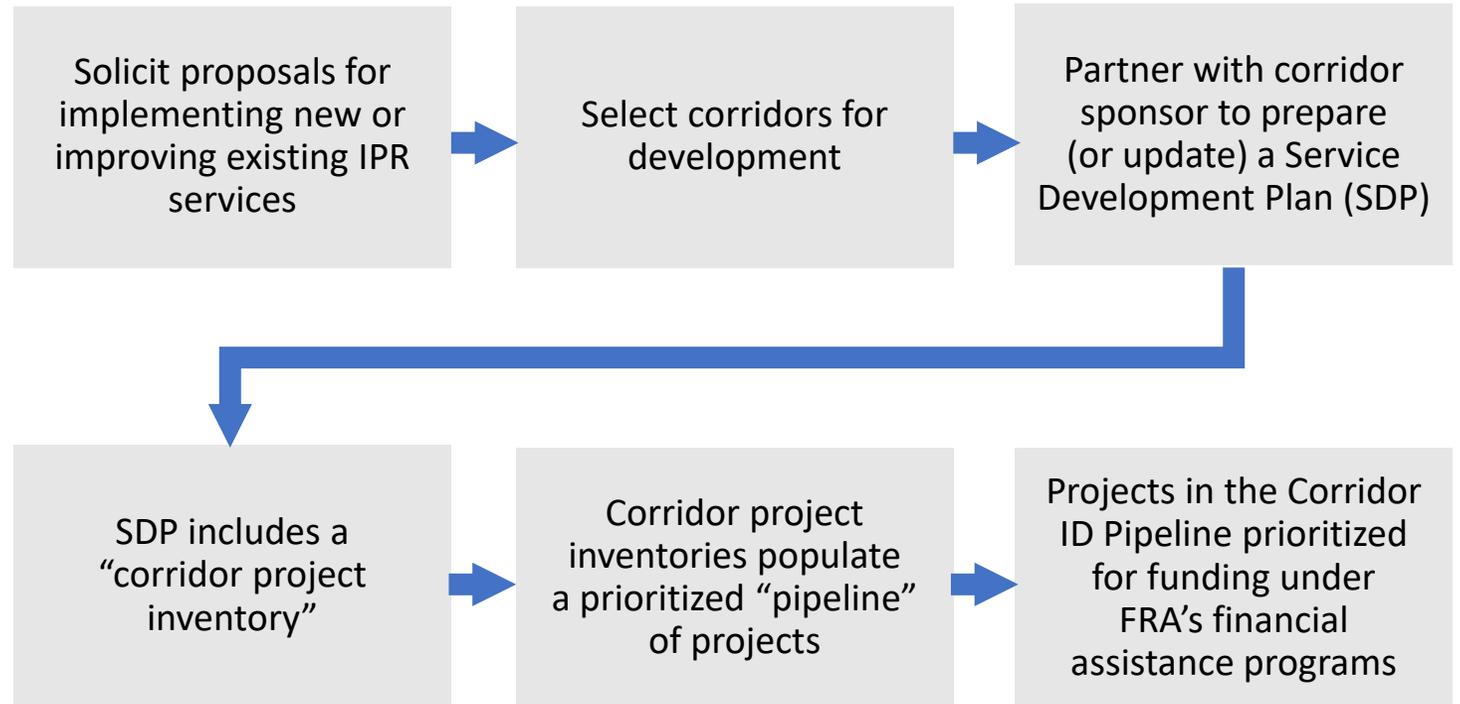**Build the foundation for a long-term rail program**

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Corridor ID 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 proposals 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 prioritized for funding under FRA's financial assistance programs |

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FRA Project Lifecycle Stages – Corresponding FRA Funding Programs
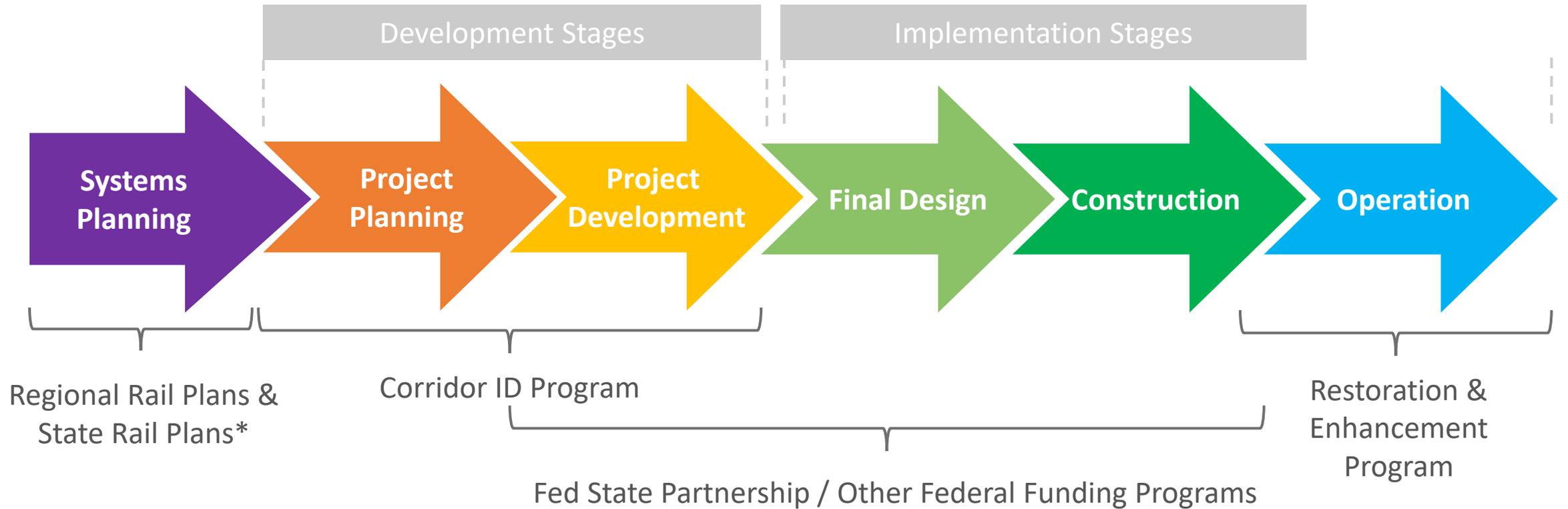
*Regional Rail Planning and State Rail Plans may be funded through other FRA funding programs.

Corridor ID will be **the primary mechanism for developing off-Northeast Corridor intercity passenger rail corridors and projects** for subsequent implementation

Corridor ID is a home **for all types of Intercity Passenger Rail corridors**—new, significant improvements, and modest improvements to existing service are all welcome

Corridor ID will **regularly solicit proposals for additional corridors** to enter the program—this is not a one-time opportunity
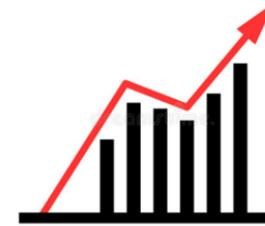
Level of non-Federal commitment may be modest at the beginning but must grow as a corridor advances through the Program

Corridors/Projects that advance to the Project Pipeline should be **ready for immediate implementation** (Final Design/ Construction)

Applicant Eligibility

Nearly any public entity with a role in transportation…

- Amtrak

- States

- Groups of States

- Entities implementing interstate compacts

- Regional passenger rail authorities

- Regional planning organizations

- Political subdivisions of a State
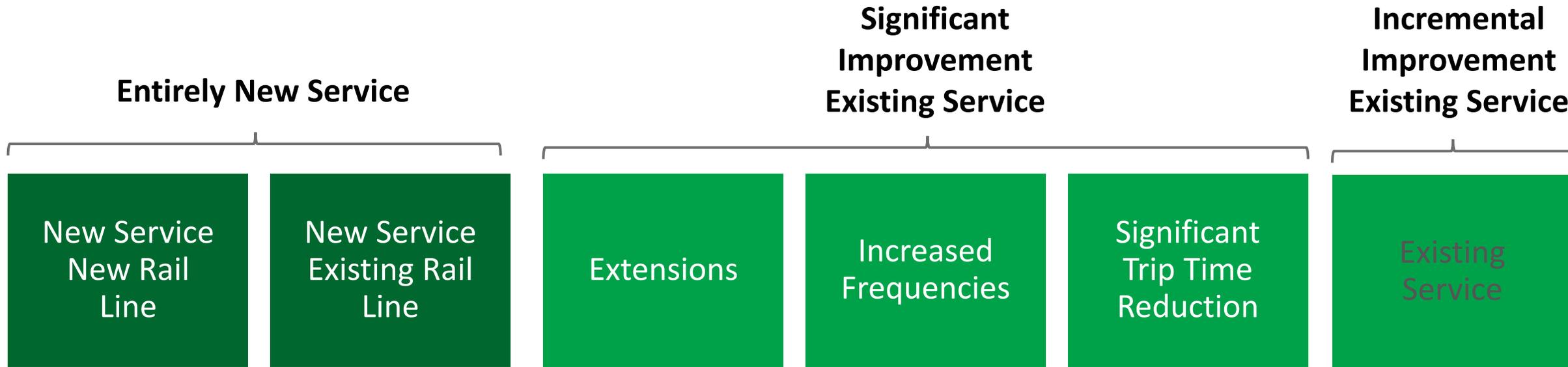
- Federally recognized Indian Tribes

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Corridor Eligibility

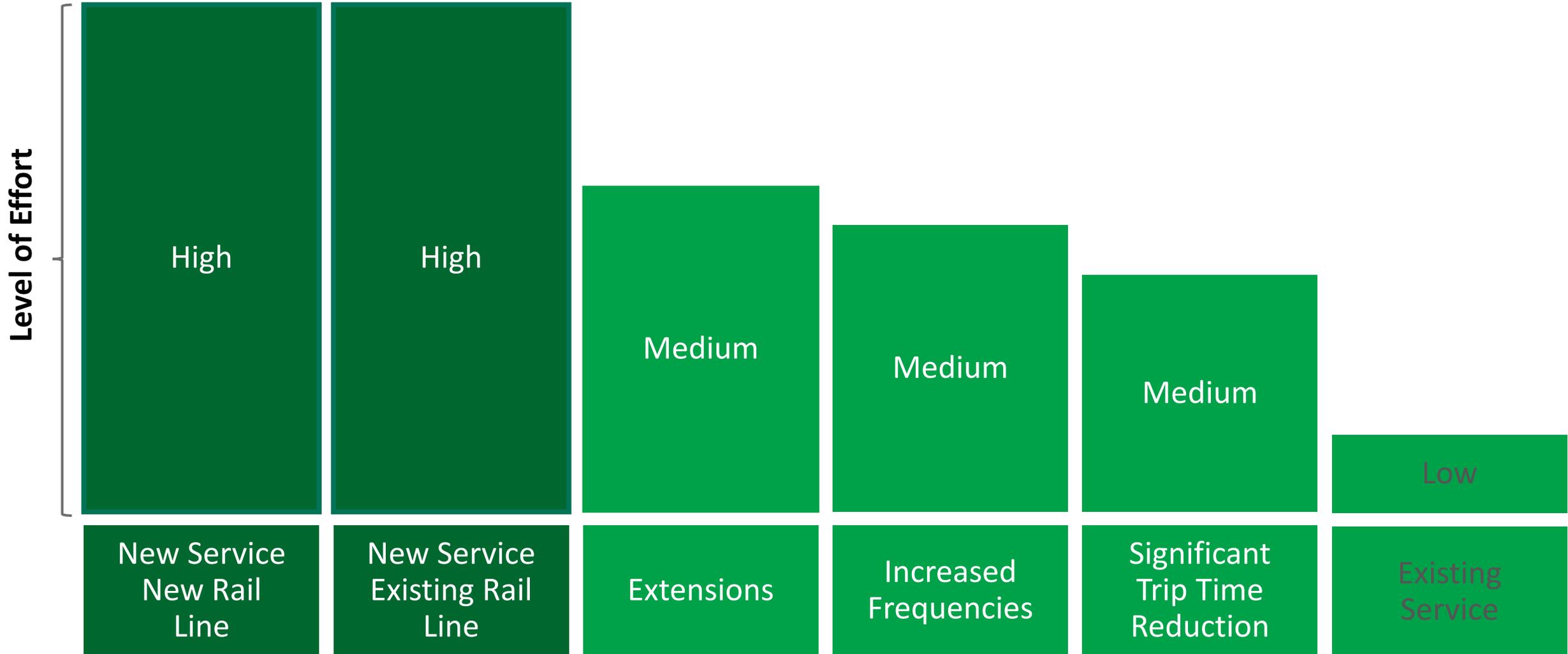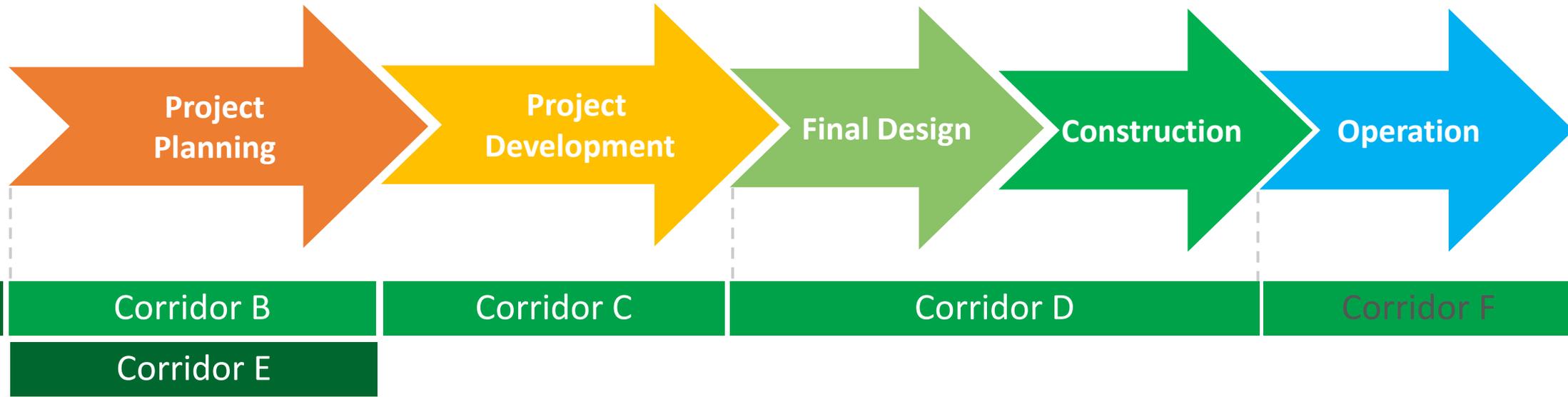| Eligible Corridors	Ineligible Corridors
• Short-distance (<750 miles) IPR services • Restoring service over any route formerly operated by Amtrak • Increasing frequencies of long-distance service (will be analyzed as part of the FRA-led Long-Distance Study)	• Commuter rail • Increments of an IPR corridor that if advanced alone, would not meet the definition of a stand-alone IPR corridor • Technology that is under development but not yet proven

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Level of Effort

FRA will Consider Work Undertaken to Date

Project Planning → Project Development → Final Design → Construction → Operation

Corridor A | Corridor B | Corridor C | Corridor D | Corridor F
Corridor E

A — Corridor may have little to no development work completed

B — Corridor may have on-going FRA funded development efforts

C — May have completed FRA-funded efforts / environmental review

D & E — May have development efforts independent from FRA

F — Existing corridors are already under operation

FRA will meet you where you are in the project development lifecycle

Why Corridor ID?

Funding for next stages of development


Relationship with FRA

Get on the map

Preliminary narrowing of corridor alternatives pre-NEPA

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Corridor ID Funding—Development Stages

|	Expression of Interest	Submission of Corridor Proposal	Development Stages		
			Project Planning Step 1: SDP Scoping & Program Initiation	Project Planning Step 2: Service Development Planning	Project Development Step 3
Key Activities	• Submit expression of interest to docket	• Submit corridor proposal in response to upcoming solicitation	• Sponsor creates the capacity necessary to undertake the service planning effort • Sponsor develops scope, schedule, and budget for planning effort	• Sponsor, in collaboration with FRA, prepares service development plan for corridor	*For a Phase of Implementing Corridor* • Sponsor completes environmental review • Sponsor completes PE
Prerequisites	None	None	• Selection of Corridor	• Completion of Step 1	• Completion of Step 2 • Phase likely to be implemented • Phase likely to benefit IPR Service
Binding Commitment	None	None	Delivery of scope and cost estimate for SDP	Completion of SDP, approved by FRA	Completion of PE / NEPA for phase
Funding	None	None	~$500k "seed money," **0% match** *(Unspent funds carry forward)*	$XX determined through scoping effort, **10% match**	$XX determined through SDP, **20% match**

Corridor Proposals
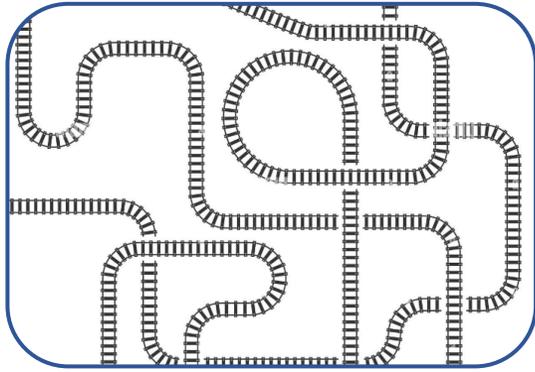
Characteristics of the Corridor

Readiness to enter the Program
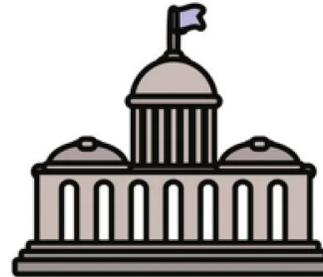
Statutory and Other Evaluation and Selection Criteria

FRA will **NOT** require service development planning outputs as part of the corridor proposal

Scaling of Corridor Proposal

- Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that encompass the full scope of their interest

- FRA will engage the corridor sponsor to jointly determine what to advance into the program

- Potential elements for discussion:

Need to focus on narrower selection or combine corridors	*Service characteristics too ambitious or not ambitious enough*
Geographic scope too broad or too narrow	*Scope of improvements too ambitious or not ambitious enough*

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Outreach

- FRA will conduct **outreach with potential sponsors** and other interested parties who submitted Expressions of Interest in response to the May 13 Federal Register Notice

- FRA will also **meet with current corridor sponsors** that have not yet submitted Expressions of Interest

- Outreach focused on **dialogue between FRA and sponsors** on Corridor ID program

- In Q4, FRA will conduct a **webinar** related to applications for Corridor ID

Contact Us

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Connect with us **USDOTFRA**

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