

FRA

RAIL

PROGRAM DELIVERY WORKSHOP

JULY 2024 | WASHINGTON, DC

**Partnering with
Innovation:
Rail Application
Assistance
Database (RAAD)**

**A New Approach to Applications
for Discretionary Grants**

Panelists



Pam DiGiovanni
Supervisory
Transportation
Specialist

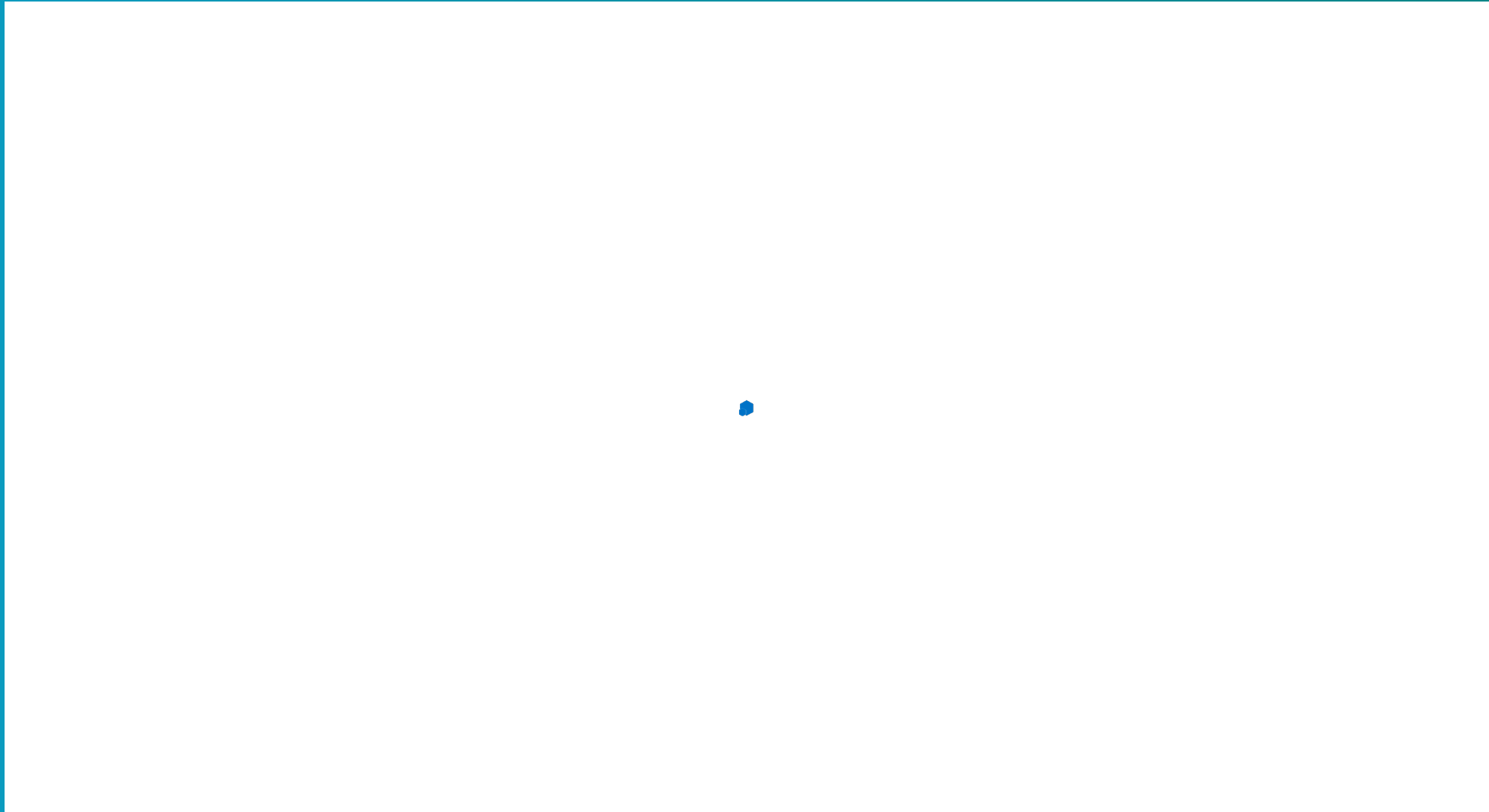


Will Reckley
Transportation
Industry Analyst



Jenny Zeng
Supervisory
Transportation
Specialist

Share your first thoughts on FRA's grant application process



Agenda

- What is the Rail Application Assistance Database (RAAD)?
- Why RAAD?
- Discretionary Grant Programs Included in RAAD
- Application Process: Current vs. Anticipated
- RAAD Preview Video
- We Need Your Feedback!

What Is RAAD?

- Rail Application Assistance Database
 - Website based application for FRA discretionary grants
 - Universal Application
 - Modernizing and streamlining the application process for both applicants and FRA
- Standardizes the NOFO requirements with program-specific conditions into one streamlined online platform that will guide the applicant through the application and submission process
- Ensures information is consistent across information requests through Grants.gov and the application

Why RAAD?



Accuracy and Completeness

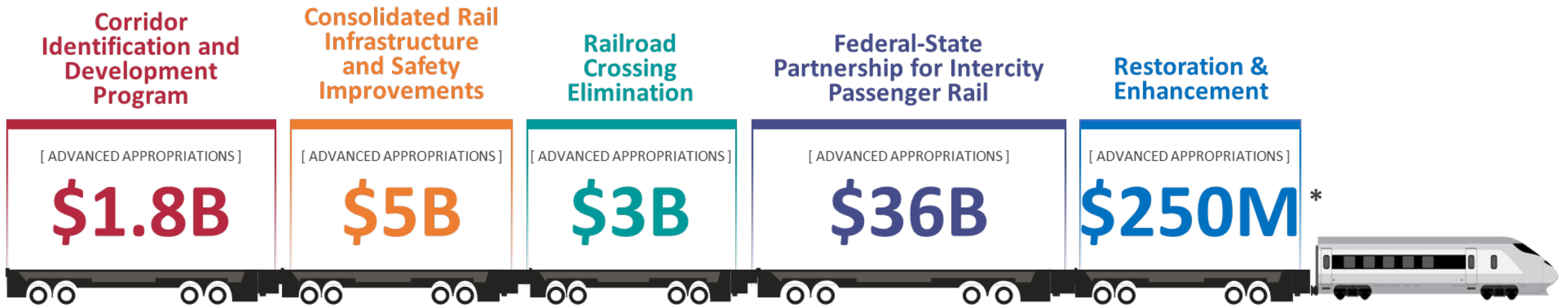
- Form-based application guides applicants through process
- Harder to omit critical information
- Levels the playing field for less experienced applicants



Better Evaluation

- FRA has easier access to needed data for evaluation
- FRA can run processes we used to ask applicants to do
- Increases speed that FRA can select successful applicants

Discretionary Grant Programs Included in RAAD



Application Process: Current vs. Anticipated

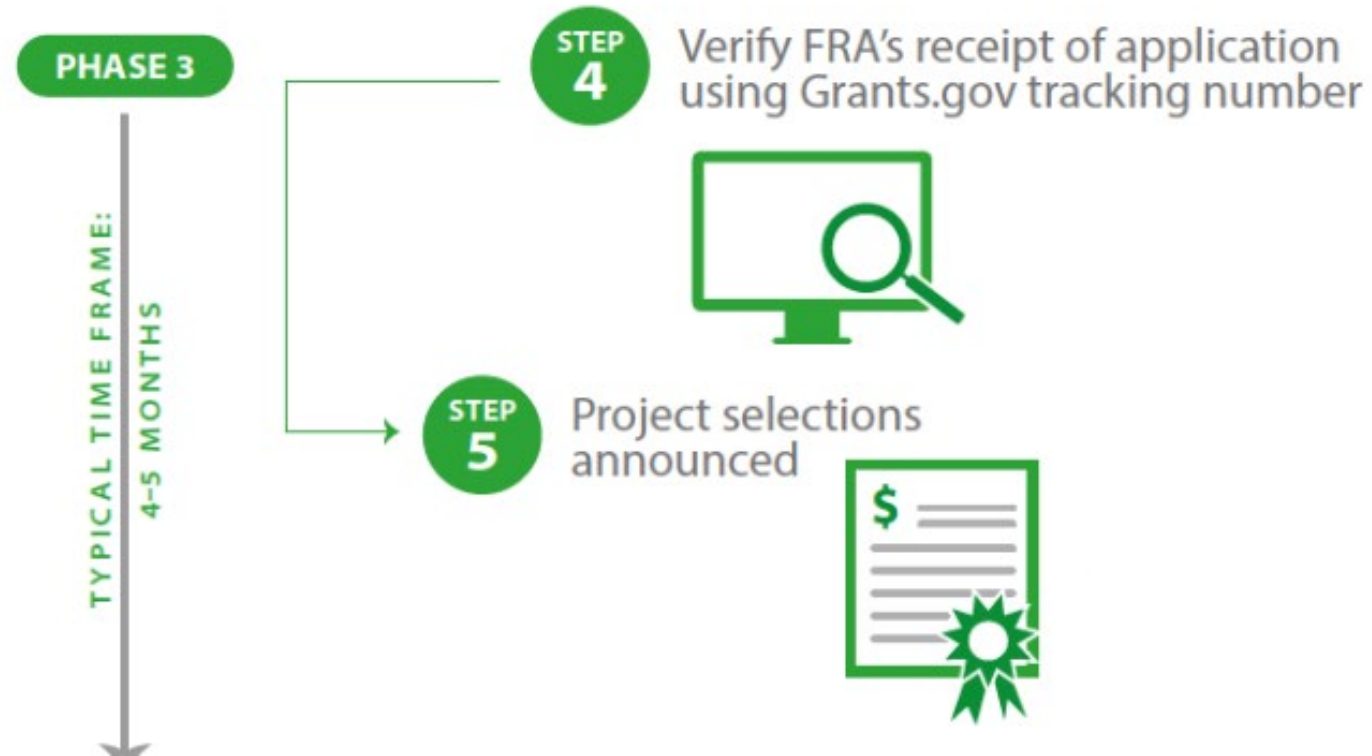
Current Application Process



Current Application Process



Current Application Process

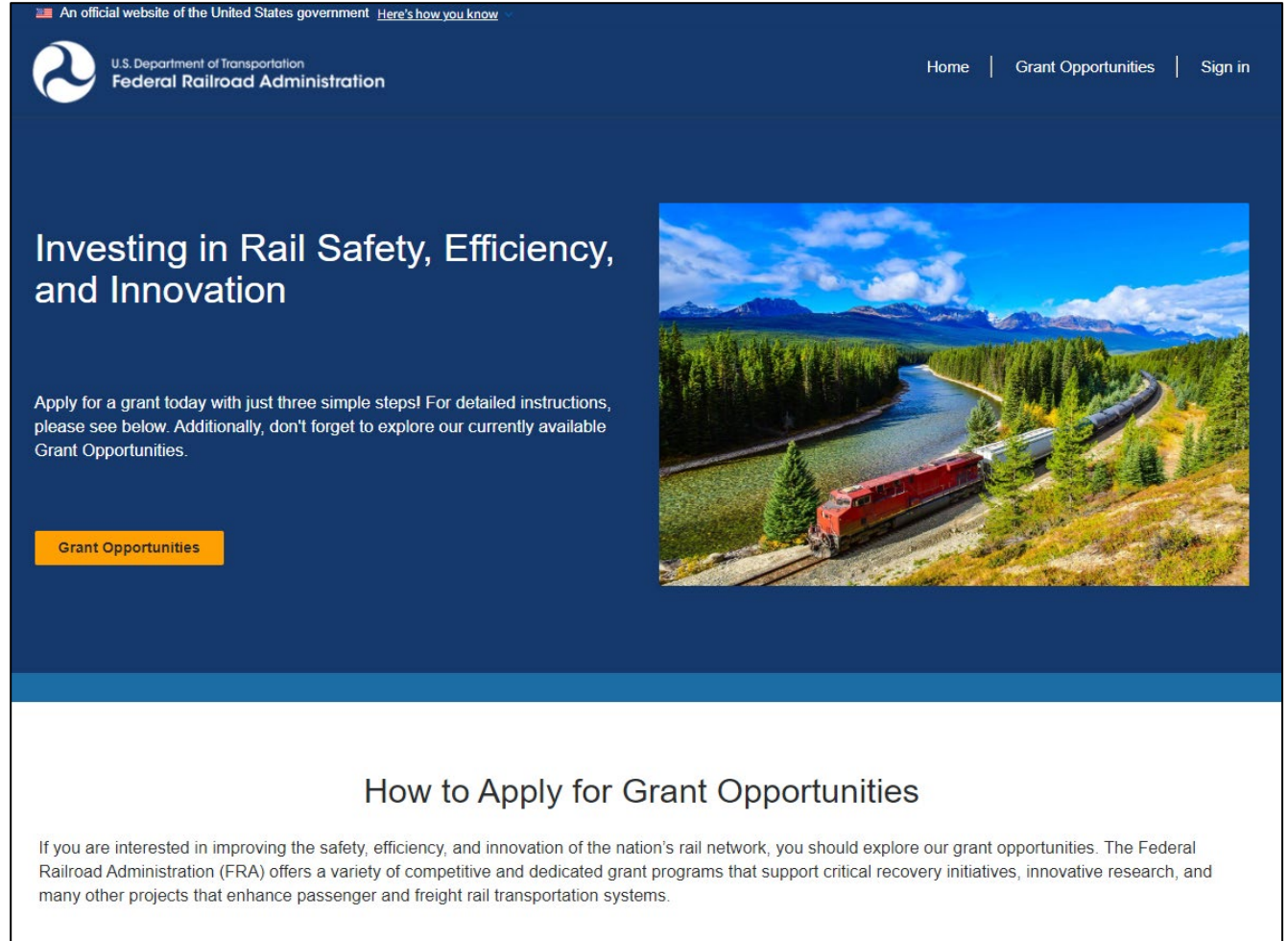


What Is NOT Changing with the RAAD

- The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is still the authoritative source for what you need to submit in your application
 - Always follow the NOFO!
- Your project narrative is still important and still specific to the NOFO
 - Provide all required information
 - Include unique information and requirements listed in the NOFO
- Attachment 2 Statement of Work still required specific to the NOFO
- *Complete important forms outside of RAAD in Grants.gov
 - SF 424 and subsequent forms
 - SF LLL
 - FRA F 6180.251
 - FRA F 6180.30

The Anticipated RAAD Process

- Account-based web platform to create grant applications
- Added information for complex questions to help guide applicants through the process
- Additional technical assistance for applicants



An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)


U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

Home | Grant Opportunities | Sign in

Investing in Rail Safety, Efficiency, and Innovation

Apply for a grant today with just three simple steps! For detailed instructions, please see below. Additionally, don't forget to explore our currently available Grant Opportunities.

[Grant Opportunities](#)



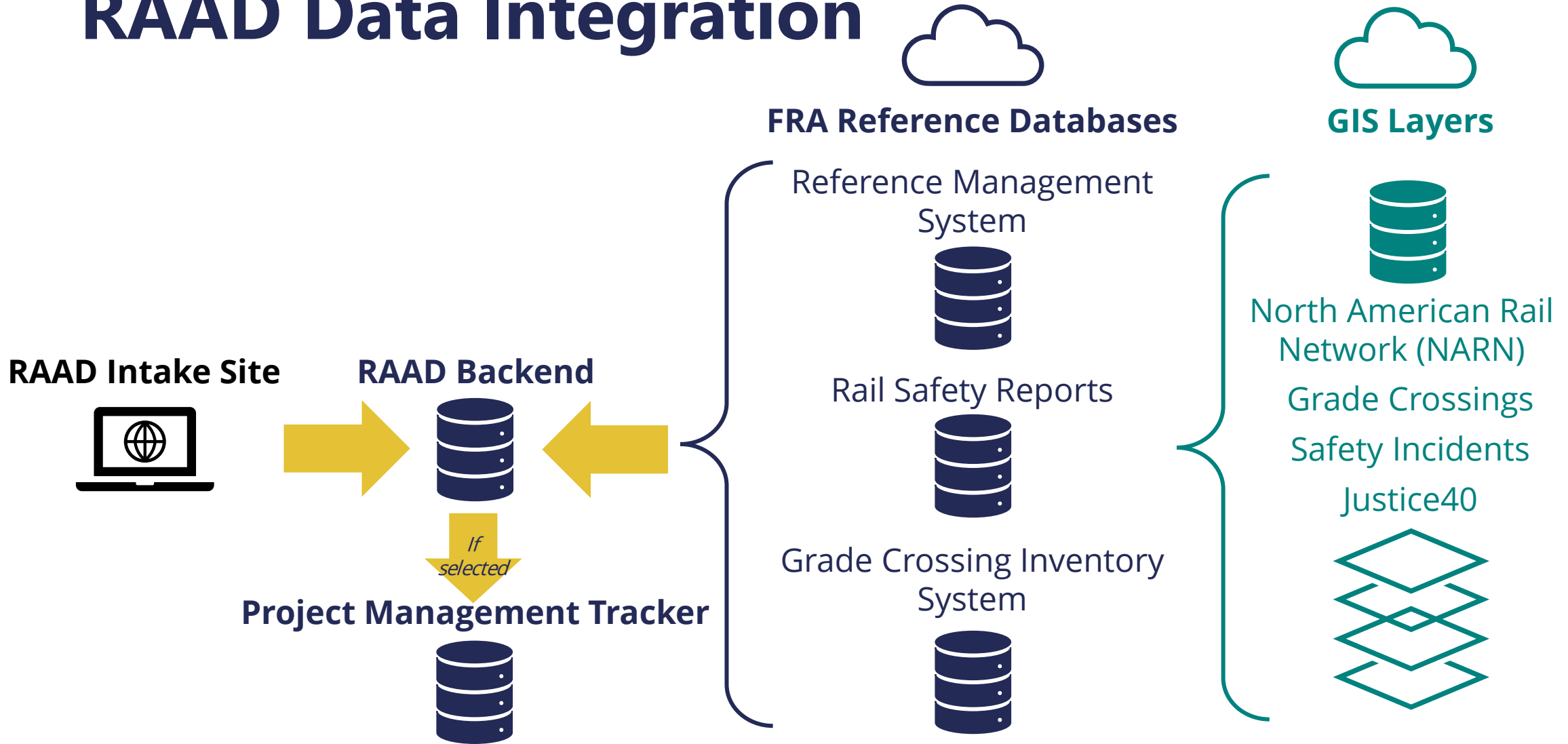
How to Apply for Grant Opportunities

If you are interested in improving the safety, efficiency, and innovation of the nation's rail network, you should explore our grant opportunities. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) offers a variety of competitive and dedicated grant programs that support critical recovery initiatives, innovative research, and many other projects that enhance passenger and freight rail transportation systems.

The Anticipated RAAD Process

- Questions from all FRA Notices of Funding Opportunities have been standardized
- One interface for all programs
 - Specific questions are needed for certain grants or tracks
 - RAAD will display questions you need to answer
- Data integration across multiple sources:
 - GIS-information
 - FRA databases
 - Applicant information

RAAD Data Integration



The Anticipated RAAD Process

- FRA is considering how to integrate RAAD into the Grants.gov system. **As of now**, we anticipate that applicants will:
 1. Create a project profile in grants.gov
 - Complete required forms within grants.gov
 2. Access the RAAD to complete the specific program application, which will generate a PDF file
 3. Upload the completed RAAD PDF to grants.gov
 4. Submit to Grants.gov = complete application
- *FRA is also exploring other technical solutions for this application system*

We Need Your Help!

We Need Your Input!

- The RAAD will be open for comment in the *Federal Register* soon!
 - Likely to be posted in the next two months
- Please provide feedback—we want your thoughts!
 - What works and what could be improved
 - Questions and how we ask for information
 - Sign up for FRA's Program Delivery announcements



Questions?



Follow FRA on [LinkedIn](#)
for more updates!

FRA

RAIL

PROGRAM DELIVERY WORKSHOP

JULY 2024 | WASHINGTON, DC