

# Corridor Identification and Development Program (CIDP)

## Step 1 Service Development Plan (SDP)

### Scoping Topics

The purpose of this document is to support Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regional project teams in their initial conversations with project sponsors after Step 1 obligation. This resource will also be helpful in early conversations between FRA planning staff and project sponsors to set the stage for SDP scoping efforts and provide clarity on the sponsors' vision for the corridor. Service and project planning is an individualized and iterative process between FRA and the sponsor, intended to build off prior planning efforts to continually enhance and develop a corridor. The topics below reflect FRA's individualized and collaborative scoping process, and addressing them represents FRA's recognition of the unique nature of each corridor and sponsor.

Before initiating the SDP gap analysis and Statement of Work (SOW) development, FRA regional teams led by FRA planning staff should understand the depth of analysis needed and what the sponsor wants to achieve in the CID Program. Clarifying the work that has been done to date and the potential SDP outcomes at the onset of SDP planning will help reduce risk and delays in the overall planning process. Also, understanding the difference between the work that has been completed and what the SDP is intended to address is key to developing an accurate SOW, schedule, and budget under Step 1 of CIDP.

Although corridor sponsors submitted an application with high-level objectives for their corridor, the topics discussed here are intended to aid FRA and sponsors in understanding the next level of information to adequately assess the focus of each individual CIDP SDP. The intent is not for the sponsor to copy and paste from a CID application or other completed planning documents, but to provide a comprehensive review of the corridor as part of an ongoing back-and-forth dialogue with FRA. For new corridors, with minimal work completed to date, there may be little information to build off. However, the scoping considerations will help project sponsors further develop the overall SDP SOW, schedule, and budget because they will clarify and support the proposals as they become a final scoping document.

In addition to the gap between existing and prior efforts, project sponsors may describe and present how developments that have occurred since their CID application submission affect their corridor. To the extent practicable, sponsors are encouraged to provide updates for gaps in their CID application. Sponsors are not expected to have all the details of their intended scope, but they do need a general understanding of the SDP scope they wish to pursue. This SDP scope will be informed by stakeholder engagement, previous work to advance the corridor, and potential implementation strategies.

FRA prefers that sponsors provide a presentation to the FRA project team and planning staff on the answers to these topics as a high-level overview of the corridor status so that further corridor-specific planning discussions and analysis may take place. FRA anticipates that sponsors will address the topics below prior to initiating the gap analysis, but sponsors may also do so concurrently, as they complete the gap analysis. These discussion topics will help inform the development of the SDP SOW, schedule, and budget once the gap analysis is complete.

## Topics for Scoping:

1. Background: History and background of the (planned) corridor.
  - a. Overview of planning and technical work undertaken to date.
  - b. Timeline of the work completed to date.
  - c. Key technical, planning, coordination, or other relevant information in the CIDP application that is relevant for the upcoming SDP scope.
  - d. Key updates since application submission.
2. Goals: Sponsor's intended rail service goals for the corridor.
  - a. Needs of sponsor during the Step 2 SDP development process to bridge the gap between the work already completed and their goals.
3. Stakeholders: Relationship with relevant corridor stakeholders who have a roll in the development of the corridor (i.e., operators, infrastructure owners, funding partners).
  - a. Describe entities' involvement in prior efforts.
  - b. Discuss whether stakeholders were willing participants and their support of prior service-planning efforts.
4. Current effort: On-going work to advance the development of the corridor.
  - a. Recent work that has been underway to support the development of the corridor.
  - b. Describe the discussions that have taken place with stakeholders, such as elected officials, host railroads, and entities managing shared corridor segments.
5. Barriers: Challenges that may prevent the corridor from advancing.
  - a. Primary challenges and barriers that could cause delays in corridor development (e.g., funding, public support).
6. Feasibility: Developing achievable goals for the corridor.
  - a. Discuss due diligence completed prior to beginning the detailed scoping process for the SDP.
  - b. Alignment between scoping and feasible path for developing and implementing the corridor.
  - c. Stakeholder's support of the proposed scope.
7. Financial Considerations: Funding commitment for advancing the corridor.
  - a. Funding invested in planning for current SDP prior to entering CIDP.
  - b. Discuss if sufficient funding is available to execute the Step 2 grant.