



Working to implement a 21st century passenger rail system by adding the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative network and additional state-supported corridors to the region's existing passenger rail infrastructure.



MIPRC 2016 Annual Meeting
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St. Louis, Missouri

Update on the Midwest's FRA-Led Multistate Rail Planning Project

Update on the Midwest's FRA-Led Multistate Rail Planning Project: **Timeline**

- ▶ **2012:** MIPRC proposed to the FRA a series of FRA-led workshops which would help identify the governance structure the Midwest will need in the future to plan and move forward with regional passenger rail development.
- ▶ **Early 2013:** the FRA asked for a concept paper, which MIPRC developed and submitted in February of 2013. The FRA indicated that they were trying to identify sources for planning money, but prospects did not materialize.
- ▶ MIPRC created a Governance Committee during its **Oct. 2013 Annual Meeting** to try and move things forward, while periodic conversations continued.
- ▶ **During its June 2014 Annual Meeting**, MIPRC was informed that the FRA would be issuing a call for FRA-led multistate planning efforts. At the meeting, MIPRC commissioners approved MIPRC applying for the planning effort whenever it was announced.
- ▶ **On Oct. 20, 2014**, the FRA released a "Call for Statements of Interest and Qualifications for Federally-Led Regional Rail Planning Projects" with a deadline of Nov. 12.
- ▶ MIPRC leadership, along with MIPRC staff and additional DOT representatives, and the with the assistance of Quandt Consultants, developed the Midwest's statement of interest. The proposal was submitted **Nov. 12, 2014** along with 85 letters of support from a great variety of supporters across the region. When the proposal was submitted, we were told we would receive an update on FRA's decision-making process in December.

Update on the Midwest's FRA-Led Multistate Rail Planning Project: **Timeline**

- ▶ **July 30, 2015:** MIPRC received word that the Midwest and Southeast had been chosen for FRA-led multi-state planning projects.
- ▶ Notification to Congress:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is utilizing authority provided under Section 192 of the FY 2014 Omnibus Appropriations Act (P.L. 113-76) to retain \$2,780,651 in funding made available to the agency to facilitate multi-state rail planning. Due to the complexities in coordinating among multiple states and other stakeholders, FRA is retaining these funds and leading the planning effort at the Federal level, rather than awarding funds to entities through a grant or cooperative agreement. In October 2014, FRA solicited statements of interest from states for participating in this FRA-led multi-state planning process. FRA is using these funds to engage stakeholders in both the Southeast and Midwest regions in forming more comprehensive regional governance organizations to sustain current planning work and develop a long-term passenger rail vision for their respective regions. Funding will also be utilized to enhance FRA's passenger rail network planning tool with updated cost and trip table data, as well as new mapping and benefit-cost analysis features. These efforts will build off of the pilot Southwest Passenger Rail Study that was funded under similar authority in FY 2010 and released in October 2014.

assured us "that the Midwest regional planning study will receive the same attention and resources as the Southeast study. We are working closely with our procurement office to p

Update on the Midwest's FRA-Led Multistate Rail Planning Project: **Timeline**

- ▶ **Nov. 2015:** FRA issues RFP for consultants to manage the Midwest's and Southeast's projects, with a due date of December 21st.
- ▶ MIPRC is told that the first deliverable will be for the consultant to develop a Detailed Work Plan with FRA and input from key stakeholders. On **Jan. 29, 2016**, MIPRC chair Tim Hoeffner and director Laura Kliever hold a conference call with FRA to discuss process for receiving input from stakeholders.
- ▶ **March 2016:** the Southeast's consultant is chosen, but the choosing of the consultant for the Midwest is "postponed." MIPRC receives assurances from the FRA "that the Midwest regional planning study will receive the same attention and resources as the Southeast study. We are working closely with our procurement office to prevent further delays and will share a revised schedule with you soon."
- ▶ **April 8, 2016:** RFQ for the Midwest FRA-led planning project is re-posted on the GSA eBuy website, with a due date of April 29th
- ▶ **July 12, 2016:** MIPRC is told by the FRA that they have selected a contractor, are about to enter negotiations, and should have news to share soon.

Update on the Midwest's FRA-Led Multistate Rail Planning Project: **What is it?**

- ▶ The FRA has developed a planning framework to guide the development of high-performance rail networks and services from concept through project development to implementation. FRA's planning framework, from general to specific, includes:
 - National rail planning – criteria, guidance and tools to support local decision-makers
 - **Regional rail plans (multi-state)**
 - State rail plans
 - Passenger rail corridor investment plans (which include a Service Development Plan and Tier I NEPA study)

Update on the Midwest's FRA-Led Multistate Rail Planning Project: **What is it?**

- ▶ The Midwest's regional rail plan will help the region and FRA determine the priorities, studies and investment needed to advance projects within a multi-state network.

Update on the Midwest's FRA-Led Multistate Rail Planning Project: **What is it?**

- ▶ A regional rail plan:
 - Is a process led by the FRA in partnership with stakeholders that identifies and describes a common, long-term (30- to 40-year) blueprint for a high-performance rail network within a specified region.
 - Will help the region and FRA determine the priorities, studies and investments needed to advance projects within a multi-state network context.
 - Illustrates how links with local transit, aviation, highways and non-motorized modes can create a seamless, integrated transportation system to carry travelers from origin to destination throughout the region.
 - Identifies the potential institutional arrangements, financial requirements, phasing planning and development activities needed to implement the plan.

Update on the Midwest's FRA-Led Multistate Rail Planning Project: **What are the components of the plan?**

- ▶ **BASELINE CONDITIONS AND MARKET ASSESSMENT**
- ▶ **GENERALIZED NETWORK VISION AND SERVICE PLAN**
- ▶ **GOVERNANCE STRATEGIES**
- ▶ **PRIORITIZED INVESTMENTS AND MAPS**
- ▶ **COSTS, BENEFITS AND FUNDING**

Update on the Midwest's FRA-Led Multistate Rail Planning Project: **What are the components of the plan?**

▶ **BASELINE CONDITIONS AND MARKET ASSESSMENT**

will examine market opportunities for regional corridors and connections; analyze goals, policies and priorities in existing transportation studies; and consider land-use opportunities.

Among the activities:

- Assessing baseline conditions and market opportunities for rail in the region.
- Analyzing regional transportation goals, studies and priorities for all modes.
- Identifying potential corridors and connections for testing with FRA's CONNECT tool.

Update on the Midwest's FRA-Led Multistate Rail Planning Project: **What are the components of the plan?**

▶ **GENERALIZED NETWORK VISION AND SERVICE PLAN**

will describe the communities to be served by rail and the corridors that link them. The service plan will describe the range of train service connecting markets in the network and how those services would operate and interact in the network.

These will be accomplished by:

- Developing a map of the proposed passenger rail network and describing the communities to be served and the corridors between them.
- Describing service plans to link markets in the network with characteristics (frequencies, speeds, capacities).
- Describing potential benefits a passenger rail network would bring to freight rail.
- Describing opportunities for integrating modes within the corridors.

Update on the Midwest's FRA-Led Multistate Rail Planning Project: **What are the components of the plan?**

▶ **GOVERNANCE STRATEGIES**

will identify and address the institutional, financial, political and regulatory structures necessary to develop the envisioned system. It will involve:

- Identifying a working group to address the institutional, financial, political and regulatory structures necessary to develop, operate, maintain and fund the system.
- Delivering a proposal and action plan to put the institutional and governance frameworks in place.

Update on the Midwest's FRA-Led Multistate Rail Planning Project: **What are the components of the plan?**

▶ **PRIORITIZED INVESTMENTS AND MAPS**

will create a list of corridors, potential stations, proposed levels of service and a logical progression of development of segments and corridors that will comprise the regional network. This will require:

- Creating a map and written description of the proposed regional network, including a corridor-by-corridor description of service levels and potential stations.
- Prioritizing the development or upgrading of specific segments of the network in a logical order.

Update on the Midwest's FRA-Led Multistate Rail Planning Project: **What are the components of the plan?**

▶ **COSTS, BENEFITS AND FUNDING**

will include a high-level capital cost estimate for developing the regional network, forecasts for operating the network, a preliminary analysis of the benefits and costs, and a discussion of potential funding and financing strategies. It will include:

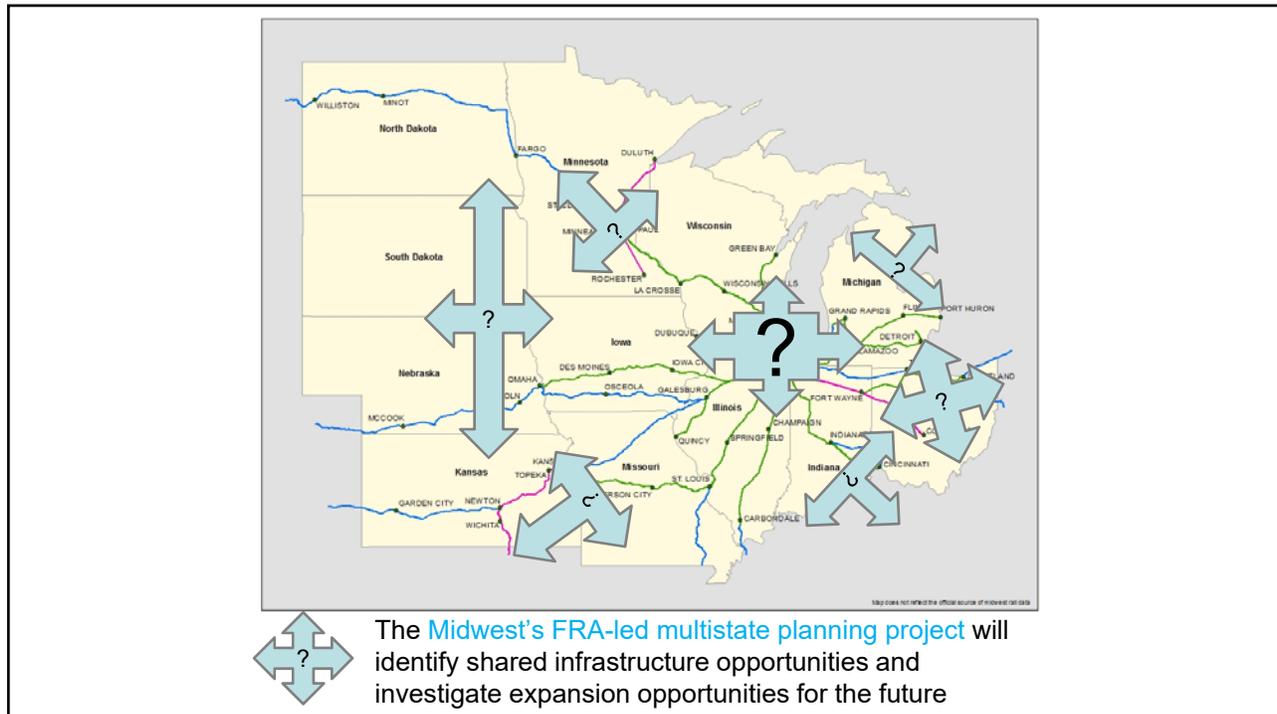
- Creating a high-level, capital cost estimate for developing the regional network.
- Creating conceptual financial forecasts for operating the regional network, including high-level ridership and revenue estimates.
- Conducting a benefit-cost analysis for the regional network.
- Assessing potential funding sources and private sector participation.

Update on the Midwest's FRA-Led Multistate Rail Planning Project: **What is the expected outcome?**

- ▶ Ultimately, a key outcome of the Midwest's regional plan will be to identify a pipeline of corridors that will be evaluated at the next level of analysis – a Tier 1 Corridor Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Service Development Plan. The FRA's goal is for member states to:
 - Adopt the findings of the regional rail plan and join or create the regional governance structure.
 - Incorporate relevant studies, corridors and projects from the regional rail plan into state rail plans to ensure eligibility for federal grants under the High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail program.

Update on the Midwest's FRA-Led Multistate Rail Planning Project: **What states will be involved?**

- ▶ At a minimum, the study will consider the states that wrote letters of support for the Midwest's Statement of Interest.
- ▶ Initial stakeholder feedback and data analysis from the CONNECT Tool will be used to determine whether additional states should be considered in the Midwest regional rail plan.



► Questions?