



RAIL

MOVING AMERICA FORWARD

Draft Guidance on the Development and Management of Railroad Capital Projects



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

July 14, 2022

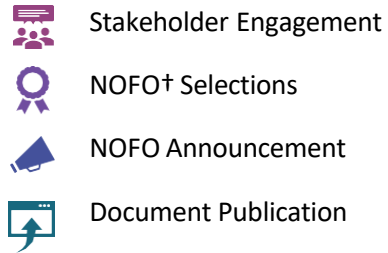
FRA Grant Program Opportunities Under BIL

Programs	Purpose	Appropriated	Additional Authorized Over Five Years	Total
Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)	To fund projects that improve the safety, efficiency, or reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail.	\$5 billion (\$1 billion annually)	\$5 billion (\$1 billion annually)	\$10 billion
Railroad Crossing Elimination <i>(New)</i>	To promote highway rail or pathway-rail grade crossing improvement projects that focus on improving the safety and mobility of people and goods.	\$3 billion (\$600 million annually)	\$2.5 billion (\$500 million annually)	\$5.5 billion
Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail <i>(Significantly Changed)</i>	To fund capital projects that reduce the state of good repair backlog, improve performance, or expand or establish new intercity passenger rail service, including privately operated intercity passenger rail service if an eligible applicant is involved.	\$36 billion (\$7.2 billion annually)	\$7.5 billion (\$1.5 billion annually)	\$43.5 billion
Restoration & Enhancement	To provide operating assistance to initiate, restore, or enhance intercity passenger rail service.	\$250 million (\$50 million annually from Amtrak National Network fund)	\$250 million (\$50 million annually)	\$500 million
Interstate Rail Compacts <i>(New)</i>	This program will provide funding for interstate rail compacts' administrative costs and to conduct railroad systems planning, promotion of intercity passenger rail operations, and the preparation of grant applications.	\$15 million (\$3 million annually)	\$15 million (\$3 million annually)	\$30 million

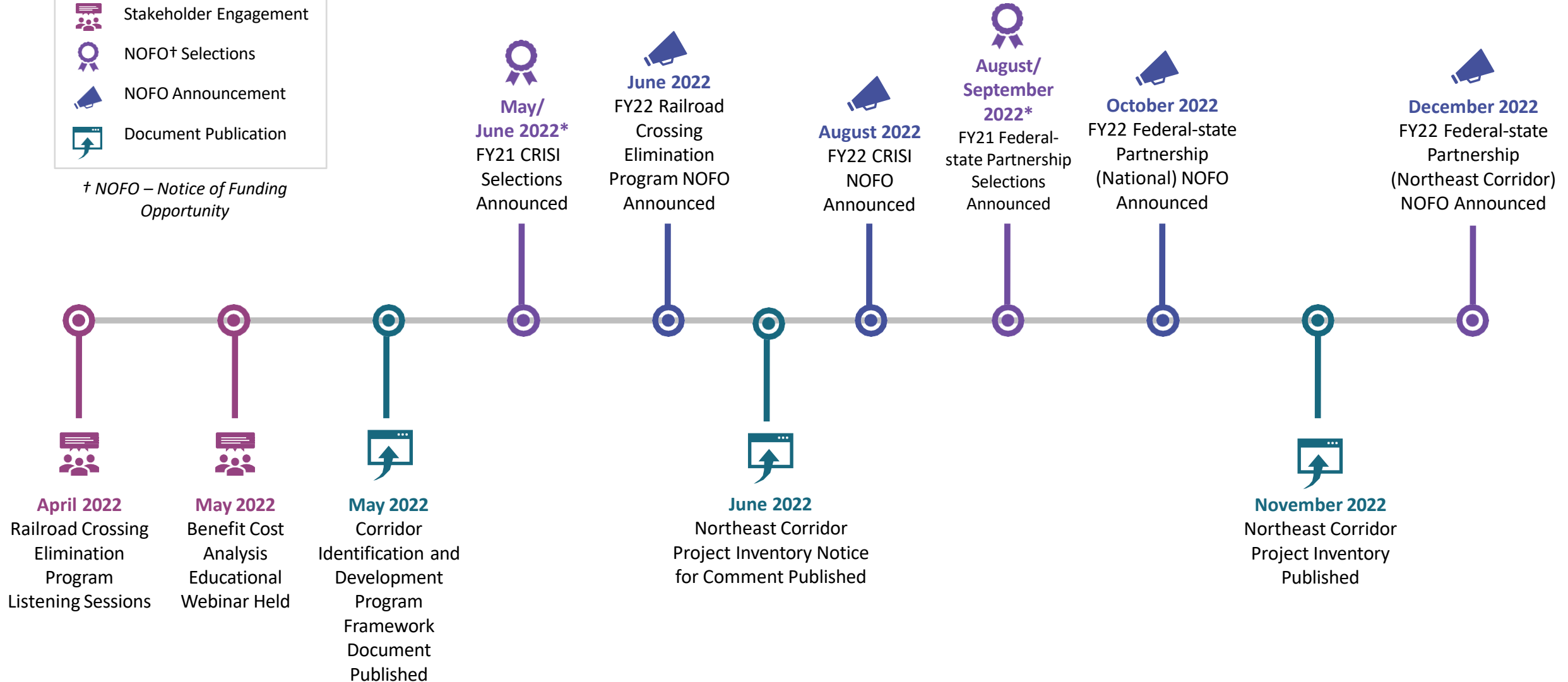


Calendar of Upcoming FRA Publications

* Targeted selection period, subject to change



† NOFO – Notice of Funding Opportunity



Objectives of FRA Guidance

- **Establish consistent project guidance across FRA grant programs**
- **Enhance sponsor success** in implementing rail projects with clear development and management practices to guide sponsors of all backgrounds and experience levels
- Enhance **administrative efficiency and effective delivery** of FRA-funded projects by appropriately requiring compliance through Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and grant agreements
- Set **transparent expectations for project management**—harmonized with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) best practices
- **Build industry capacity and enhance investment outcomes** that advance National passenger rail investment

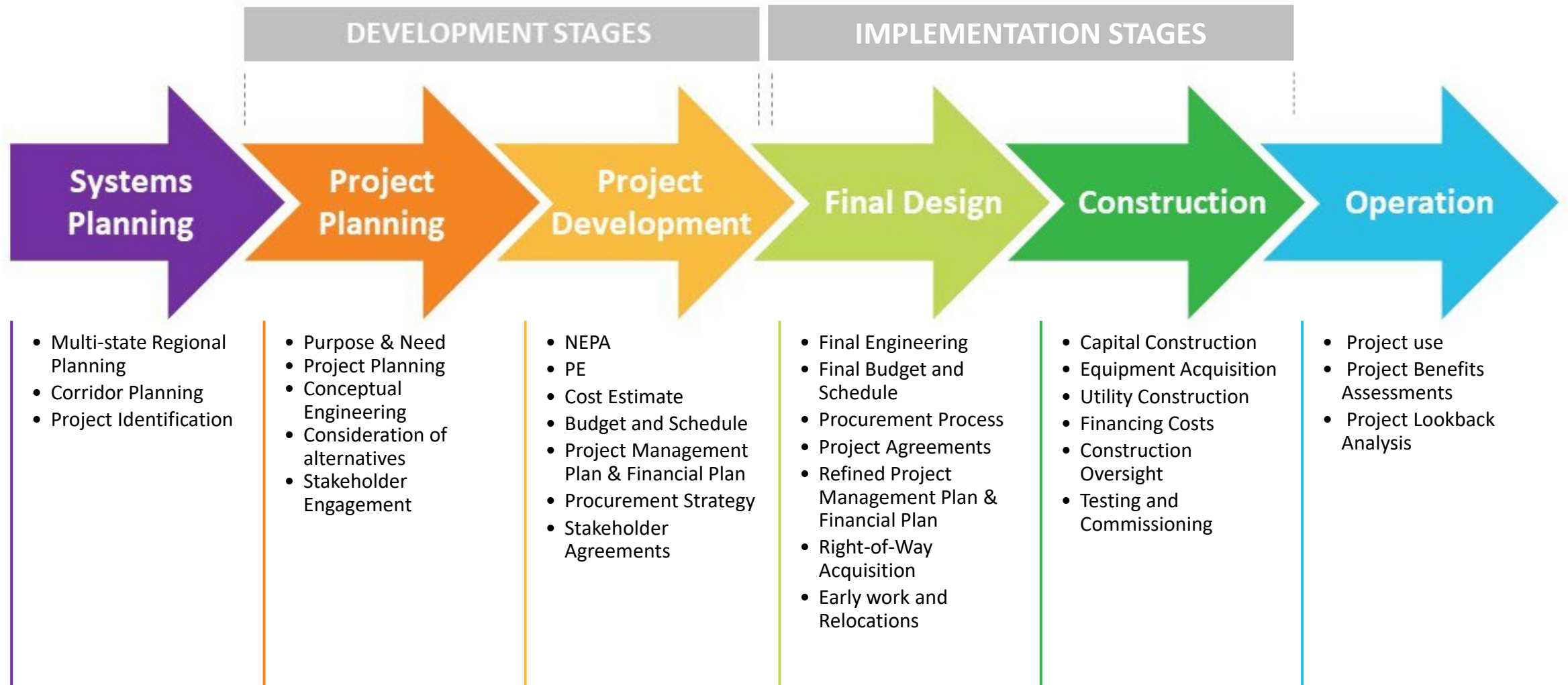
Scope of Draft Guidance

- Addresses all project types and all stages of the project lifecycle
- Defines “Major Project” for FRA railroad programs
 - Reflects FRA, FHWA and FTA experience
 - Aligned with FTA’s and Federal-State Partnership NOFO
 - Defined as: over \$300M total project cost and at least \$100M federal assistance
 - Aligns project management methods with FHWA and FTA



Rendering of Portal North Bridge, NJ; image credit Amtrak

Project Lifecycle Stages



Capital Project Management

- Four key **project management tools and processes**
 - Potential to invoke guidance through **NOFOs and grant agreements**
1. Project Management Plan
 - Major Projects: 49 U.S.C. § 22903
 2. Schedule
 3. Capital Cost Estimate
 - Major Project cost and schedule risk assessment
 4. Financial Plan
 - Major Projects - Adapted FHWA guidance

Suggested Topics for Discussion

- Definitions within the Guidance document
- The project lifecycle stages
- Milestone activities relating to planning, engineering/design, environmental review, and project management tools
- Differences between non-major and major projects
- Any other suggestions for enhancing the Guidance
- Application of Guidance to railroad projects receiving financing/funding under the DOT credit and grant programs

Submit comments to docket number FRA-2022-0035 and be submitted at <https://regulations.gov>