MIDWEST CONNECT

FRA Corridor ID Program: Step 1 Task 2.1

Gap Analysis



September 30, 2024



Chicago – Fort Wayne – Columbus – Pittsburgh
Study Area

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Chicago – Fort Wayne – Columbus Corridor



Study area

- **2012 Northern Indiana Ohio Passenger Rail Corridor Feasibility Study & Business Plan**
  - Provided market analysis, infrastructure & capital costs, operating plan & costs, alternative evaluation, and economic benefits
- **2017 Northern Indiana Passenger Rail Corridor – Route Alternatives Analysis Report**
  - Focused on segment between Tolleston (Gary) and Lima
  - Identified three route options; recommended CFER Fort Wayne Line
- **2020 Benefit Cost Analysis of Northern Indiana Passenger Rail**
  - Preliminary B/C ratios for various alternatives (route, speeds, frequencies) using fare forecasts, annual operating costs, and mode shift cost savings

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Chicago – Fort Wayne – Lima Corridor



Study Area

- **2017 Chicago – Fort Wayne – Lima Passenger Rail Corridor Study Preliminary Forecasts**
  - Conducted market analysis and established forecasting methodology
- **2017 Northern Indiana Passenger Rail – Purpose and Need**
  - Established draft purpose and need
  - Analyzed existing transportation modes, population, and employment growth
- **2019 Northern Indiana Passenger Rail Corridor Pre-NEPA Studies**
  - Identified and analyzed service alternatives
  - Developed investment needs and projected cash flows

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Lima – Pittsburgh Corridor



Route options

- **2019 MORPC Rapid Speed Transportation Initiative – Existing Conditions**
  - Provided description of environmental, cultural, and socio-economic resources
  - Establishes existing rail conditions and ownership
  - Incorporated some study of Chicago-Lima
- **2019 MORPC Rapid Speed Transportation Initiative – Route Alternatives Report**
  - Analyzed route options
  - Proposed initial station locations and screening criteria
  - Incorporated some study of Chicago-Lima

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Document study area



Document study area

Other studies

- **Chicago – Pittsburgh Corridor: 2019 MORPC Rapid Speed Transportation Initiative – Draft Purpose & Need Statement**
  - Established draft purpose and need
  - Analyzed existing transportation modes, population, and employment growth
- **Gary – Lima Corridor: 2017 Northern Indiana Passenger Rail Corridor – Service Alternatives Analysis**
  - Evaluated service options
  - Developed timetables, fare forecast, and projected revenue

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FRA Midwest Regional Rail Plan Network



Station Sites Assessed

Other studies

- **2021 Midwest Regional Rail Planning Study**
  - Intercity passenger rail network planning study led by FRA
  - Conducted high-level engagement with railroad owners and stakeholders
- **2024 Hilliard Rail Station Feasibility Study**
  - Identified and assessed preliminary station locations for two options

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SDP Task Outlook

SDP Subtask	Level of Fulfillment	Anticipated SDP Efforts
2.1 Draft Purpose & Need Statement	Medium-High	Update to combine previously studied routes and incorporate updated data.
2.2 Market Analysis	Medium-High	Update analysis to cover Midwest Connect corridor.
2.3 Railroad Stakeholder Engagement Plan	Low	Engagement specific to Midwest Connect corridor needed.
2.4 SDP Agency Coordination Plan	Low	Agency coordination specific to Midwest Connect corridor needed.
2.5 Public Coordination Plan	Low	Engagement specific to Midwest Connect corridor needed.
3.1 Route Options Analysis	High	Combine route alternatives into single analysis.
3.2 Service Options Analysis	Medium	Analysis needed for entire Midwest Connect corridor.
3.3 Investment Packages Options Analysis	Medium	Additional investment package option analysis needed for entire Midwest Connect corridor.
3.4 Design Options Analysis	Low	New
4.1 Operational Requirements and Existing Conditions Data	Low	Comprehensive coordination and inentory needed for entire Midwest Connect corridor.
4.2 Operations Analysis	Low	Analysis needed for entire Midwest Connect corridor.
4.3 Travel Demand and Ridership Forecasting	Medium-High	Updated analysis needed for entire Midwest Connect corridor.
4.4 Revenue Evaluation Analysis	Low	Evaluation needed for entire Midwest Connect corridor.
4.5 Station Area and Access Analysis	Medium	Analysis needed for entire Midwest Connect corridor.
4.6 Conceptual and Early Preliminary Engineering (Investment Options)	Medium	Conceptual and early preliminary engineering needed for entire Midwest Connect corridor.
4.7 Capital Cost Estimation	Medium	Estimation needed for entire Midwest Connect corridor.
4.8 Operations and Maintenance Cost Estimation	Medium	Updated costs needed for entire Midwest Connect corridor.
5. Environmental Planning	Medium	More extensive analysis needed for entire Midwest Connect corridor.
6.1 Financial Planning	Low	New
6.2 Benefit-Cost Analysis	Medium	Updated benefit cost analysis needed for entire Midwest Connect corridor.
7. Governance	Low	New
8. Phased Implementation Plan	Low	New

Thank You



