

RailNation: San Antonio

John Robert Smith

October 4, 2025



Transportation
for America

FAST Act

- First time transportation reauthorization included Amtrak as well as highways and transit
- Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program (CRISI)
 - Rail infrastructure/equipment
 - Nearly \$6 billion since 2015
- Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Grant
 - Covers 6 years of operational support

IJA

- Corridor Identification and Development Program (CIDP)
 - Corridors under 750 miles and approved LD expansion
 - 69 corridors selected
- Interstate Rail Compacts (IRC) Grant Program
 - Operating support for up to 10 interstate compacts
 - Southern Rail Commission is the model

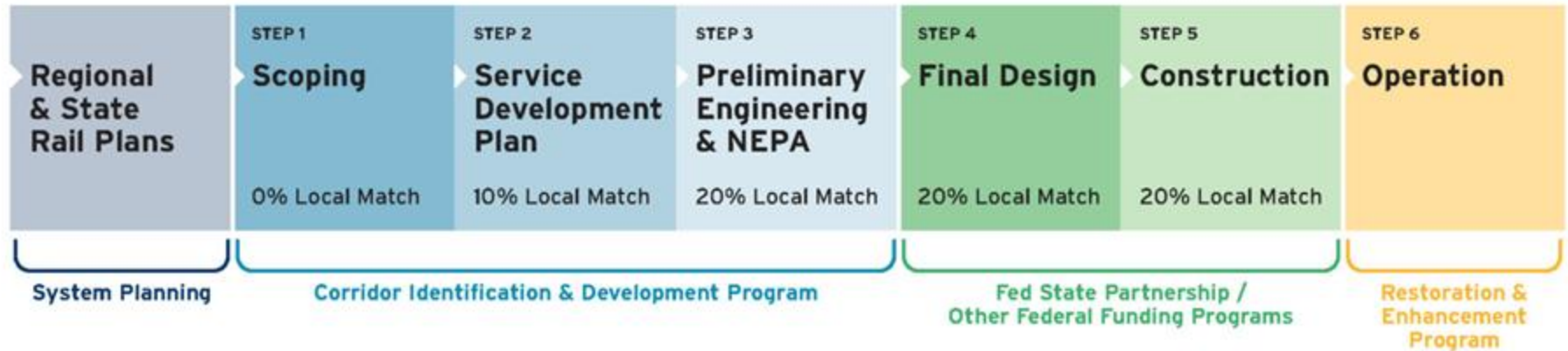


I-20 CIDP Updates

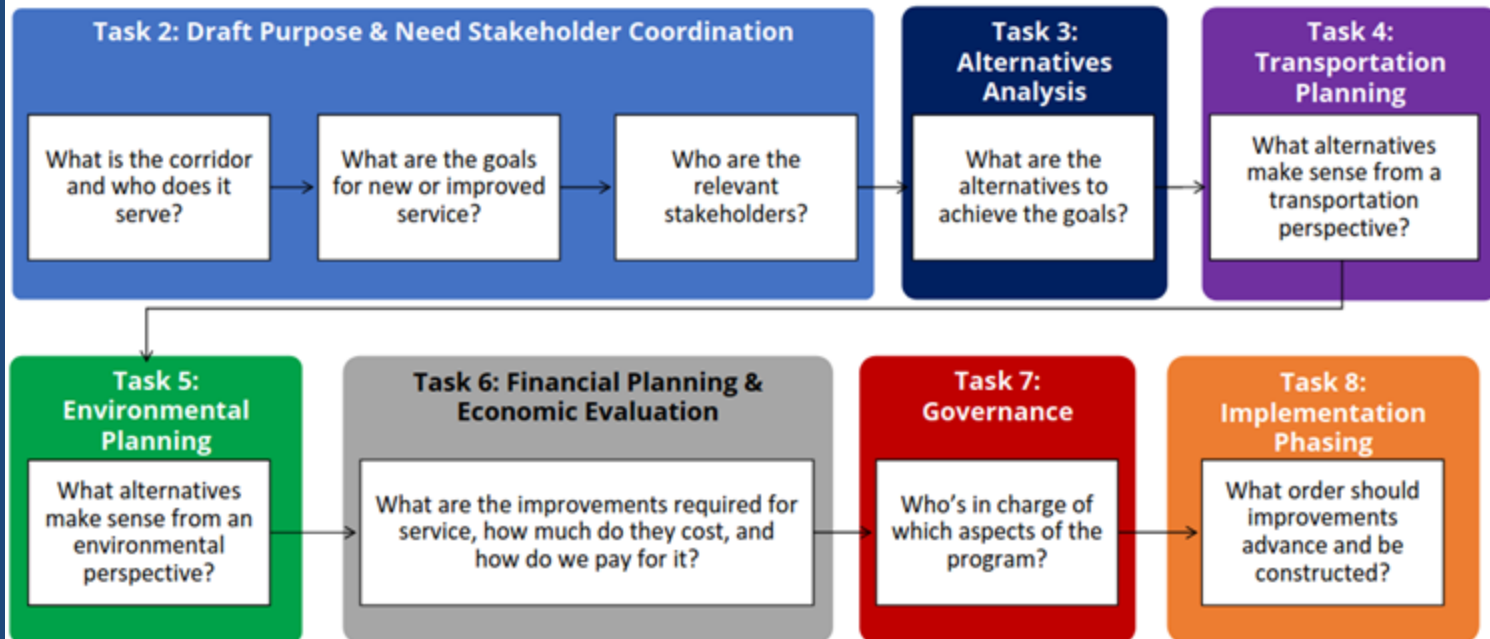


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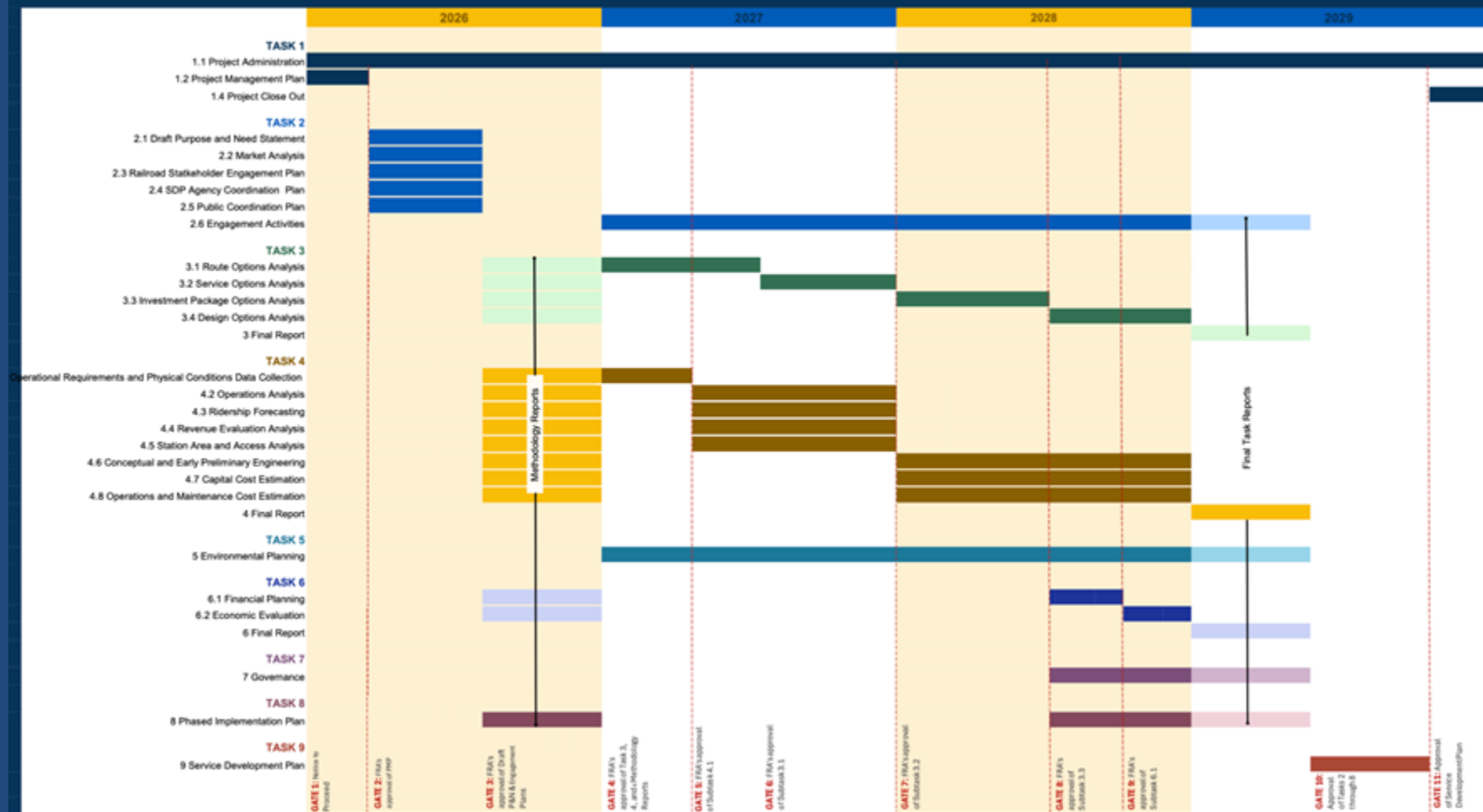
Corridor Identification and Development Program



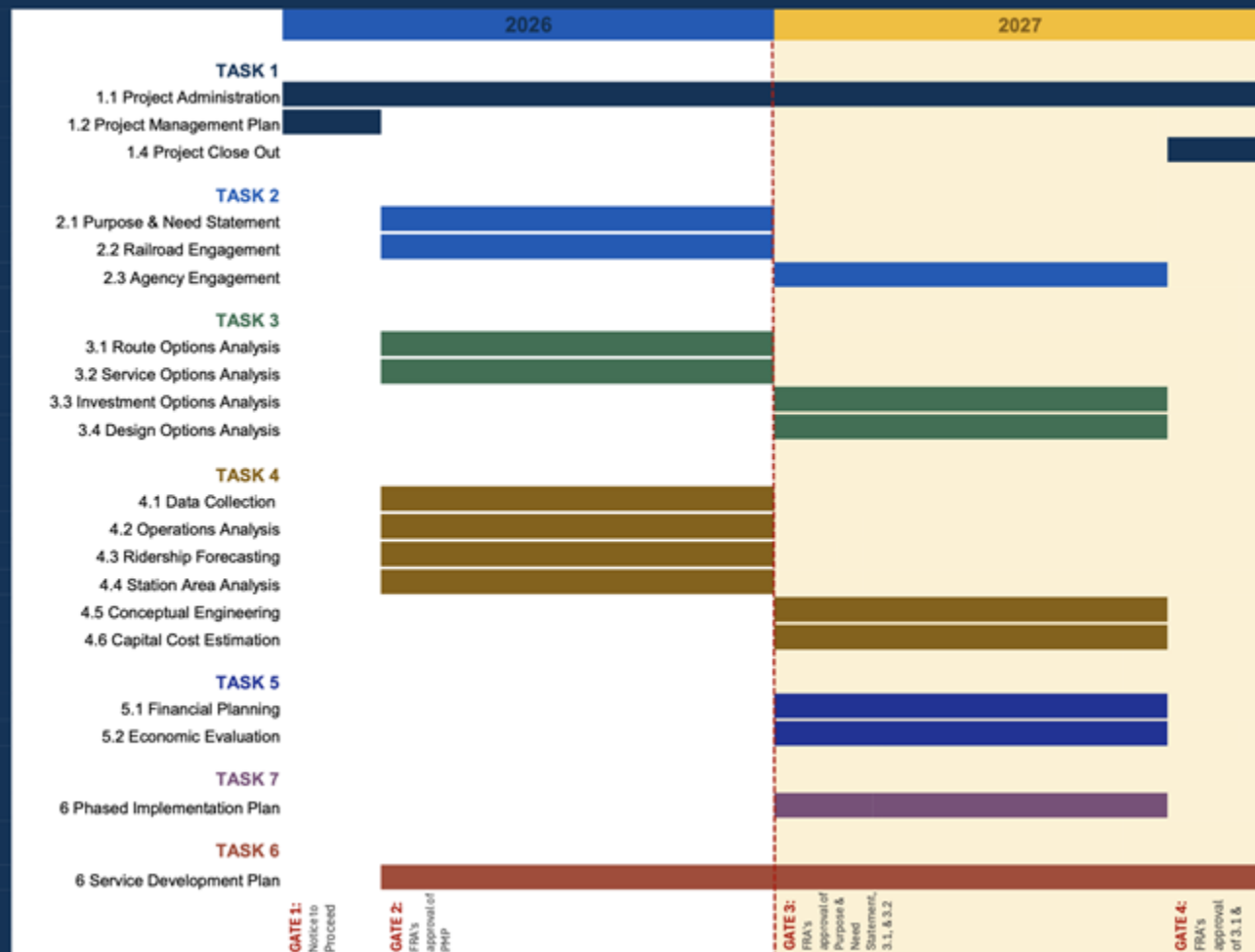
Service Development Plans Answer Important Questions



Corridor Identification and Development Program - STEP 2



Corridor Identification and Development Program - STEP 2



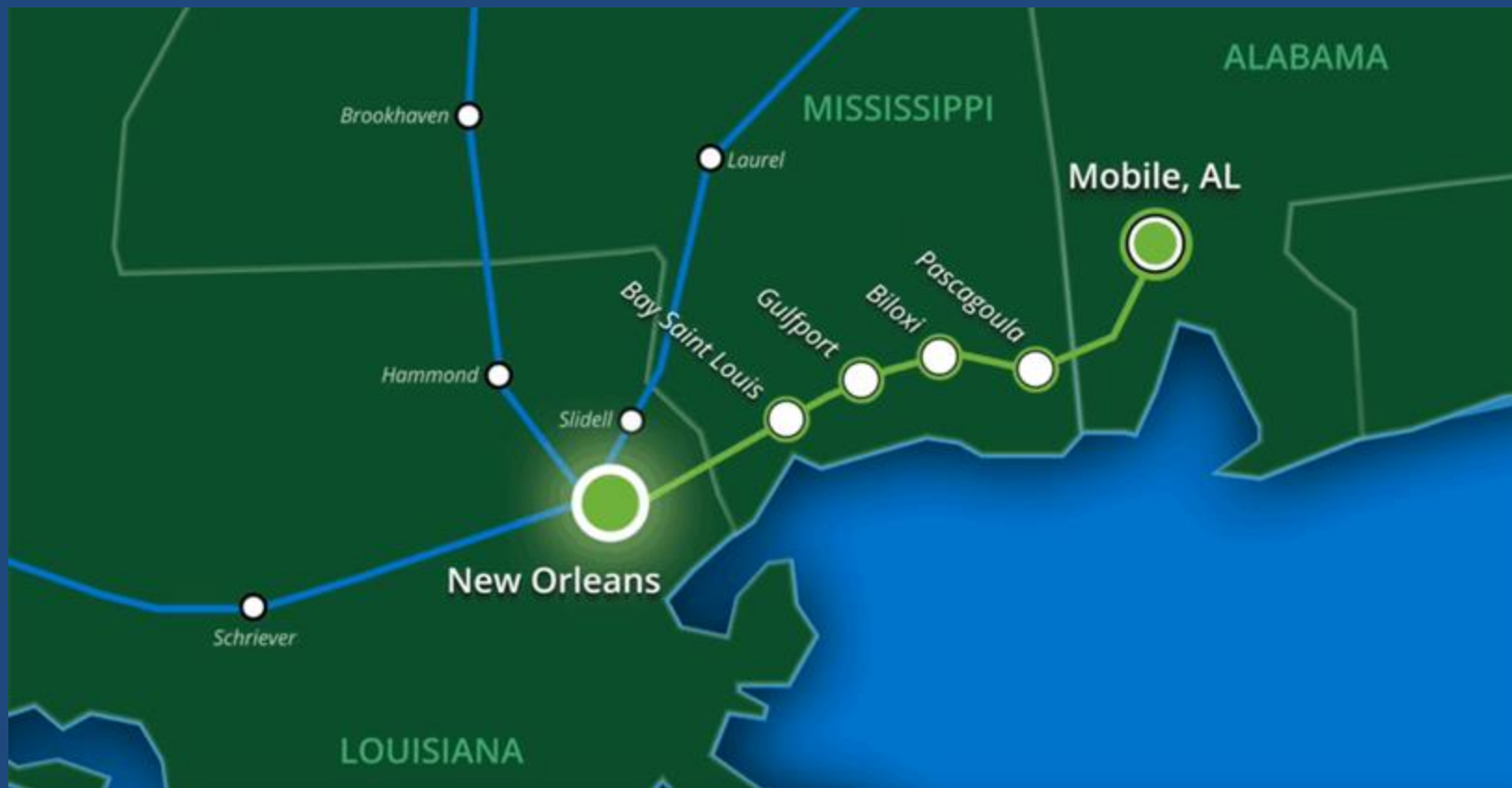
National Railroad Partnership Program 2025

“Corridor Identification and Development (CID) Sponsors must explain the status of the sponsor’s corridor within **the CID Program (e.g., completed Step 1, beginning Step 2)** in their project narrative. CID **Sponsors should explain how the proposed FSP-National project is consistent with the corridor sponsor’s planning efforts under CID** and will not preclude any outcomes from planning activities explored under CID. The explanation provided shall demonstrate how the CID Sponsor has the support of participant stakeholders (as identified in the Service Development Plan), governance structure and institutional capacity to implement and maintain on-going service, funding identified for implementation and on-going operations support, and a clearly defined benefit for the Corridor.”

The Mardi Gras



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Performance of the Mardi Gras

- Ridership is surpassing all expectations
 - 5k per month projection
 - 15k+ riders in the first month
 - Extra car added on weekends (and selling out)
- Highest passenger satisfaction rate of any Amtrak service (>90%)
- Food/beverage sales breaking records
- 86% OTP

Displaying by Most Direct

Sort/Filter ▾

Departure Wednesday, November 26

MOE → NOL

[Compare Fare Types ⓘ](#)

Lowest Fare **Fastest**



23
Amtrak Mardi
Gras Service

DEPARTS

6:30_a

→
3h 43m

ARRIVES

10:13_a

[Trip Details ▾](#)

Coach
from

\$71

Business
from

\$114

Lowest Fare **Fastest**



25
Amtrak Mardi
Gras Service

DEPARTS

4:30_p

→
3h 43m

ARRIVES

8:13_p

[Trip Details ▾](#)

Coach
from

\$71

Business
from

\$114

Wednesday before Thanksgiving

Departure Wednesday, December 24

MOE → NOL

[Compare Fare Types ⓘ](#)

Lowest Fare **Fastest**



23
Amtrak Mardi
Gras Service

DEPARTS

6:30_a



3h 43m

ARRIVES

10:13_a

[Trip Details](#) ▼

Coach
from

\$71

Business
from

\$114

Lowest Fare **Fastest**



25
Amtrak Mardi
Gras Service

DEPARTS

4:30_p



3h 43m

ARRIVES

8:13_p

[Trip Details](#) ▼

Coach
from

\$71

Business
from

\$114

Christmas Eve



Transportation
for America

Displaying by Most Direct

Sort/Filter ▾

Departure Friday, February 13

MOE → NOL

[Compare Fare Types ⓘ](#)

Lowest Fare **Fastest**



23

Amtrak Mardi
Gras Service

DEPARTS

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3h 43m

ARRIVES

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Coach
from

\$71

Business
from

\$114

Lowest Fare **Fastest**



25

Amtrak Mardi
Gras Service

DEPARTS

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3h 43m

ARRIVES

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[Trip Details ▾](#)

Coach
from

\$71

Business
from

\$114

Friday before Mardi Gras



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Kay Cox

As owner of Kay's Travel, I am enjoying taking groups on our new Amtrak service from Biloxi. I have already booked 2 groups for December 3rd and 10th. We'll be going in to see Christmas decorations and to have lunch at Commander's Palace. Everyone really enjoyed our first trip. The crew is friendly, very helpful and even funny, which we loved! They can't wait for the Christmas excursions!

1h **Like** **Reply**



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