Atlanta – Savannah Intercity Passenger Rail Project

By following this project you will get updates about the project.

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The Initial Public Survey will close on May 31st!

Click here to jump to the engagement section

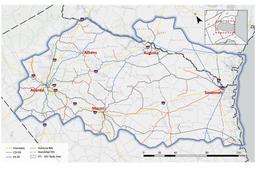
Overview

The Atlanta-Savannah Intercity Passenger Rail Project will:

- Evaluate the benefits and costs of a passenger rail service between Atlanta and Savannah
- Identify and narrow the range of service alternatives across the study area
- Focus on financially feasible, practical solutions to implement a passenger rail service

Project Study Area

This study area includes the cities of Atlanta, Athens, Statesboro, Milledgeville, Macon, Augusta, Savannah, and more.



Project Timeline

April 2022

Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) announced

Federal contribution is $8M (80%). GDOT match is $2M (20%) from the state's rail budget for a total of $10M.

Funding administered by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)

September 2023

FRA has awarded the grant and work has commenced

What is the FRA Corridor ID Program?

FRA Process – Our Project

Step 1: Initiation of Scope, Schedule, and SOP Cost Estimate

Work Activities: Scope, Schedule, and cost estimate to deliver a Service Development plan (SDP)

Step 2: Create Service Development Plan (SDP)

Work Activities: Identify purpose and need; perform an alternatives analysis; high-level engineering, planning, and environmental work

Step 3: Project Development

Work Activities: Completion of Preliminary Engineering, NEPA, and documentation to advance implementation

- Service Description, Frequencies, Speed, etc.
- Capital Project Inventory
- Rolling Stock & Equipment Needs
- FRA Safety & Security Compliance
- Station Locations
- Financial Plan
- Capital Project Implementation Schedule / Phasing
- Project sponsors and entities
- Multi-state rail network contributions
- Intermodal passenger connections
- Corridor environmental benefits
- Corridor impacts: highway & aviation, energy, land use, economic development

SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The SDP encompasses several crucial activities including identifying the purpose and need for the passenger rail service, performing a thorough alternative analysis and conducting high level engineering, planning and environmental work.

- Detailed Service Description
- Equipment Needs
- Rail Network Contributions
- Capital Project Inventory
- Environmental Benefits
- Intermodal Connectivity
- Financial Plan
- Project Schedule and Phasing
- Safety and Security Compliance
- Station Locations
- Project Sponsors and Entities
- Impact Analysis

Engagement

We want to hear from you!

Stakeholder Kickoff Meeting - January 23, 2025

GDOT held a Stakeholder Kickoff Meeting in January 2025 with a wide range of agencies and rail stakeholders. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an introduction to the project and prepare stakeholders for more detailed engagement opportunities in the future. We encourage you to watch the video below to learn about the project then take the short survey below.

View Presentation

Initial Public Survey - closes May 31st

After watching the video, please help us by providing your feedback in the short survey below. This is the first of many public outreach touchpoints as part of the project; check back for more opportunities to participate!

Take Survey

Other Rail Projects and Studies

GDOT is coordinating this project with several other passenger rail planning efforts by other agencies.

Atlanta-Chattanooga-Nashville-Memphis Corridor ID Project	Atlanta-Charlotte Corridor ID Project	Amtrak Daily Long-Distance Service Study	Atlanta Station Study
City of Chattanooga	North Carolina DOT	FRA	Atlanta Regional Commission

FAQs

1. What's the purpose of the Study?
2. Who is leading the study and who's involved?
3. What is Corridor ID?
4. What's a Service Development Plan (SDP)?
5. How long will the study take?
6. When will this be built and open for service?
7. How much does the project cost and how is it funded?
8. How can I get involved?
9. Is the study considering previous planning work?
10. How is this being coordinated with other passenger rail initiatives in the Southeast and the US?
11. Why is the study needed?
12. What's the difference between Commuter Rail, Intercity Rail, and High Speed Rail?
13. What routes and stations are being considered in the study?
14. Would Amtrak operate this rail service?
15. How is freight being considered in this study?
16. How are local and regional planning efforts being considered?

Connect with Us

Please send your questions and comments to the following representatives:

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