

RAILCET

A Labor-Management Initiative of **LIUNA!** & **IUOE**

To: RAILCET Team
From: Ray Chambers. Senior Policy Advisor to RAILCET
Subject: Intel Report – FRA CID Implementing Process – Steps 1 & 2 Webinar

Date: October 22, 2024

I participated in another FRA webinar today. It provided an in-depth look at the Corridor ID Program implementation. This seminar was a repeat of the presentation made at the FRA Rail Program Delivery Conference at the 2024 AASHTO Council on Rail Transportation Annual Meeting. It was aimed at the State/Authority CID project sponsors of the 69 rail projects where scoping was funded by FRA. Of necessity, FRA has created a bureaucratic process with lots of “alphabet soup” in its goal to manage creation of a world class intercity corridor network. These are “process detailed” seminars for insiders and primarily designed to help State/Authority CID sponsors navigate the program as effectively as possible. This new and complex process is also important to RAILCET and operations contractors as our members may ultimately be eligible to partner with the State/Authorities in the growing number of capital projects that will be required to create the national network. The presentations were made by the FRA Regional Outreach and Project Planning and Development leads Wynne Davis, Lyle Leitelt and Barbara Morena. This presentation will be made available through the FRA website within a few days.

This seminar focused in detail on implementation of CID Step 1-Scoping and CID Step 2-Project Planning. Step 3 Project Development will be addressed subsequently. At the outset, Wynn made clear that FRA will be a full “partner” with the State/Authority CID sponsors throughout the entire pipeline process. In my view, this is not dissimilar to the Interstate Highway Program, where DOT/FHWA partners with the states. Each Step has exacting requirements and an escalating local match requirement. Local funding needs to be identified early in each step. Lyle noted that there will be Alternative Analysis as a critical part of the service development plans. Barbara noted there is priority in resolving the issues of overlapping corridors.

FRA broke the presentation into a discussion on Existing Corridor Expansion and New Corridors. The New Corridor process is more complex but of particular interest to our rail operations and construction contractors. Scoping for 34 new corridors has been funded and is well underway. As a sidenote, the Cornillie Study, half funded by RAILCET, performs a SWOT analysis on all 34 new corridors. Cornillie assesses which

will be open to the Competition Model. This study is about complete and will be presented to the Board.