

RAIL

MOVING AMERICA FORWARD



Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)/ Special Transportation Circumstances (STC) Grant Selection Kickoff Webinar



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

Webinar Information

All participants automatically join on mute, with cameras off

Closed Captioning

- Available during the webinar



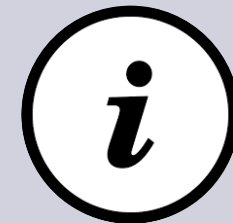
Technical Support

- Email:
 - FRAWebinars@dot.gov



More Information

- This webinar is being recorded and links to the recording and presentation file will be emailed to recipients after the webinar.



Agenda



- 1 Welcome and Congratulations
- 2 Overview
- 3 Poll Questions
- 4 Project Team Structure
- 5 Presenters
- 6 Prerequisite Overview
- 7 Things to Expect Post-Obligation
- 8 Resources & Training Opportunities
- 9 What's Next



Congratulations!

Paul Nissenbaum
Associate Administrator and Chief Development Officer



RRD Mission, Vision, and Core Values

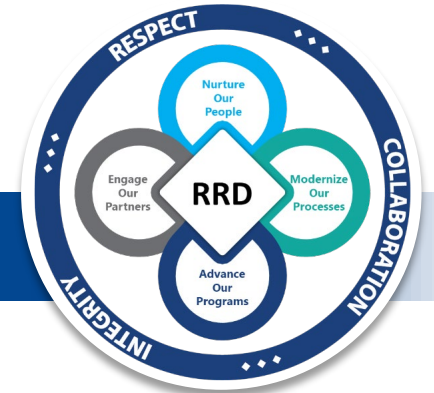


FRA Mission: *Enable the safe, reliable, and efficient movement of people and goods for a strong America, now and in the future.*

FRA'S OFFICE OF RAILROAD DEVELOPMENT (RRD)

Mission: *Partner to advance effective rail investments*

Vision: *World-class rail connects America's communities*



Rail Safety & Resilience

Enhance community safety & rail network performance:

- Upgraded short-line railroad infrastructure
- Safer grade crossings & connected neighborhoods
- Cleaner, more efficient locomotives & rail yards
- Increased capacity on freight & shared rail lines



Passenger Rail Development

Develop world-class passenger rail service:

- New & enhanced corridors across the U.S.
- A modernized Northeast Corridor
- Renewed Amtrak fleet, facilities & assets
- Improved accessibility & customer experience



Program Innovation

Modernize program infrastructure and workforce:

- User-friendly program tools & guidance
- Programmatic planning & environmental processes
- Lifecycle support for efficient project delivery
- Technical assistance & workforce development
- Sound financial stewardship & oversight practices



FY 23-24 CRISI Application Overview

374

Applications
Received

271

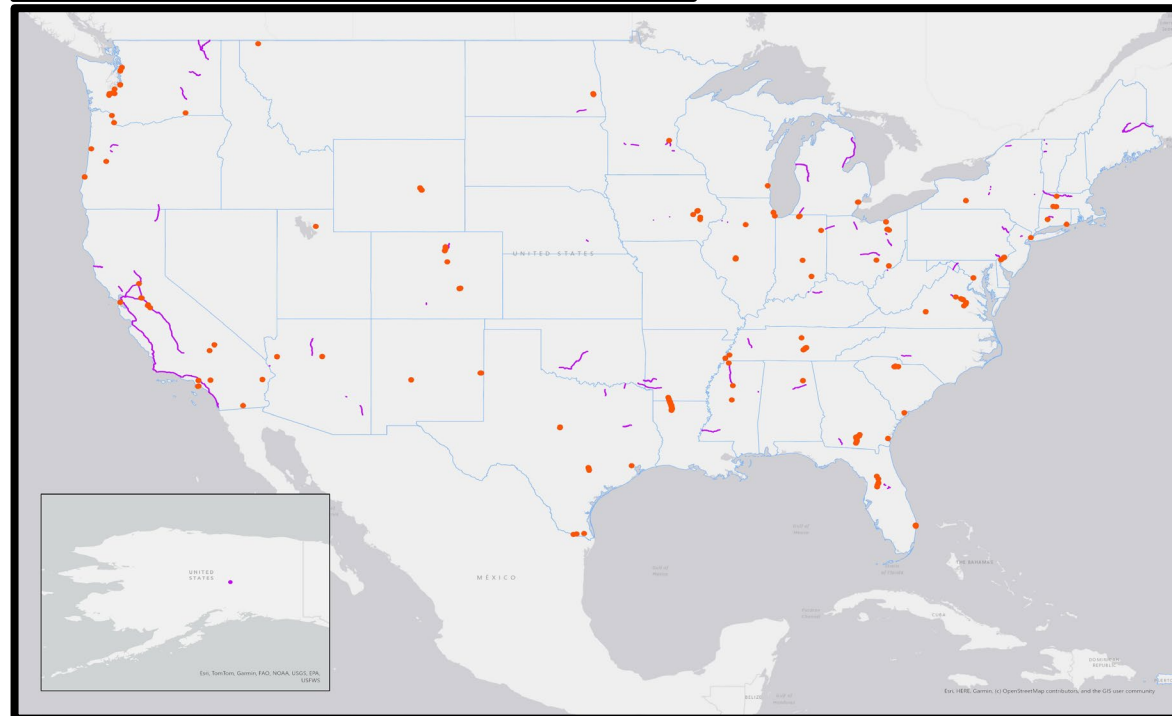
Applications
Eligible

122

Applications
Selected



48 States + DC Applied



41 States Selected + DC

Total Funding:

\$2,476,911,632



FY23-24 CRISI Project Selection Overview

79 Freight

Funding Amount:
\$1,331,915,797



13 Workforce
Development
& Research

Funding Amount:
\$141,583,629



19 Intercity
Passenger Rail

Funding Amount:
\$964,272,220



11 Grade Crossing &
Trespass Prevention

Funding Amount:
\$39,139,987



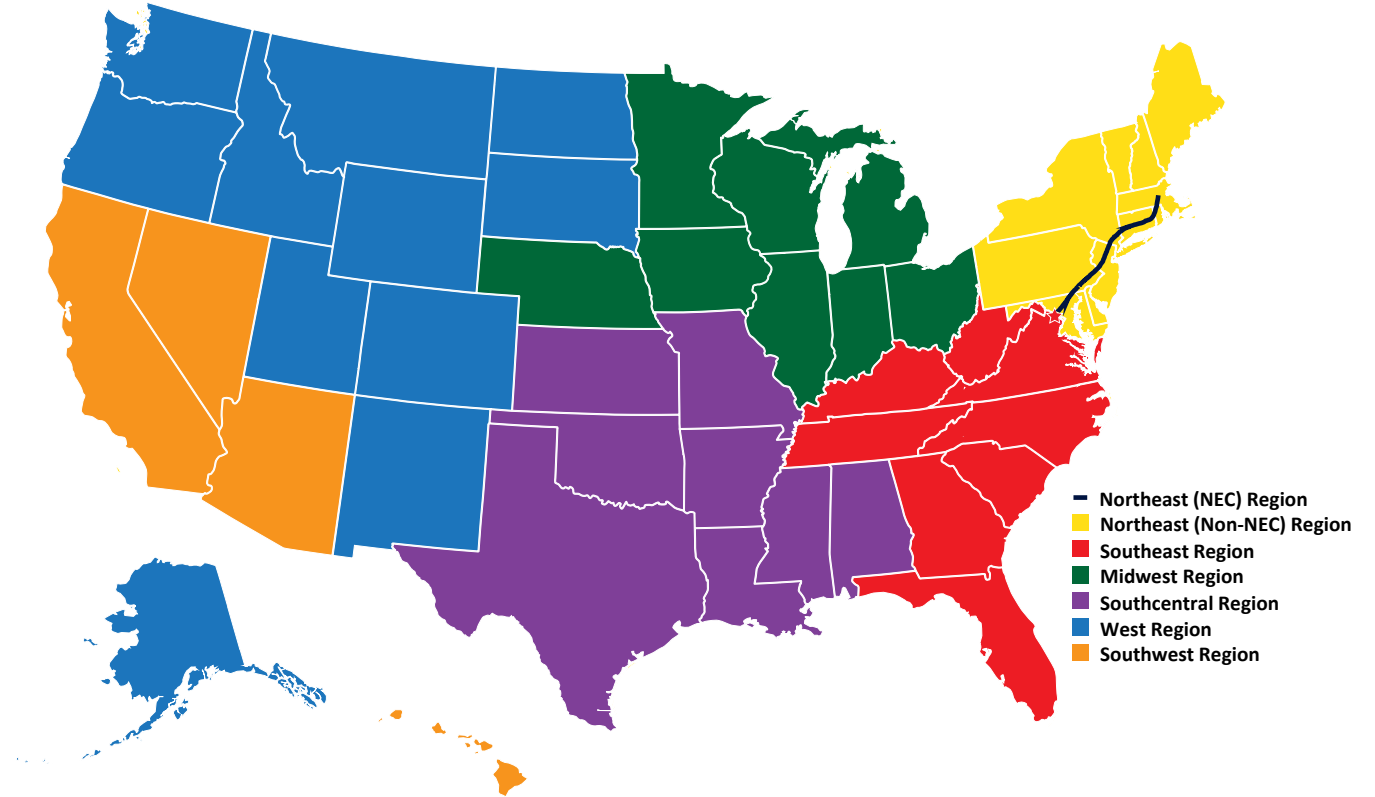
A white line art illustration of a diesel locomotive on tracks, set against a dark blue background. The locomotive is shown from a side-front perspective, with its front end on the right. The text "Poll Questions" is overlaid in the center in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Poll Questions

Project Delivery Team Structure: FRA & Recipient Project Team Partnership

Integrated teams enable more effective customer service:

Teams that combine expertise and specialty can more effectively manage FRA grant program portfolios and establish enduring relationships.



Presenters

Katie Vandewater
FRA Project Management



Elena Gonzalez
FRA Grant Management



Matthew Amara
FRA Environmental



Amy Jackson-Grove
FRA Engineering



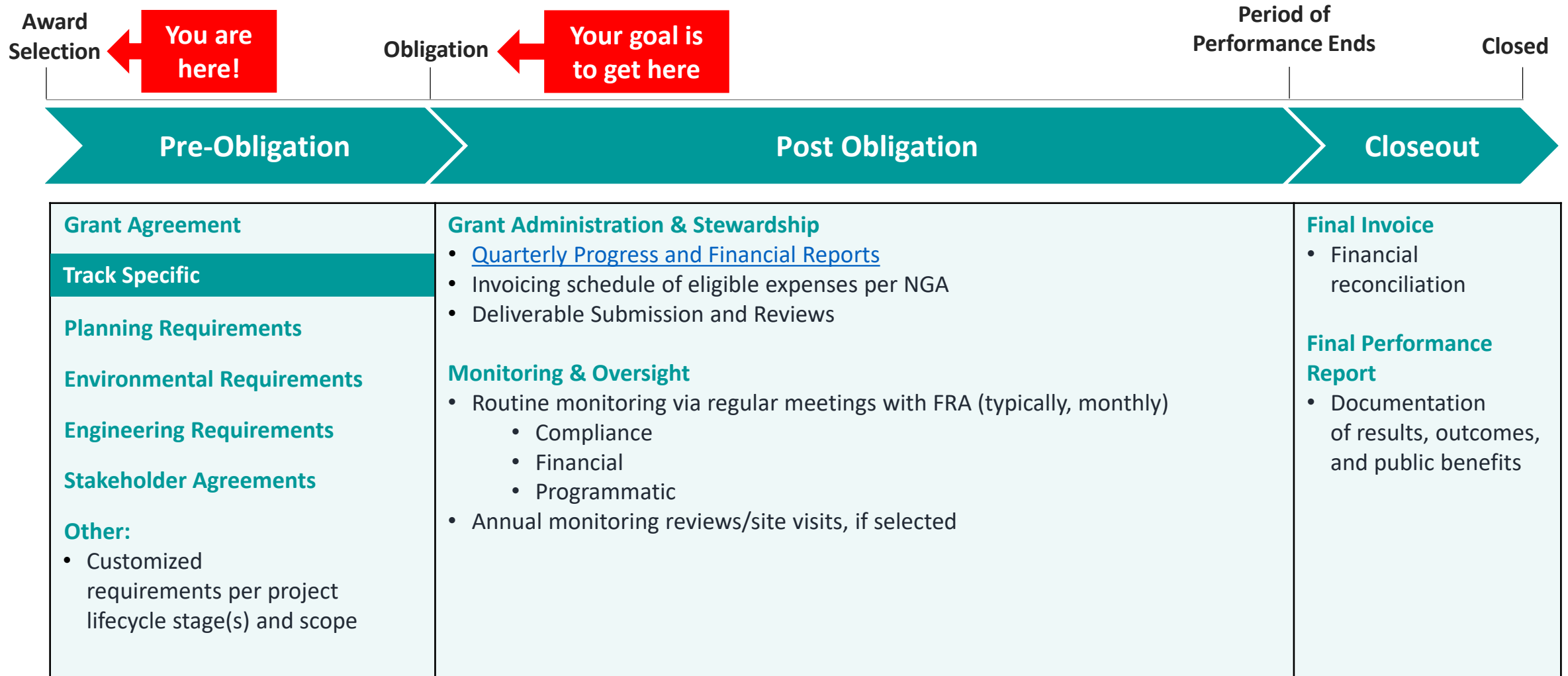
Ariel Heckler
FRA Planning



A white line art illustration of a diesel locomotive on tracks, set against a dark blue background. The locomotive is shown from a side-front perspective, with its engine compartment, windows, and wheels clearly outlined. The text "Prerequisite Overview" is centered over the locomotive in a white, sans-serif font.

Prerequisite Overview

Grant Lifecycle and Approximate Time Frames



What's Required to Get My Project to Obligation?

Award Selection

Obligation

Pre-Obligation

Grant Agreement

Track Specific

Planning Requirements

Environmental Requirements

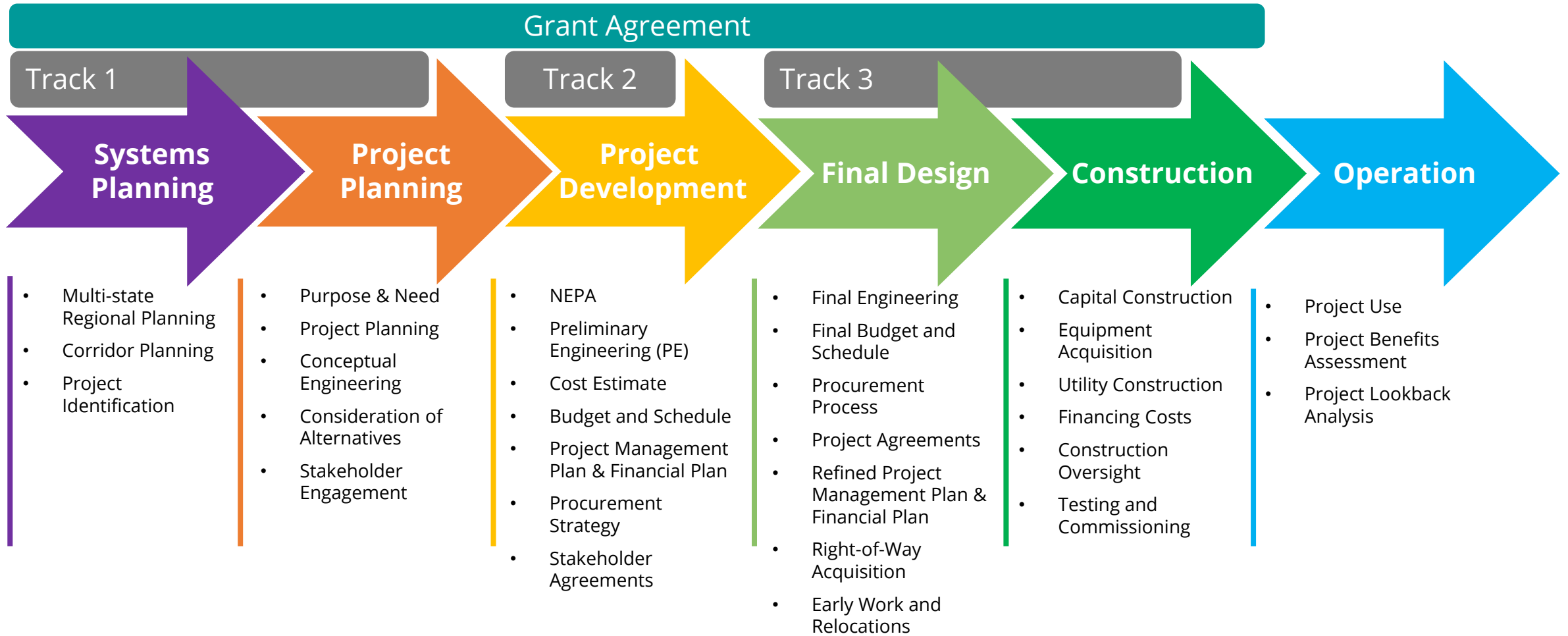
Engineering Requirements

Stakeholder Agreements

Other:

- Customized requirements per project lifecycle stage(s) and scope

Project Lifecycle Stage Activities



What's a Grant Agreement and What's Included in It?

Attachment 1

- Standard Terms and Conditions
- Non-negotiable

Attachment 2

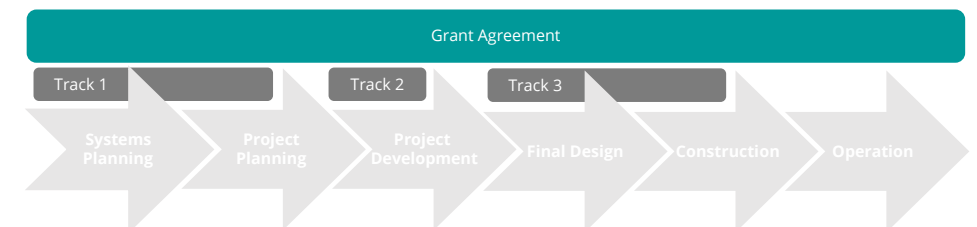
- Project-Specific Terms and Conditions
- Project Scope, Schedule, Budget and Performance Measures elements

Exhibits A-C

- Standard
- Non-negotiable

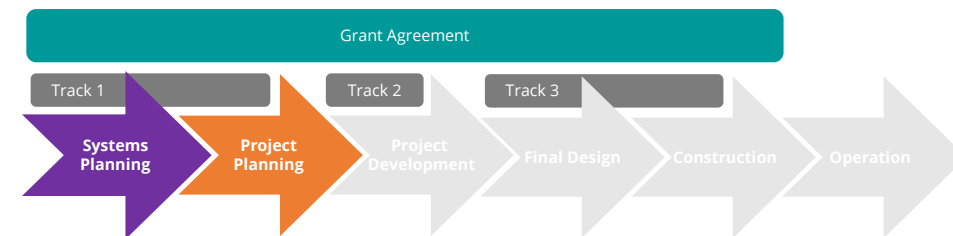


- [Introductions to Terms and Conditions for Grants Video](#)
- [Introductions to Terms and Conditions for Grants Video Presentation](#)



Track 1

Systems Planning and Project Planning Prerequisites



Track 1—Systems Planning and Project Planning Prerequisites

Planning

- No requirements before starting **Systems Planning**.
- The Recipient should demonstrate completion of a Systems Planning effort prior to entering the **Project Planning** stage. Systems Planning encompasses multi-state regional planning, high-level corridor planning, and project identification.



[FRA Guidance on Development and Implementation of Railroad Capital Projects](#) (pp. 5–6)

Track 1—Systems Planning and Project Planning Prerequisites

Environmental

- NEPA/Cultural Environmental Protection Specialists (EPSs) verify project scope and any applicable environmental deliverables in the Statement of Work (SOW) with the Recipient. The SOW is in Article 4 of Attachment 2 of the Grant Agreement.
- If ground-disturbing activities (e.g., geotech borings) are required, EPSs will have additional requirements before field work can begin.
- EPSs will work with Recipients to determine applicable approach for completing NEPA requirements for obligation. Generally, this will be completed during development of the grant agreement.

Engineering

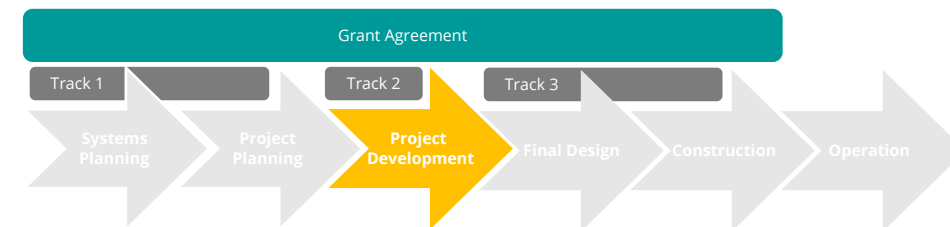
- N/A

Stakeholder Agreements

- N/A

Track 2

Project Development Prerequisites



Track 2—Project Development Prerequisites

Planning

- The recipient must complete Project Planning efforts in order to advance to **Project Development** activities.
- Prerequisites may include:
 - Identifying capital project concepts to adequately address transportation needs and opportunities;
 - Identifying and comparing costs, benefits, and impacts of project options;
 - Identifying the impacted environmental resources and engaging with interested parties, agencies, and infrastructure owners.



[FRA Guidance on Development and Implementation of Railroad Capital Projects](#) (pp. 6–7)

Track 2—Project Development Prerequisites

Environmental

- NEPA/Cultural EPSs verify project scope and environmental deliverables in the Statement of Work (SOW) with the recipient. The SOW is in Article 4 of Attachment 2 of the Grant Agreement.
- If ground-disturbing activities (e.g., geotech borings) are required, EPSs will have additional requirements before field work can begin.
- EPSs will work with Recipients to determine applicable approach for completing NEPA requirements for obligation. Generally, this will be completed during development of the grant agreement.

Track 2—Project Development Prerequisites

Engineering

- Conceptual Engineering – Design level (typically 15%) defines:
 - Operational Objectives and Functional Requirements: detailed description of specific objectives and how the proposed design addresses them
 - Project Location: identification of the project’s geographic location
 - Feasibility and Constructability: assessment of physical feasibility and general constructability, including potential construction phasing and continuity of operations
 - Scale Design Drawings
 - Completion of an order-of-magnitude project cost estimate



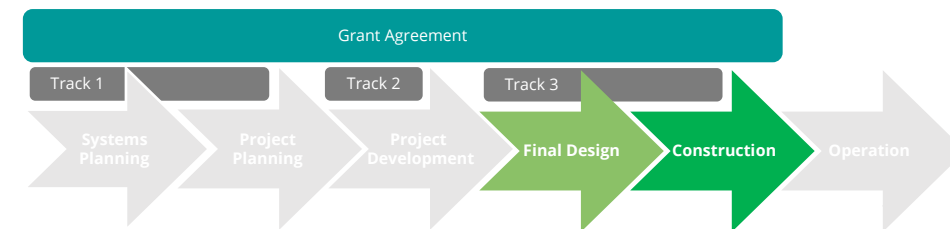
[FRA Guidance on Development and Implementation of Railroad Capital Projects](#) (pp. 6–7)

Stakeholder Engagement and Agreements

- Begin conducting Stakeholder Engagements and entering into Stakeholder Agreements to ensure the project moves forward.

Track 3

Final Design/Construction Prerequisites



Track 3—Final Design/Construction Prerequisites

Planning

- N/A

Environmental

- Pre-obligation prerequisites for Track 3 projects require NEPA/Cultural EPSs to complete all environmental/cultural resource work and issue a NEPA decision document prior to obligation.
- Environmental review work includes compliance with other federal laws and Executive Orders including:
 - Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), Clean Water Act (CWA), etc.
- Coming prepared with a clear, accurate Scope of Work helps FRA environmental and cultural resources staff focus on potential project impacts **earlier**.
- The level and depth of environmental and cultural resource review varies depending on the impacts of each project. More **complex projects require more time and effort** for review of environmental/cultural resources.

Track 3—Final Design/Construction Prerequisites

Engineering

- Preliminary Engineering – Design level (typically 30%) defines:
 - Operational performance and resilience outcomes
 - Construction duration and material quantities
 - Domestic material and product sourcing strategy
 - Practical construction methods
 - Utility and road relocations
 - Property acquisition
 - Risks, including third-party risks that affect schedule and cost
 - Draft cost estimate and schedule
- For some projects, FRA may require concurrence documentation, including but not limited to:
 - Track reconfiguration and multiple operators
 - Corridors with multiple operators with trackage rights
 - ❖ *FRA requires documentation showing concurrence on the engineering track configuration. This ensures agreement among Project Recipient, host railroad, railroads with operating rights, and FRA on operationally relevant design elements (e.g., track and signals).*



[FRA Guidance on Development and Implementation of Railroad Capital Projects](#) (pp. 8–9)

Track 3—Final Design/Construction Prerequisites

Stakeholder Agreements

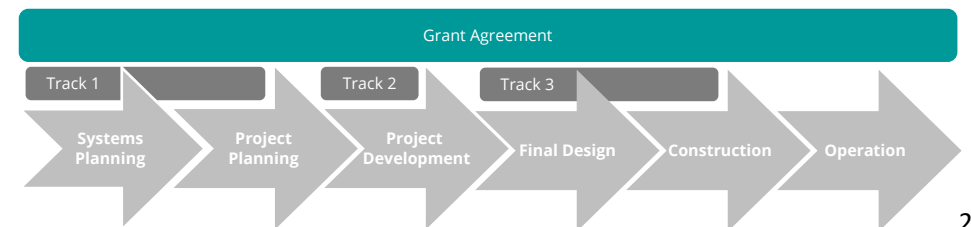
- Under 49 U.S.C § 22905(c)(1), a grant applicant must have a written agreement with a railroad that owns rights-of-way to be used by the project prior to grant obligation.
- By accepting the grant, the Recipient certifies that an agreement is executed that meets the requirements in 49 U.S.C § 22905(c)(1), **or** that the requirements do not apply.



[FRA's Frequently Asked Questions About Rail Improvement Grant Conditions Under 49 U.S.C. § 22905\(c\)\(1\)](#)

Tracks 4 and 5

Non-Construction Project Prerequisites



Tracks 4 and 5—Non-Construction Project Prerequisites

Planning

- N/A

Engineering

- N/A

Environmental

- Track 4 – The NEPA/Cultural EPSs will verify project scope and determine the appropriate NEPA clearance method based on the proposed scope.
- Track 5 – Projects will be handled on a case-by-case basis with the NEPA/Cultural EPSs as assigned.

Stakeholder Agreements

- N/A



Pre-Award Authority

Pre-Award Authority (Optional)

- Pre-Award Authority must be approved by FRA and confirmed Pre-Award Costs will be reimbursed **after** grant obligation, provided those costs:
 - were incurred after the award selection announcement date,
 - are compliant with federal law,
 - are permissible under 2 CFR 200.458, and
 - must be eligible under Federal rules to be reimbursed as Federal or as match



[FRA's Pre-Award
Authority FAQs](#)

❖ *All Pre-Award Costs are incurred at the Recipient's risk!*

When Do I Get My Grant Funding and How Can I Spend It?

- Once you have an approved Statement of Work, Schedule, Budget, Performance Measures and an approved and signed Grant Agreement (Obligation) in Grant Solutions.
 - Payment is on a reimbursement basis.
 - Access to Delphi system for invoicing.
- ❖ *Do not start incurring any costs that are part of the CRISI grant application without FRA review and approval.*



[FRA Payments](#)



Things to Expect Post-Obligation

Recipients of Federal Funds Are Responsible For:

- Completing the project as described in the Grant Agreement
- Compliance with the Grant Terms and Conditions
 - Contractor flow-down provisions
 - Buy America compliance
 - Davis-Bacon and related acts provisions
- Grant oversight and monitoring compliance
- Certifying reimbursement requests
- Project progress and deliverable submission
- Reporting
- Securing FRA approval **BEFORE** making changes to the Statement of Work, Schedule, Budget, or Performance Measures
- Project completion and closeout





Resources and Training Opportunities



- [Introduction to Terms & Conditions for Discretionary Grants](#)
- [From Selection to Award – The Post-Selection Process for FRA Grants Webinar](#)
- [FRA Guidance on Development and Implementation of Railroad Capital Projects](#)
- [Capital Project Guidance Overview Video](#)
- [FRA Grant Administration Overview](#)
- [Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements \(CRISI\) Grant Program](#)
- [FY23-24 CRISI NOFO April 9, 2024, training webinar recording](#)
- [FY23-24 CRISI NOFO April 9, 2024, PPT presentation](#)
- [FY23-24 NOFO PDF](#)



FRA Training Opportunities

In-Person/Virtual Training

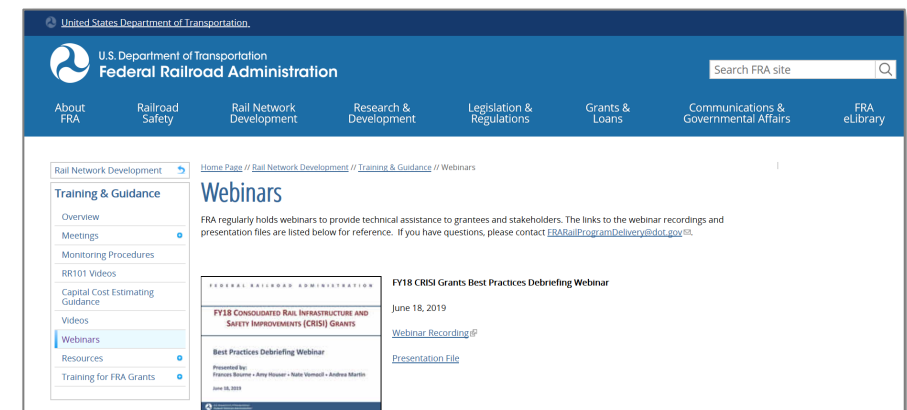
FRA conducts workshops virtually and in-person at various industry conferences throughout the year to educate applicants about the application and project delivery process, including at:

- AASHTO
- ASLRRA
- APTA
- FRA Program Delivery Workshop (new in 2024)

On-Demand Training

FRA's [Training and Guidance](#) webpage has a repository of videos and [webinars](#) on topics including:

- Cost estimating
- Environmental streamlining
- Grade crossing project planning tools
- Grant application process



What's Next?

- Expect your FRA Project Manager (PM) to reach out:
 - Initial Project Status Meeting follow-up email November 20–November 27
 - Initial meeting between FRA and Recipient project teams
 - First opportunity to discuss specifics of your projects
- Be ready to complete the required prerequisites for your project while FRA develops your draft Grant Agreement
- **Do not start incurring any costs that were part of the CRISI/STC grant application Scope of Work**

*If you have not heard from your PM by **December 1, 2024**, please reach out to us at: fra-grants@dot.gov*



FAQs



Contact Us

Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590



Connect with us at [USDOTFRA](#)

Email:

fra-grants@dot.gov

