U.S. DOT Federal Railroad Administration

Office of Passenger and Freight Programs

Monitoring Procedure 27 – Before-and-After Study

# PURPOSE

This Monitoring Procedure (MP) describes FRA requirements for Monitoring and Technical Assistance Contractor (MTAC) activities related to Before-and-After Studies.

# KEY PRINCIPLES

Before-and-After studies compare scope, capital cost, operational performance, and ridership, before and after an FRA-funded rail project progresses through a phase or phases. Points of reference include:

* actual conditions before
* forecasts made during
* actual conditions after

The information should be gathered and preserved for every project in every phase (planning, design, construction, and operation), so that when a project progresses to the next phase, a comparison can be made with the earlier point of reference. Refer to the sample table below.

The comparisons will show what has been accomplished through the FRA capital program, and the professionalism of the Grantee and its team. The capital cost portion of the Before-and After study will be the building block for an FRA cost database that can become an estimating resource for future projects.

# REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Relevant project information on project scope, capital cost, operational performance, ridership, and agreements for construction and maintenance, operations, and service outcomes (ref. MP 20 for more information on agreements.)

# SCOPE OF WORK

## Individual Corridors

The MTAC will discuss the Before-and-After study with the Grantee, and ensure the Grantee preserves and compiles the relevant information, and summarizes it in the table below. For an individual corridor, the Grantee should:

* set up an electronic archive for drawings, cost estimates (in original and in SCC format); information on operational performance and ridership; information on development and population densities in station areas.
* at each phase, document the required information including narratives to explain changes.

The MTAC will also oversee Service Outcome Agreement compliance and when necessary advise the parties on process, content, and compliance.

## Nationwide Basis

For the nationwide Before-and-After Summary Report, a designated MTAC will collect copies of the individual Grantees’ information (described above) and, when available, add “after actuals” for operational performance and ridership from the Grantee, the train operating entity, or others as appropriate. The MTAC will compile all information into a report. As appendices, the report will include for each project a one to two page scope description with changes highlighted; and the SCC capital cost Main Worksheets.

