

PASSENGER RAIL PRIORITIES PROGRAM 2023 PILOT PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) Freight & Rail Committee (FRC) developed the Passenger Rail Priorities Program (PRPP) to identify and promote high-priority intercity passenger rail projects within the planning boundaries of Florida's Metropolitan Planning Organizations for consideration in FDOT intercity passenger rail planning efforts and other potential funding sources. The PRPP's objective is to collaboratively develop a comprehensive list of projects representing the united input of the MPOAC. The MPOAC updates and endorses the PRPP project list annually.

Project Selection Overview

The PRPP Project List contains all project submissions that passed the agreed-upon requirements set by the FRC. Eligible intercity passenger rail projects include corridor studies, restoration of former Amtrak services, and station development. Project applications were vetted for program eligibility and how they aligned with FDOT's State Rail Plan. The 2023 Pilot Program's critical activities included:

1. The training webinar was conducted virtually on November 7, 2023. The training session covered project eligibility and a demonstration of how to complete the electronic application.
2. The project submission period began on November 8, 2023, and remained open until December 8, 2023.
3. Project submissions were reviewed for completeness, and MPOs could make updates to their applications. One-on-one technical assistance was made available to answer specific questions.
4. The design and development of an online web portal for future PRPP submissions using 2023 Pilot application data.

Summary of the 2024 Pilot PRPP Project List

- Five Applications were received from eight MPOs, including one joint Application.
- All projects align with FDOT State Rail Plan Tier I, II, and III corridors.
- Three projects seek to develop new intercity passenger rail services, while two projects aim to restore services.
- Three projects seek funding for construction activities, and two projects seek funding for rail planning corridor studies.

Next Steps and Resources

Projects submitted for the 2023 PRPP Pilot will be validated by their respective MPOs and rolled into the 2024 Application Cycle, opening in September 2024. MPOs with incomplete applications will be able to complete the missing information for consideration in the 2024 PRPP Priority List, which will be adopted by the FRC, the Staff Director's Advisory Committee, and the Governing Board in January 2025. Application instructions and training slides will be available on the PRPP web portal and the FRC website: <https://www.mpoac.org/committees/freight-committee/>.

PRPP 2023 Pilot Projects Submitted

Project Name	Intra-Florida Atlantic Gateway	Cocoa Intermodal Passenger Rail Station	Restore Amtrak Service in the Okaloosa-Walton TPO Area	Restore Amtrak Service in the Florida-Alabama TPO Area	Southwest Florida Rail Feasibility Study
Project Description	Streamlined passenger rail service along the FECR between Miami and Jacksonville	A new intermodal passenger rail station in the City of Cocoa, Brevard County	Construct an Amtrak station in Crestview or DeFuniak Springs	Restore the City of Pensacola Amtrak station	Evaluate the feasibility of running an intercity passenger rail service along I-75 between Collier and Hillsborough counties
Sponsoring MPO	Broward MPO	Space Coast TPO	Okaloosa-Walton TPO	Florida-Alabama TPO	Lee MPO
Project Type	Restore Former Services	Develop New Services	Develop New Services	Restore Former Services	Develop New Services
Project Elements	Restore Service on an Active Freight Line	Station	Station	Station	Corridor
Requested Action	Passenger Rail Corridor Feasibility Study	Construction for a New Station	Construction for a New Station	Restore an Existing Station	Passenger Rail Corridor Feasibility Study
State Rail Plan Corridor	Jacksonville – Miami (Tier I)	Miami – Orlando (Tier I) Miami – Tampa (Tier I)	Jacksonville – Mobile – New Orleans (Tier II)	Jacksonville – Mobile – New Orleans (Tier II)	Miami – Naples – Tampa (Tier III)
Previously Identified	FDOT State Rail Plan	TPO Transportation Plan, Transit Development Plan	FDOT State Rail Plan, Amtrak Connects US	FDOT State Rail Plan, Amtrak Connects US	FDOT State Rail Plan, Other Transportation Plan/Study
Total Estimated Project Costs*	N/A	N/A	\$1.23 million	\$1.23 million	\$1.75 million
Total Requested Amount*	N/A	N/A	\$760,000	\$760,000	\$1.75 million

*Note: The total estimated project costs and total requested amount were not required information to participate in the 2023 Pilot Application Cycle.