



BSPRA

Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority

Municipal Partner Program

Introductory Webinar

April 5, 2024



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PASSENGER
RAIL AUTHORITY**

Presenters in Order of Appearance

- Jess Peterson, Ex. Director, Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority
- Dan Bucks, Chair of Development & Strategic Engagement
- Allison Corbyn, Project Manager
- David Strohmaier, Authority Chair(by video)
- Jason Stuart, Authority Vice Chair
- Becky Rosenleaf, KLJ Engineering
- Dan Olsen, Chair of Planning & Resource Development



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Webinar Objectives

- Update participants on major progress in renewing passenger rail service on the former North Coast Hiawatha route.
- Describe the potential benefits of passenger rail for local communities.
- Invite participation in the BSPRA Municipal Partner Program to help communities—working together—to maximize those benefits for their citizens.



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Webinar Program

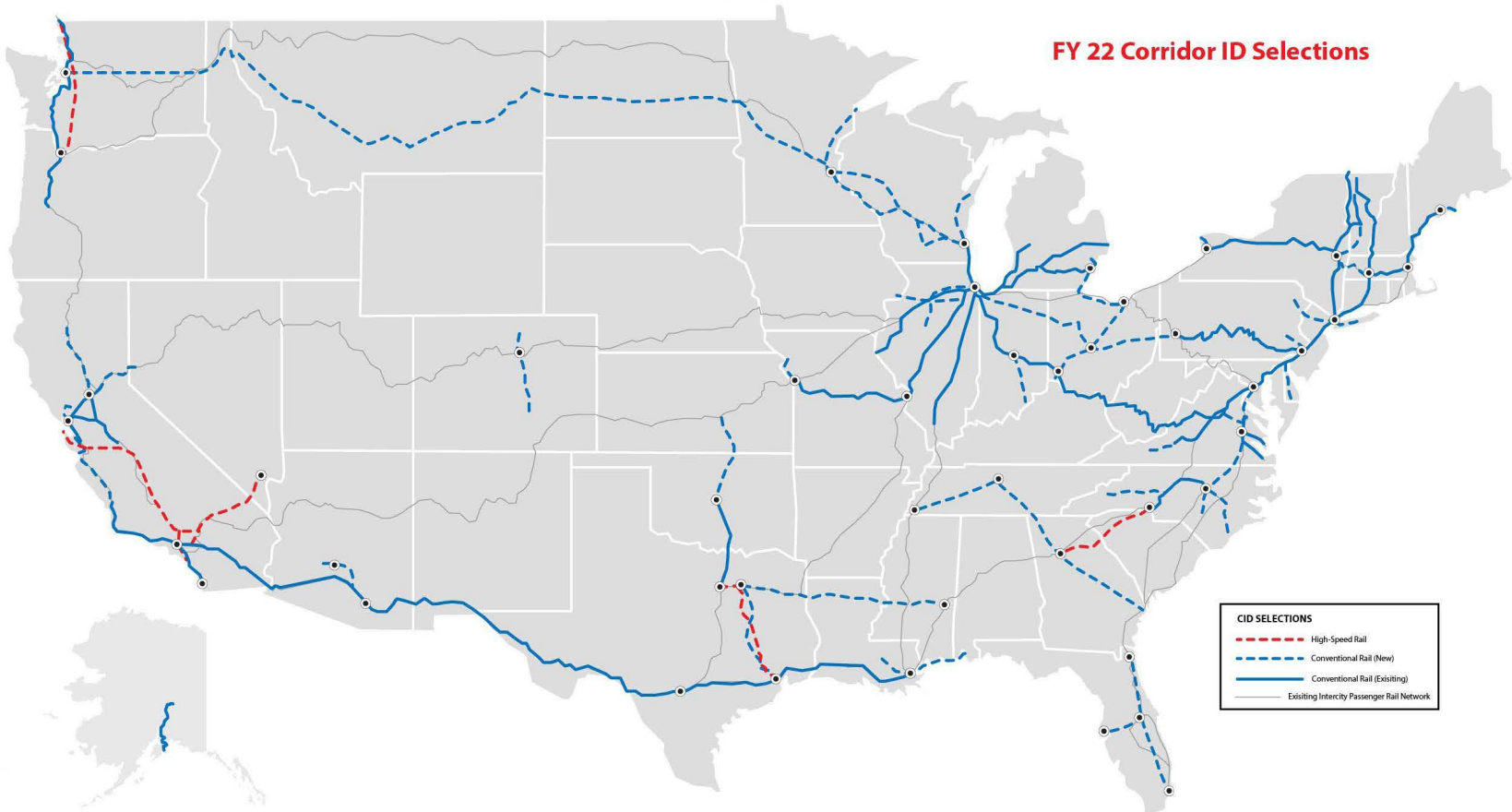
- Introduction to the Webinar
- Restoring Passenger Rail and Revitalizing Communities
- First Q & A Period
- Big Sky Passenger Rail Municipal Partner Program
- Second Q & A Period
- Closing

CORRIDOR ID AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Investments to Enhance Intercity Passenger Rail

Laying the foundation for world-class rail in America



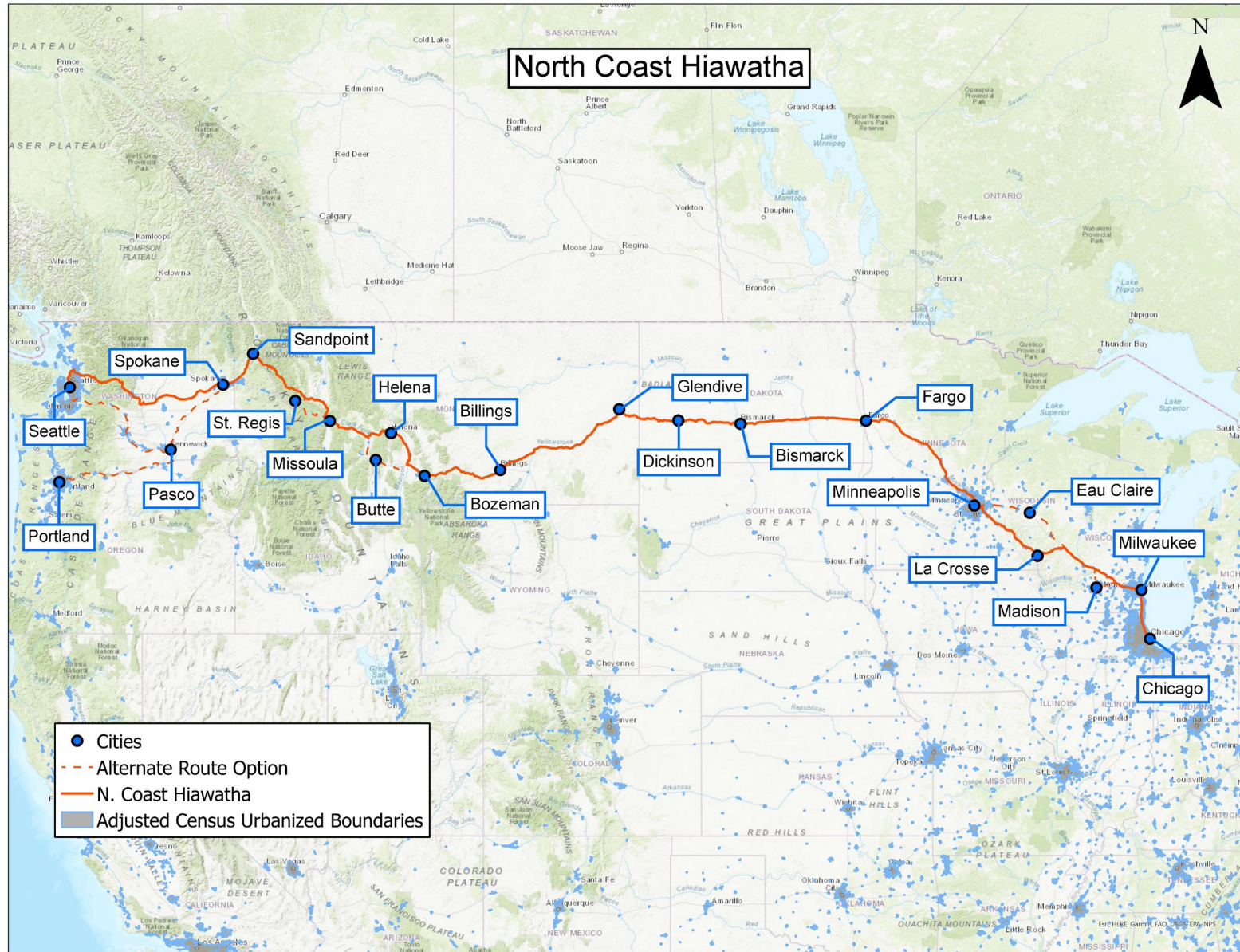
DISCLAIMER: This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of cities, project locations, and routes. Cities shown on the map are added to provide geographic reference and are not intended for any other purpose. Every effort has been made to ensure the highest accuracy of all data on this map, but some errors can occur.

DECEMBER 2023



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Economic Impact – existing Empire Builder service

Empire Builder generates Annual Economic Return to U.S. of \$327 million (2023)

Annual federal appropriation to run service is \$57.5M – a nearly 6x return on investment

Pre-pandemic, Annual Economic Return of the Empire Builder was \$595 million - \$101M in Montana alone



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Goals for the New Passenger Rail Service

- A new name for the route.
- Twice daily service in each direction.
- On-time performance and weather resiliency.
- Continuous wi-fi connectivity for work and leisure.
- Small parcel delivery service.
- Advanced propulsion technology, such as green hydrogen.



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What the Service Means for Communities

- New transportation and tourism jobs.
- Stronger, healthier communities—including rural and tribal areas.
- A “working tool” for businesses, farmers and ranchers, schools and universities, health care and other civic institutions.
- Impetus for new housing and businesses near stations and transit points.
- Better freight rail capacity, safety, and performance.
- Economic development opportunities.



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When Will the Trains Arrive?

- 2032 is the goal—if we work together effectively.
- The more communities prepare for the service, the faster the service will operate.
- We need local governments to lead on:
 - Renovating or building train stations,
 - Developing relevant services around stations, and
 - Creating connecting transit services within cities or towns and to outlying communities.



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Question and Answer Period

The New Passenger Rail Service
and What It Means for
Communities



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Municipal Partner Program: What's New

- Previously, Montana cities and towns supported advocacy and those efforts will continue.
- ***New:*** The program will welcome cities, towns, and counties outside Montana.
- ***New:*** Support for communities in developing passenger rail facilities and services.
- ***New:*** Forums to support cooperation and coordination among communities.



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Support for Communities— Grant Information

- Periodic webinars for Municipal Partners will include information on and discussions of federal grant opportunities.
- Example: New CRISI Grant Program—Summary Description (separately displayed).



Support for Community Planning & Cooperation

- Periodic webinars for Municipal Partners will also cover community-focused planning, resources and tools.
- Our partner communities are unique.
- Train stations and passenger service facilities
- Transportation planning & integration.
- Transit adjacent services and development.



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Support for Community Planning & Cooperation

- Network of key planning contacts.
- Basic project planning tools, checklists and guidelines.
- Support for a collaborative “Passenger Rail Community.”
- Let’s make restored passenger rail service successful for all our community partners!



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Municipal Partner Program: Wrap Up

- Purposes and Key Features of the Program.
- Timing of Services to Communities: May 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025
- Enrollment Period: May 1, 2024, to October 31, 2024.
- Partner Contributions Tailored to Community Size and Location
(Separately Displayed)



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Municipal Partner Program Contributions--FY 2024-25

All Cities and Towns--Plus Non-Montana Counties

Population Size	Located on Route	Located Off Route
50,000 to 150,000	\$6,000	\$3,000
25,000 to 50,000	\$4,000	\$2,000
12,500 to 25,000	\$2,000	\$1,000
7,500 to 12,500	\$1,200	\$600
4,000 to 7,500	\$700	\$350
2,000 to 4,000	\$400	\$200
1,000 to 2,000	\$250	\$125
500 to 1,000	\$150	\$100
0-500	\$100	\$75

Please request separately contribution amounts for jurisdictions above 150,000 in populaton.



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Question and Answer Period

The Big Sky Passenger Rail
Municipal Partner Program

WE CAN DO THIS!



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www.bigskyrail.org