Program Objectives

NEC FUTURE: A Rail Investment Program

- FRA Initiated Efforts in February 2012
- Focus on Improving Intercity and Commuter Passenger Rail Service between Boston and Washington, D.C.
- Long-term Vision with Incremental Approach to Create 2040 Investment Program
Combines Service Development Plan and Tier 1 EIS

- **Service Development Plan**
  - Defines vision for NEC rail network in 2040
  - Highlights investments through 2040
  - Quantifies transportation and economic impacts/benefits

- **Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement/ROD**
  - Evaluates broad environmental consequences of implementing proposed investments
  - Defines next steps for regional investment in the NEC
Why is a Rail Investment Program Needed?

- All NEC Transportation Modes Face Capacity Challenges
- Northeast Region Expects Significant Population Growth
- Region Lacks an Integrated, Long-term Plan for Coordinated Federal and State Rail Investment in the NEC to Accommodate Growth
Infrastructure Constraints (Southern Segments)

- Limited capacity for commuter and freight growth in Maryland/DC/Northern VA area and around Philadelphia
- Aging tunnels and bridges
- 1930’s electrification system requires modernization
- Speed and capacity constraints at major interlockings: Trenton, North Philadelphia, Wilmington, Perryville and Washington
- Terminal capacity constraints in Washington and Philadelphia
- Platform and track constraints at Washington, New Carrollton, BWI and Baltimore stations
Objectives from Purpose & Need

- Upgrade and Build Capacity on Mainline to Meet 2040 Growth
  - Commuter
  - Intercity
- Evaluate Need and Options for High-Speed Rail Service
- Accommodate Projected Freight Demand
- Evaluate Options for More Efficient Railroad Operations
Progress to Date

- Completed Scoping Process
- Coordination with 8 States, D.C., Amtrak, NEC Commission, Commuter RRs, Freight RRs
- Data Collection and Synthesis
- Passenger Market Analysis Underway
- Development of Initial Alternatives and Screening Methodology
- Stakeholder and Public Outreach
Scoping Process

- Public and Agency Scoping Meetings in 9 Cities (August 2012)
- Scoping comment period closed October 19, 2012
- Over 1,000 comments received
- Key Issues:
  - Study area
  - Connectivity
  - Local markets and projects
  - Freight
  - Funding
- Comments will Inform Plan Development
Current Status

Scoping Feedback - Delaware

- Regional Passenger Rail Service
  - Expanded commuter rail options north to Philadelphia and south to Baltimore
  - Options for service along Delmarva peninsula
  - Higher speed alternatives – upgrades to existing NEC and potential new alignments

- Freight rail
  - Options for accommodating continued growth in freight rail service to local shippers and Baltimore, Wilmington and Philadelphia ports
Current Status

Alternatives Development - Assumptions

- No Preconceived Plans: All Options on the Table
- Focus on Markets and Optimizing Service
- Must Address Commuter and Intercity Rail Needs and Accommodate Freight

- Ridership Analysis
  - Growth rates generated from Moody’s Analytics data and adapted to reflect local factors and state investments
  - Household survey
  - NECC intercept survey

- Operations Modeling
  - Corridor-wide simulation modeling to build off existing tested models
Current Status

Alternatives Development - Process

- **Initial Alternatives (2012)**
  - Ideas from many sources: railroads, states & Scoping process
  - Options for new types of service and new markets
  - Options to better accommodate connecting corridors

- **Preliminary Alternatives (2013)**
  - Developed through screening and consolidation of Initial Alternatives
  - Representative of services options and geographic reach
  - Alternatives build incrementally to improve/expand service

- **Reasonable Alternatives (2013)**

- **Preferred Investment Program (2014)**

- **Stakeholder Coordination and Public Outreach Throughout**
Phase 1

- Data Collection
- Initial Alternatives Development
- Alternatives Screening Methodology Report
- Notice of Intent
- Purpose and Need Statement
- Initial Alternatives Report
- Scoping Workshops
- Coarse Alternative Screen
- Preliminary Alternatives Report

We’re Here
Phase 2-3

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Diamond symbol = Milestone
Next Steps

- Public workshops (December 2012)
- Preliminary Alternatives Report (March 2013)
- Technical studies (2013)
  - Operations planning
  - Ridership
  - Capital/operating costs
- Continued stakeholder discussions
- Coordination with pending projects
Please Stay Involved

- Visit our website at www.necfuture.com to learn more or send a question or comment
- December Dialogues (12/3-12/5); future meetings in 2013
- Watch for Scoping Summary and Preliminary Alternatives Report to be posted online

www.necfuture.com