Overview of NCRRP Report 6: Guidebook for Intercity Passenger Rail Service and Development

Curtis Morgan
Program Manager/Assoc. Research Scientist
Texas A&M Transportation Institute
TRB Webinar
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National Cooperative Rail Research Program

- NCRRP Created by *Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008*
- Administered as TRB Cooperative Research Program
- Report 6 is the result of NCRRP Project 03-01: Intercity Passenger Rail Service and Development Guide
- NCRRP 03-01/Report 6 Objectives:
  - Conduct Comprehensive Review of Existing Resources to Support Intercity Passenger Rail Service Planning
  - Identify User Needs and Knowledge Gaps
  - Conduct Targeted Syntheses to Fill Knowledge Gaps
  - Generate Comprehensive, User-Friendly Guide
NCRRP Report 6 Research Team

Broad Industry and Research Experience:
• Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI)
• David P. Simpson Consultants
• ESH Consult (Bruce Horowitz)
• Office of Walter E. Zullig, Jr., Esq.
• Ohio University
On-Going Challenges/Issues During the Project

• Re-Authorization of PRIIA
  – PRIIA expired in late 2013; Reauthorization efforts already underway as project began
  – New law, PRRIA, passed in 2015
  – FAST Act was passed as report was being finalized

• On-going STB and other regulatory oversight changes

• Several other on-going NCRRP Projects and Reports

• Guidebook cannot be “one size fits all”- different states, varying needs of routes, funding availability, etc.

• Final guidebook format addresses: “What do states/planners need to know? What do they need to be thinking about and when?”
Intercity Passenger Rail Service and Development Guide (NCRRP Report 6)

- Covers project and program development from original vision to ongoing operations phase
- Described existing intercity passenger rail conditions, current regulations, and past experiences
- Based on interviews with key stakeholders (Public and Private ICPR Operators, State DOTs, Private Freight RRs, etc.)
- Five Targeted Syntheses covering identified “gap areas” where guidance/compiled “best practices” info did not previously exist
NCRRP Report 6
Outline Overview

- **Visioning:**
  - *Chapter 1:* Introduction
  - *Chapter 2:* Initial Intercity Passenger Rail Program Establishment

- **Planning:**
  - *Chapter 3:* Service Planning Phase—Feasibility/Service Development
  - *Chapter 4:* Planning Phase—Environmental Requirements

- **Design & Construction:**
  - *Chapter 5:* Design & Construction Phase

- **Operations & Maintenance:**
  - *Chapter 6:* Operations Phase (Ongoing Service Operation)
  - *Chapter 7:* Operations Phase (Ongoing Service Management)

- **Appendices—Targeted Syntheses**
NCRRP Report 6: Chapter Topics

• Chapter 1 Introduction
  – Why Should Intercity Passenger Rail Development Be Considered?
  – Guidebook Users
  – The Intercity Passenger Rail Service Development Process

• Chapter 2 Visioning: Intercity Passenger Rail
  – Rail Program Establishment
  – Developing State Rail Plans
  – Deciding to Establish a State-Level Intercity Passenger Rail Program
  – Administrative and Institutional Options
  – Funding Intercity Passenger Rail Programs
NCRRP Report 6: Chapter Topics

• Chapter 3 Planning: Project Feasibility/Service Development
  – Project Identification and Initiation
  – Network Design/Route Selection
  – Coordination with Railroads and Other State/Federal Agencies
  – Service Development Planning
  – Supporting Feasibility Studies

• Chapter 4 Planning: Environmental Requirements
  – Overview of the FRA Environmental Review Process
  – Interagency Coordination
NCRRP Report 6: Chapter Topics

• Chapter 5 Design and Construction
  – Overview of Intercity Passenger Rail Project Types
  – Grade Crossing Safety and Design
  – Passenger Rail Stations
  – Rolling Stock
  – Management of Construction Activities

• Chapter 6 Operations and Maintenance: Service Planning
  – Contracting for Passenger Rail Service
  – Risk Management
  – Resiliency Planning
  – Contracting for Operations
  – Maintenance of Rights of Way
  – Maintenance of Equipment
NCRRP Report 6: Chapter Topics

- Chapter 7 Operations and Maintenance: Ongoing Service Management
  - Fare Policy and Ticketing
  - Revenue Management
  - Passenger Services and Amenities
  - Marketing and Outreach
  - Expanded/Extended Service Considerations
  - Ongoing Funding and Financial Monitoring
  - Multiple Intercity Services Management
  - Ongoing Legal/Risk Issues Management
  - Station Operations and Amenities
NCRRP Report 6 Targeted Syntheses

Appendices A-E:
- Liability/Insurance Requirements for ICPR Service
- PRIIA 209 Cost Formula Transparency
- Robust ICPR Service Delivery
- ICPR Performance Measurement/Quality Assurance Techniques
- Role of the US Surface Transportation Board Regarding ICPR Service

Appendix F:
Link to All NCRRP Reports on TRB Website: http://www.trb.org/NCRRP/NCRRPProjects.aspx


For More Information on NCRRP Report 6:
Curtis Morgan, Texas A&M Transportation Institute
C-Morgan@tti.tamu.edu
(979) 458-1683
Selected NCRRP Report 6
Targeted Synthesis Topics:
Service Resiliency and Performance Measurement

David P. Simpson
Principal
David P. Simpson, Consultants
TRB Webinar
April 24, 2017
SERVICE RESILIENCY/REDUNDANCY
PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT
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