

Atlanta to Charlotte Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plan



What is the Atlanta to Charlotte PRCIP?

The [Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plan \(PRCIP\)](#) is a study to improve intercity passenger rail service between the cities of Atlanta, GA and Charlotte, NC. This is part of a larger passenger rail initiative by the [Federal Railroad Administration \(FRA\)](#) that extends north to Washington, DC, commonly referred to as the [Southeast High Speed Rail \(SEHSR\) Corridor](#).

Hint: If reading in electronic format, click the underlined links for more information.

Why is the project needed?

Increases in population and economic growth along the Atlanta to Charlotte corridor create a need for a carefully planned approach to improving passenger rail infrastructure benefiting Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, the southeastern United States. The project addresses the following needs:

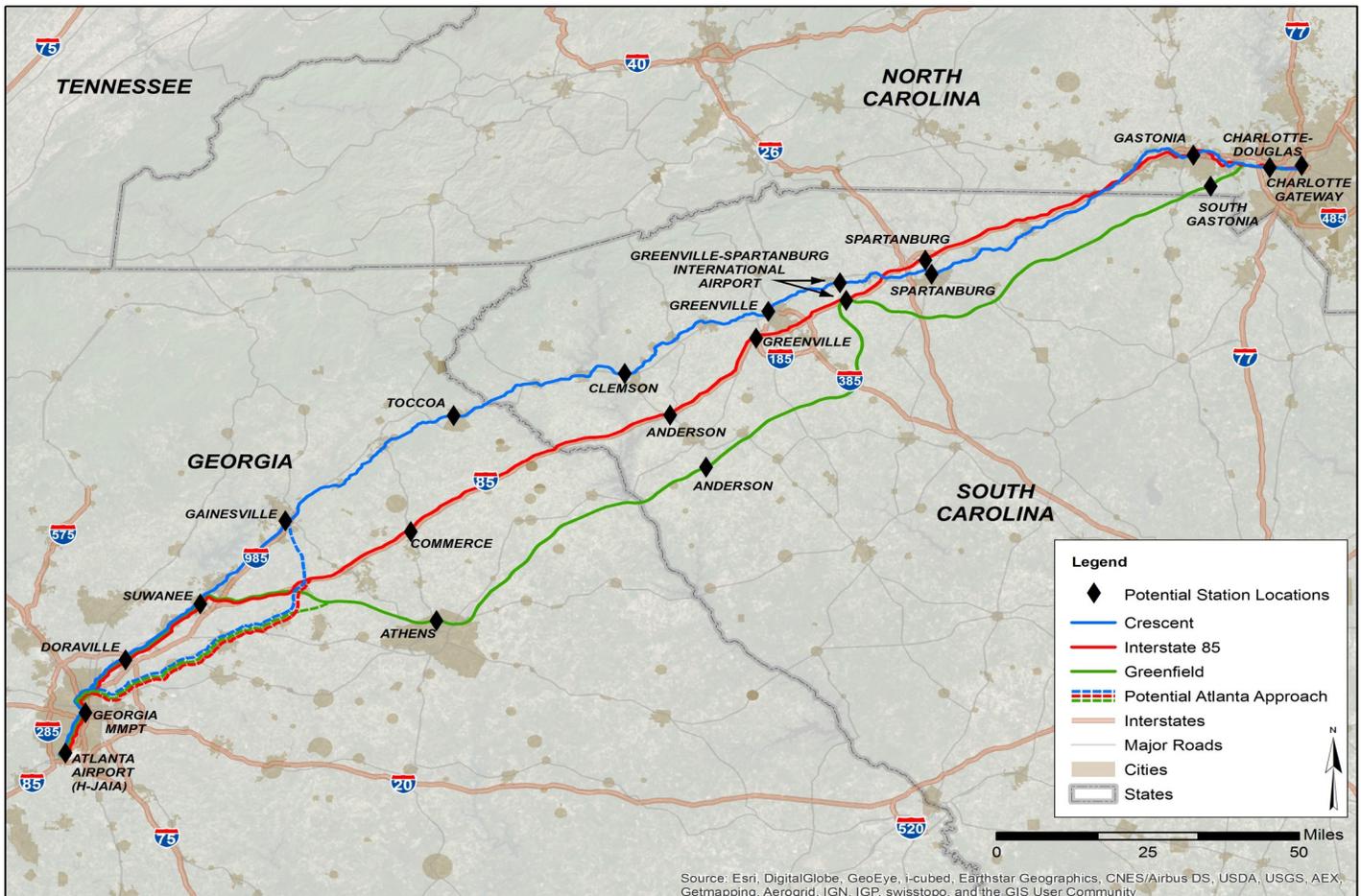
- ◇ Provide improved regional passenger rail linkage
- ◇ Improve transportation system capacity
- ◇ Improve travel times
- ◇ Provide an alternative travel mode
- ◇ Enhance energy efficiency
- ◇ Promote economic development

What is the project purpose?

The purpose of the Atlanta to Charlotte PRCIP is to improve intercity travel between Atlanta and Charlotte.

Investment in passenger rail could serve an essential part of the region's transportation system and its ability to support population and economic growth throughout the SEHSR Corridor network by offering additional capacity and reliable transportation options.

ROUTE ALTERNATIVES



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Project Contact: Harry Boxler, GDOT Rail Planner hboxler@dot.ga.gov or (404) 631-1225

What is the status of the project?

As an important initial step, GDOT and FRA (with public input) identified six potential route alternatives connecting Atlanta to Charlotte. GDOT and FRA then performed an alternatives analysis to narrow the six potential routes to those considered most feasible (shown on map). This analysis considered travel time, access to population and employment centers, and connections to important travel destinations. Three alternatives (Crescent, I-85 and Greenfield) will advance to more detailed analysis. Please visit the website for more information: <http://www.dot.ga.gov/IS/Rail/AtlantatoCharlotte>.

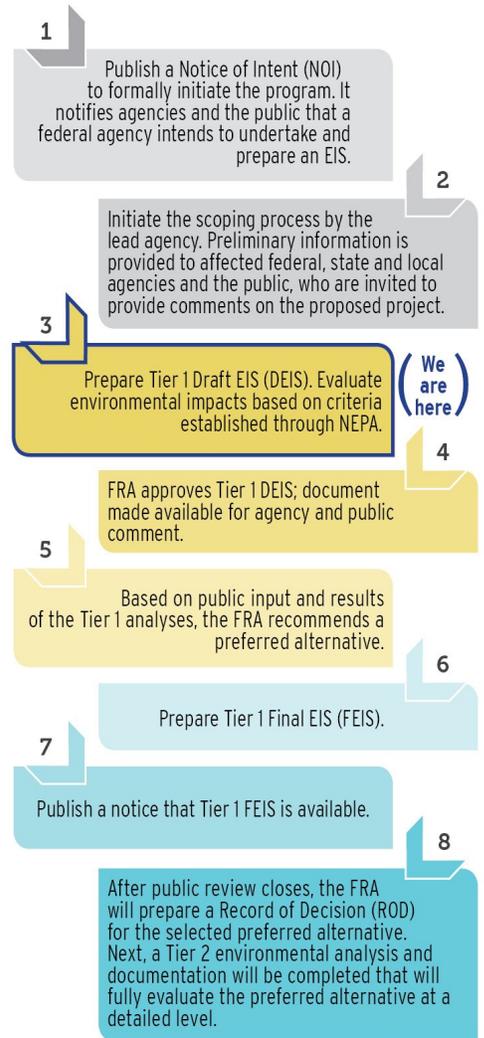
GDOT and FRA continue identifying and analyzing data to identify potential natural, cultural and social environmental resources within the study routes to inform the project's Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\)](#). The Tier 1 EIS is a conceptual (desktop/mapping level) look at potential alternatives and their potential environmental impacts. In addition, transportation planners and engineers have been working to develop preliminary operating plans, and conceptual

NEPA is a United States environmental law that promotes the enhancement of the environment and established the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

engineering and financial analyses to estimate ridership, and cost and revenue generation.

GDOT and FRA will use the information from the analyses described above to identify a recommended alternative for the Atlanta to Charlotte

corridor. GDOT and FRA anticipate the Draft Tier 1 EIS, which will present the results of the environmental analysis and recommend a preferred alternative, being available for public review early 2017. A series of public meetings will present the findings. Anticipated completion of the Tier 1 EIS Record of Decision (ROD) is late 2017. A ROD is issued approving the general area where the action would be implemented. A Service Development Plan (SDP) will also be developed. It identifies proposed service characteristics for the corridor. In Tier 2 of the environmental process, the agency will examine the potential environmental impacts in greater detail.



Project Schedule

