



# Atlanta-Savannah Passenger Rail Study

Stakeholder Introduction Meeting  
January 23, 2025



# Welcome to the Atlanta-Savannah Passenger Rail Study

## Virtual Meeting Housekeeping

- Please use the Q&A function to submit your questions or comments. We will address as many questions as time allows.
- The presentation and recording will be provided after the meeting.
- Your input is welcome! Please participate in the polling questions. Instructions will be provided.
- Stay engaged! Look out for additional emails from [atl-savrail@dot.ga.gov](mailto:atl-savrail@dot.ga.gov) for future meetings and opportunities to participate.



# Welcome to the Atlanta-Savannah Passenger Rail Study

## Meet the GDOT Team:

- Joanna Campbell, Assistant Division Director of Intermodal
- Phillip Peevy, Intermodal Planning and Environmental Manager
- Caleb Stubbs, Rail and Transit Planning Lead

## Today's Participants:

- State and Federal Agencies
- Freight Railroad Owners and Operators
- Passenger Rail Stakeholders
- Statewide Associations
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs)
- Regional Commissions (RCs)
- Transit Agencies
- Local Governments

# Project Introduction Meeting

## Today's Objectives:



Gain understanding of the project purpose, scope, and schedule



Define stakeholder roles and prepare for more in-depth outreach



Solicit feedback on preliminary Purpose and Need Statement

# Six Things to Know about ATL-SAV

Introduction to the project purpose, scope,  
and schedule





# #1: GDOT is leading the ATL-SAV project and coordinating with many stakeholder organizations.

## GDOT's role in rail planning:

- Responsible for the State Rail Plan and freight and passenger rail planning
- Member of the Southeast Corridor Commission
- Recipient of federal funds and provides state matching dollars for the project



## #2: ATL-SAV has been accepted into the new federal Corridor ID Program

### What is Corridor ID?

FRA-led program that sets standards for intercity passenger rail development with the purpose of creating a pipeline of projects ready for implementation. Sponsors follow three steps through the Corridor ID Program. For more information: <https://railroads.dot.gov/corridor-ID-program>.

#### Step 1:

**Initiation of Scope,  
Schedule, and SDP  
Cost Estimate**

***\*Complete***

#### Step 2:

**Create Service  
Development Plan  
(SDP)**

***\*Underway***

#### Step 3:

**Project Development**

***\* Unfunded***

## #3: GDOT is coordinating with other Corridor ID and other projects in the Southeast

- Three Corridor ID projects connecting in Atlanta
- Atlanta station coordination
- Integration with the Southeast Corridor
- Potential future connections to Florida
- Coordination with Amtrak Long Distance Study

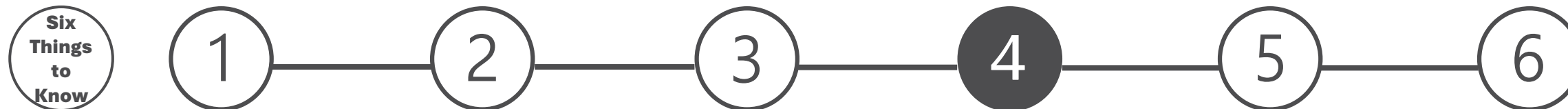
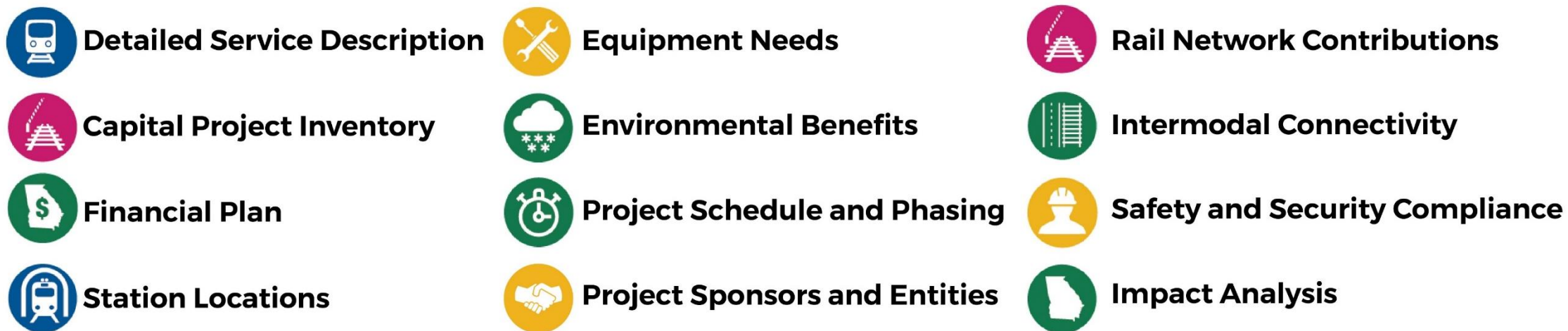




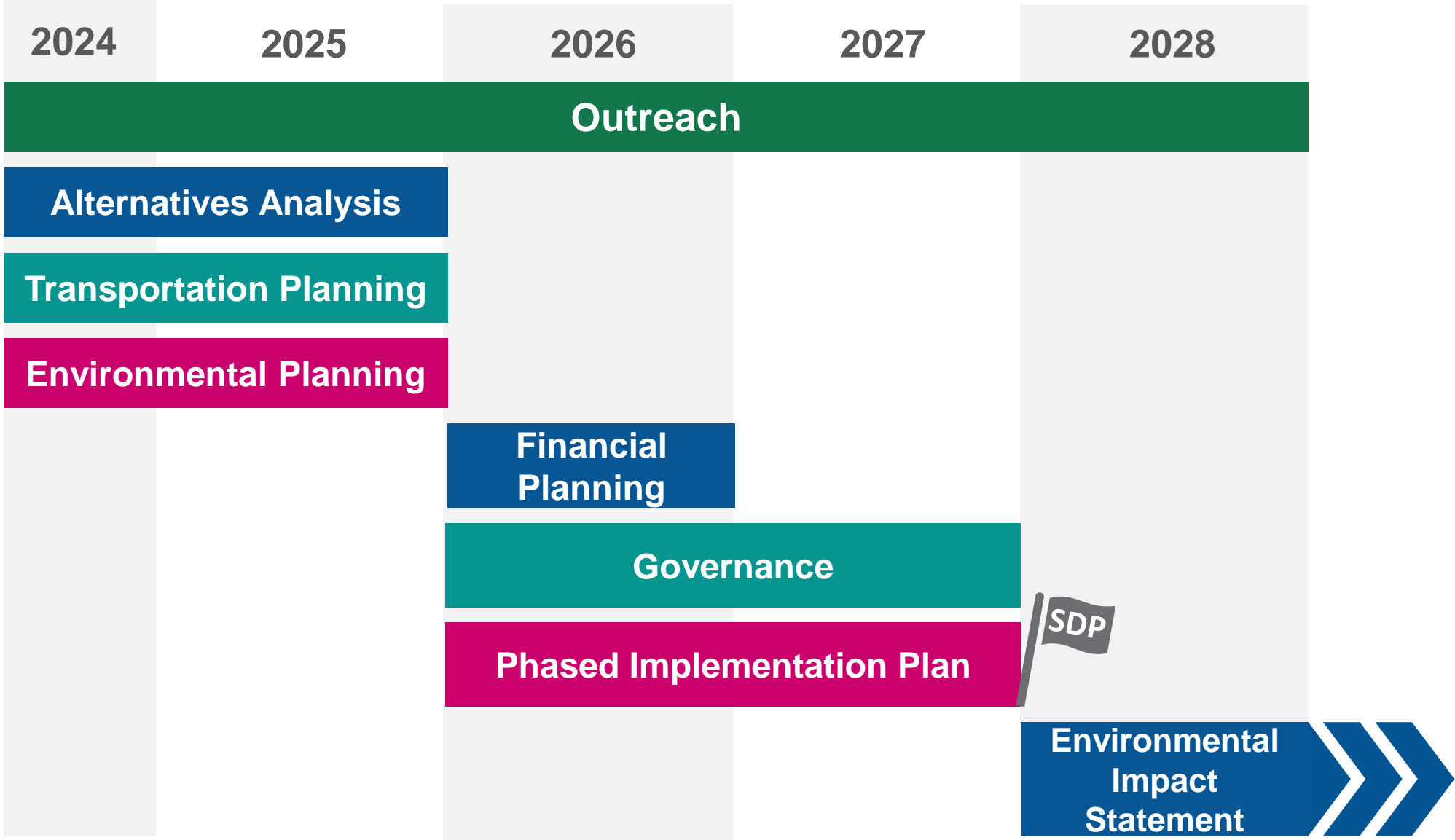
## #4: This project will result in a Service Development Plan (SDP) and initiate the environmental process

### FRA defines the scope and schedule for an SDP

The SDP encompasses several crucial activities including identifying the purpose and need for the passenger rail service, performing a thorough alternative analysis and conducting high level engineering, planning and environmental work.



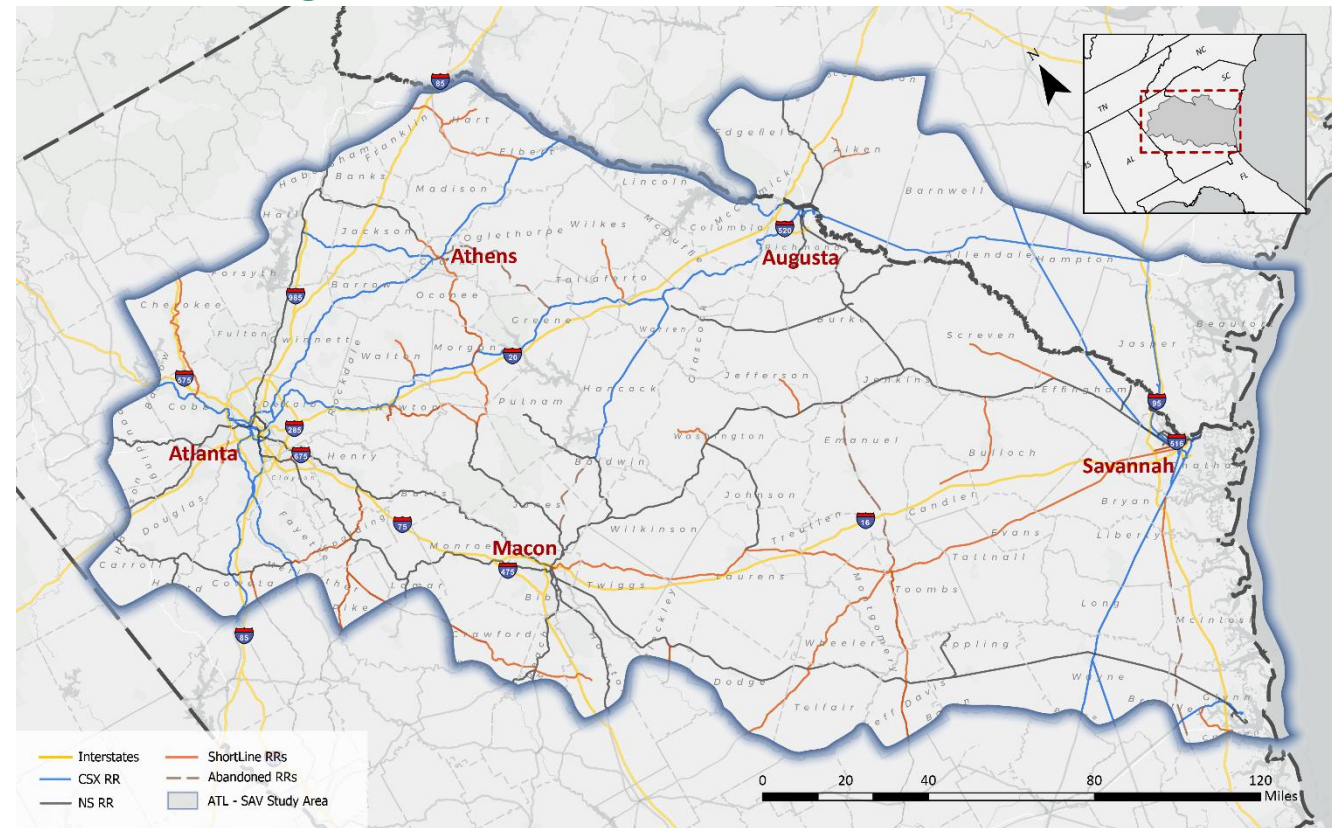
# Preliminary Service Development Plan (SDP) Process



# #5: GDOT will begin by evaluating a wide range of options between Atlanta and Savannah

The route and station options are currently being developed

- All feasible options will be considered
- An evaluation methodology will drive the development of alternatives
- Input from stakeholders will influence the universe of options and evaluation criteria



## #6: Freight Rail is important to the State and vital to our economy

### The project aims to support passenger and freight movement

- Freight railroads are key stakeholders
- Early coordination with railroads to collect information on current and future conditions
- A route has not been determined at this time
- Shared-use corridors are common with intercity service across the country, but do not necessarily occur with all corridors





# Purpose and Need Statement and Project Goals

We want your input!





## Preliminary Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Project is to establish a safe, reliable, high-capacity, and resilient intercity passenger rail service between the Atlanta and Savannah metro areas and travel markets in between.



# Preliminary Needs



## People and Travel

- ☐ **Growth** in population, employment, and travel demand in Atlanta and Savannah
- ☐ Provide a **Safe** alternative mode of travel
- ☐ Improve travel time **Reliability**
- ☐ **Connectivity** between Georgia's existing intercity rail services, airports, and transit hubs



## Economic Opportunities

- ☐ Support **Economic Growth** throughout the study area
- ☐ Access to **Business Centers, Institutions**, Healthcare, Military, and Education
- ☐ Support **Supply Chain Resiliency** through rail network improvements



## Sustainability and Resiliency

- ☐ Reduce greenhouse gas **Emissions** and improve energy **Efficiency**
- ☐ Improve Network **Resiliency**

## Project Goals

Support growing regional travel demand and populations

Provide additional transportation modal choice for Georgians

Support regional and local economic development objectives

Enhance access to educational and employment opportunities

Facilitate connections to existing multimodal transportation networks including transit, airports, and passenger rail

Leverage existing transportation corridors

Support efficient freight movement by minimizing or mitigating freight and passenger rail conflicts

Engage disadvantaged and rural communities in an inclusive planning process

Increase resiliency in the transportation network


# Look Ahead for Stakeholders

Understand the various stakeholder groups  
and opportunities for involvement




# Stakeholder Engagement


Each group has a specific role and will be involved throughout the life of the project. Additional groups may be identified along the way.




**Freight Railroads**  
Class 1 and Shortline Owners and Operators




**Passenger Rail Stakeholders**  
Other Corridor ID Sponsors, passenger carriers




**State and Federal Stakeholder Agencies**  
DCA, EconDev, DCH, DHS, FRA, FTA, FHWA



**Urban and Rural Stakeholder Agencies**  
MPOs, RCs, Transit Operators, Local Governments



**Elected Officials**  
Mayors and County Commissioners

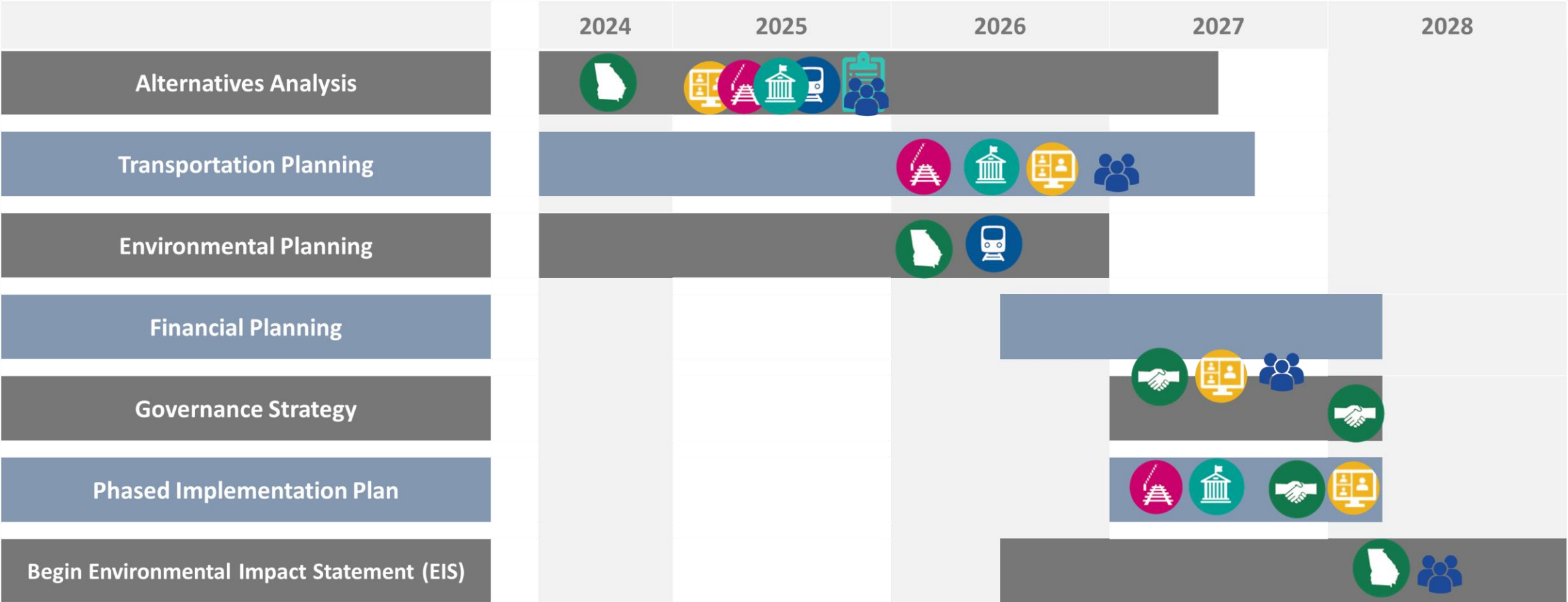


**Public Outreach**  
Plus additional special interest groups that may be identified along the way





# Stakeholder Engagement Schedule



-  Urban and Rural Agency Stakeholders
-  State and Federal Agency Stakeholders
-  Elected Officials Committee
-  Webinars for all Stakeholder Groups
-  Railroad Owner & Operator Stakeholders
-  Passenger Rail Stakeholders
-  General Public Outreach
-  Public Survey

# What's Next?

## Stakeholder Engagement Opportunities in the Near Future

- Conducting one-on-one coordination with railroad stakeholders
- Ongoing coordination with Corridor ID sponsors and passenger rail providers in the Southeast
- Upcoming Stakeholder Committee meetings to further discuss Alternatives Analysis

## Public Information & Engagement

- Project Website contains overview, FAQs, and schedule
- This meeting will be posted to the website
- Short public survey available after this meeting
- Public meetings and travel surveys later this year

<https://atlsavpassrail-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>

## Questions?

We're opening the floor to any questions or comments.

Please use the Q&A box.

Please know that if we don't have time to answer your question, we will be happy to respond via email at a later time.





# Thank You!

**Project Website:**

<https://atlsavpassrail-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/>

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