Michigan Passenger Rail Future

MDOT Office of Rail Legislative Update

“Coast-to-Coast” Service Development Plans

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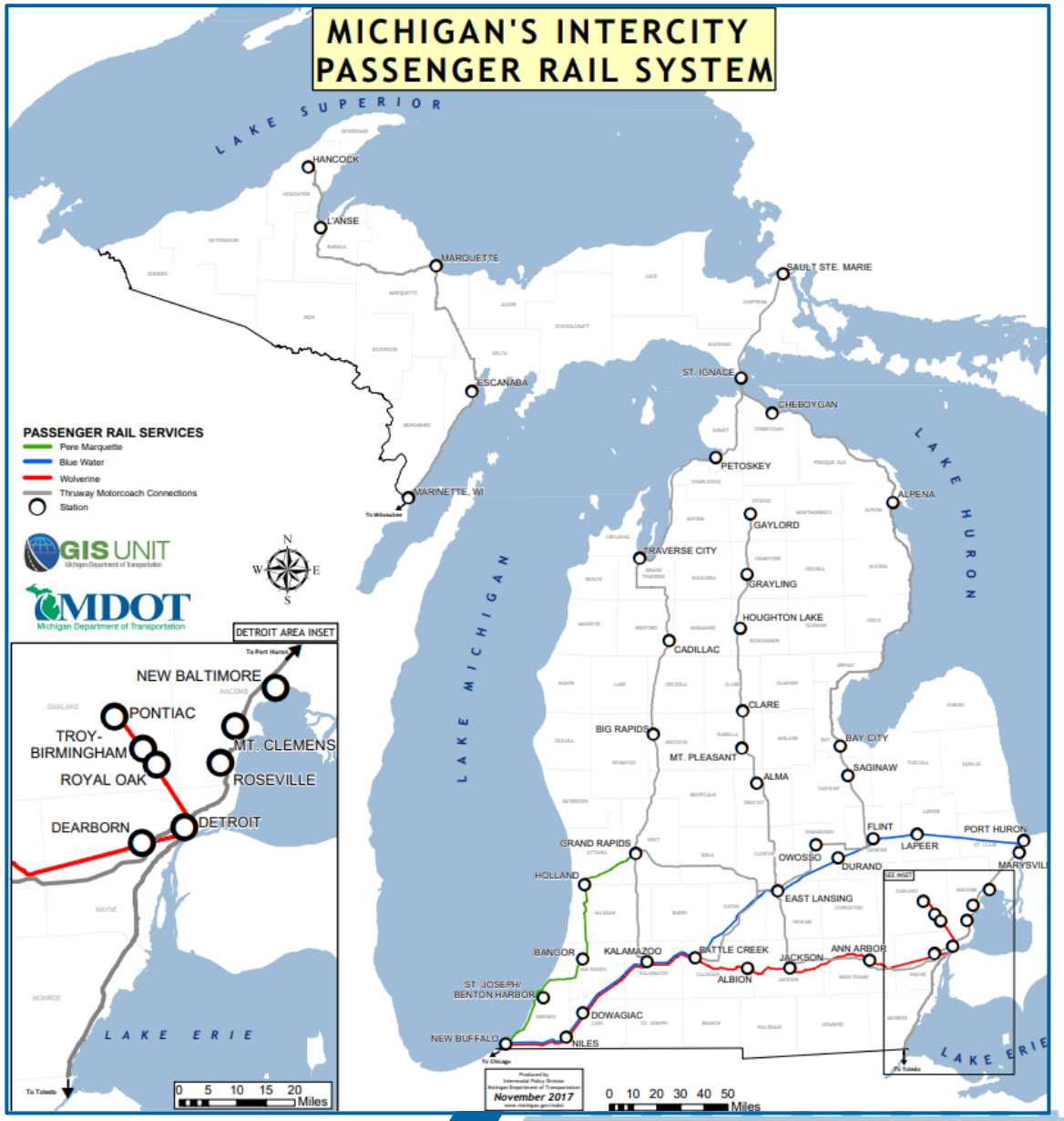
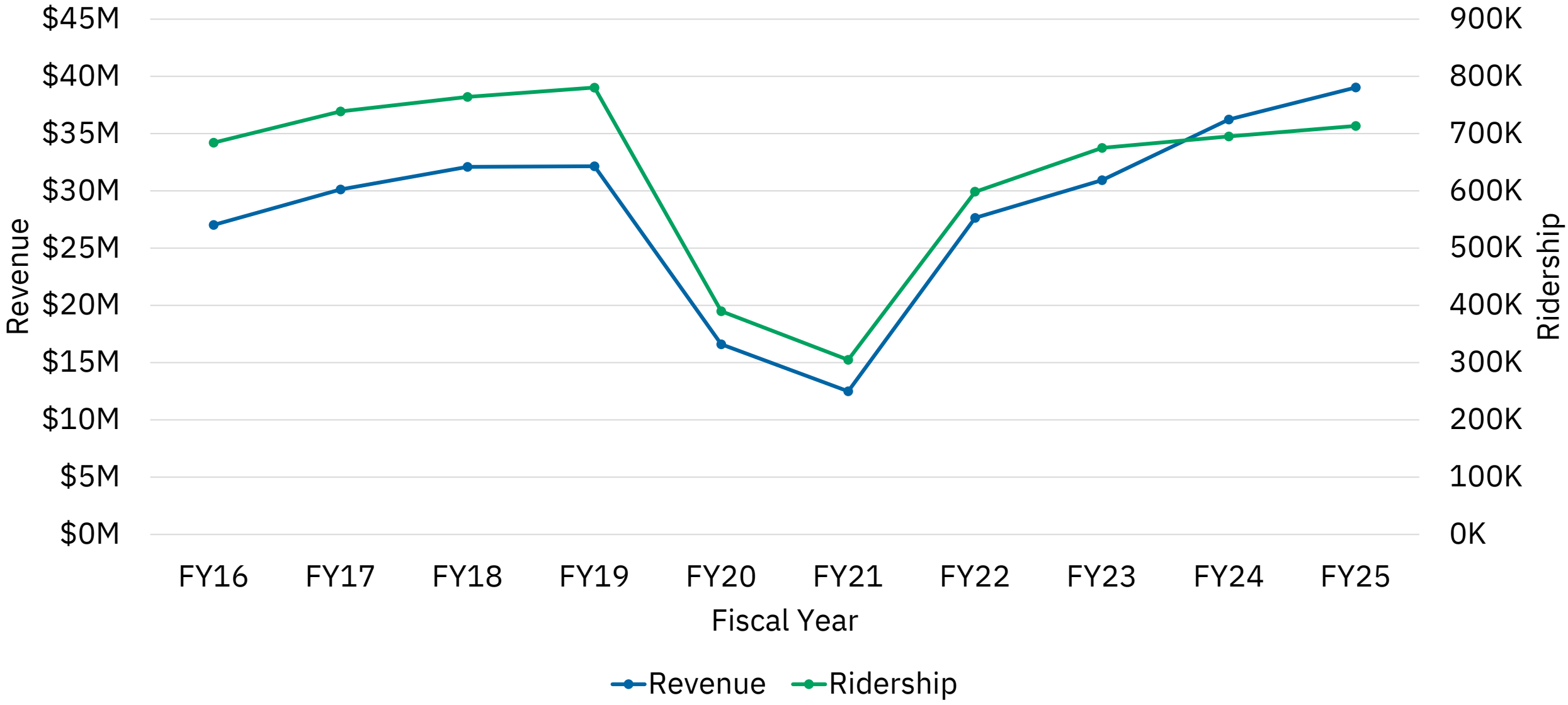
MDOT Office of Rail

Michigan's Existing Passenger Rail Services

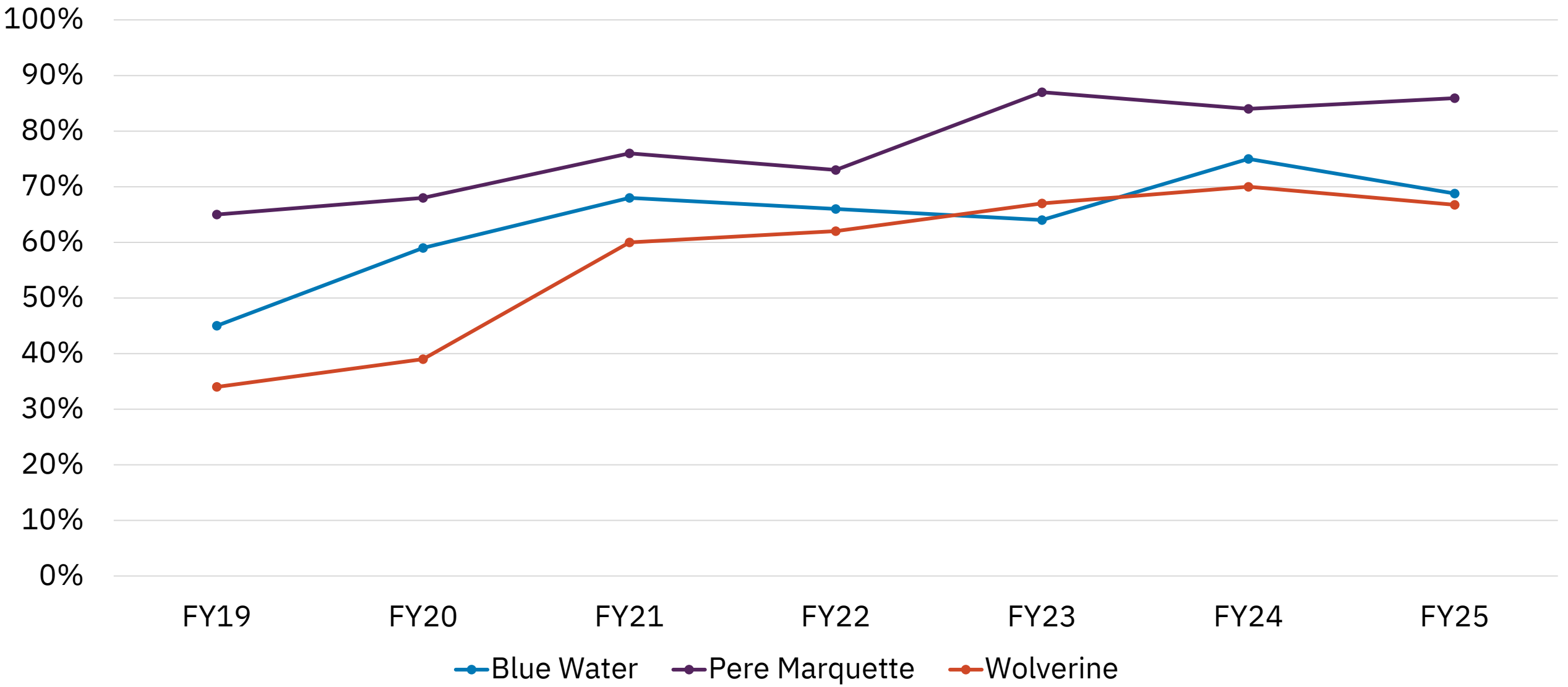
- 3 routes with a combined 5 roundtrips/day
- Connecting 22 station communities
- MDOT and Amtrak ownership of an 110-mph rail corridor
- Serving approximately 700,000 passengers/year



Michigan Services Ridership and Revenue



Customer On-Time Performance FY2019-24



FRA's Corridor Identification and Development (ID) Program

- The FRA's Corridor Identification and Development (ID) Program is a comprehensive **intercity passenger rail planning program** established through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- **Coordinates planning and development** for new or enhanced passenger rail nationwide
- Creates a **pipeline of projects** ready for implementation
- MDOT received an initial **$500,000 for each of the three existing passenger rail corridors** and is eligible for future grant funding

Enhancing Existing Services through Corridor ID

- Provide reliable on-time performance to customers
- Optimize schedules, including considerations for intra-state travel
- Increase frequencies:
  - 3 to 6 round-trips on Wolverine
  - 1 to 2 round-trips on Blue Water and Pere Marquette
- Potential extension of Wolverine for international service

Considering New Service for "Coast to Coast"

- MDOT will also consider the feasibility of a proposed **additional east-west intrastate passenger rail route connecting Holland, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Ann Arbor, and Detroit**.
- MDOT plans to complete the planning for this potential new service per FRA's Corridor ID requirements and may decide to pursue it under a future Corridor ID opportunity.

“Coast-to-Coast” Service Development Plan

- Proposed new service identified by Governor Whitmer’s Growing Michigan Together Council
- Prior feasibility analysis completed by Michigan Environmental Council in 2016 identified 3 potential route options
- To serve Grand Rapids, Lansing and Detroit
- Completing work consistent with Corridor ID requirements for potential future application

Coast-to-Coast Corridor

Potential Opportunity

Michigan Passenger Rail Future

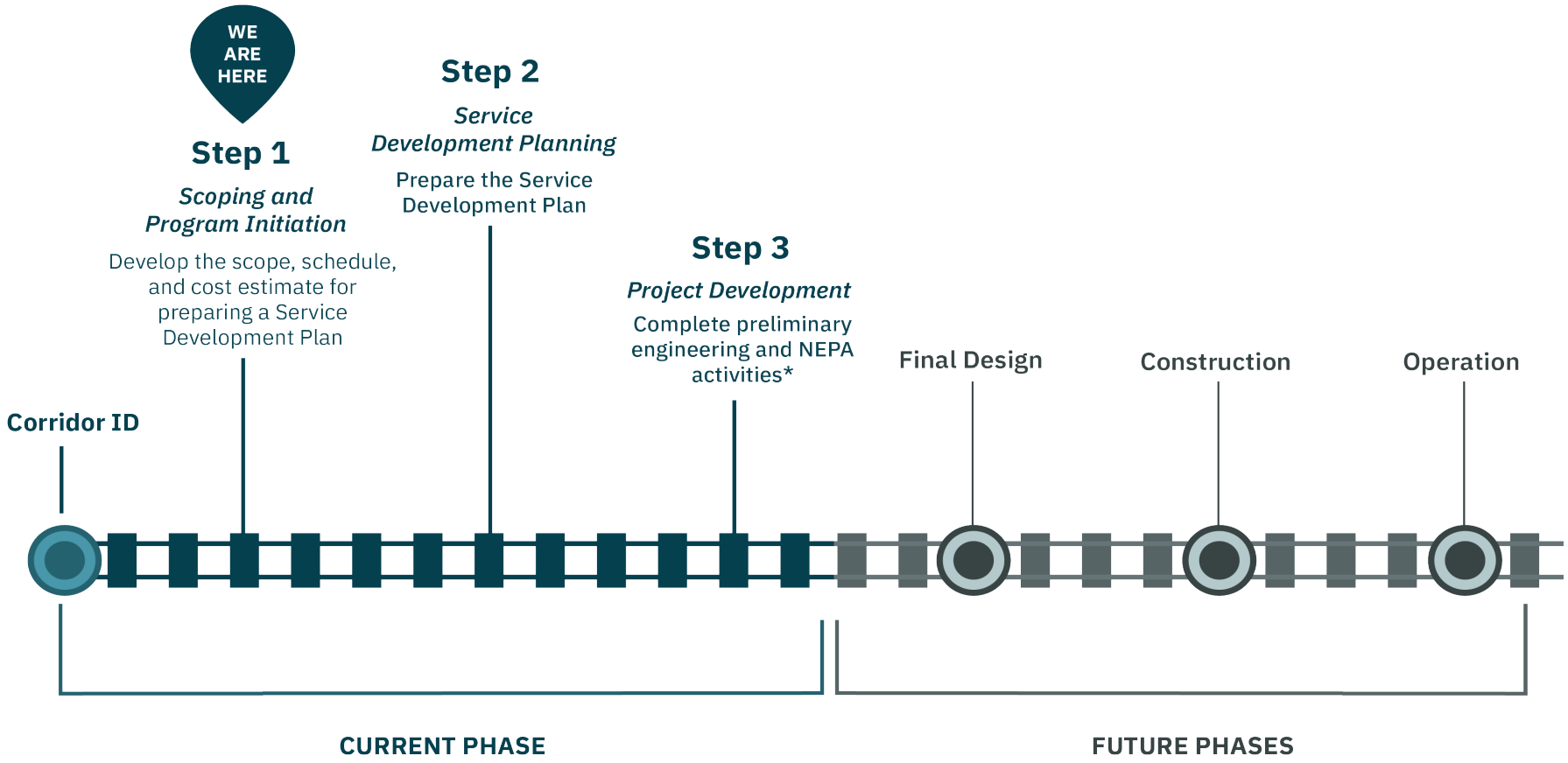
Michigan's plans for passenger rail aim to enhance connectivity and travel experience by developing new service routes and upgrading existing ones. With these improvements, rail travel is set to become a more attractive and sustainable option for both residents and visitors.

Michigan Vision

Funding the Service Development Plans

- Existing corridors: FRA Corridor ID Program
  - 100% Step 1
  - 90% Step 2 (To be matched by FY26 CTF appropriation)
  - 80% Step 3
- Coast-to-Coast Step 2: FY24 Intermodal capital investment grants
- Capital projects that are identified will be more competitive in federal grant fund opportunities

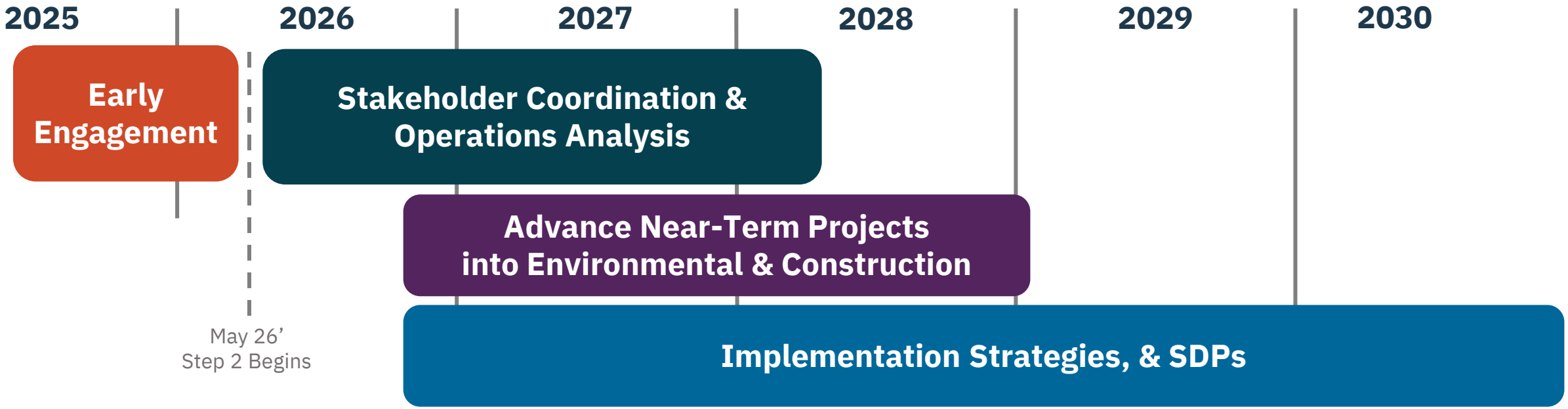
Path to Implementation



***The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** requires federal agencies to assess the environmental impacts of their proposed actions before making decisions. It ensures that environmental factors are considered and provides opportunities for public review and comment.

Anticipated Step 2 Schedule

- We anticipate developing the 4 Service Development Plans over the next 2 to 5 years.



Step 1 of Corridor ID Program

- Spring 2025 – Spring 2026
- This step develops for FRA:
  - Scope
  - Schedule
  - Cost estimate for preparing a Service Development Plan

Step 2 of Corridor ID Program – Service Development Planning

- Expected to start Spring 2026
- Service Development Plans for existing services expected to be completed in 2030
- Coast to Coast SDP expected to be completed in 2028
- Projects that support existing services may advance prior to completion of Step 2
- This step will included public engagement and continued stakeholder outreach

Initial Stakeholder Coordination

MDOT has started to:

- Conduct statewide outreach to integrate diverse community and stakeholder interests.
- Engage and meet with host railroads, officials, agencies, planning organizations, special interest groups, and the public to evaluate and define passenger rail improvements.
- Conduct listening sessions to inform the next steps of the Service Development Plans.
- Hold initial coordination meetings to understand needs for the Coast-to-Coast route and intrastate travel.

MICHIGAN PASSENGER RAIL

FUTURE

Website: Search “Michigan Passenger Rail Future,” scan the QR code or visit:

Michigan.gov/MiPassengerRailFuture

Join our mailing list at that same link above.

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